

# Welcome Folks...to the Wide Open Spaces of Morrow County

## What do we do for fun?

**CAMP**—in the mountains. There's two county parks. Anson Wright Park 23 miles south of Heppner on Highway 207; Cutsforth Park 25 miles up Willow Creek SE from Heppner; Forest Service Camp on Lake Penland on up Willow Creek. On the Columbia at Boardman and Irrigon (soon).

**PICNICKING** at many scenic spots.

**FISH** — Trout in Willow Creek, Rhea Creek, Rock Creek and other streams; steelhead and salmon in the Columbia.

**INDIAN LORE**—Relics and writings found throughout the county.

**HUNTING**—For rocks and fossils, elk and deer, pheasants and chukars. In the north end, ducks and geese.

**SUMMER SPORTS**—Water skiing, swimming, boating on the Columbia. Boating at Lake Penland. Swimming in heated pools in Heppner and Ione. Fine places to ride horses. Golfing at Heppner and Boardman.

**WINTER SPORTS**—Skiing at Arbuckle Mountain. Snowmobiling.

Morrow County is located in the northeast portion of the State along the Columbia River. It extends from the Columbia River on the north approximately 60 miles south to the Blue Mountains. It contains 1,321,600 acres, of which about 292,000 acres are in Federal ownership and over 1 million acres in farms.

The climate is semi-arid in nature with rainfall amounts from 7 inches in the north to near 20 in the south. Elevation ranges from 300 feet at Boardman to Madison Butte in the south at nearly 6,000 feet above sea level.

The topography varies from gently rolling plains near the Columbia River to broad plateaus and rounded ridges leading to the rugged terrain of the Blue Mountains.

Heppner, the county seat, is located near the center of the county and contains 1,429 people, nearly a third of the county's total population of 4,465.

**AGRICULTURE** is the leading industry in the county, and forestry and tourism are also important factors in the county's economy.

A new modern **VENEER PLANT** is a recent addition to the Kinzua Mill at Heppner, which also contains a stud mill and modern sawmill. Total employment with approximately 150 employees provides year around jobs and greatly adds to the economy of the county.

A new **FRESH PACK POTATO PLANT** and cold storage warehouse for potatoes are two recent additions to the industrial development in the Boardman area.

**WHEAT** accounts for nearly 50% of the farm income in the county, with approximately 120,000 acres seeded each year, mostly on a summer fallow basis. Barley is the second largest grain crop and usually represents nearly a million dollars of sales.

**LIVESTOCK** has increased in importance the past few years and now accounts for over 3 million dollars in off farm sales each year. Beef is the largest livestock enterprise, but sheep are still important in the county. Two of the largest sheep operators in the state are located within Morrow County.

Recent trends in agriculture include consolidation of wheat ranches resulting in few farmers and larger units. This trend will probably continue in the face of narrower profit margins and rising cost of production.

A recent development in Morrow County is the introduction of large **IRRIGATION** units which were made possible by deep wells and installation of pumps on the Columbia River. Approximately 40,000 acres are under irrigation in the county.

Potatoes are the largest income producer on these newly irrigated lands, followed by dry beans, grass seed and alfalfa.

A long growing season, low elevation, fertile soil, and adequate irrigation water provide a **GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY** for future agricultural growth in Morrow County.



The Chamber's prize-winning float. The girls are Marie Van Marter, Kellie Kilkenny and Janet Gentry.

## Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce