

Flood Threat Must Be Solved



Heppner City swimming pool shortly after flood waters had passed. Pool is full of sediment and debris, building has hole through both walls and pavement has been lifted off the street.



Here is Heppner's pool after damage was repaired.

By KEN TURNER

The peril of flood is very real in Heppner yet and the bad psychological stigma of living with this threat from the Willow Creek and Balm Fork watersheds is a negative thing.

The Heppner and now Morrow SWCD has long supported

the Dam project and has been quite enthusiastic about the irrigation benefit and over all recreation impact.

Granted, there is some adverse environmental factors in the project. Its small and contracted pond in the summer and fall and the closeness of the Dam structure to town may be detractors to some people. Still the recreation pluses makes the lake very desirable.

The bargain price of irrigation water to Willow Creek irrigators during summer months has tremendous benefit. Much of total creek flow goes to the mouth virtually wasted now.

However, as the years have gone by, we have observed 1) Apathy by irrigators in getting behind the project. This deplorable delay has cause 2) Inflation which has tripled the cost. Now, I personally feel the Dam should be abandoned and an alternative approach be pursued at once.

A Two Part Alternative: 1) Apply a complete conservation plan on summerfallow cropland, logged areas, etc. in the watersheds. 2) Do needed channel work through city. The size of the channel would be lessened by a thorough conservation program above town.

The flood peril indicates that something must be done and demands positive action be taken either on the Dam or a combination of the other alternatives.



Serious damage by flood to Heppner homes.

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Runoff patterns in the upper reaches of Shobe Creek Watershed. Diversion ditches and sediment dams have been installed in this area.

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