

'Research is tied to conservation'

"Research is the most important aspect of ecological, environmental and conservation management of range resources," stated Rube Long, Lakeview rancher, speaking at the 5th annual Columbia-Blue Mountain RC&D meeting in Canyon City.

Long said the biggest user of tax monies is education, not research; yet, where research develops knowledge, education just spreads it around. "I have never met so many who know so much about something with so little known about it, conservation."

Long gave a short history of the high desert range conditions as they have evolved over the years. He said before white man came there was an excellent bunchgrass range. He said there were very few big game animals or wildlife. The pioneers in their diaries told of the terrible times they had finding enough game for meat. He stated the white man came along and released cattle, horses, and ran herds of sheep, practically denuding the range. The rancher was followed by the homesteader who plowed the desert land. He said that in the 20s when the plow hit the remaining sparse vegetation it was the worst calamity to occur, the desert started to blow.

He said in the last 40 years there has been a tremendous job done in range management and rehabilitation.

He thought the reason there were few deer in earlier times, before white man, was that

grass competed with browse used by deer. He said within the last 20 years deer herds have developed and are quite competitive with cattle and sheep for range areas. He stated that with research, education, and management the potential use of the range could be doubled or tripled.

Bill Farrell and John Herbst, Grant County Extension Agents, gave a slide talk titled the "Grant County Resources Story." Slides were

shown of the available woodland, range, water, recreation and wildlife resources and some of the improvements which have been made of these resources. They spoke about the potential for additional development and the effect these improvements would have on the economy of Grant County, the RC&D project area, and the State of Oregon.

During the meeting each of the RC&D resource com-

mittees gave reports on accomplishments for 1973 and on their recommended project plans for 1974.

Other reports were given by Bob Ramig, Agricultural Research Service, on research

projects at the Regional Soils Lab; John Allen Soil Conservation Service, on the soil survey program for the five counties; and from Harold Kerr, Extension Service, on the biological control of knapweed in Morrow County.

'73 accomplishments

	Number	Units
New Cooperators	7	18,069 Ac
Services to Individuals	551	
Detailed soil survey		124,550
Conservation Plans Prepared	6	16,587 Ac
Units of Government Assisted	6	
Services to groups	27	
Conservation Cropping System		6,546 Ac
Contour Farming		3,801 Ac
Crop Residue Management		3,265 Ac
Critical Area Planting		98 Ac
Debris Basins	44	726,874 Feet
Diversions		
Pond	3	4 Ac
Grassed Waterway		9,190
Irrigation Pipeline		3,000 Ac
Irrigation System, Sprinkler	20	670 Ac
Irrigation Water Management		26 Ac
Irrigation Land Leveling		2,500 Ac
Minimum Tillage		867 Ac
Pasture & Hayland Management		392 Ac
Pasture & Hayland Planting		9,628 Ac
Proper Grazing Use		
Spring Development	2	440 Ac
Stripcropping		
Structure for Water Control	1	13,659 Ac
Land Adequately Treated		

1973 achievements...

1. Completed construction of 726,874 feet (136 miles) of diversions.
2. Soil surveys were completed on 124,550 acres.
3. Leakage repair work was completed on Lake Penland.
4. Final draft of Rock Creek Watershed Work Plan has been completed.
5. Preliminary evaluation has been completed for the Heppner Water Control District RC&D project.
6. Commitments have been received from the National Weather Service for installation of one telemetered rain gauge and two automatic storm warning devices for the watersheds above Heppner.

Goals for 1974....

1. Continue emphasis on conservation education, including grade school tours and 5th grade Poster Contest.
2. Work toward the establishment of an irrigation district or district improvement company in northern Morrow County so that a comprehensive irrigation development plan can be implemented.
3. Acquire and install a streamflow gauge in Shobe Canyon so that the watershed treatment project can be evaluated.
4. Enter Goodyear Conservation Contest.
5. Urge construction to assist the Heppner Water Control District improvement funding be made available for Rock Creek Watershed.
6. Continue to assist the Heppner Water Control District and push for a construction start in the fall of 1974.
7. Develop a cooperative agreement and plan with the county court to control soil deposition on county roads.
8. Continue emphasis on wind erosion work.
9. Support the Port of Morrow in its concept of multiple use (nuclear-irrigation-industry-recreation) development for Northern Morrow County.



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