

HWCD working to control flooding

By ROSE MARIE BUSCHKE

The City of Heppner is probably best known in Oregon for its dubious history of flooding.

Shortly after Heppner's most recent flood in May, 1971 the Heppner Water Control District was formed. The purpose of the Heppner Water Control District is to direct and coordinate activities to prevent a recurrence of these devastating floods.

Directors of the Heppner Water Control District are Dick Wilkinson, Gene Pierce,

Don Bennett, Marcel Jones and Claude Buschke.

The Heppner Water Control District coordinated the efforts in getting the Shobe Canyon Watershed treated. Today, Shobe Canyon is the only watershed in Oregon that has been fully treated with conservation measures. Twenty-six miles of diversion and 28 debris basins have now been constructed. The purpose of these structures is to protect the City of Heppner from loss of life, mud and water damage resulting from these floods.

Plans are now being formulated through the Morrow SWCD for additional measures similar to those done in Shobe Canyon, to control runoff and flooding on the remaining 67,840 acres within the Heppner Water Control District. This work lies within the watersheds of Hinton,

Willow, Shobe, Balm Fork and Donaldson Creeks.

The work will be done with assistance from the Heppner Field Office of the Soil Conservation Service and Columbia-Blue Mountain Resource Conservation and Development project. The preliminary evaluation for the

project was completed in December. The measure plan will be submitted for approval to Washington, D.C. in mid-1974. Construction could start in the fall of 1974 if the tax base is established by the eligible voters within the Heppner Water Control District.

The Morrow Soil & Water Conservation District plays a vital role in our county.



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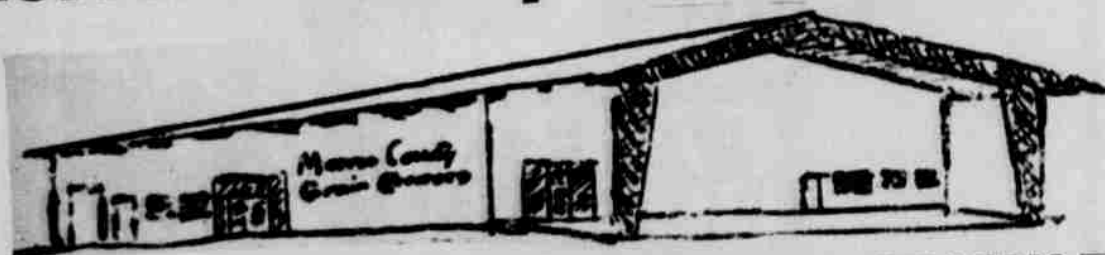
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