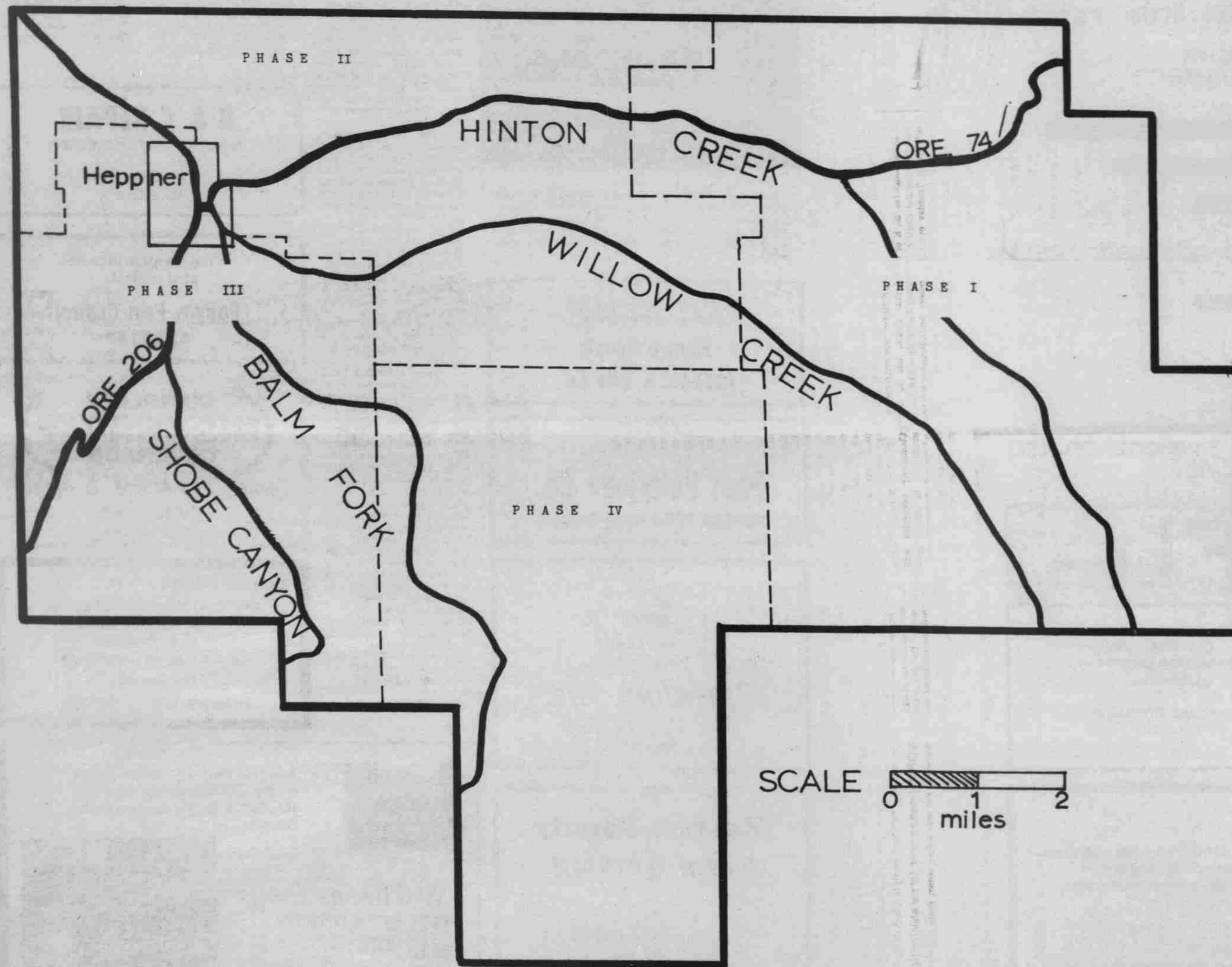


# HEPPNER WATER CONTROL DISTRICT BOUNDARY



## Heppner treatment project nears start

The Heppner Critical Area Treatment Project which provides for land stabilization and sediment control for the local area will start construction this spring, according to Claude Buschke, chairman of the Heppner Water Control District. The project is a cooperative effort between the Heppner WCD, Morrow SWCD, Columbia-Blue Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Project and the Soil Conservation Service.

The entire project covers 106 square miles and includes the major drainages of Willow, Hinton and Balm Fork Creeks. This measure is divided into five phases with the first four phases consisting of diversion ditches and silt dams. The fifth phase will be aimed at stabilization of the channels. The initial phase consists of 324,000 feet of diversion ditches and 89 erosion control dams. It covers an area of 36

square miles and includes 16 landowners. The second phase will cover approximately 23 square miles with 18 landowners involved. Tentative starting schedule will be later this fall or spring of 1977. Cost share assistance is provided at the rate of 75 per cent by the Columbia Blue Mountain RC & D Project and 10 per cent by the Heppner WCD. The landowner pays the remaining 15 per cent.

## Soil loss and future controls

As you may well be aware, any soil loss is detrimental to the potential and future of your cropland as well as your own viability in the farming business. But not only this, there is a new burden that may be facing farmers very soon in the way of federal and state regulations affecting sedimentation. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 has given the Environmental Protection Agency the responsibility of providing guidance to states for sedimentation control and meeting water quality standards. If it comes to this, soil and water districts such as the Morrow SWCD could play a very important coordinating role between federal, state and local agencies in soil conservation. Districts of course have the

intimate knowledge of local conditions. But of equal importance, they can utilize this network of cooperative arrangements with various agencies which can provide assistance on resource conservation and which directly relates to the control of sediment. One such tool that may play an important role in sedimentation regulations is the soil loss equation. It is a method on estimating soil loss as developed by the Agricultural Research Service in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service and various state experiment stations. This equation takes into consideration all aspects of the soil, climatic conditions and management methods used in farming. The final result is an estimated loss in tons per acre

per year. This is then compared to quality standards that have been set as to permissible soil loss. Some of the contributing factors to erosion cannot be changed such as the amount of rainfall, the type of soil and the percent of slope. Others, however, can be controlled by you as managers of the land. Manipulating tillage methods such as contouring versus up and down hill farming, the amount of residue or stubble on the soil surface, or breaking up the length of slope by use of diversion ditches or terraces can influence dramatically the actual loss. More importantly, quality standards can usually be achieved to meet the maximum permissible soil loss by varying these factors in some degree.

*The Port of Morrow has a soft spot in their hearts for the Soil and Water Conservation people's help in siting power plants in Morrow County.*

*Good Fortune at your annual meeting.*

*Oscar Peterson, Pres.*

**Port of Morrow Commission**

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