

The ANNUAL REPORT

Published annually by the Morrow Soil & Water Conservation District.

Progress report on irrigation project

By Dan Wilson,
Project Coordinator

The irrigation project for North Morrow County and Western Umatilla County now known officially as the Stanfield-Westland Project, is making rapid progress towards providing enough information for the landowners so that they can decide if they want to participate in an irrigation project from the Columbia River.

At the most recent meeting of the Stanfield-Westland Project Coordinating Committee, reports were heard from lending institutions as to the importance of a financial consultant to advise the committee and assist them in finding sources of financial support for this project.

Also at the meeting were representatives from Vitro-Boyle Engineering Firm who explained seven conceptual ideas on how to bring water from the Columbia River to the nearly 95,000 acres now signed up in the project. They discussed pros and cons of each alternative and asked the coordinating committee for feedback.

The coordinating committee, at the suggestion of the engineering firm, voted to

reopen the sign up for the project so that landowners within the existing sign-up area, or landowners adjacent, either on the east side, east of Buttercreek, or on the west side south of the bombing range, and Boeing land, could participate in the irrigation project.

Additional lands will carry a 10 per cent late charge so they will need to make a contribution of \$2.20 per acre. The new deadline for additional acres is Feb. 5, 1976. Interested landowners should contact the Stanfield Irrigation office in Stanfield.

The coordinating committee stated that additional lands will help the overall feasibility of the project, because the larger the project area, the smaller the per acre development cost. Approximately 9,000 additional acres has already requested permission to join the project.

From your directors

The Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District Directors wish to express our appreciation to the many cooperators of the district who have carried out sound conservation practices on their

The coordinating committee is a twelve man board listed below:

Larry Campbell, farmer, chairman; Gaylord Madison, farmer, vice-chairman; Dan Wilson, O.S.U. Extension economist secretary and official spokesman for the committee; Robert O'Rourke, attorney and irrigation districts representative; Bill Penney, manager, Port of Umatilla; Ken Turner, farmer;

Chester Prior, farmer; Stafford Hansell, farmer; Darrell Maxwell, Umatilla County extension agent; Hadley Akins, Ag. Representative, U.S. National Bank, past project coordinator; Bill Gilbert, manager, Stanfield & Westland Irrigation Districts and Tom Harper, city manager, City of Hermiston.

The coordinating committee on Nov. 21, 1975 authorized the Stanfield-Westland Irrigation

District to enter into a contract with Vitro-Boyle Engineering Firm to complete an engineering feasibility study of the area to be completed by Aug. 1, 1976. This completion date coincides with the completion date of an economic feasibility study being done by Oregon State University Extension Service.

The three major questions that the two studies will answer are:

1. What kind of legal organi-

zation is necessary to administer the project, the pricing policy and a recommendation on how the financing should be arranged.

2. The cost of delivering water to the different areas of the project.

3. The ability of the lands within the project to pay back the cost of development and the cost of operation, based upon several cropping patterns, crop yields and price variations.



DAN WILSON

Coal plant and reservoir site

By Bus Clough,
Public Affairs Representative
Portland General Electric

During the past several years, PGE has been studying alternatives for construction of a series of power plants in the Boardman-Arlington area of Central Oregon. Originally PGE was planning two nuclear power plants at the Carty reservoir site.

In 1973, however, the Nuclear Thermal Energy Council decided it would not permit construction and operation of nuclear plants at the Boardman site so long as the U.S. Navy continued to use its nearby weapons testing facility. As a result, the company decided to build the first two nuclear plants at Pebble Springs near Arlington. The change in plans caused a two to three-year delay in the time the first plant can be on line. This left a possible three-year period from 1980-83 when vitally needed power would not be available. The Boardman Coal Plant will help to supply this power. The Boardman Coal Plant is the begin-

ning of a large power generating complex at the site. Up to four nuclear plants are planned, provided the Navy moves the weapons facility.

The potential of the Carty reservoir site for an irrigation reservoir had been considered from as early as 1916. The cost of using the reservoir solely for the purpose of irrigation was prohibitive. However, by using the reservoir for the dual-purpose of irrigation and power plant cooling, the project will become a reality.

Initially a 1400 acre reservoir will be constructed. This reservoir will be expanded to 5200 acres when more power plants are constructed. Filling of the reservoir will be through a Boeing pipeline from the Columbia River; at a 25 cubic feet per sec rate. This input will be adequate to compensate for evaporation losses and other uses. In addition, water can be pumped from the reservoir for irrigation if desired. Irrigation standard water purity will be maintained in the reservoir.

MORROW SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

Lexington School District Office
Tuesday, February 10, 1976
7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

1. Introductions
2. Business Meeting
3. "In Touch With the Land"—A Slide Presentation
4. Featured Speaker:
Dan Wilson—OSU Extension Economist, Project Coordinator of Stanfield-Westland Project
Efficient Irrigating Makes sense
5. Soil Loss in Morrow County versus quality standards
A discussion by Elwin Ross,
SCS Area engineer

land. Together, we have made a commitment to renew and maintain the quality of our environment. We encourage you to continue your interest and concern.

The District Directors express our thanks to all the public agencies who have given their assistance to our program. We also extend our appreciation and thanks to the many business firms whose advertising has made this publication possible.

Cost Sharing

The Morrow County ASC Committee reports that the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) cost-shared with 51 farmers-ranchers the amount of \$92,092 in 1975 for performing needed conservation measures. The cost of the following practices were shared at approximately 50 per cent on 1,233,385 linear feet of diversion ditches; 15 sediment retention dams; 185 acres of grass seedings for soil stabilization; 46 acres of timber thinning; 46 acres of weed control; developing 2 springs; and 6 ponds.

The 1976 ACP will be developed in the near future, and will provide cost sharing assistance for performing lasting conservation and pollution abatement measures on farm and cropland.

Public notice will be given when the 1976 program is available.