

Looking back at 1980

The Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District accepted responsibility for implementing the Morrow County Nonpoint Source Water Quality Management Plan. The county joins with Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, and Umatilla counties in this program and with the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

1980 Accomplishments include:

- + Completed county-wide road-side erosion inventory.
- + Started evaluation of Morrow County resources in USDA's Multiresource Inventory.
- + Assisted the 6th grade Outdoor Classroom Conservation Education Program.
- + Supported the National and Oregon Association of Conservation Districts.
- + Continued the evaluation of terrace systems and cropland erosion.

Accomplished last year

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS — 1980

	No.	Amount
Technical assistance		
Individuals	791	—
Units of government	4	—
Farm Plans	10	4692 ac.
Cost-share applications		
ACP	63	
Terrace Systems	27	361,325 ft.
Irrigation Mainline	3	7,400 ft.
Grassed Waterway	3	10 ac.
Debris Basins	1	
Chemical Tillage	14	2,089 ac.
Woodland assistant	7	225 ac.

...and ahead to a busy 1981

Priorities for conservation treatment have been identified by the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District. By identifying critical areas of erosion and sites in need of conservation treatment, the Morrow SWCD can direct efforts for 1981 to these critical areas. These duties will be implemented with cooperation of citizen groups, county, state and federal agencies.

Priority Number 1 — Soil Erosion — Water Quality.

The Morrow SWCD had identified soil erosion-water quality on cropland in the wheat-summer tallow areas of Morrow County as their highest priority for treatment. Planned items for action include:

- a. Jordan Canyon Special Project -
 1. Develop Conservation Plans - 14,500 acres.
 2. Terracing - 150,000 feet.
- b. Long Term Agreements - Presently seven LTA's in Morrow County. Morrow SWCD continues to support LTA's.
- c. Advance the reduced tillage program by collecting responses on those using chemicals and publishing the results.
- d. Continue ACP work in terracing and other conservation projects.
- e. Morrow SWCD will continue to assist county road department in culvert sizing.

This year's objectives

Morrow SWCD will act as the local management agency for implementing the 208 non-point source pollution project in Morrow County.

Terracing and conservation tillage will be implemented to reduce sedimentation in tributaries.

Streambank protection will be implemented through conservation planning with cooperators.

Priority Number 2 — Range Improvement — Wintering Big Game.

Range improvement on Morrow County's 539,798 acres of rangeland will work towards proper grazing use and increase economic return. Big game wintering areas on private land are of critical importance.

Priority Number 3 — Irrigation — Drainage.

Drainage has been identified as a problem in the north part of Morrow County. Irrigation planning continues to be an important priority as need arises.

Priority Number 4 — Woodland

Woodland assistance is available from different agencies and will be encouraged.

Feedlot Controls Studied

Currently in Oregon a project is underway to evaluate feed lot operations. The title of the project is "Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO)." Funding has been received by the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission from a federal 208 non-point source pollution program grant to study the problem. Areas that would be affected are where large numbers of animals are enclosed and the runoff or pollution from these enclosed areas is running into a stream. Enclosed feeding areas that are regulated under the state's point pollution program already have special permits from the state and wouldn't be affected.

The project has progressed to the point where alternatives have been developed on which agency, state or local, should regulate animal waste pollution in Oregon. Questionnaires circulated among 160 livestock producers indicated local agency control and voluntary compliance on the producers part was the alternative most preferred.

Controls would follow development of Best Management Practices (BMPs) guidelines developed by the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission. The BMPs would explain methods to store or use manure in a non-polluting manner. Cost incentives have been proposed to get producers to make improvements.

Meetings have been scheduled in the spring and fall of 1981 so that the public has the opportunity to participate in all steps of the project.

9th Annual Meeting of M.S.W.C.D.

Tuesday, March 3

A.C. Houghton School Irrigon

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