

Watermaster's Report for the SWCD

1983 was the year that water was discovered by the politicians. The Legislature did four things concerning water this last session. They failed to reconfirm Jim Sexson as Water Resources Director. William Young has been appointed the new Director. Bill was the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality, and is well thought of.

The legislature passed SB 225 which required the Departments of Fish and Wildlife, and Environmental Quality to make recommendations for seventy-five high priority minimum streamflows. The Waer Policy Review Board is to complete its deliberatins and makes its decisions by January 1, 1986. Minimum flows have been recommended on the Walla Walla River, Birch Creek, Umatilla

River, and the John Day River.

The third water related activity was the passing of SB 223 which required the Governor to form a task force of other state agencies to help the Water Resources Department form a unified water management system. This is being done now, except the Emergency Board has not yet approved any money for it.

The fourth thing the Legislature did was create a Legislative Interim Committee on Water. This is a permanent committee to study water related problems and propose new legislation. This is another result of the new political awareness of water and water problems.

There have also been changes in the local Watermaster's office. Larry Nunn replaces Steve Applegate as Watermaster.

The Watermaster's office now

holds office days at the Morrow County Public Works Building in Lexington, on the first and third Fridays of each month. The hours are 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Appointments are helpful, but not needed. Well logs and water right records are now available, as well as blank application forms.

There are several things happening locally in relation to water. The Water Resources Department is again studying the Butter Creek Groundwater Area. The current plan is to hold a public hearing to determine if a Critical Groundwater Area should be declared, in, possibly, June. An order will then be issued, probably in the fall, either declaring a Critical Groundwater Area, or canceling the proceeding.

Groundwater studies are also underway in the rest of the Umatilla Structural Basin to determine what additional Ground water Study Areas are needed. In addition, the U.S. Geological Survey is beginning to study the area, including the Washington side of the basin. The state and USGS are cooperating in the Umatilla Basin, as we have done for several years now.

The Willow Creek Dam is beginning to fill. Water Right applications have been filed by the Morrow County Court for the stored water for irrigation and recreation. The irrigation portions of the permits are being assigned to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The USBR is working with a local group to market the stored irrigation water.



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(Reprinted from "Talk of the Thames," by Jane Sadler, Agronomist.)

Morrow Co. receives \$216,087 from ASCS

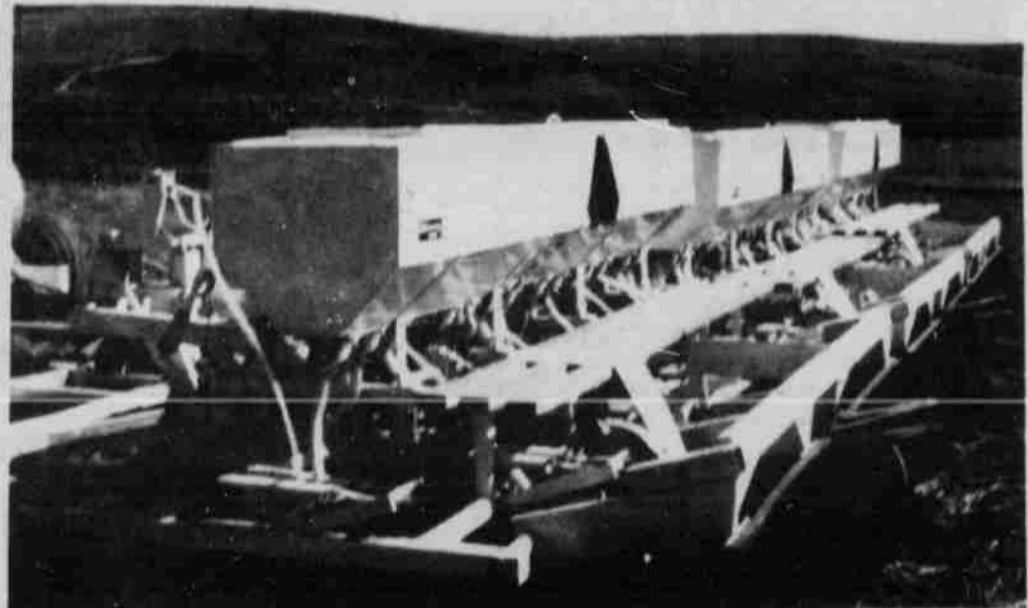
During fiscal year 1983 (October 1, 1982 - September 30, 1983) the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service spent \$216,087.00 on Morrow County cost-shared acres, according to Judy Buschke, County Executive Director. Following is a breakdown according to cost-share practice:

Program Practice	Acres Paid	Acres Cost-Share Served	
SL15 - No-Till Systems	1,240.3	1,442.0	\$23,985.00
SL14 - Reduced Tillage Systems	5,662.4	12,638.4	70,589.00
SL1 - Permanent Vegetative Cover Establishment	81.0	81.0	4,744.00
SL2 - Permanent Vegetative Coverage Improvement	250.0	250.0	2,458.00
WP1 - Sediment Retention, Erosion or water control structure	10.0	10.0	1,388.00
WC4 - Irrigation Water Conservation	15.0	15.0	512.00
SL6 - Grazing Land Protection	1,505.0	1,505.0	2,314.00
SL4 - Terrace Systems	1,151.0	1,151.0	37,923.00
SP35 - Water management system for pollution control	38.0	38.0	3,500.00
FR2 - Forest Tree Stand Improvement	66.0	66.0	4,520.00
LTA's			
SP35 - Water Management System for pollution control	20.0	20.0	3,463.00
SL14 - Reduced Tillage Systems	100.0	100.0	1,250.00
SL15 - No-Till Systems	31.0	31.0	620.00
SL4 - Terrace Systems	1,685.0	1,685.0	58,821.00

Quiz continued...

Answers from Conservation Quiz on page 2: 1. f, 2. d, 3. c, 4. b, 5. b, 6. d, 7. d, 8 (your answer) 9. b, 10. e.

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