

Reflections on the year that was — 1984

Accomplishments for the year
July 1, 1983 to June 30, 1984

- + No-till annual cropping continued with eight cooperators using this conservation tillage program principally on the shallow soils. The system provided excellent erosion control and produced acceptable yield results.
- + A no-till summer-fallow field trial was completed.
- + The reduce-till cost-share program produced many acres of adequately protected cropland during this period.
- + Supported the National and Oregon Associations of Conservation Districts.
- + Provided financial assistance to the FFA Chapter for the district soil judging contest and assisted the 6th grade Outdoor Conservation Education Program.
- + Various variety grass plots were established at the Public Works Department location in Lexington. Approximately 30 different types are planted.
- + A weed control budget was obtained and Weed Supervisor hired.

Other accomplishments

	No.	Amount
Individuals assisted	125	—
Individuals applying conservation practices	68	—
Resource system plans	—	6,965 acres
Terrace systems	14	135,724 feet
Reduce-till systems (SL14)	28	13,031 acres
No-till systems	8	990 acres
Waterway	—	1,600 feet
Grass seeding	—	746 acres
Water control structures	11	—
Irrigation pipeline	—	2,840 feet
land leveling	—	50 acres
Windbreak	—	1 acre
Brush spraying	—	114 acres
Ponds	2	—
Livestock pipeline	—	5,420 feet
Spring developments	4	—
Streambank protection	—	4,000 feet

Water: Issue of the '80's

Larry Nunn
Morrow County Water Master

1984 was a very good water year. There were only minor distribution problems in the entire Umatilla Basin. All in all, a very good year. There was still lots of activity in the water field, however. The Water Resources Department held the public hearing on the proposed Butter Creek Critical Groundwater Area. No decisions have been made yet, but the testimony is being considered now. An order giving the Director's decision should be out in a few months.

The Department also spent quite a bit of time looking at the rest of the Umatilla Structural Basin. On January 31, 1985 the Director proclaimed two more Proposed Critical Groundwater Areas. Ella Butte in Morrow and Gilliam Counties, and Stage Gulch in Umatilla County. There will be two to four more years of study in these areas. In the mean time, no new development will be allowed.

The Water Policy Review Board has been working on the 75 minimum streamflows requested by the Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Environmental Quality. They have made decisions on some of them. The public hearing for the Umatilla River and Birch Creek will be in Pendleton, February 26, 1985.

The 1983 Legislature created a Strategic Water Planning Group. The first drainage basin, as a demonstration project, used for planning was the John Day Basin. That planning is temporarily on hold, waiting for the 1985 Legislature to re-fund the project.

The next basin to be studied will be the Umatilla Basin, which includes Willow Creek. The Water Policy Review Board will be holding meet-

ings sometime in the future. No dates have been set yet.

The 1985 Legislature is meeting now. Water is one of the major issues being discussed. Shortly after the session opened, there were 75 bills that had been introduced. Some folks think that Water will be the environmental issue of the Eighties, much as land use was the issue of the Seventies.

The Watermaster began holding office hours in the Morrow County Public Works office. The Watermaster is in Lexington on the first and third Friday of each month.



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