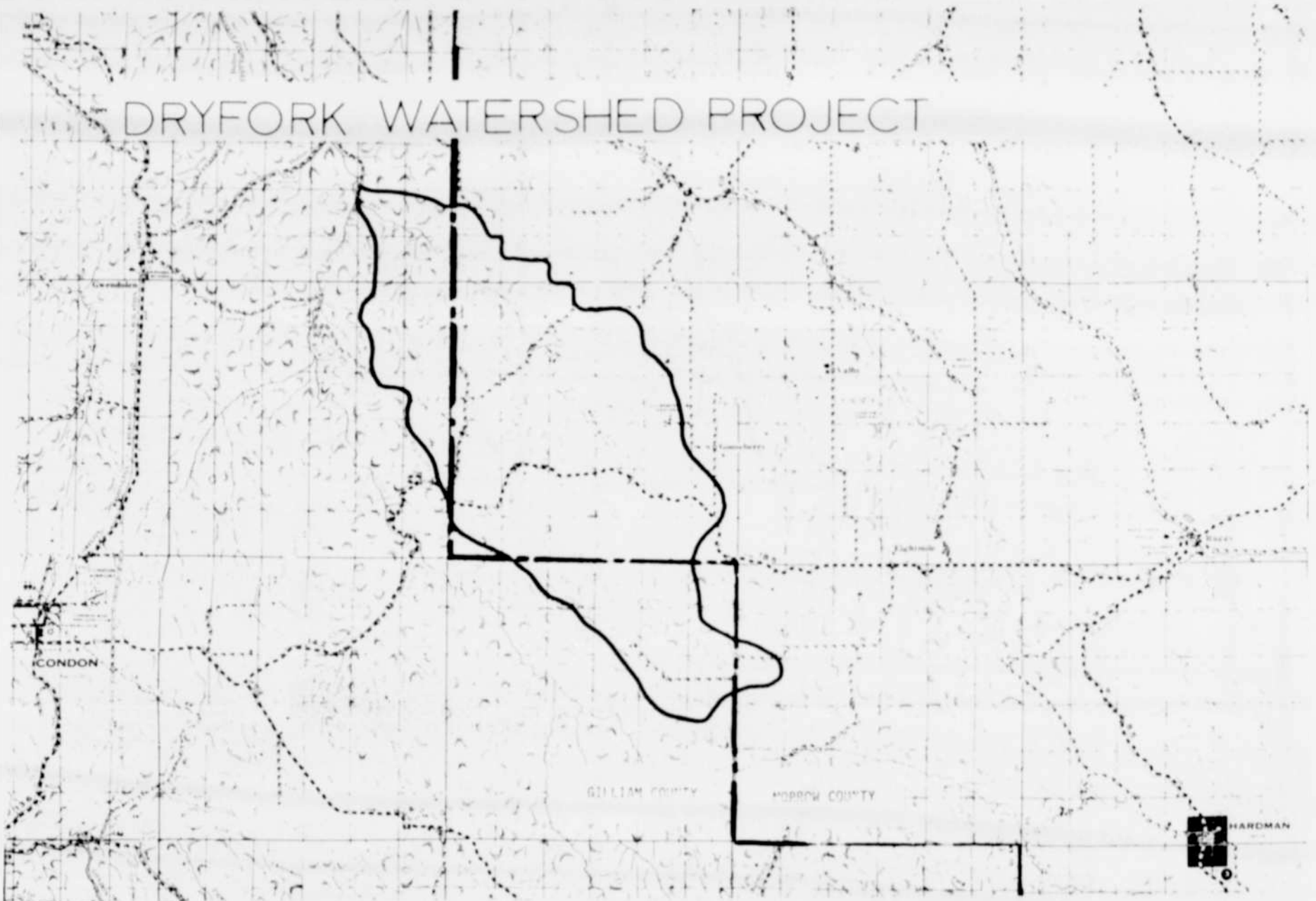


# Extensive treatment project planned for Morrow Co.



A nearly two million dollar land treatment project is in the planning stages for an area in southwest Morrow County. The project known as Dry Fork, covers approximately a 32,000 acre watershed that drains into Rock Creek, a tributary of the John Day River. The major intent of the program is to reduce severe flooding and soil erosion, and prolong soil productivity on the associated cropland.

The Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District are sponsoring this project. Funds are being provided through the Soil Conservation Service' Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program.

In the fall of 1983, the two Soil and Water Conservation Districts and

several interested landowners requested assistance to help solve erosion problems in the watershed. A planning team from the Soil Conservation Service helped identify the resource conditions in the watershed which covers 19 operating units with 17,123 acres of dry cropland and 14,877 acres of rangeland. It was felt that an effective land treatment program could best fit the objective of flood reduction and erosion control. Alternative practices of conservation tillage, no-till, subsoiling, terraces, range vegetative improvement and grass seeding are being recommended as necessary treatment needs.

Approval for watershed planning was received by the Morrow and

Gilliam Districts during the year. Currently being developed, the plan identifies the amount of treatment needed and associated cost factors. All practices installed must have benefits outweighing their costs.

The Soil and Water Districts will be responsible for obtaining applications from the owners in the watershed once funds become allocated for construction.

The program enables a land operator to enter into a long-term agreement with financial assistance of up to \$100,000 without facing an annual payment limitation.

If development of the watershed plan continues on schedule, funding for application of practices will become available in the fall of 1986.



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