

Current Projects Make Impact on County

Dry Fork project covers 32,000 acres

The Dry Fork Watershed in Morrow and Gilliam Counties is an area covering 32,000 acres and includes 19 operators with 17,123 acres of dry cropland and 14,877 acres of rangeland. The Dry Fork Erosion Control Project is a \$2 million project funded by the Soil Conservation Service that seeks to reduce severe flooding, run off and soil erosion in the area. Soil and Water Conservation Districts in both counties are involved in the project.

To become qualified for erosion control funding, farmers must contact their local SWCD office. Applications are reviewed and, if accepted, a contract is drawn up. The contract enables the farmer to receive up to \$100,000 in a cost share program on a long term agreement. These funds allow landowners to choose an effective means of erosion control.

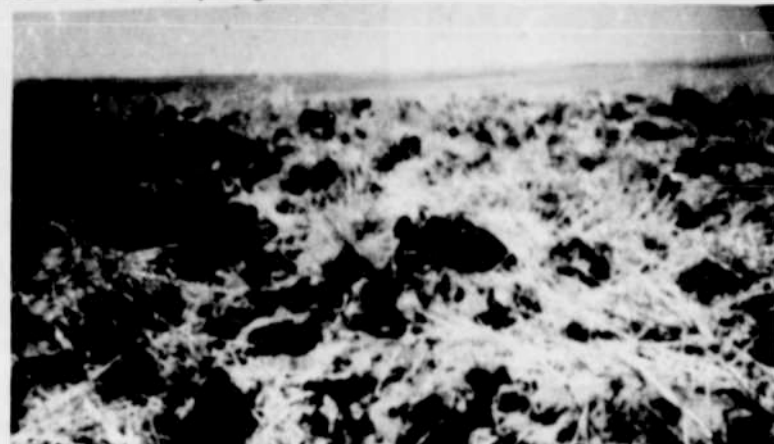
Conservation practices in the Dry Fork Watershed area this last year have included terracing, subsoiling and conservation tillage. Other practices such as no-till and grass rehabilitation have also been employed.

Three landowners in Morrow County have begun such land treatment programs; Rick Peterson, Doug Drake, and Jack Sumner.

The Dry Fork project began in 1983 by the Morrow and Gilliam

Soil and Water Conservation Districts who sought help from the Soil Conservation Service and other agencies. District members and current chairman Rudy Bergstrom, Jack

Osterlund of Gilliam County and SCS District Conservationist, Bob Adelman, worked together to spearhead the project.



Subsoiling done at Doug Drake's in the Gooseberry area.



District Chairman, Rudy Bergstrom, with Rick Peterson, lone, examining new terraces.

Grant money obtained

The Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District has been successful in obtaining grant money for use in various conservation projects in the county.

The Government Watershed Enhancement Board has awarded the district a \$1,000 grant for use in streambank stabilization work. This money will allow the purchase of grating baskets to help hold the bank on the Willow Creek Country Club Golf Course.

Through the year the district has been seeking other grant money for watershed and streambank projects.

One such application was accepted but not funded because of a lack of funds in the program. An application submitted for a Water Resource Grant and for cost share monies from the Agricultural Conservation Program has been confirmed.

Army Depot inventory funded

The Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District was awarded the job of resource inventory at the Umatilla Army Depot. The district has contracted a firm to handle the inventory and has received funds to manage the project.



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MSWCD to monitor grazing practices

The Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District entered into a contract with the Naval Bombing Range to monitor grazing practices and proper use of rangeland resources. Weed Control Manager, Jim Van-Winkle will supervise this work.

The District has also asked for assistance in finding a fencing contractor.

Ione flood control solutions sought

Everytime there is a sudden run-off of water downtown Ione usually is filled with water and mud.

The district stepped in several years ago and offered its assistance in finding solutions to this problem. Working with landowners in nearby Rietmann Canyon (where most of the water originates) conservation practices designed to reduce erosion were proposed. Some land has been terraced and a number of acres qualifying as HEL has been put into the Conservation Reserve Program.

Other agencies were asked for help including the railroad, state highway department, and the Soil Conservation Service. The state highway department has cleaned up debris from culverts and bridges.

Also offering assistance was the heavy equipment school in Boardman. The school offered to provide free technical assistance, equipment and labor if needed.

District director, Jim Swanson, has worked with the Ione flooding problem from the beginning and has been aided by Judy Osmin, Mayor of Ione.

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is a "growing" concern.



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