

District Goals

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MISSION

The mission and purpose of the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District is to conserve, protect and develop soil and water resources, to provide for sustained use of natural resources and to assist and cooperate in the conservation, protection and development of all natural resources of Morrow County for the economic and environmental benefit of the people of the county. Current resource inventories will be used within the district.

OBJECTIVES

1. Reducing excessive soil erosion and non-point source pollution to tolerable levels in Morrow County.



Directors view rock gabions to help alleviate wind and water erosion at the Port of Morrow Dock site.

2. Develop a Soil and Water Conservation program geared at addressing the resource issues in Morrow County.

3. Improve and develop water resources in Morrow County to assure an adequate quantity and quality of water for all beneficial uses.

4. Oversee a weed control program in Morrow County to reduce, control or eradicate serious or noxious weeds; and maintain or improve conditions of range areas infested with these weeds.

5. Promote soil and water conservation through education.

6. Support local RC&D, State, Federal and private conservation organizations through dues or information.

MSWCD works to improve county range conditions

Morrow Soil & Water Conservation District is working to improve range conditions in Morrow County. Morrow SWCD has contracted with SCS & U.S. Navy, to monitor Range conditions on the Boardman Bombing Range. SWCD personnel work with James West (permittee) on range utilization and management. The permittee grazes approximately 2200 head of ewes and 750 pairs of cattle plus yearling steers on 45,000 acres from Feb. to June annually.

The range is divided into 15 pastures, ranging in size from 600 acres to 5000 acres. SWCD reviews weekly to see that livestock is being rotated. Water troughs and salt placement is also changed to reduce over-grazing. Both SCS & SWCD personnel were involved in helping the permittee design and install a pipeline for watering the livestock which reduces the need to truck water. Two wells have been developed on the south end of the range and pipelines will be extended northerly in 1990.

At the end of the grazing season a range analysis review is conducted with SCS Area Range Conservationist, SWCD, and Department of the Navy Natural Resources Branch

personnel. With this cooperation, the range has turned the corner from an average northwest rangeland to a more highly productive rangeland.

With the assistance of SCS Area range conservationist Alan Bahn, and Plant Materials Center, Morrow SWCD is establishing a range plant evaluation plot on two locations on the Bombing Range. One plot will be located near the north end on very sandy loam soil and the second plot will be on silt loam near the south boundary. The grasses will consist of both native and introduced species and will include forbs as well. Also the District has acquired a range drill from Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and will possibly contract with the Navy to reseed critical areas from the pipeline installation.

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