

## Forest attacked by teens for good reason



YCC crew cleaning weeds in front of the Ranger district office.

The Forest was attacked by teenagers this summer who accomplished over 1500 hours of important tasks. Eight youths participated in the Youth Conservation Corp program on the Heppner Ranger District, acquiring skills in many jobs and gaining knowledge in learning about the forest environment.

Under the direction of Eddie Gunderson, crew supervisor, the students worked five weeks in conservation, fish and wildlife, recreation, silviculture and fire prevention. Duties varied for these 15-18 year olds, ranging from pulling noxious weeds, painting, trail maintenance,

fence building, surveying streams, landscaping, fuel inventory and other numerous duties.

For Scott Johnson, a junior at Heppner High School, the experience was great and really rewarding. Tricia Coe, a junior, expressed enthusiasm for the program but

found snakes were a major downfall. While senior Dawna Gentry found she had muscles she thought she never had, Jodee Ashbeck learned four teenagers could build a fence enclosure.

Marc Angell, a junior, enjoyed being in the outdoors. Terry Chinen, a recent graduate, had the opportunity to see a herd of elk. Jodie Wilson enjoyed working with other teenagers and senior Eric Connor gained a lot of valuable experience he otherwise might not have received.

The success of this YCC program is not only shown through the eyes of the students participating, but the district has also hired many YCC graduates during seasonal employment, high school work study and a college co-op program, stated Warren Plocharsky, coordinator of the program. Many of these students continue their interest in the Forest Service or related fields as they plan a future career.

## OSU Extension supports SWCD with CRP field tour



Farmers viewing chemical spray on weeds on CRP.

The OSU Extension Service supported SWCD activity in several ways during 1988-89. For the third year an interagency field tour of Conservation Reserve Program fields was held at which SCS, ASCS, and ES personnel discussed grass field stands in counties across the Columbia Basin. The 1989 tour focused on weed control in established stands.

Tom Bedell, Extension rangeland

specialist, organized the tour which had stops in Morrow, Sherman, and Wasco Counties. Morrow County stops included an atrazine trial in mixed wheatgrass and alfalfa to control goatgrass (*Aegilops cylindrica*) and cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*). The treatments were at 0.75, 1.0, and 1.25 lbs a.i./ac, and were effective in controlling the weeds.

Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) has been a severe deterrent to stand establishment in CRP fields. One stop looked at chemical treatment of bindweed in an established stand to encourage grass competition of the bindweed.

Fire can be an excellent management tool in keeping the CRP stands healthy, and the tour examined two sites which were burned in 1988, one accidentally and one planned. In both burns there was no evidence of significant reduction in Russian wheat aphid numbers over an adjoining field that was not burned.

The CRP tour has been successful in bringing agencies together, in helping them understand the problems that exist in implementing such a large program.

## ASCS funds support conservation

During the 1988-89 Morrow County Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service paid out over \$593,190 in erosion control.

Conservation Reserve led the way with \$499,520.00. It was followed by the following conservation practices:

Terraces	162,760 units	\$78,400 cost/share
Reduce Till	740 units	8,480 cost/share
Streambank Protection	6,809 units	1,938 cost/share
Streambank Stabilization	120 units	1,935 cost/share
No-Till	86 units	1,720 cost/share
Sod waterway	2 units	1,197 cost/share

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