

District Goals 89 - 90

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.

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



Morrow County teachers observe conservation practices at LeFevre Prairie.

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.

Districts hire planner

Andrew Rose was hired by Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler SWCDs as the Watershed Planner for the Rock Creek Coordinated Resource Management Planning Project.

The emphasis on this one year project is to involve the landowners/operators in the planning process. Objectives are threefold: 1) create awareness of problems throughout the watershed; 2) create awareness of the types of long-term solutions; and 3) enable a group decision to



Andy Rose

be reached as to where implementation should begin.

Tree Give Away

In April the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District gave away trees to Morrow County 5th graders. A presentation was given to each fifth grade class and each fifth grader received a tree. The students learned how to plant and take care of their trees. An exercise on learning how to tell the age of trees and a video on trees was presented.



Mike Williams

Pranger new Weed Supervisor

Dave Pranger became the new weed supervisor for Morrow County in January replacing Jim Van Winkle, who is now employed by the U.S. Forest Service. Dave graduated from Oregon State University with a B.S. degree in Agriculture Engineering Technology and previously worked as a lawn care specialist in the Portland-Metro area.

"My biggest tasks this year have been familiarizing myself with problem weed areas in the county and taking care of contracts with other agencies," said Pranger. Many residents and landowners have taken time out of their busy schedules to assist with these tasks which only goes to show the pride the county has and the importance to combat the economic threat that noxious weeds present.

Other accomplishments include:

1. Continued work with biological controls, especially those for diffuse Knapweed.



Dave Pranger

2. Survey forest for Tansy Ragwort (6 new sites found).

3. Continue work with state and county road departments to control Kochia and other noxious weed infestations on roadside right-of-ways.

4. Conduct a weed tour and put together fair display to help promote public education and awareness.

5. A vegetative cover project on Sandhollow road.

6. Amending the county weed ordinance and weed lists.

Counties get service forester

For the first time in over eight years, the Fossil office of the Oregon Department of Forestry has a full-time service forester. The service forestry program provides technical forestry assistance to non-industrial private forestland owners. This assistance can include technical advice, administering cost-share thinning programs, and management planning. The Fossil Service Forester is responsible for providing assistance to a three county area: Morrow, Wheeler, and Gilliam Counties. In addition to forestry assistance, the Service Forester also performs insect and disease (I&D) duties, and is available to consult landowners on their I&D problems.

Tim Keith assumed this new position this past summer, moving from Medford, Oregon.

Anyone needing forestry assistance is welcome to call Tim at the Fossil office, 763-2575.

ASCS supports conservation



ASCS staff left to right: Skip Matthews, CED; Cindy Greenup, Program Assistant; Joan Hughes, Program Assistant; Tim Gray, Program Assistant.

With much of the work for conservation compliance underway, and most of the CRP grass planted, the amount of cost shares paid for conservation work has decreased in 1990. The total money paid out was \$266,115 between October 1, 1989 and September 30, 1990. Soil erosion practices such as terraces and seedings made up the bulk of the dollars spent with \$231,831.00. Water conservation, range improvements, windbreaks and forestry practice make up the remainder with \$33,284. Sixty-six farms participated with the USDA in conservation projects in Morrow County.

Below is a chart with total acres and cost/shares:

Practice	Acres Served	Cost/Share
Grass Seeding	10,629.4	146,376
Reduced Tillage	1,097.3	8,616
Terraces	2,230.0	63,946
Spring Development	11,400.0	5,945
Windbreaks	25.0	2,258
Streambank Rip Rap	1.0	4,234
Forestry	118.0	11,505

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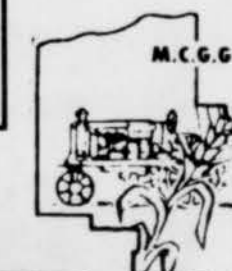
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