

Watershed study important for district planning



Shaun McKinney shows map of hydrologic study area.

An important watershed study is underway in the Heppner area. The Skookum or South End Hydrologic Study, conducted on two watersheds in the Madison

Butte area will test water quality and quantity, according to Shaun McKinney, USFS fisheries biologist in charge of the project.

The project, located around 35 miles from Heppner, is based on the Umatilla Barometer Watershed study which measures data on the north side of the Umatilla National Forest in the Walla Walla Ranger District. Many people, however, wanted more specific data representative of this particular area, which prompted the south end study. When the forest plan was put together in the 1980s, assumptions on water quality and quantity were made based on the Umatilla watershed study. The area, however, is drier than the area which served as a basis for that study.

This study will measure how tree harvesting will affect the

watersheds. Now, says McKinney, the bulk of water comes off the snow pack in the spring, but harvesting may change that. "We'll be able to tell from the amount of flow what results the activities (harvesting) have," he said. The USFS will harvest on one of the watersheds and not on the other. McKinney says that during the first five years of the study biologists will collect data to see how the two are related. Once the relationship is established, the Forest Service will be able to better manage the area.

"It's exciting to devote this much time and energy into doing this," said McKinney. "It's sort of a manifest of what the people want. It's really neat that a Ranger District like this has this much commitment to the forest and the community. Heppner District Ranger Roger Williams really pushed the program. He made the commitment." McKinney commented that the forest service is just a steward of the land and urged people to get involved with the process.

Like the Umatilla Barometer study, the south end project is expected to operate at least 20 years. The information gathered from the study will be included in a 10-year plan and will help set standards and guidelines.

Planning for the watershed project began about a year and a half ago. The construction phase which began this fall, has been completed. The instruments, which are automated, will be installed this month and the first information will be collected in January. Two gaging stations, one on each sub-watershed will continuously monitor the flow, water temperature, suspended sediments, channel morphology and bed load movement (movement of large stream bed materials). Four water samples will be collected each day.

McKinney said the Madison Butte area was chosen because of the existence of two paired watersheds and relatively easy access to the area. He said he was assisted by Ed Calame, hydrologist in Pendleton who runs the Barometer Watershed study.

McKinney has a BA in fisheries science and minor in

limnology, which is the study of lakes from Michigan State. He has lived in the Heppner area for the last three years. Before coming to the Heppner District, McKinney worked for the Forest Service in Michigan and for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources doing aquifer studies.

Christmas punch card contest lucky winners

This week's winners in the Christmas Punch drawing are Wayne Seitz, Rick McDaniel, Gene Mulkey, Camilla Samples and Millie Breeding. Each of these lucky shoppers has won a \$25 gift certificate to various businesses around town.

Anyone who wishes to enter the Christmas Punch contest can pick up a punch card at participating businesses in Heppner and Lexington, get the card punched when they shop, and then drop the card in any entry box.

Drawings for \$25 gift certificates will be held the next two weeks, and then on Dec. 23 one lucky person will win the grand prize of \$550 in gift certificates. All entries throughout the five week contest will be eligible for the grand prize drawing.

HHS cheerleaders to hold taco feed

The Heppner High School cheerleaders will be sponsoring a taco feed Tuesday, December 10 in the high school Home Ec room from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The menu will include hard or soft shell tacos, dessert and beverage for \$3 a person.

The Cheerleaders will also be selling Little Charlies mini pizza beginning December 9 through December 20 as a fund raiser to help defray the cost of their outfits. The delivery date for the pizza will be January 4. For more information or to place your order contact cheerleaders Amy Brownfield, 676-9696, Kim Johnston 676-5054 or Sheila Dunaway 676-9056.

Adults & Family services plan Heppner visit

The outreach worker from the Adult and Family Services of the Hermiston office for the Department of Human Resources will be at the Neighborhood Center in Heppner on Tuesday, December 10 from 9 a.m. until noon. This will be the only time the outreach worker will be in Heppner during December.

The outreach worker will certify people needing food stamps and other services from Adult and Family Services. The Neighborhood Center is located across the street from the library-museum on Main street.

Miller Produce donates 10 tons of potato flakes to Soviet Union

Humanitarian aid in the form of 10 tons of dehydrated Oregon potato flakes left the Port of Morrow at Boardman Nov. 1 headed for Khabarovsk, the Soviet Far East's largest city. The potatoes will eventually make their way to patients in local Soviet hospitals.

Miller Produce of Boardman offered the potatoes earlier this fall after Soviet officials from Khabarovsk visited eastern Oregon. However, the potatoes sat in storage until enough money was raised to cover the cost of shipping the potatoes across the Pacific Ocean. According to Dept. of Agriculture officials shipping 10 tons of potatoes was estimated to cost around \$10,000.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture's marketing division initiated the contact between the Russian officials and Miller Produce and helped spread the word about the need for funds. Northwest Medical Teams, the Oregon Potato Commission, Rotary International of Portland/Lake Oswego and the sister city organizations of both Portland and Khabarovsk (Portland and

Khabarovsk are sister cities) stepped forward with donations.

The shipment comes prior to a pair of November trade missions to the Soviet Union involving a team of Oregon agriculture industry officials. David Landon, vice-president of Miller Produce, will arrive in Khabarovsk about the same time as his potatoes. Landon plans to show Soviet officials how to prepare the dehydrated potatoes, something the Soviets aren't used to eating. Most of the dehydrated potatoes will be served to patients in Khabarovsk hospitals. The flakes can be processed into mashed potatoes, soup and other easily digestible foods.

The Blue Mountain Potato Growers Association, a marketing association based in Hermiston, has also offered 200 tons of fresh potatoes to the Soviet Union. Efforts are currently underway to find funds to cover the costs of shipping these potatoes to the Soviet Union.

For more information contact John Kratochvil in Portland at 229-6734 or Bruce Pokamey in Salem at 378-3773.

Adventists carol by invitation only

Members of the Heppner Seventh-day Adventist church will conduct their Christmas caroling on an invitation-only basis this year.

On December 16, volunteer carolers will sing carols at homes where arrangements have been made ahead, and accept contributions toward defraying the expense of world-wide work of helping people in need. To provide a tax-deductible donation, call 676-9257 or 676-9449 before December 13.

More than 13 million people around the world receive aid each year through the community services, education and disaster relief branches of the Adventist church. More than \$3 million were donated by the general public last year, and about \$4 million by Adventist members during the church's annual ingathering and caroling

campaigns.

These funds, with less than two percent going to administrative costs, provided the major share of funding for 517 Adventist Community Service Centers currently operating. It enabled ACS to serve nearly two million clients last year and give away approximately 4.6 million dollars in food and more than 5.7 million items of bedding, clothing and furniture.

Funds also support Adventist Development and Relief Agency. This branch of the church provides help in the form of food, clothing, blankets, shelter and medical aid when disasters occur worldwide. Help is also given toward the rehabilitation of disaster victims by building permanent new housing, construction of food storage warehouses, to protect against future families; and providing long term assistance.

Health Care Council meets

The Morrow County Health Care Council toured the Boardman Health Care Center at the council meeting November 21. Dr. Robert Boss conducted the tour.

The council also voted to send a recommendation to the Morrow County Medical Board on the issue of equitable distribution of the medical fund. This recommendation will include the definition of equitable that the council adopted at a previous meeting. Also included will be a recommendation for improved communications on medical issues throughout Morrow County. A county wide newsletter on health care issues has been proposed.

In other business the council heard a report from a research committee on the issue of a health district. The committee reported information it had received from meetings with various medical board members and Judge Louis Carlson of the county court. This information, plus questions developed by another council committee, will be shared with focus groups for their input. Focus groups input on the health district issue will be shared with the council at its next meeting.

The Morrow County Health Care Council will meet on Thursday, January 16, 7 p.m. at the school district offices in Lexington.

Drug prevention workshop set

Preparing for the Drug Free Years, an alcohol/drug prevention workshop will be held January 15, 16 and 17, 1992 at St. Anthony's Hospital in Pendleton. The workshop will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. There is a \$75 fee which covers

costs for materials, lunch and snacks for each day.

For more information or an application call 1-800-822-6772 or write to Oregon Prevention Resource Center, 555 24th Place N.E. Salem, OR 97310.

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