The Year In Review

Accomplishments for '92-'93

Morrow SWCD was the first district in Oregon to sign a Supplemental Memorandum of Understanding with the Soil Conservation Service to allow the district to have input in the Food Security Act Compliance Review process.

The District dedicated time and energy in encouraging the extension of the Conservation Reserve Program with letters, phone calls and submission of resolutions to the state and national Association of Conservation Districts.

The Soil Conservation Service Plan Of Work was reviewed and all FSA plans and revisions were reviewed.

The district cooperates with the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife on wildlife seedings and streambank riparian area fencing.

The District regularly reviews Memorandums of Understanding with USDA, SCS; Oregon Department of Agriculture/ Natural Resource Division, USFS, and Department of the Navy. An Interagency Agreement with the Department of the Army is also kept current.

Range utilization continued on the Navy Bombing Range in cooperation with Lessees and monitoring of the Army Depot wildlife and weed control.

A Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board grant was used on Rhea Creek in cooperation with Larry Inskeep to repair and improve the riparian area.

District Staff attended workshops and training to keep updated on changes in employment laws, weed control, pesticide application, and natural resource related subjects. Training was held and a district policy on prevention of sexual harassment was adopted.

Annual dues quotas were met for state and national conservation associations.

The Doug Drake Farm was selected as the Goodyear Cooperator of the Year for OACD Area 7.

SWCD Committees were formed to keep the Board informed on personnel matters, budgeting, RC&D, legislation, and OACD Area 7.

An Oregon Youth Conservation Corp was hired to build and maintain hiking trails at Heppner City Parks and Willow Creek Dam in cooperation with Morrow County and Morrow County Children and Youth Services Commission.

Morrow County schools were visited to educate students on job opportunities and conservation in cooperation with SCS.

A Bowie Hydro Mulcher was purchased and training was held for prospective users. A cooperative effort between Morrow SWCD/Morrow County Weed Control District, Port of Morrow, Kinzua Corporation and Oregon State Highway Department seeded cut banks during the construction of the left turn lane at the lumber mill at Heppner.

A grass seeding was completed at Finley Buttes Landfill to prevent wind erosion on a completed landfill cell.

Morrow County Weed Control District cooperated with OSU Extension on a weed and crop tour of North Morrow County. The tour included a Boise Cascade poplar tree plantation, seed wheat production at Eastern Oregon Farming Company, variety trails at Western Empire Corporation and rush skeletonweed control on the Umatilla Wildlife Refuge.

Biological weed control agents were released to study their effectiveness on puncturevine, knapweed, and yellow starthistle.

Morrow County Weed Control District is involved in encouraging the USFS to complete an Environmental Assessment for weed control on the National Forest.

The summer Oregon Youth Conservation Corp crew back l-r: Sara Greenup, Jessica Sumner; front-Jessica Diehl, Leonard Brittner, Char Coe

A spikeweed control project was completed in cooperation with local landowners in the Alpine area.

A riparian and upland meadow enhancement project was planned with landowners on Wilson Prairie.

Willow cuttings were planted at Willow Creek Lake.

Morrow SWCD sponsored a Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) measure in conjunction with West Extension Irrigation District that converted approximately 100 acres from flood irrigation to sprinkler irrigation in the Irrigon area. Morrow SWCD also sponsored a RC&D measure for skeletonweed control for Morrow County Weed Control, Umatilla County Weed Control and Gilliam County Weed Control Districts.

Morrow SWCD directors and personnel were involved with the Lower Umatilla Basin project and John Day Basin Council.

A district employee is trained in Confined Animal Feeding Operations inspections.

During the annual tree seedling give away, 23,458 pine and fir seedlings were distributed to residents of Morrow, Umatilla and Gilliam Counties.

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Soil and Water Conservation District

Heppner, Oregon 97836 P.O. Box 127 Phone (503) 676-5452

1993 Annual Report

MSWCD Supplement to the Heppner Gazette-Times, February 23, 1994

Griebs 'Outstanding Cooperators'

Grieb Farms, Inc. of Lexington were honored as the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District 1993 Outstanding Cooperators.

Grieb Farms, Inc. consists of owners Virginia, Ken and Geri Grieb and Julie Grieb Weimar. The Griebs farm 3,550 acres with 1,280 acres supplemental irrigated, 320 acres dryland, 1,610 acres in fallow, and 340 acres in perennial grass cover. The majority of the farm is in wheat/fallow rotation with 100 percent in winter wheat (Stephens and Madsen).

Although the farm is not deemed "highly erodible", the Griebs are conservation minded and believe in keeping the soil in its most productive state. The principal conservation concern for the farm is wind erosion. For this reason the Griebs maintain an excess of 1,500 pounds of straw mulch cover. They also planted 340 acres in perennial grass cover (crested wheatgrass) that are not in the Conservation Reserve Program.

Janet Greenup (l) presents Geri Grieb with a pen set

The farming operation starts with a spring application of "Round Up" to 1,600 acres of fallow ground to reduce tillage operations and to conserve moisture in the ground. Next a disk tillage is used for heavy straw incorporation. The ground is then chisel plowed, and followed by successive rod weeding to control weeds and to maintain surface straw cover. Fertilizer is applied just before planting each fall.

After harvest the stubble is disked lightly to manage heavy straw. Virginia Grieb says that conservation practices used on the farm since 1947 have been instrumental in maintaining high crop yield and good control of soil erosion.

Supplemental crop irrigation has been a practice on the farm since 1968. The Griebs use an 80 foot wheel-move water distribution system. The farm is in a critical groundwater area and water distribution is regulated by state laws. The wheat crop is irrigated in the spring, receiving 2.5 inches of water. Five inches of water are used to pre-irrigate summer fallow ground in preparation for fall seeding.

Soil samples are taken each year to avoid over fertilization and to coordinate fertility with available water. The predominate soil on the property is a Warden silt loam.

The Grieb philosophy on conservation farming is to utilize maximum resources for water conservation, maintain a productive unit, protect the soil from wind erosion, and to manage the land for future generations using minimum tillage and good farming management. This philosophy has resulted in Grieb Farms being selected as the 1993 Outstanding Cooperator winner, based on excellent conservation of soil and water resources, management and a sound economic base and is a prime example of a successful eastern Oregon wheat enterprise.

Who we are and what we do

With the close of 1993, we look forward to another busy year. The proposed changes in USDA are uncertain and it is unclear what effect these changes may have on districts. One thing is for certain, and that is that the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors is committed to providing a sound conservation program to the citizens of our county.

Each year the Morrow SWCD publishes an Annual Report covering events and activities of the past year. This is the 52nd such report published by the District. We are proud to report a year of continued progress and significant accomplishments.

ORGANIZATION

The Heppner Soil Conservation District was established in August 1941 and the Boardman Soil Conservation District in May of 1947. In December of 1972 the Boardman and Heppner SCDs were combined to form the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District which conforms to the boundaries of Morrow County. Another conservation district, the Lexington Blow Control District, was formed around the year 1937, after heavy dust storms in the north end of the county in 1935 and again in 1936. The Lexington Blow Contol District is still in existence and is considered the first conservation district in The United States.

The Morrow SWCD is a subdivision of state government and is partially funded by the county. The governing body of the District consists of a seven member, non-salaried, local Board of Directors elected by the voters of Morrow County. Their responsibilities include making plans, setting priorities, establishing policies, and reviewing conservation activities at monthly meetings.

WORKING TOGETHER

The Conservation District, along with its working partner, the Soil Conservation Service, cooperate with local, state, and federal agencies to offer high quality technical assistance to landowners and landusers. Technical assistance and information is provided to individuals, groups, municipalities, and other units of government without regard to race, creed, color, or sex. For the District to successfully carry out its programs, we must solicit the help of other agencies, groups, and individuals. Therefore, we share our accomplishments and awards with you, our membership, coordinationg agencies, businesses and volunteers. Your assistance and support has helped provide a strong conservation program in Morrow County. A very special thank you is extended to the Morrow County Commissioners, Morrow County Budget Committee, and the voters of Morrow County for their continued support of district funding. These funds make possible the numerous and much needed conservation activities and programs offered to Morrow County citizens.

Through the publishing of our Annual Report we are able to inform you of the activities of the District and programs available. The advertisers in this Annual Report play a vital role in the

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