



2023-2024 Annual Report

Morrow SWCD 430 W. Linden Way, PO Box 127 Heppner, OR 97836
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www.morrowswcd.org

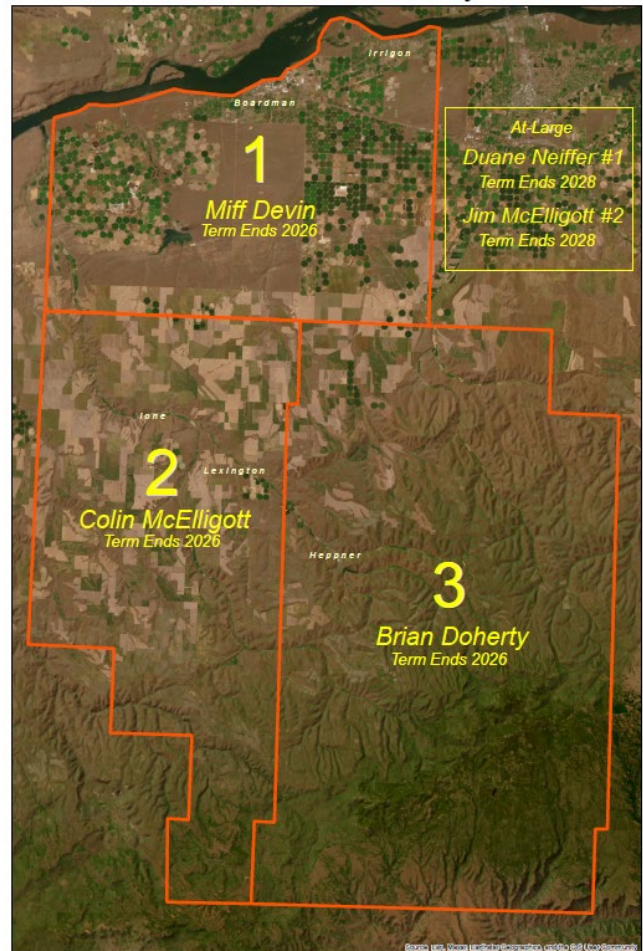
Morrow SWCD Staff

District Manager: Kevin Payne

Natural Resource Program Manager: Jared Huddleston

Wildlife Habitat Technician: Jared Schiller

Morrow SWCD Directors by Zone



Check us out on the web!



www.morrowswcd.org

- Information on SWCD, NRCS and FSA Programs
 - Livestock District Maps, Hunting Unit Maps
- Links to help with Plant Identification, A-List Weeds
- Links for Weather, Market Prices, Stream Flows, SnoTel and many other sites!



Blue Mountains Wildlife Friendly Fencing Project by the NUMBERS:

The District completed Phases I, II, III, IV, V and successfully applied for Phase VI of the Blue Mountain Wildlife Friendly Fencing Project through the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Blue Mountain Elk Initiative, USDA Forest Service and NRCS are *partners* on this project!

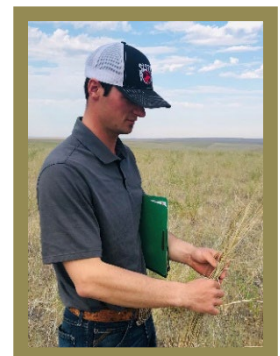
Feet of Woven wire removed thus far = **680,287 ft.**
Dollars spent in the county to date = **\$1,933,985.40**

That is over **128 Miles of woven wire fencing removed!**



OWEB Large Grant: **Morrow County Grassland Restoration of Annual Grass-Invaded Habitat Project**

The SWCD, with help from ODFW and private landowners, will treat ~3,500 acres of range/pasture with annual grass selective herbicide. The non-native grasses targeted are Medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*), Ventenata (*Ventenata dubia*) and cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*).



• Review Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024

FY July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Beginning cash	140,235
Charges for service	71,380
Misc income	
Grants	292,562
Other	440
Interest	5,134
TOTAL	370,416
Expenses	330,461
Ending cash	180,190
Capital assets	
Land	10,000
Bld, equip, & Improve	163,385



Change in Net Position 44,308

A financial review of all Morrow SWCD accounts has been completed by certified public accountants **Connected Professional Accountants, LLC**. A copy is available for review in the district office.

Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office Fire Adapted Communities Project

The SWCD was excited to work with the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office on this project to provide defensible space work near structures at Blake Ranch.

This project reduced wildfire risk through restoration of landscape resiliency and the reduction of hazardous fuels on small forestland properties in Morrow County.

Partners



Mt. Adams Resource Stewards



OWRD Feasibility Study Grant

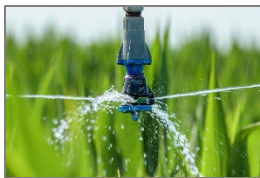
Lower Willow Creek Managed Aquifer Recharge Project



The proposed study by GSI Water Solutions will assess the feasibility of developing a managed aquifer recharge (MAR) project in the Lower Willow Creek Basin area (Morrow/Gilliam County) to improve the reliability of groundwater supplies for irrigation which is anticipated to provide economic and environmental benefits for both instream and out-of-stream water uses. Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District and Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District have identified twenty landowners interested in MAR who are willing to investigate the feasibility of constructing MAR facilities on their properties along Willow Creek (sixteen landowners in Morrow County and 4 landowners in Gilliam County). The study will develop the aquifer recharge concept for the Lower Willow Creek area by evaluating the water needs, available lands, hydrogeology, water availability, permitting pathway and developing the general concept for treatment and infrastructure applicable to interested landowner parcels. Using technical screening criteria from this information, the outcome of the study will be a set of prioritized site(s)/property(s) for developing MAR project(s), and a preliminary work plan for conducting the field investigation.

ODA Ag Water Quality Support Grant

This project will inventory crop and sprinkler systems starting in the LUBGWMA and then the rest of Morrow & Umatilla Counties.



The hope is to use the data collected to formulate some best management practices (BMPs) for the area. BMPs are methods designed to minimize adverse environmental effects of farming practices while maintaining agricultural production. Soil properties and crop needs will determine the correct amounts of nutrients to apply and the timing of application as well as the application method. Adoption of BMPs can help to avoid excessive levels of nutrients in the system that can become harmful when lost to the surrounding environment.

Oregon Department of Forestry Small Forestland Grant Project



This project reduces wildfire risk through restoration of landscape resiliency and the reduction of hazardous fuels on private small forestland properties in the form of defensible space work per Oregon State Fire Marshals office guidelines.

Stewardship crews follow site specific treatment plans to "Firewise" standards to include chipping, pruning, slash removal, and hazard tree mitigation.



Small forestlands to be treated are private land ownerships in the Blake's Ranch, Cutsforth Park and Penland Lake areas in Morrow County. All of which are identified as high risk in the Morrow County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (MCCWPP).

This project looks to support small forestland owners in reducing wildfire risk by creating defensible space around structures within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) zones.