

# Morrow County Riparian Buffers

**Annual Report  
2002**



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P.O. Box 3621  
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# **Morrow County Riparian Buffers**

**Annual Report  
May 2002 - December 2002**

**Submitted by**

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**to**

**Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, Oregon**

**for**

**Intergovernmental Contract No. 00009569  
Project No. 2002-026-00**

**April 2003**

**Annual Report  
Morrow County Riparian Buffers  
Intergovernmental Contract No. 9569  
Project No. 2002-026-00**

**Number of Contacts Made in Contract Year: 5/1/2002 – 12/31/2002**

The technician began work on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2002. From that date the technician has contacted 39 landowners by mail, in Morrow County. Of the 39 contacts 23 have discussed the program at a scheduled meeting, while the other 16 landowners have not responded. Of the 23 landowners who have discussed the Continuous CRP and CREP programs 7 of them requested a second meeting and have continued interest in doing a project.

**Number of Contracts Negotiated in Contract Year: 5/1/2002 – 12/31/2002**

The number of contracts negotiated in the contract year totaled 3. The information regarding these contracts follows, listed by stream. Miles are calculated on actual stream miles. If project is both sides of the stream, an asterisk will be placed next to the mileage figure.

**Willow Creek: Continuous CRP**

Project 1  
Total Stream Miles: .5 miles\*  
Acreage: 5.8 acres  
Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A

**Butter Creek: CREP**

Project 2  
Total Stream Miles: 2.2 miles\*  
Acreage: 33.7 acres  
Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A

**Rhea Creek: Continuous CRP**

Project 3  
Total Stream Miles: 1.2 miles\*  
Acreage: 17 acres  
Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A

**Number of Contracts Signed in Contract Year: 5/1/2002 – 12/31/2002**

**The number of contracts signed in 2002 was zero.**

## **List of Threatened or Endangered, Species by Project**

### **Willow Creek**

**Project 1-** only species listed is **LAURENCE'S MILK VETCH (ASTRAGALUS COLLINUS VAR LAURENTII)**. **Federal Status- SOC, Species of Concern**  
**State Status- LT, Listed Threatened**

### **Butter Creek**

**Project 2-** No endangered species listed is found on this project area.

### **Rhea Creek**

**Project 3-** Only species listed is the **PAINTED TURTLE (CHRYSEMYS PICTA)**.  
**Federal Status- NL, Not Listed. State Status- SC, Sensitive-Critical**

## **Problems Encountered During Contract Year**

The biggest problem I have encountered in Morrow County is the lack of knowledge for these programs by landowners. CREP and Continuous CRP have been available for numerous years but have not been utilized. In 1999 there were 7 contracts negotiated and approved in the **Continuous CRP program**, 3 contracts in 2000 and 1 contract in 2001. There have been zero **CREP** contracts to date in Morrow County. Prior to contract 9569 there were a total of 10 contracts. The programs started in 1998. The numbers will only increase in the next few years. CREP contracts are foreseen in the near future contributing to higher cfs flows available for irrigation purposes by landowners not enrolled into the program. Two of the three listed CREP eligible streams in Morrow County do not contribute to the Columbia River by stream flow but only subsurface.

Another problem I have noticed is the lack of promptness by landowners to return phone calls and the infinitesimal amount of time the landowners have to schedule meetings to learn about these programs. This has slowed the time on receiving contracts.

Morrow County is lacking in CREP eligible streams causing most of my contracts to be Continuous CRP. CCRP does not have the economic monetary incentives that the CREP program contains. The 25% cost share from the state and the cumulative impact bonus are lacking. These would definitely increase the number of contracts in this county. In retrospect, the knowledge of programs and monetary issues will be the biggest problems to overcome in this county. The continuous CRP and CREP programs demand a substantial up-front cost to landowners, which hinder the number of contracts signed. If the Signing Incentive Payment (SIP) were increased to off set a bigger portion of up-front costs, then possibly more contracts would be signed.

## **Outlook for Contract Year 2**

I have been mailing landowners as an initial contact, and follow up with a phone call to explain the programs. I have written paper articles and have given an informational workshop for landowners to attend. Word of mouth should increase awareness of these programs tremendously for Morrow County. Having said this, year two should be a significant improvement over year one. There are already 8 projects proposed that have CRP 2 pre-contracts signatures and one signed CCRP contract. There are 140.4 acres of land that has been proposed in either CREP or CCRP, which would include a total of 16.5 miles of stream buffered.