



Rolling Thunder Review

Winner of "Outstanding District Newsletter of the Year" for 2005
Voted by the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



October

- 25-27 - OWEB Biennial Conference, Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, OR
- 29 - Day Light Savings Time Ends, set clocks back one hour

November

- 1 - Yield Monitoring Workshop, Moro Field Station, 9:00 AM
- 3 - Sherman County Wheat Growers Meeting
- 7 - General Election - Remember to Vote!
- 6-7 - Tentative schedule of WC meetings
- 10 - Veteran's Day Observed - Office Closed
- 13-15 - OACD Annual Meeting, Newport OR
- 21 - SWCD Board Meeting, Moro Field Office, 8:30 AM
- 23 - Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed
- 30 - EQIP Application Deadline

December

- 5 - Wheat Growers and Livestock Producers Ag Day Workshop, Sherman County Senior Center, Moro, OR

Be sure to refer to our website (www.sherman.oacd.org) for up to date meeting notices and activities.

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One of Sherman County's Best Kept Secrets

As many of you know, your local Soil and Water Conservation District is your connection to conservation resources, whether that be obtaining grant monies to implement ag conservation practices such as terraces, sediment basins, and grass waterways, or supporting local workshops such as the Wheat Growers and Livestock Producers Ag Day Workshop being held December 5th. The SWCD in Sherman County is also responsible for helping fund educational programs such as:

- Buck Hollow Watershed Project (South Sherman Elementary): Stream restoration, stream profile studies, tree planting, riparian science and ecology
- Riparian and stream science, upland watershed habitat study in the Grass Valley Canyon and Fulton Canyon Watersheds (North Sherman Elementary).
- Rangeland management, comparison of riparian grazing management styles, soil science, stream ecology, plant identification (Sherman County High School).
- Outdoor School – One week long outdoor school for sixth grade students from 7 grade schools in the region (North and South Sherman, Wamic, Helix, Fossil, Arlington, and Petersburg) studying soil science, forest and range ecology, identifying plants, appreciation of outdoors and outdoor living.
- Wasco County Union High School – Stream biology, stream survey, watershed survey, upland survey and grazing management comparisons in the Buck Hollow Watershed

Sherman SWCD Board Highlights

September 12, 2006

· WATERSHED PROJECT UPDATES

Buck Hollow

Several landowners from the combined watershed area attended a Conservation After Hours meeting. They all expressed interest in combining the area which drains into the Deschutes River into one watershed council.

Pine Hollow/Jackknife

The BPA funding request has not been approved at this time, and reports indicate that it will not be funded.

Grass Valley Canyon

OWEB grant 204-227 has been completed. The grant completed 23 cropland and 3 rangeland water/sediment control basins, 6,712 feet of level terraces, 13,987 feet of reconstructed gradient terraces and 2 spring developments. Assessment: The draft is being reviewed by board members and several landowners in the watershed.

North Sherman

Joli is collecting the final monitoring for direct seed OWEB grant 203-067. Final payments for this grant will be made as soon as all data is received. Monitoring is being conducted this month for the new direct seed OWEB grant 206-336. First payments will be made in November.

· GRANT UPDATE

The OWEB application that was submitted in April 2006 was recommended for funding with conditions, but there may not be enough funding to cover it because it was ranked 12 of 12. The board reviewed the regional review team comments and discussed the best course of action to be taken. OWEB has become almost totally riparian focused. The OWEB staff suggested that they talk with applicants and review teams about the upland practices (terraces and sediment basins) that they are reluctant to fund. Also suggested was asking Wy'east RC&D to search their funding source database for an organization that would be willing to fund upland practices that are being requested by landowners. District staff will compile more information to present to the OWEB staff about the practices that our landowners are applying for.

Grant applications for the October OWEB deadline are being prepared for Range Management, Pine Hollow/Jackknife Assessment, and Grass Valley Technical Assistance. Grant applications that may be submitted to other funding agencies include upland conservation practices and Gerking Canyon Technical Assistance. A fund request is also being prepared for the Sherman Development League.

· SMALL GRANT UPDATE

There is \$5,566 left in the 05-07 Biennium funding. There are 3 projects currently left on the waiting list so the funds will be used completely. The next funds will become available in July 2007.

· JOHN DAY RIVER UPDATE

The BPA funding for technical assistance which partially funds Jason, Jessa, Joli, and Brian is currently expected to continue until April 30, 2007. The final decision on continuing the funding has not been made.

· DESCHUTES RIVER UPDATE

The Deschutes Resource Conservancy has an opening on their board of directors.

· SIGNS

The applications for placement of five signs along the state roads has been approved.

· CONSERVATION AFTER HOURS MEETINGS

Six meetings were held with a total of 51 landowners attending. Those attending asked that more meetings of this kind be held and several signed up to have them on their property.

· NEW BUSINESS

OACD Convention Nov. 12-15 in Newport - At least one director should attend in order to represent the county at the board meeting.

· AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS - EQIP sign ups end on November 30, 2006. Spot checks on HEL lands will be done in mid-October. The soil survey in Wheeler County has been made a top priority by NRCS in Oregon. It should be completed by 2008. At that time the Lower John Day Watershed will become eligible for CSP.

ESA - CRP reenrollment is nearly completed. Elections for the South County committee representative will be held in December.

Extension - Sandy presented information on a grant funded through the Washington Assoc. of Wheat Growers for purchase cost of the new Undercutter that is being used for reduced tillage. The grant allows a 50% cost share. There are only funds for 50 participants. Applications are available through extension or NRCS.

Wy'east RC&D - Funding is available for workshops in Sherman County. Jessa asked the board for ideas for subjects to be addressed. The suggested Residue Measuring for record keeping potentials for bio-fuels, information about orchards and vineyards, and information about precision farming. Staff will work on putting together a workshop to be held this fall.



Get the Information You Will Need In Order to Be Prepared for Future USDA-NRCS & Farm Bill Programs

Workshop Objectives:

- Discuss how to improve land stewardship while improving the bottom line.
- Review current and future programs and assistance available to producers.
- Learn how to measure residue and test soil; how this information can work for producers.
- Discuss requirements likely needed for upcoming assistance programs.
- Be aware of existing and new Precision Ag Technology products available.

Topics:

- **Perennial & Persistent Weeds in Wheat Systems**
Speaker Dr. Dan Ball- 30 mins
- **Effective Soil Sampling & Understanding the Results**
Speaker Dr. Don Horneck – 30 mins
- **How To Measure Your Residue**
Speaker Kristie Coelsch- 10 mins
- **Dealing with compaction layers in Direct Seed Systems**
Speaker Dr. Don Wysocki- 30 mins
- **Pesticide Use Reporting System (PURS)**
Speaker Local Ext. Agts.- 20 mins
- **Developments In Precision Ag Technologies**
Local Reps from Ag Tech, RDO & MCGG- 30 mins
- **Recordkeeping Requirements and Practice Certification for Current USDA Programs for Sherman County**
Kristie Coelsch and/or Dusty Eddy – 60 mins

CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM UPDATE

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced that Oregon's best conservation stewards in the McKenzie watershed will have the opportunity to sign up for the Conservation Security Program (CSP) in fiscal year 2007. The McKenzie watershed comprises more than 850,000 acres in Linn and Lane Counties in Oregon's Willamette Valley. Producers can better prepare themselves for CSP by accessing the NRCS website at <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov>. The website gives information on eligibility requirements and record books for the producer to fill out. Land managers can study the CSP self-assessment package and gather corresponding records and information.

Who We Are and What We Do

SWCD EMPLOYEES



Krista Coelsch
District Manager

Krista has worked for the District for 13 years. She was born and raised in Kent, Oregon and is a graduate of Sherman County High School. Her family includes her husband Leo, children - Kevin, Bryce, Marilee, and grandchildren Courtney and Claire. She and her family are local wheat, barley, and cattle producers.

When not at work you can find Krista in the saddle helping out with the cattle ranching and spending time with her family.

While working at the SWCD, Krista has observed that the SWCD has truly been one of the "best kept secrets" in the county. It has been active for 56 years but most landowners have assumed it was part of the federal USDA agency. Krista believes the SWCD will continue to work for sustainable family farms and healthy environments by being the "bridge" between Federal and State agencies and local landowners.

SHERMAN COUNTY EXPERIMENT AUGUST WEATHER STATS

- ◆ Total precipitation was 0.02" which was 0.27" below normal
- ◆ The crop year total is 16.94" which is 5.64" above normal
- ◆ The highest temperature was 95 degrees on the 20th
- ◆ The lowest temperature was 39 degrees on the 31st
- ◆ Long time averages indicate we can expect 97 and 41 degrees
- ◆ 4" soil temperature ranged from 67 to 92 degrees
- ◆ The average wind speed was 3.7 miles per hour



STATION WEATHER STATISTICS SEPTEMBER WEATHER STATS

- ◆ Total precipitation was 0.02" which is 0.47" below normal
- ◆ Total monthly evaporation was 8.0" which is 1.07" above normal
- ◆ The highest temperature was 95 degrees on the 6th
- ◆ The lowest temperature was 30 degrees on the 20th
- ◆ Long time averages indicate we can expect 91 and 33 degrees
- ◆ 4" soil temperature ranged from 85 to 59 degrees
- ◆ The average wind speed was 2.9 miles per hour

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Joli Munkers
Watershed Coordinator

Joli has worked for the SWCD for 1 ½ years. She was born and raised on a farm in Goldendale, WA. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Central Washington University majoring in Business Administration with a minor in Computer Science. She then earned her Master of Science degree from the University of Idaho in 2005 majoring in GIS and Remote Sensing Systems. She is married to Ryan Munkers, the outside sales representative for Morrow County Grain Growers.

In her spare time she enjoys riding and training horses, skiing, and gardening. At work she really enjoys collecting and analyzing monitoring data using GIS and meeting and learning about each farmer's individual operations.

When you come in to the office, Joli can help you sign up for cost share through various grant opportunities, or if you already have been funded, she can answer questions regarding your grant management.

Jessa was born and raised in Sherman County on a wheat, barley, and cattle ranch. She is the daughter of Gary and Joie, and granddaughter of Tex and Beryle Irzyk. Along with working full time for the District, she is a full time student at OSU and will earn her Bachelor of Science in March majoring in Environmental



Jessa Irzyk
CREP Technician

Sciences with a minor in Fisheries and Wildlife.

When not at work or school, Jessa enjoys volleyball, snowboarding, rafting, camping, hunting, gardening, horse-back riding, travelling, and spending time with friends and family.

When asked what is one thing she has learned from working at the SWCD, she responded, "Every interaction with a landowner is a learning experience. I think we all have something to bring to the table and walk away with. It's all just a matter of how you listen."

If you are interested in enrolling in the Conservation Resource Enhancement Program, Jessa is the one to talk to in the office. Jessa is also the Sherman County Representative for the Wy'East RC&D. If you have a project that would lead to the improvement of the local economy and environment, Jessa may be able to find funding for your project through the Wy'East RC&D.

Brian has worked for the District for 8 years. He is a 4th generation Sherman County farmer. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Oregon State University in Fisheries Science. As well as being a conservation technician for the SWCD and local wheat farmer, he is also a landscape contractor.



Brian Stradley (and Zeke)
District Technician

Brian enjoys fishing, hunting, photography, and motorcycles. He really enjoys the one on one

contact with landowners that this job gives him.

He sees the role of the SWCD in the future as providing a continued tradition of serving the community for all of its conservation needs including providing representation for future environmental issues.

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Jason Faucera
District Technician

Jason has worked for the District for 4 years. He was born and raised in Klamath Falls, Oregon. He earned a Bachelor of Science in 2001 from Oregon State University majoring in Environmental Science with a minor in Chemistry.

He enjoys playing and coaching sports, playing guitar, and computer and web development. He enjoys working with landowners that want

to improve the ways in which they operate to conserve resources. He grew up in the suburbs of Klamath Falls, so working with and being exposed to agriculture was a big change for him. He appreciates that people have helped him understand what it is like to farm and survive in today's society.

Talk with either Jason or Brian if you have a funded project that needs a design and layout completed.

NRCS EMPLOYEES

She has worked for NRCS for 13 years. Kristie grew up in Condon, Oregon on a wheat farm. She attended Blue Mountain Community College after graduating from Condon High School. She earned her Associates Degree from Blue Mountain then transferred to Easter Oregon University in La Grande where she earned her OSU Bachelor of Science Degree in Crop and Soil Science. She married Bryce Coelsch in 2002 and had their first child, Courtney in 2005.



Kristie Coelsch
District Conservationist

In her spare time Kristie enjoys hunting, riding, and being in the outdoors. She enjoys family time. When asked what she likes about her job Kristie responded, "I like working with producers and getting out in the field." When asked, what was one thing she'd learned from working at NRCS, she stated, "Where do I start? I have learned many things from many people!"

Mary Beth Smith (No Photo Available)
Basin Resource Conservationist

Mary Beth lives on a wheat farm in Condon with her husband Loyd and step-sons, Jack and Ted. Jack is currently in the Air Force and Ted is attending OSU. Mary Beth is busy at work assisting landowners in Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson Counties in writing conservation plans, training employees, helping producers and improving overall technical quality in our basin.

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- All Schools – Native American Studies: As part of an integrated approach, Native American history and culture was incorporated during the second and third years of this project. This included tours to Warm Springs, Maryhill Museum, the High Desert Museum, and OMSI Exhibits.
- Hood River Schools – Science Field Trips
- Reptile Exhibit at the Sherman County Fair
- Direct Seed – Held local tour and sent landowners from Umatilla, Wasco, and Sherman Counties to a workshop in North Dakota

As you can see, Sherman County SWCD is more than just a local resource for agricultural conservation practices. Natural resource education is a primary mission of the Sherman County SWCD. The well kept secret of Sherman County SWCD should not be kept a secret any longer! Spread the word!

.ODDS 'N' ENDS

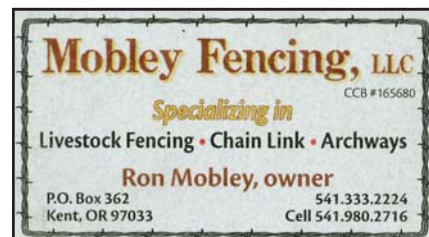
Sherman Wheat Growers to Meet Nov 3

The Sherman County Wheat Growers host their annual fall meeting on Friday November 3 beginning at 7:30 am with a hosted breakfast at the Senior Center in Moro.

Topics to be addressed include renewable fuel standards, community wind projects, Oregon's biofuel contributions, managing your production costs, planning for the future of wheat grower needs and discussing is it time for a wheat assessment change?

All wheat growers and interested persons are invited to attend.

SWCD ROAD SIGNS . . . COMING SOON



The Sherman County SWCD would like to thank Ron Mobley for donating his services and supplies in the installment of the new Sherman County SWCD

road signs. You will soon see the new road signs along the major transit routes throughout the county.



Sherman County SWCD Board of Directors

Bill Martin, Chairman
Kyle Blagg, Vice Chair
Brad Eakin, Secretary
Tracy Fields, Treasurer
Gary Irzyk, Member

SWCD Staff

Krista Coelsch, District Coordinator
Joli Munkers, Watershed Coordinator
Jason Faucera, District Technician
Brian Stradley, District Technician
Jessa Irzyk, CRP Technician

NRCS Staff

Kristie Coelsch, District Conservationist
Mary Beth Smith, Basin Resource Conservationist

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