

# Rolling Thunder Review

## SMALL GRANT FUNDS STILL AVAILABLE!

The OWEB Small Grant Program is an easy to engage in grant program that awards funds up to \$5,000 with a 75% cost share and up to \$10,000 with a 50% cost share. Projects that are eligible for Small Grants include but are not limited to:

### Upland Process and Function

- Manage Erosion
  - Cropland Structures (Terraces, WASCBs)
  - Windbreaks
  - Filter Strips/Grassed Waterways
  - Manage High Use Areas
  - Reduce Tillage
- Manage Nutrient and Sediment Inputs to Streams through the management of:
  - Grazing
  - Vegetation Cover
  - Animal Waste
- Water guzzlers for wildlife
- Employ Integrated Pest Management

### Water Quantity/Irrigation Efficiency

- Recharge Groundwater
  - Roof water harvesting

- Implement Irrigation Practices that result in decreased water use, and increased instream flow, increased groundwater level, or improved water quality
  - Pipe existing ditch
  - Install drip or sprinkler systems
  - Install automated soil moisture sensors
  - Recover or eliminate tail water

### Riparian Process and Function

- Manage Nutrient and Sediment Inputs
  - Managed grazing
  - Plantings
- Manage Vegetation
  - Plant or seed native riparian species
  - Propagate native riparian plants
  - Control weeds
- Employ Integrated Pest Management

Sherman County has two Small Grant Areas; Lower Deschutes & Lower John Day. There is \$31,480 available on the Lower Deschutes side and \$11,472 available on the Lower John Day side. You must be signed up for this funding by **June 1, 2011**. If you have any questions about the Small Grant Program or have a project that you would like to do please contact Amanda @ 541-565-3216 ext. 109.



## WANTED!

The Moro Field Office is requesting your email address!

By giving us your email address it will allow us to better serve your needs. We will then be able to keep you up to date on programs, funding opportunities and meeting dates.

Please contact the FSA, NRCS, or SWCD office with your email @ 541-565-3551. Thank you!

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**Sherman SWCD Board Highlights**  
**June 8, 2010**

**WATERSHED UPDATES**

Pine Hollow/Jackknife—Two site visits were done for range seeding projects. There is still a lot of BPA funding available at an 85% cost share. Amanda will request an extension on the OWEB 207-254 Pine Hollow/Jackknife Assessment grant. She will still try to have a draft ready for the board to review this fall.

Grass Valley Canyon—Funding from OWEB for the Action Plan for Grass Valley Canyon has been approved.

Grant Updates—Projects are being completed and payments made in OWEB Grants 208-4016, 209-4025 and 210-6004.

OWEB Small Grants—Amanda is working on a monitoring report on the Lower Deschutes side. There is one new application on the Lower John Day side. The application was reviewed. The request is for a wildlife watering facility. A motion was made by Brad and seconded by Bill to approve the application. Motion carried unanimously. One small grant project was completed last month. There is still a lot of funding left for both sides of our Small Grant area.

Well pumping projects—The board reviewed the final draft of the Water Project Agreement. A motion was made by Bill and seconded by Brad to accept the draft. Motion carried unanimously.

Feral Swine Information—Information will be included in the summer newsletter regarding the new feral swine law.

John Day River & Deschutes River Updates—There is nothing new to report on the Lower Deschutes. Erin Stone, Facilitator for the Lower John Day Conservation Work Group reported on recent group activities. The board representation continues to be Gary Irzyk, Jessa Irzyk, Brian Stradley and Amanda Whitman.

2010-2011 Annual Work Plan & Workload Analysis-ODA Statement of Work & Budget—Krista will complete the draft versions of these plans this month. They will be reviewed by directors before the July 15th deadline.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Display Booth for County Fair—The Sherman County SWCD was formed in 1950. The theme of this year’s fair booth will be 60 Years of Conservation. The board will purchase some items to give away at the booth. Suggestions were beverage can holders (koozies) and/or pens with the district logo on them.

Education Incentive Grant—Two grant applications were reviewed. One from the Sherman County Elementary School requesting \$2,000 for the purchase of a greenhouse on the campus in Grass Valley. A motion was made by Brad and seconded by Bill to approve the grant for funding. A grant application from the Sherman County Junior/Senior High requested \$2,000 for materials to build a greenhouse on the campus in Moro. A motion was made by Bill and seconded by Brad to approve the appli-

cation. Motion carried unanimously.

Dodge Pickup Windshield—The Dodge pickup has a large crack in the windshield. The board concurred that the windshield should be replaced. Brian said that the estimated cost was \$300. Brian will schedule an appointment to get it fixed.

**NRCS REPORT**

A Local Work Group meeting will be held here at the office on June 15th at 8:00am. CSP sign up deadline is June 25th. EQIP sign up ends October 31st.

**AGENCY REPORTS**

FSA—Kyle Carnine announced that she has taken a job with FSA in the Heppner office and will be reporting to work there on the 21st of June. The north end County Committee position will be coming up for election this fall. She reminded everyone about the upcoming deadlines for programs.

Wy’east RC&D—Robert Wallace brought information to the board about a program sponsored by Wasco Electric Cooperative that will assist landowners with energy efficiency. He left materials to be given out to landowners who irrigate.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Outdoor School Presentation—Liz Cranston from Sherman Elementary asked staff to present a power point showing Sixth Grade Outdoor School. She also sent her thanks to the SWCD for their financial support through the Education Incentive Grant Program.

Elections—Krista presented election information to the board. Positions up for election are Zone 1 (Bill Martin), Zone 2 (Tracy Fields) and At Large 2 (Kyle Blagg).

SDAO Review—A representative of Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) visited the office last week. Safety and other information will be reviewed at staff meetings which are held every Monday morning.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Sept. 14, 2010 at 5:30 pm. Gary and Brian are making plans to put on a dinner after the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 am.

THE 2010 SHERMAN COUNTY FAIR IS FAST APPROACHING. THE SWCD WILL HAVE A CONSERVATION BOOTH AT THE FAIRGROUNDS FOR THE DURATION OF THE FAIR. EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO STOP BY AND SEE “60 YEARS OF CONSERVATION”. WE WILL HAVE GOODIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!



## EQIP Update

EQIP (Environmental Incentives Program) funded 10 applicants in Fiscal Year 2010 totaling \$88,614. Projects included: Rangeland Restoration, Watering Facilities, Solar Power Pumping Plants, Brush Clearing, Direct Seed, Pest Management and Nutrient Management for innovative technologies. **Sign up for Fiscal Year 2011 ends October 31, 2010** so please come in and sign up for practices that you would like to complete in 2011 or 2012 with Kristie.

EQIP funding pools will focus on Rangeland Restoration, Erosion Control and Irrigation Systems and Management of these systems. All of the pools will take into account for the Precision Technology.

\* Any high school or college students looking for summer work that would like to learn more about NRCS, contact Kristie. Job opportunities may be available.

Please contact Kristie for more information @ 541-565-3216 ext 102 or [kristie.coelsch@or.usda.gov](mailto:kristie.coelsch@or.usda.gov).

## SWCD BOARD ELECTIONS

The local governing body of the Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) consists of a board of five elected or appointed members. The Sherman County SWCD board of directors consists of 3 zone positions and 2 at large positions. Elections for SWCD Directors occur every two years. Directors serve four year terms.

The next election date is November 2, 2010. Three positions are up for election this year. The positions are for Zone 1 (Rufus/Wasco area), Zone 2 (Moro area) and one of the At Large positions.

For more information please contact the Sherman County SWCD office located at 302 Scott St in Moro or call 541-565-3216 ext. 3

## USDA's Farm Service Agency

**Reminds Producers to get their Production Information to them Immediately!**

### CRP UPDATE!

#### Transition Incentive Program (TIP)

TIP provides retired or retiring owners or operators to receive an extra 2 years of CRP payments if they agree to lease long-term (at least 5 yrs) the land enrolled in an expiring CRP contract to a beginning farmer or rancher.

For more information on this program contact the FSA Office @ 541-565-3551 ext 2.

## WATERSHED EDUCATION INCENTIVE FUNDS

There are still funds available from the SWCD's Watershed Education Incentive Fund. Grant funds are available for up to \$2,000 with a 25% match shown. Any local organization can apply for conservation related projects.

Please contact the SWCD office if you would like to learn more on how to apply for an Education Grant.

## Come in & Signup for CREP Today!!

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) have both proven to be very popular and successful programs both locally and nationally.

These programs are voluntary land retirement programs that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water.

The programs are convenient for producers because they are based on the familiar, highly successful CRP model.

New CCRP and CREP contract application are currently being accepted. For more information or to signup contact the Farm Service Agency or Jessa @ 541-565-3551.



## Funding Available for Pine Hollow/Jackknife Watershed

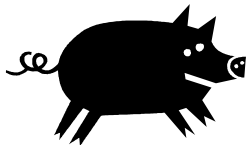
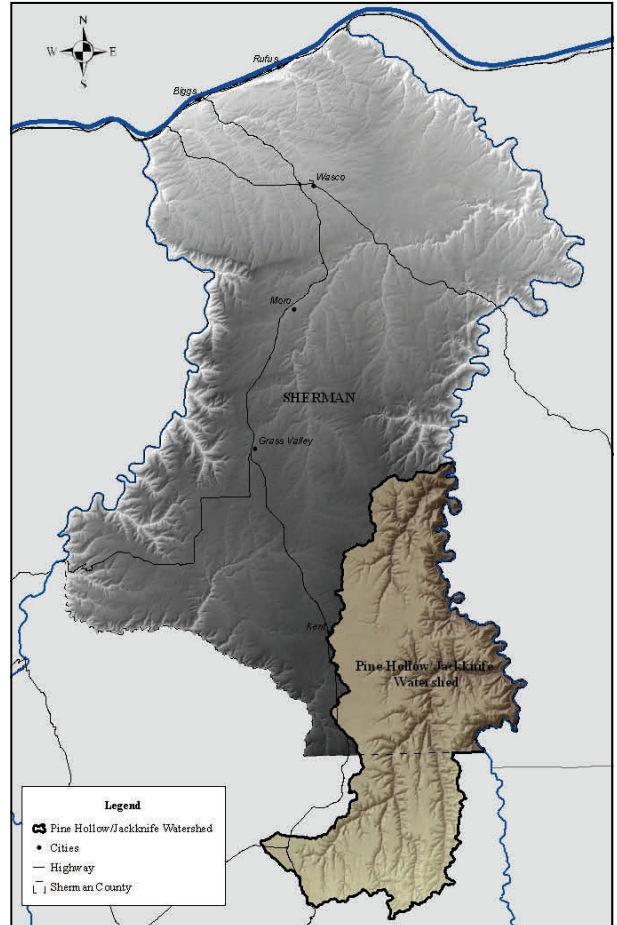
If you have a conservation project you would like to complete in the Pine Hollow/Jackknife Watershed (shown on the right) you may be eligible for an **85% Cost Share**.

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has continued their support in salmon/steelhead recovery by providing funding for on-the-ground conservation work and fish/wildlife habitat enhancements.

Some projects that are eligible include:

- Rangeland Water & Sediment Control Basins (WASCB)
- Off-Stream Watering Facility
- Pipeline & Troughs
- Spring Development
- Solar/Wind Hybrid Watering Facility

For more information contact Jessa @ 541-565-3551 x 110.



## FERAL SWINE MENACE OREGON

Feral swine have invaded Oregon, causing damage to agricultural crops and fish and wildlife habitat. Their destructive rooting and grubbing activities increase erosion and degrade water quality in streams; encourage the growth of noxious weeds; and can cause millions of dollars in agricultural, environmental and property damage. Feral swine can transmit disease to wildlife, livestock and humans.

To halt the spread of invasive feral swine, the 2009 Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 2221 that requires landowners and land managers to notify the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife when they become aware of free roaming feral swine on their property. The bill also makes it illegal to sell hunts for feral swine on public or private property.

### How to Report

Landowners and land managers are required to contact their local ODFW office within 10 days of discovering feral swine on their land. They, then, have 60 days to submit a feral swine removal plan to the department for approval. Technical assistance is available at a local ODFW. ODFW staff will advise landowners about traps and other resources. A sample removal plan is available in the Invasive Species section of ODFW's website.

Report feral swine sightings and hunting harvest to your local ODFW office or to ODFW's Terrestrial Invasive Species coordinator @ 503-947-6000.

You can also contact the SWCD Office @ 541-565-3216 x 3 for more information.



## Sherman County Experiment

### MAY WEATHER STATS

- Precipitation for May was 1.34" which is .55" above normal.
- Total precipitation for 09/10 crop year was 11.83" which is 1.76" above normal.
- The highest air temperatures was 79° on the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The lowest air temperature was 30° on the 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Long time air temperature averages indicate we can expect 87° and 30°.
- The average air temperature for the month was 50.9°.
- 4" soil temperature ranged from 79° to 47°.



## Station Weather Statistics

### JUNE WEATHER STATS

- Precipitation for June was 1.90"
- The precipitation for the 09/10 crop year is 13.73" which is 2.82" above normal.
- The highest air temperature was 84° on the 24<sup>th</sup>.
- The lowest air temperature was 39° on the 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Long time air temperature averages indicate we can expect 92° and 37°.
- The average air temperature for the month was 58.3° which is 2.9° below normal.
- 4" soil temperature ranged from 84° to 55°.

## Odds –N– Ends

### BIG GAME GUZZLERS

If you have interest in putting in a watering facility for big game contact the SWCD! We have several different designs for Big Game Guzzlers to choose from.



There is also opportunity for possible Cost Share assistance! Come see us or Call, 541-565-3216 ext. 3 for more information.

### RANGE DRILL

The SWCD Range Drill is available to landowners/operators to rent for range restoration, pasture seeding or grass seeding. If you would like to rent the range drill call the office (541-565-3216 x 3) to make an appointment.

**Start thinking about fall seeding!**



## Save Water Save Energy Program

A project of Wy'East Resource Conservation & Development Area Council

**Save Water Save Energy Program**, a pilot program sponsored by BPA, was developed to help make energy improvements convenient and affordable and to help agricultural operations and rural small businesses save money on energy costs. End users eligible for the program include irrigators, dairies, wineries, greenhouse nurseries, livestock operations, on-farm processors, golf courses, etc.

BPA and northwest public utilities recognize that energy efficiency is the premier low-cost source of new energy and are working together to bring energy savings to the agriculture industry. By saving, energy, agricultural customers may be able to reduce costs, increase operation uniformity, decrease the amount of water/energy used, and potentially increase yield.

Wy'East staff can help make energy improvements convenient and affordable. Using a "one-stop" start-to-finish approach, Wy'East will work with businesses to:

- Assess needs through interviews, on-site visits, and an energy assessment

- Involve key professionals to develop feasibility studies
- Evaluate and make recommendations on the return on investment of proposed energy saving improvements
- In addition to BPA and Utility incentives, Wy'East will leverage all state and federal program incentives, credits, and assistance such as:

- A. USDA NRCS—EQIP
- B. USDA Rural Development—REAP
- C. Oregon Department of Energy—BETC
- D. Oregon Department of Energy—SELP
- E. Federal Investment Tax Credits

Potential savings are realized through on-site energy efficiency improvements such as irrigation hardware upgrades and irrigation pumping improvements.

More information on this program can be obtained by contacting Robert Wallace @ 541-815-5503 or [WyEastRobert@gmail.com](mailto:WyEastRobert@gmail.com)

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**JULY**

- 1-4 8th Annual Quilt and Doll Show, Moro
- 4 Independence Day
- 4 Independence Day Celebration, Rufus
- 5 Independence Day (Observed), Office Closed

**AUGUST**

- 19-22 Wasco County Fair @ Wasco County Fairgrounds, Tygh Valley
- 24 Sherman County Fair Car Show and BBQ @ Sherman County Fairgrounds, Moro
- 24-28 101st Sherman County Fair @ Sherman County Fairgrounds, Moro
- 28 4th Annual Wasco Salmon and Steelhead Tournament, Wasco
- 28 Shipley Shuffle, Walk-Run @ Sherman County Fairgrounds, Moro

**SEPTEMBER**

- 6 Labor Day, Office Closed
- 14 SWCD Board Meeting, 5:30pm @ Moro Field Office

**Sherman County SWCD Board of Directors**

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

**SWCD Staff**

- Krista Coelsch, District Coordinator**
- Amanda Whitman, Watershed Council Coordinator**
- Brian Stradley, District Technician**
- Jessa Irzyk, Conservation Technician**

**NRCS Staff**

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

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***Rolling Thunder Review***

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