



# Sherman SWCD Board Highlights

## June 13, 2006

### · WATERSHED PROJECT UPDATES

#### Buck Hollow

Macks Canyon OWEB 99-279 3rd year monitoring report is nearly completed. Joli will talk with landowners about combining Macks and Buck Hollow watersheds into one council during "Conservation After Hours" meetings.

#### Pine Hollow/Jackknife

Monitoring reports are being done on 2 OWEB grants. Linnea is assisting Joli with the reports. The temperature monitoring gauges were sent off for upgrades. They will be launched as soon as they are returned.

#### Grass Valley Canyon

OWEB grant 203-178 has been completed. The final report has been sent. Thirteen water and sediment control basins and 64,172 feet of terrace were completed utilizing funds from this grant. Assessment-Jeff reported that Jason is working on proof-reading and Brian has been assisting him on completing the landowner project maps.

#### North Sherman

Direct seed monitoring data is being collected for OWEB grant 206-336.

### · SMALL GRANT UPDATE

Small grant applications were reviewed and approved for funding. A motion was made to combine the remaining funds in the Lower Deschutes and the Lower John Day in order to fund applications. Motion carried unanimously.

### · JOHN DAY RIVER UPDATE

The BPA Technical Assistance grant and the Pine Hollow/Jackknife BPA grant were not recommended for funding by the Oregon Sub-basin Plan Implementation Team (OSPIT). Jason is following up with several of the BPA contacts to see if we can lobby for approval on the grants. The final decision will be made by July 15th. The only technical assistance grant that was recommended for funding was in the Deschutes sub-basin. We were assured that our grants would be considered on a regional basis, but this does not appear to be how it was done. Perhaps if we had requested that our application be ranked in the Deschutes Sub-basin it could have been funded. Jason will follow up on this concern.

### · NEW BUSINESS

Local Work Group Meeting - A local work group meeting needs to be held before the end of September. The date will be set as soon as possible.

2007 Annual Work Plan & Workload Analysis - A motion was made to do the final review and approval of the 2007 Annual Work Plan, Workload Analysis, and ODA Statement of work and budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Conservation District Signs - Jessa is working on designs and price quotes with Pat Jacobsen of Manifest Signs & Tokens. The district would like to put up an office door sign, a sign on the outside of the building, a "Brand Board" at the fair, and five signs at the entrances to the County.

Director Election - Packets will be given to Bill, Kyle and Tracy. Krista has sent the Notice of Election to The Dalles Chronicle.

### · AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS - Kristie reported that seventeen CRP applications for reenrollment have been received. She discussed the EQIP program progress. The "Conservation After Hours" planning and goals were discussed. Bill will be setting a time to meet at his shop after harvest so that CSP enhancements can be discussed. Jessa reported that approximately 8062 acres has been put in to the CREP and CCRP programs since 2000 bringing \$488,920 in to the county annually.

FSA - Kevin reported that the FSA newsletter will be coming out very soon. The County Committee position for the south part of the county is coming up for election. A nomination form is included in the newsletter. ECP sign ups are still open. He also reported that the national office stated that any stream with seasonal flow is eligible for CREP.

### · Sherman County Court

Steve reported that the County Road department had applied for FEMA funding to repair storm damaged roads. He also brought the board up to date on the possibility of Azure Standard Farms putting a distribution center in Moro. He asked the District to contact the landowner above the proposed building to talk about some additional terraces and/or water & sediment control basins.



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water quality has been increasing in the Northwest.

Regional and local funding sources became available as historical USDA sources dried up. During this funding transition period, our SWCD was very aggressive, securing grant funding from OWEB, ODA, BPA, USDA, USFW, NMFS, and believe it or not, FEMA (we didn't get a trailer, but they did pay for upland structures in Gerking Canyon). This aggressive pursuit of grants has allowed our district to hire technical support people and a full time grant writer. On average, we leverage a local support dollar into \$100.

Over 90% of our budget is grant money.

This exposes us to the vagrancies of both funding agency politics and budget cycles.

On average we leverage a local support dollar into \$100.

Continuity of conservation services is a major concern to me.

Back to choice. Many of our funding sources

are pressuring the district as to which conservation practices are acceptable. Upland structures such as terraces and dams are becoming more difficult to fund if not politically incorrect. This top driven approach is just opposite to Gary's First Law.

As a director I voted to pursue a tax district for two reasons:

- 1) Continuity of services
- 2) Local control

Have a safe Harvest,  
Really, Really Past el Jefe



## ***EQIP SIGN-UP***

The Environment Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) sign-up deadline for fiscal year 2007 is November 30, 2006. Practices eligible for funding include (but are not limited to):

- Livestock Watering
- Management Practices (residue management, pest management, nutrient management, etc.)
- Structures (sediment basins and terraces)
- Irrigation Improvements

If you have any resource concerns that need attention, please come in and talk to Kristie or call her at 565-3551, ext. 102.

## ***CSP CONTRACT MODIFICATION PERIOD***

Conservation Security Program (CSP) contract modification requests will be accepted between August 1 and September 15, 2006 for fiscal year 2004 and 2005 CSP contract holders for specified contract modifications. 2005 CSP enrollees in the Mid Columbia Hood Watershed may be eligible, under certain constraints, to transition to a higher Tier, add acres, or add enhancement practices to their existing contract and receive higher annual CSP payments.

"The modification request period will provide an opportunity for 2004 and 2005 CSP participants to demonstrate their interest in further enhancing their conservation systems," said NRCS State Conservationist Bob Graham.

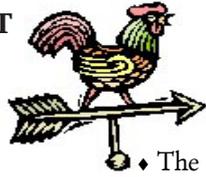
The decision to proceed with modification requests is based on the President's proposed FY 2007 CSP budget level. Actual funding available for modification requests will be determined by the final '07 budget, and NRCS will make decisions on modification requests once '07 CSP funding is known.

For more information on submitting a modification request, contact the Moro Service Center.



## SHERMAN COUNTY EXPERIMENT JUNE WEATHER STATS

- ◆ Total precipitation was 1.49" which was 0.79" above normal
- ◆ The crop year total is 16.86" which is 5.95" above normal
- ◆ The highest temperature was 97 degrees on the 27<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ The lowest temperature was 41 degrees on the 22<sup>nd</sup>
- ◆ Long time averages indicate we can expect 92 and 37 degrees
- ◆ 4" soil temperature ranged from 92 to 56 degrees
- ◆ The average wind speed was 3.6 miles per hour



## STATION WEATHER STATISTICS JULY WEATHER STATS

- ◆ Total precipitation was .06"
- ◆ The crop year total is 16.92" which is 5.79" above normal
- ◆ The highest temperature was 104 degrees on the 24<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ The lowest temperature was 42 degrees on the 9<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Long time averages indicate we can expect 99 and 42 degrees
- ◆ 4" soil temperature ranged from 97 to 71 degrees
- ◆ The average wind speed was 4.2 miles per hour



## WANTED - DEAD, NOT ALIVE

### Noxious Weed: *St. John's Wort*

#### Other Common Names

Klamath weed, goat weed, tipton weed

#### History

St. John's Wort has historically been used for treating wounds and allaying the pain of contusions. In the Middle Ages, harvesting the herb on St. John's Day (June 24<sup>th</sup>) was believed to give the herb greater power from the protection of demons. If a sprig of the herb were placed under the pillow on St. John's Eve, St. John himself may even appear in a dream, blessing the dreamer for another year.

#### Description

Blooming from June to July, *Hypericum perforatum*, is a much-branched perennial growing one to three feet high. The leaves are covered by translucent dots easily seen by holding the leaves up to a light. These perforations give the plant its species designation "perforatum". The bright yellow flowers are up to one inch in diameter. They have showy stamens and may have black dots on the edge of the five petals.

#### Impacts

The large bushy plant prefers dry sandy or gravelly soils in open sunlit areas. This difficult to control noxious weed is particularly aggressive in rangelands with dry summers. The plant is poisonous to livestock, particularly sheep, causing photodermatitis or photo-toxicity. Photodermatitis is the result of the interaction of sunlight and oxygen with the pigment hypericin, after it has been ingested, absorbed through the intestinal wall, and reaches the blood without being eliminated by the liver or kidneys. When light-skinned livestock, such as sheep, goats, horses, and cattle ingest the plant, and are then exposed to sunlight, they can develop blisters and scabs on the mouth, eyes, ears, nose, and feet. Dark-skinned animals are generally less susceptible. Animals are poisoned by eating the fresh plant or dried hay. The toxic principle is not destroyed by drying or



excessive heat. Younger plants are more palatable than the older ones.

#### Symptoms

In cattle, consumption of the toxic plant amounting to one percent of the body weight is toxic. Photosensitization is noticed within two days to three weeks after ingestion. The white skin peels off and may hang from the body before falling away.

#### Treatment

Remove animals from contaminated pastures to barns, woods, pasture or areas where animals have access to shade. Affected skin areas should be treated with antibacterial preparations as well as antibiotic injections to prevent infection.

#### Distribution in Oregon

The first documented site of this plant in Oregon was 1877 in Clackamas County.

#### Biological Controls

There are five biological control agents approved for use on St. John's Wort. Four of these, three beetles and a moth, have been successfully established in Oregon.



# WATERSHED NEWS AND OTHER IMPORTANT TOPICS

## Grass Valley Assessment Public Comment Period

The first draft of the assessment has been completed and is currently being reviewed by the SWCD board members and staff, as well as some landowners in the Grass Valley Watershed. Copies of the first draft are available at the SWCD office for anyone who would like to read it and contribute their thoughts and suggestions. Sections of the assessment are being sent off to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality as well as other agencies for review and fact-checking. With some suggestions and comments having already been received, revisions to the first draft are underway.

The digitizing of the data gathered in the conservation inventory is complete. Preliminary results are summarized in the table to the right. The information

Practice	Unit of Measure
Terrace	842.66 miles
W aster and Sediment Control Basin	824 units
Spring Development	9 units
W ildlife W atering Facilities	30 units
Fence	44.23 miles
Grass W aterway	131.39 acres
Brush Management	257.57 acres
Grass Seeding	946.68 acres

collected will

be used in the assessment to show the conservation work already done in the watershed with cost share assistance through either the NRCS office or the SWCD office. A completed map will be on display in the SWCD office and brought to the next Grass Valley Watershed Council Meeting. Be sure to stop by the office and check it out! Thanks again to all of the producers who contributed and for those of you who have not, there is still time to include you in the inventory.

### ***FUN FACT:***

**There is enough terrace in the Grass Valley Watershed to stretch from Moro to Bakersfield, California!**



## Macks Canyon/Buck Hollow Watershed Council Merger

At the recent Conservation After Hours meetings being held around Sherman County, discussions concerning the merger of the existing Mack's Canyon Watershed Council with the Sherman County portion of the Buck Hollow Watershed led to development of a new Watershed Council to be called South Sherman Watershed Council. The new council will meet after harvest to discuss the development of an action plan, by-laws, and election of new members.

## Upcoming OWEB Grant Deadline

For those interested individuals and council members, the upcoming Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Watershed Restoration Grant deadline is set for October 16<sup>th</sup>. Current grants being submitted for funding include a Solar/Wind Hybrid Off-stream Livestock Watering Facility Project and an Upland Structure Project. If you are interested in participating in either of those grants or have other projects needing funding, contact Joli Munkers at the SWCD Office, 565-3216, ext. 109 no later than **September 16, 2006!**



## Coming Soon to a Mailbox Near You!

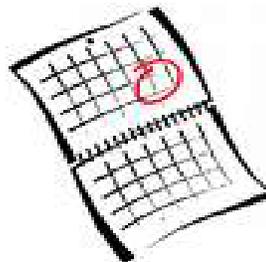
Reminder letters will be sent out within the next month for those of you who still have available grant funding left for proposed projects. Please contact Joli Munkers at the office if you have any questions or concerns about what you see!

## Upcoming Watershed Council Meetings

After harvest, watershed council meetings will be held to discuss strategic planning of projects for future funding opportunities. Stayed tuned for further details. . . .

## Mark your Calendars!

August 30<sup>th</sup>-September 3<sup>rd</sup> marks the 2006 Sherman County Fair and Rodeo. Come join in on all the fun and festivities and make sure to stop by the SWCD booth for a *truly* educational experience.



## 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

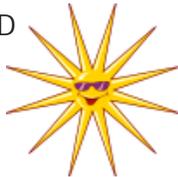
### NRCS Staff

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

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## Rolling Thunder Review

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