

THE ROLLING THUNDER



JANUARY 2021

SHERMAN COUNTY SWCD & WATERSHED COUNCIL

Soil & Water Conservation District

Upcoming Meetings

The next SWCD meeting is February 9th at 8:30 am in the OSU Extension Conference Room.

Annual Meeting

The Sherman County SWCD annual meeting will be February 20th at 6pm. Contact Amanda at 541-565-3216 ext 109 or email amanda.whitman@or.nacdn.net for more details.



County Cost Share

The SWCD has county cost share grants available! County cost share funds conservation projects in crop, range, and/or riparian areas. Eligible projects include haul roads, spring development, solar water development, weed treatment, range seeding, riparian restoration, and more. Projects up to \$10,000 have a 75% cost share rate and projects \$10,001-\$15,000 have a 50% cost share rate. Projects must be completed within 1 year.

Tree Sale

The order deadline for the Sherman County SWCD tree sale is March 15.

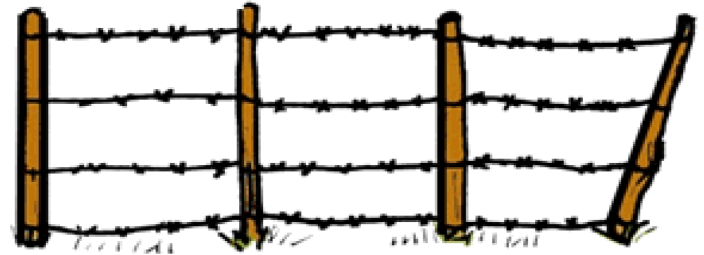
Trees and shrubs look great and can serve many purposes including providing shade, creating a wind break, stabilizing stream banks, creating wildlife and pollinator habitat, improving property value, and more!



This sale is pre-order only. We are not buying extra trees for the pick up dates. Pick up will be March 23-26 at the Sherman SWCD office. An order form is included in the newsletter and available at the office or on our website (shermancountyswcd.com). Call the office at 541-565-3216 ext 109 for more information.

Boundary Fence

The SWCD is now offering cost share for installing or replacing boundary fence! The fence must be addressing a resource concern such as grazing. The cost share pays for materials for up to 1/2 mile of fence. The cost share does not cover labor. Fences must be constructed out of metal. Call the office to apply. Applications are reviewed monthly at the SWCD board meetings.



Sherman County Area Watershed Council

Upcoming Meetings

The next Council meeting is March 9th at 8 am at the OSU Extension Conference Room.

Goodbye Emily Freilich

I am moving to work at the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center in Burns. Thank you everyone for welcoming me here and working with me as I learned about wheat farming and livestock!

I am grateful for all the opportunities I had in Sherman County and to have gotten to know so many of you.

Job Opening

We have a job opening for the Watershed Coordinator. The Watershed Coordinator is responsible for the smooth functioning of the Watershed Council. The Coordinator also gathers watershed data and coordinates projects on behalf of the watershed councils and the local Small Grant Team. Contact Amanda Whitman at 541-565-3216 ext 109 or visit shermancountyswcd.com to learn more.



Natural Resource Conservation Service

Welcome Lauren!

Hi, my name is Lauren Healey and I just joined the NRCS office in Moro in Sherman County as a soil conservationist. This is my first position with NRCS. I've made a big move from Newburyport, Massachusetts to Oregon and am excited to start exploring.



I previously worked as an Americorps member with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. I worked as a biological technician collecting monitoring data, fighting invasive species, using GIS to create maps, crunching the data and working with a variety of partners. I focused on the marsh, particularly restoration.

I finished my undergraduate degree in Natural Resource Conservation from UMass Amherst about 2 years ago with a special focus in vegetated roofs, wetlands, and GIS. During the summers, I worked a variety of field jobs including as an acid rain researcher for the Appalachian Mountain Club, green roof maintenance member for Apex Green Roofs, and an invasive species technician with Mass Audubon.



Acting District Conservationist

Emily Huth is the acting District Conservationist for Sherman County until May 2021 while DelRae Ferguson is acting as the Oregon CSP lead. You can reach Emily at 541-707-7058.

Conservation Stewardship Program Sign Up

General Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) sign up is occurring now. There is no application deadline yet. This program is for landowners who wish to take the next step in land stewardship and enhance their existing conservation efforts. If landowners would like to learn more about the program or receive an application, please call the office.

Funding Available for the Pine Hollow/Jackknife Watershed

We have funding to complete rangeland improvement in the Pine Hollow/Jackknife Watershed through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Spring developments, brush management for juniper removal, access roads, and range seeding, among other practices, are available to be cost-shared on through this program. The application cutoff date is April 16th, 2021. For more information or to receive an application, please call the office.

Local Work Group Meeting February 25th

The Sherman County NRCS annual Local Work Group Meeting is scheduled for February 25th, 2021. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom from 10am-12pm. This is an opportunity for local landowners and conservation partners to take part in a discussion regarding project ideas for future NRCS funding and for NRCS to share the past year's accomplishments. If you would like to be sent the link to join the meeting, please call the office or email Emily at Emily.Huth@usda.gov

USDA Announces CRP General Signup Ends February 12th

Agricultural producers and private landowners interested in the [Conservation Reserve Program](#) (CRP) can sign up for the popular program beginning **Jan. 4, 2021, until Feb. 12, 2021**. The competitive program, administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides annual rental payments for land devoted to conservation purposes. Through CRP, farmers and ranchers establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland. Farmers and ranchers who participate in CRP help provide numerous benefits to their local region and the nation's environment and economy. CRP general signup is held annually and is competitive; general signup includes increased opportunities for wildlife habitat enrollment through the [State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement](#) (SAFE) initiative.

New cropland offered in the program must have been planted for four out of six crop years from 2012 to 2017. Additionally, producers with land already enrolled but expiring on Sept. 30, 2021, can re-enroll this year. The acreage offered by producers and landowners is evaluated competitively; accepted offers will begin Oct. 1, 2021.



2021 Sherman County SWCD Tree & Shrub Sale

By order only, deadline March 15, 2021

Native plants are in bold

Contact us if there are plants you want that are not on the list.



TREES

Name	Size	Cost	Qty	Total \$
Quaking Aspen	1-1.25" cal. / 7-9' tall	\$80		
Quaking Aspen Seedling	7 gal.	\$15		
Canada Red Chokecherry	1.25" cal. / 7-8' tall	\$85		
Ponderosa Pine	5 gal.	\$15.75		
Ponderosa Pine	1 gal.	\$29.99		
Cardinal Mountain Ash	1.5" cal. / 8-9' tall	\$85		
Northern Red Oak	1.5" cal. / 9-10' tall	\$95		
Pin Oak	1.25" cal./ 8-9' tall	\$95		
Autumn Flame Maple	1.5" cal. / 8-10' tall	\$105		
Reliance Peach	1.25" cal./ 5-7' tall	\$50		
Honeycrisp Apple	1-1.25" cal. / 6-7' tall	\$50		
Gravenstein Apple	1-1.25" cal. / 6-7' tall	\$50		
Profusion Crabapple	1.5" cal. / 6-7' tall	\$65		
Ivory Halo Dogwood	7 gal.	\$22.50		

SHRUBS

Oregon Grape	5 gal.	\$19		
Regent Serviceberry	7 gal.	\$20		
Shadblow Serviceberry	7 gal. / 2' tall	\$22.50		
Black Lace Elderberry	2 gal.	\$27.50		
White Snowberry	7 gal/ 2-3' tall	\$20		
Butterfly Milkweed	1 gal.	\$9		
Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle	7 gal.	\$22.50		
Phantom Hydrangea	5 gal.	\$25		
Blizzard Mock Orange	7 gal.	\$22.50		
Dwarf Ninebark	5 gal.	\$17.50		
Goldfinger Potentilla	5 gal. / 12-18" tall	\$20		
Purple-leaf Sandcherry	7 gal. / 3' tall	\$22.50		
Miss Kim Lilac	7 gal/ 2' tall	\$25		
Lenton Rose	1 gal	\$15.25		
		Total		

Payment is due at time of pick up by cash or check to Sherman SWCD.

Name:
Address:
Phone Number:
Email Address:
How would you like to be reminded of the pick up date? <input type="checkbox"/> Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Both

Submit Order via mail or email amanda.whitman@or.nacdnet.net

**Sherman SWCD
PO Box 405
Moro, OR 97039**

Notes:

- **Last day to submit an order is March 15th**
- **This sale is order only. No stock will be available for sale during pick-up**
- **Call the office at 541-565-3216 with any questions, requests for trees that are not on this list, or suggestions for your property.**
- **Order pick-up is March 23-26th from 8 am to 4:30 pm at the Sherman County SWCD office, 302 Scott St, Moro, OR**
- **Stock comes from McPheeters Turf in Culver, OR. Availability subject to stock on hand, prices may vary.**
- **All plants come potted but should be planted in the ground soon after pick-up**
- **All plants are suitable for planting zones 6b-7a**



FSA DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 4 – February 12, 2021: Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Sign Up
February 1, 2021 LIP/ELAP Deadline Livestock and/or feed losses must be reported within 30 days of loss event, including private grazing land burned by wildfire. Due to Sherman County being in D3, Extreme Drought, water hauling is still eligible for benefits.

February 1, 2021: LFP Deadline to submit application for payment for Livestock Forage Disaster program due to reaching D3, Extreme Drought status.

March 15, 2021: ARC/PLC enrollment closes for 2021

April 23, 2021: CRP Grasslands Signup 203 closes

July 15, 2021: Spring acreage Reporting Deadline

Sept. 30, 2021: Continuous and CREP Signup 55 closes

USDA Announces Loan Maturity for Marketing Assistance Loans Now Extended to 12 Months

Agricultural producers now have more time to repay Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's implementation of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020.

The loans now mature at 12 months rather than nine, and this flexibility is available for most commodities.

The maturity extension applies to nonrecourse loans for crop years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Eligible open loans must be in good standing with a maturity date of March 31, 2020, or later or new crop year (2019 or 2020) loans requested by September 30, 2020. All new loans requested by September 30, 2020, will have a maturity date 12 months following the date of approval. The maturity extension for current, active loans will be automatically extended an additional three months. Loans that matured March 31 have already been automatically extended by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). Producers who prefer a nine-month loan will need to contact their local FSA county office. Loans requested after September 30, 2020, will have a nine-month term.

Eligible commodities include barley, chickpeas (small and large), corn, cotton (upland and extra-long staple), dry peas, grain sorghum, honey, lentils, mohair, oats, peanuts, rice (long and medium grain), soybeans, unshorn pelts, wheat, wool (graded and nongraded); and other oilseeds, including canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, sunflower seed, and sesame seed. Seed cotton and sugar are not eligible.

For more information on MALs, contact your Sherman County USDA Service Center at 541-565-3551 x 2 or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs for 2021

Agricultural producers can now make elections and enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2021 crop year. **Enrollment for the 2021 crop year closes March 15, 2021.** ARC provides income support payments on historical base acres when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guaranteed level. PLC provides income support payments on historical base acres when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its reference price. Producers can elect coverage and enroll in crop-by-crop ARC-County or PLC, or ARC-Individual for the entire farm, for the 2021 crop year. Although election changes for 2021 are optional, enrollment (signed contract) is required for each year of the program. If a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm and makes an election change for 2021, it will be necessary to sign a new contract.

If an election is not submitted by the deadline of March 15, 2021, the election defaults to the current election for crops on the farm from the prior crop year.

Maintaining the Quality of Farm-Stored Loan Grain

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases. If you take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral, remember that you are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

Unauthorized Disposition of Grain Results in Financial Penalties.

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and your name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call before you haul any grain under loan.

Moro Weather

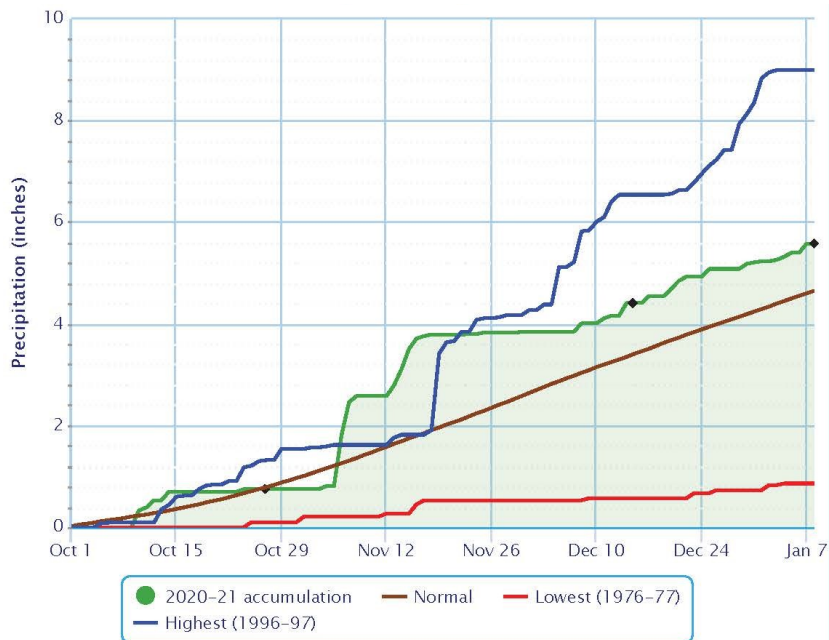
Air Temperature

Month	Max High	Average High	Min Low	Average Low
October	85°F	65°F	21°F	39°F
November	65°F	50°F	22°F	30°F
December	58°F	42°F	17°F	26°F

Soil Temperature

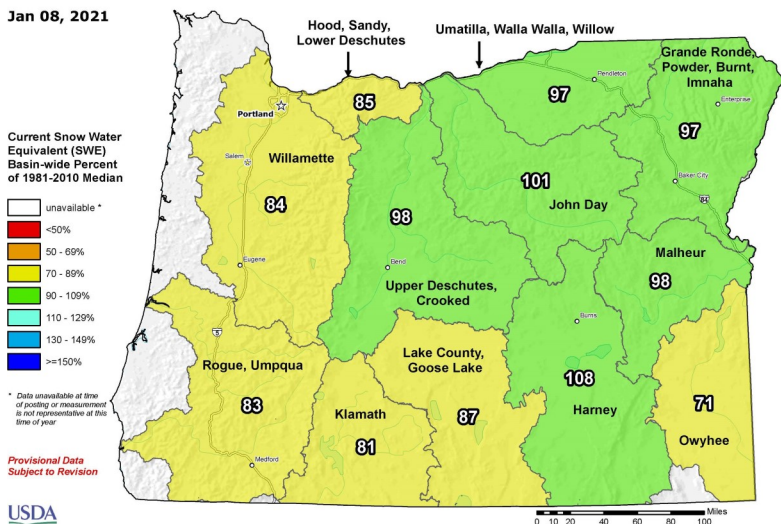
Month	4" max	4" min	12"
October	63°F	57°F	56°F
November	45°F	42°F	42°F
December	38°F	37°F	37°F

Accumulated Precipitation



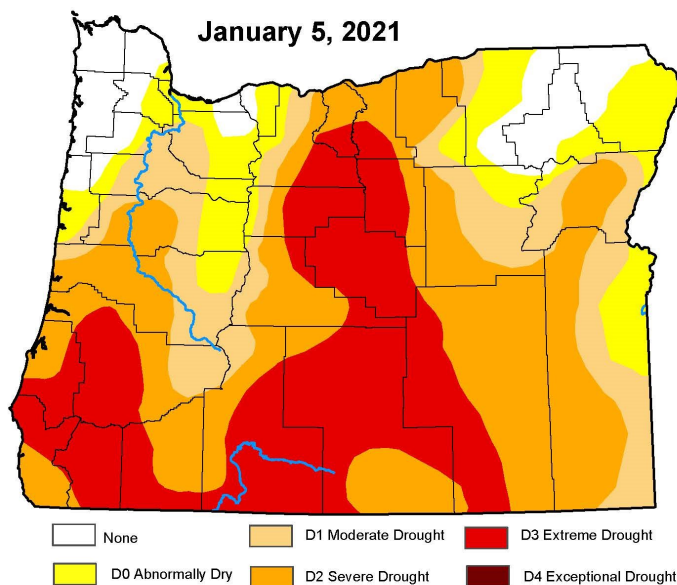
Snow Pack

Oregon SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal



Drought Monitor

January 5, 2021



Critter Spotlight: Pollinator Hibernation

Not all pollinators go south for the winter. Some stay here, using different strategies to survive the winter. **Honey bees**, for instance, cluster together in their hives to stay warm. They feed off their stored nectar and honey. **Bumble bees** have a different strategy. The queen survives the winter but the rest of the colony dies. The queen slows her metabolism so she does not use all the stored food at once. The queen then lays eggs in the spring and hatches a new colony. Some **solitary bees** lay eggs underground and in other cavities in the fall and then the eggs hatch in the spring.



Some **butterflies and moths** even hibernate in the winter. Most over-winter as eggs or in their cocoons. However, the **mourning cloak butterfly** hibernates as an adult. They hibernate in tree cavities or under leaves and bark. They have an anti-freeze substance in their blood so they can survive negative temperatures.



Mourning cloak butterfly

There are many ways you can help pollinators hibernate successfully! Pile some leaves and yard debris to provide warm areas for them to burrow in. Keep some rotting wood in place to allow cavities to form where pollinators can make homes or lay their eggs. Leave some stems of annual and perennial plants for pollinators to attach their chrysalis as well as to create areas that are protected from wind and rain. Since many solitary pollinators live in the ground and lay their eggs in the ground, minimize ground disturbance over the winter until the pollinators have hatched and moved on. Helping pollinators over the winter will make our gardens, vegetables, and natural areas more productive and healthy in the summer!

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Lexington: 1-800-452-7396
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www.mcgg.net

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~ CONSERVATION CALENDAR ~

January 27: East Multnomah SWCD Farm Transition Planning Workshop, virtual

February 9: SWCD Board Meeting, OSU Extension Conference Room, 8:30 a.m

February 12: CRP Sign Up Deadline

February 15: Presidents Day - Service Center Closed

February 20: SWCD Annual Meeting, 6 pm

February 25: Sherman County NRCS Local Workgroup Meeting, 10am-12pm, virtual

March 9: Watershed Council Board Meeting, OSU Extension Conference Room, 8 am

March 9: SWCD Board Meeting, OSU Extension Conference Room, 8:30 am

March 15: Pre-order deadline for Sherman County SWCD tree sale

March 23-26: Sherman County SWCD Tree Sale Pick Up, Sherman SWCD Office, 8 am-4:30 pm

April 16: Pine Hollow/ Jackknife EQIP Sign Up Deadline

~ BOARD & STAFF ~

SWCD Staff

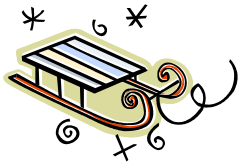
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Emily Freilich, Watershed Coordinator
Vacant, Watershed Technician

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Morgaine Riggins, Soil Conservationist
Lauren Healey, Soil Conservationist

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