

THE ROLLING THUNDER



April 2026

SHERMAN COUNTY SWCD & WATERSHED COUNCIL

Soil & Water Conservation District

Upcoming Meetings

The next SWCD board meeting is May 12th at 8:30 am in the USDA Service Center Conference Room.

County Cost Share

The SWCD has available funding for County Cost Share (CCS) grants! CCS funds conservation projects in crop, range, and/or riparian areas. Eligible CCS projects include **cross and border fencing, haul roads, cover crop, spring development, solar water development, weed treatment, range seeding, riparian restoration, and more.** Projects up to \$20,000 have a 75% cost share rate. Our completion deadline for all CCS projects is now 2 years from the date of approval. Call Tatiana at 541-705-5604 to learn more or to apply. Applications are reviewed every month at SWCD board meetings.



Sherman County Area Watershed Council

Upcoming Meetings

The next Council meeting is June 9th at 7:30 am in the USDA Service Center Conference Room.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Funding Available!

We have OWEB Small Grant funding available. Sherman County has two Small Grant Areas, the Lower John Day and the Lower Deschutes. The Small Grant Program awards up to \$20,000 for on the ground restoration projects.

Eligible projects include (but are not limited to):

- Livestock and wildlife water developments
- Range seeding
- Riparian planting
- In-stream restoration
- Cross fence
- Cropland erosion control



New Conservation Technician

Welcome Tatiana Taylor!

Tatiana Taylor joined Sherman County SWCD in January as the new Conservation Technician. She began her career in conservation with neighboring Wasco County SWCD, then spent six years with Tualatin SWCD in Hillsboro, where she built lasting connections and gained valuable experience. She is grateful to both districts for helping shape her path in conservation and is excited to return to eastern Oregon and her home base in Klickitat County, just across the Columbia River from Sherman County.

When she's not at work, Tatiana enjoys spending time with her fiancé, teaching new tricks to her rescue dog, spoiling her recently acquired chickens with treats, experimenting in the garden, and creating a little chaos in the kitchen. She also raises registered Black Angus cattle with her dad, with a focus on balancing beef quality with phenotype. Lately, she's been experimenting with virtual fencing for the herd's summer pasture and is always eager to talk pasture management. She will be taking over the County Cost Share Program and is very excited to get to know the producers of Sherman County!



Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Upcoming FSA Deadlines:

- **SDRP (Supplemental Disaster Relief Program) Sign up ends April 30, 2026.**
- **Acreage Reporting:** Please remember to schedule an appointment to report your crops once they are planted.
 - **July 15, 2026** is the deadline to report spring planted crops, rangeland and CRP
 - Please report any new land ownership or leases within 30 days of control to avoid any late file fees.

Regular Maintenance Requirements for all CRP Contracts:

Producers with CRP contracts are required to control all weeds, insects, pests, and other undesirable species to the extent necessary to ensure that the approved conservation cover is adequately protected and to ensure there is no adverse impact on surrounding land. Mowing is one of the allowable practices for weed control, but mowing for aesthetic purposes is never permitted. The Conservation Plan states the required weed control methods for each site.

Once a stand has been certified as fully established, participants are required to maintain plant diversity and stand density according to the Conservation Plan and offer (CRP-2) for the life of the contract. Stands that do not meet practice specific plant diversity or density requirements may be considered non-compliant. Refer to your conservation plan or contact FSA if you have any questions or concerns about the vegetative cover requirements.

Maintenance activities **cannot occur during the primary nesting season** for birds without written prior approval from the local county office. The primary nesting season in Oregon is March 1 – July 15. ***If you need to spot mow or spot spray to control weeds within the Primary Nesting Season, please contact the Sherman County FSA office to complete your written request.***

Mid-Contract Management

Regular maintenance for weed and pest control is separate from the Mid-Contract Management (MCM) requirement. MCM ensures plant diversity and wildlife benefits while ensuring protection of the soil and water resources. Such activities are site-specific and are for the purpose of enhancing the approved cover.

MCM must be completed between years four and six of a 10-year contract and between years seven and nine of a 15-year contract. The Conservation Plan will state what year MCM must take place.

Noncompliance with Maintenance Requirements

Failure to adequately maintain the stand may result in noncompliance with the terms and conditions of the CRP contract. Noncompliance can result in adverse actions up to and including termination of the CRP contract. Contracts that are out of compliance are ineligible to re-enroll, unless the stand is brought back into compliance prior to the enrollment deadline.

For general information about CRP, visit the [Conservation Reserve Program webpage](#). For information about specific contracts, reach out to the [local FSA office](#).

Annual Review of Payment Eligibility for New Crop Year:

FSA and NRCS program applicants for benefits are required to submit a completed CCC-902 Farming Operation Plan and CCC-941 Average Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information for FSA to determine the applicant's payment eligibility and establish the maximum payment limitation applicable to the program applicant.

Farm Service Agency (Continued)

Participants are not required to annually submit new CCC-902s for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes unless a change in the farming operation occurs that may affect the previous determination of record. A valid CCC-902 filed by the participant is considered to be a continuous certification used for all payment eligibility and payment limitation determinations applicable for the program benefits requested.

Participants are responsible for ensuring that all CCC-902 and CCC-941 and related forms on file in the county office are updated, current, and correct. Participants are required to timely notify the county office of any changes in the farming operation that may affect the previous determination of record by filing a new or updated CCC-902 as applicable.

Changes that may require a new determination include, but are not limited to, a change of:

- Shares of a contract, which may reflect:
 - A land lease from cash rent to share rent
 - A land lease from share rent to cash rent (subject to the cash rent tenant rule)
 - A modification of a variable/fixed bushel-rent arrangement
- The size of the producer's farming operation by the addition or reduction of cropland that may affect the application of a cropland factor
- The structure of the farming operation, including any change to a member's share
- The contribution of farm inputs of capital, land, equipment, active personal labor, and/or active personal management
- Farming interests not previously disclosed on CCC-902 including the farming interests of a spouse or minor child
- Certifications of average AGI are required to be filed annually for participation in an annual USDA program. For multi-year conservation contracts and NRCS easements, a certification of AGI must be filed prior to approval of the contract or easement and is applicable for the duration of the contract period.

Participants are encouraged to file or review these forms within the deadlines established for each applicable program for which program benefits are being requested. ***If you have a major change in your operation, or land ownership change, please contact our office prior to harvest so that we can make the proper updates timely.***

How to Reach Us



USDA Service Center
2004 First Street, Moro, OR
(Open Monday through Friday, 8:00am-4:30 pm)



Amanda Whitman
SWCD District Manager
541-565-3216 ext. 1013
Cell: 541-705-5070
amanda.whitman@shermancountyswcd.com

Tatiana Taylor
SWCD Watershed Technician
Cell: 541-705-5604
taylor.bullock@shermancountyswcd.com



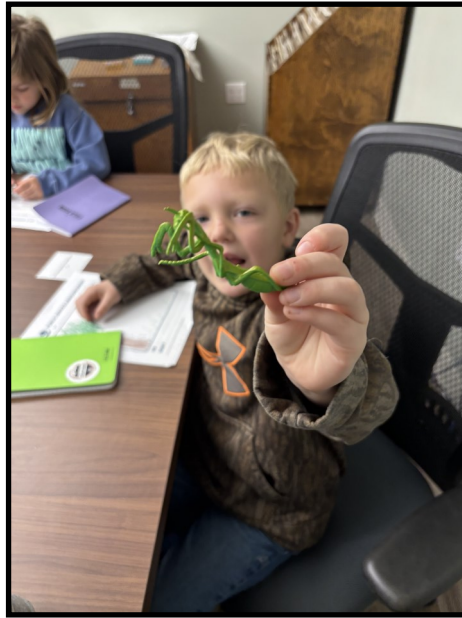
Taylor Bullock
SWCD Watershed Technician & Coordinator
541-565-3216 ext. 1014
Cell: 541-705-5161
taylor.bullock@shermancountyswcd.com

Marylou Martin
SWCD Office Assistant
541-565-3216 ext. 1006
marylou.martin@shermancountyswcd.com

Thank you to Gray Family Foundation, The Ford Family Foundation, Roundhouse Foundation, Sherman County Prevention, Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors, NRCS staff, and Sherman School Staff for providing funding and assistance at the SWCD conservation programs

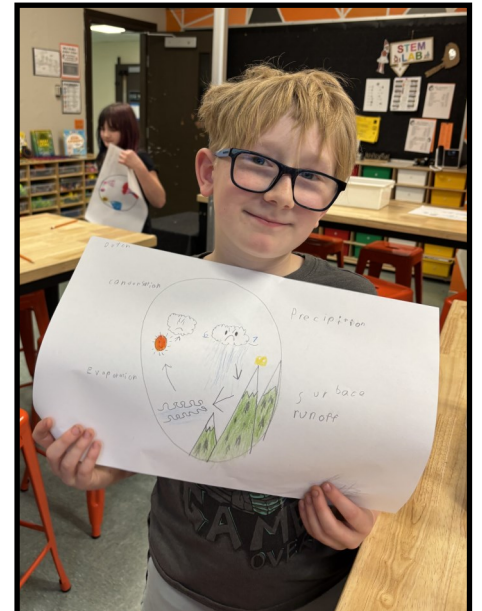
Bugs! Bugs! Bugs! Homeschool Program

Sherman County Homeschoolers had a fun time with bug bingo, insect trivia, designing nature journals, and more!



Journey of a Drop

We used the "Journey of a Drop" kit from Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors for both the school program with grade 3 and the Homeschool program. Thank you to Grass Valley Baptist Church for letting us use the space for the homeschool program.



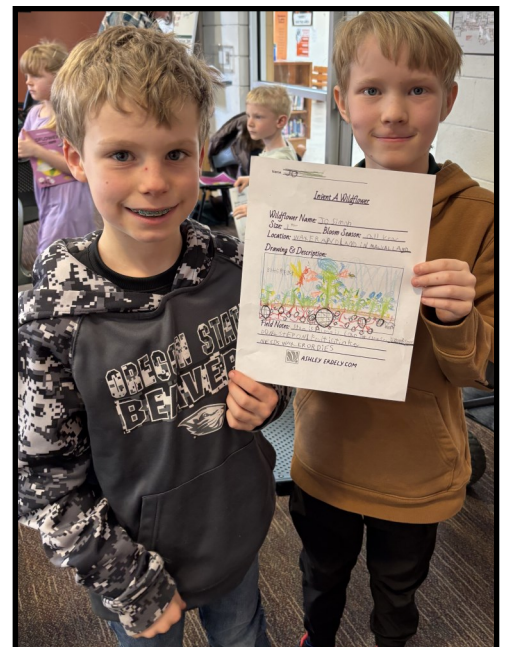
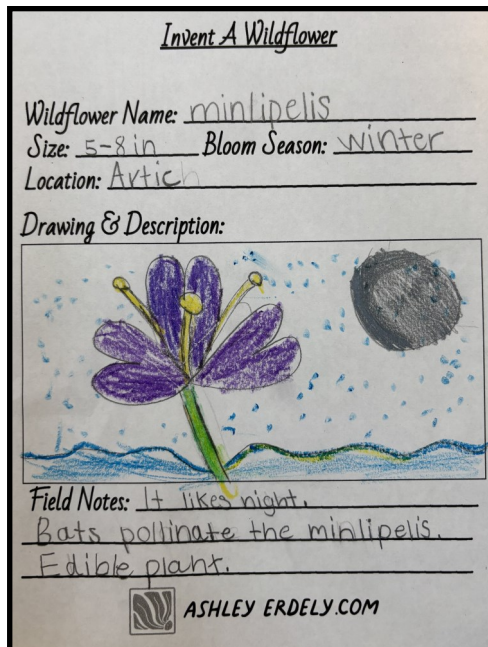
ODFW at Sherman School

Sherman County School Biology students were visited by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Biologists on Tuesday. The ODFW staff gave a presentation about career opportunities and shared pictures and videos showing how they monitored bighorn sheep, elk, deer, and the Western Pond Turtle. Later in the day, the 6th graders learned about tracking animals using telemetry, and were able to inspect furs and skulls of local animals. Thank you to Andrew M. and Trent G. for a great day of science fun!



Author Visit-Ashley Erdely

We had a special guest at the last "Conservation for Kids" homeschool program--Author Ashley Erdely who wrote "Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest". After carefully inspecting the details of the parts of flowers with magnifiers, the students (and adults) enjoyed a great presentation about local wildflowers and pollinators. The students then created and named their own wildflowers and added characteristics such as blooming season, size, and location where their flowers grow. Copies of Ashley's book went home with each family.



* Thank you to Liz Cranston and the Sherman County Education Foundation for this program!

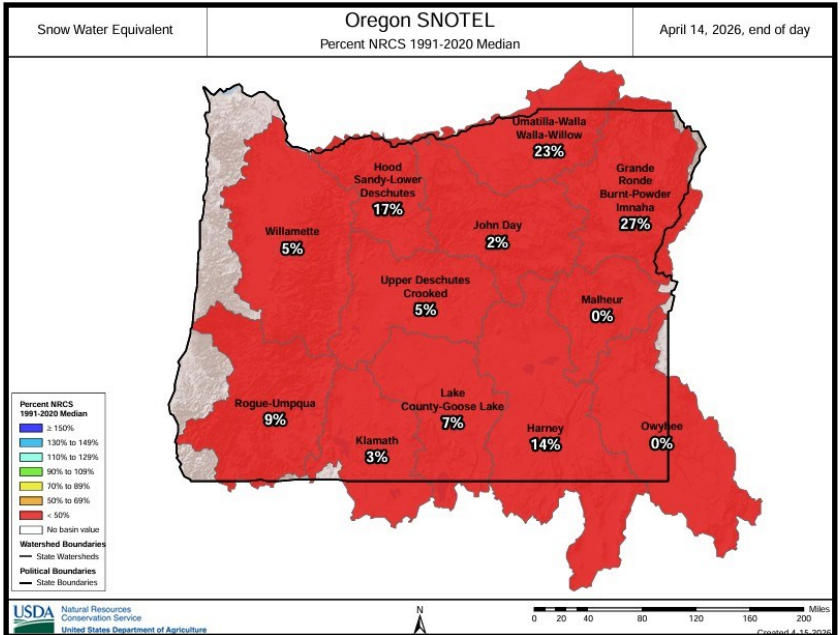
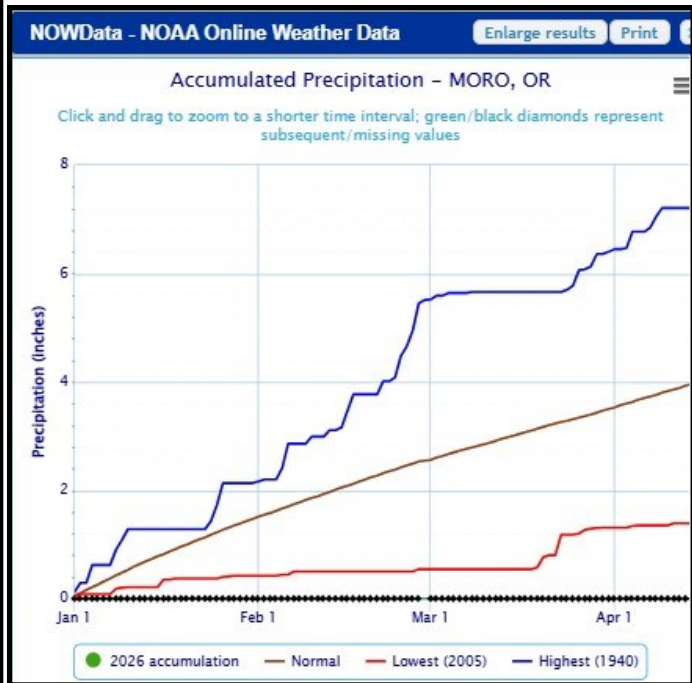
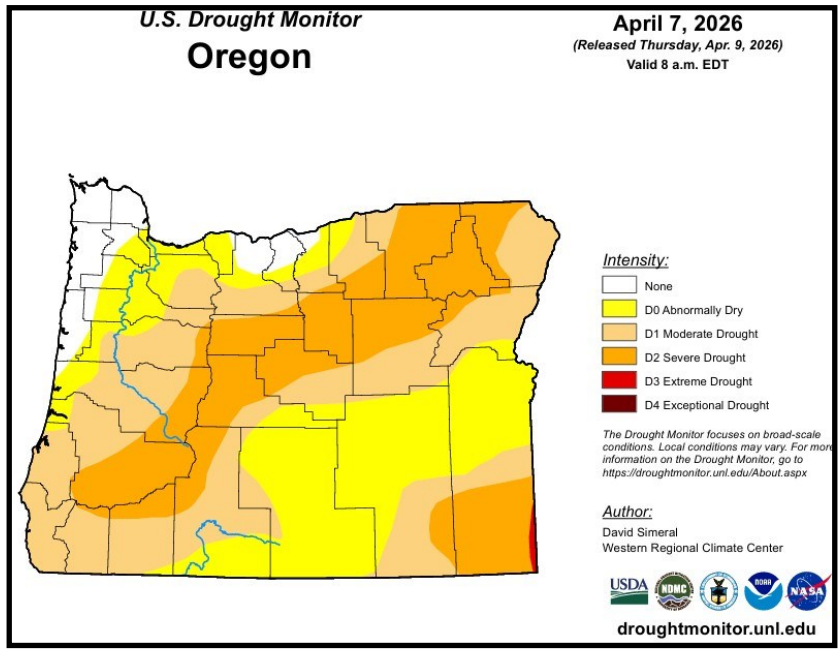
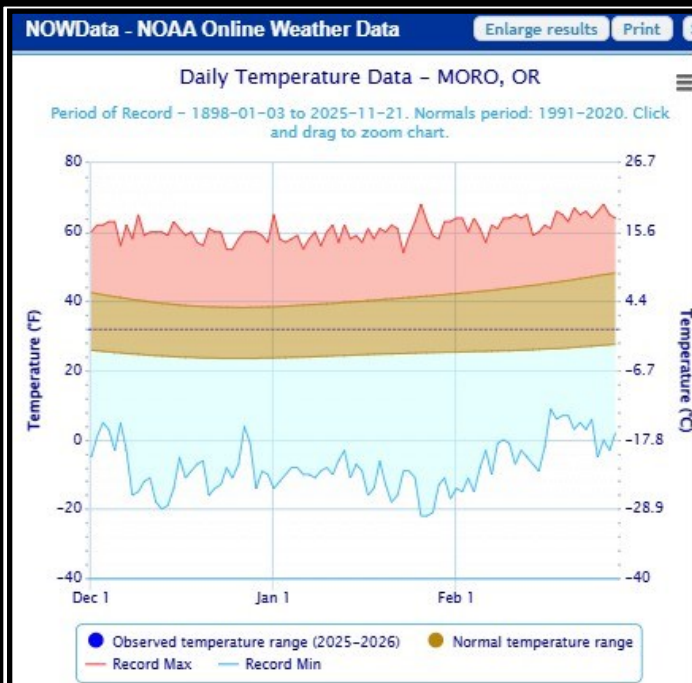
Watershed Education Incentive Program

The Watershed Education Incentive Program is to provide financial resources for local conservation education including workshops, demonstrations and youth conservation projects; to provide technical resources for implementation of education projects that will benefit Sherman County residents and resources; and to assist with worthwhile projects that don't fit traditional funding sources.

Applicants can apply for up to \$2,500. Past grants have included greenhouse projects, field trips, 4-H camp, tree planting, chick hatching projects, and more! Call us at 541-565-3216 for more information or to apply.



Moro Weather



Sherman SWCD Scholarship

The Sherman County Soil & Water Conservation District is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's Sherman County SWCD Scholarship. Congratulations to Levi Stradley and Emma Goodenough, each receiving \$3,000. These students have met the following eligibility requirements:

- Are a graduate of Sherman County School District
- Are a current high school senior or enrolled in trade school or college/university
- Have chosen a career in some area of agriculture or vocational education
- Holds a minimum GPA of 2.5



For more information about the scholarship program contact Amanda Whitman at 541-705-5070 or amanda.whitman@shermancountyswcd.com.

Local Advertisements

BUSINESS OWNERS!!!!

Are you interested in showcasing your business cards in our newsletter?

Advertisements are \$20 per issue or \$75 for the year! Issues are dispersed quarterly. For those of you who previously advertised, if you haven't renewed don't get left out! Call our office today!



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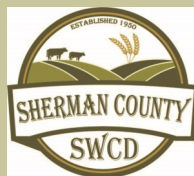
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~ CONSERVATION CALENDAR ~

May 12: SWCD Regular Board Meeting 8:30 am

May 25: Memorial Day Holiday, SWCD and NRCS Office Closed

June 2: Cottonwood Canyon Field Day

June 9: Watershed Council Meeting 7:30 am

June 9: SWCD Regular Board Meeting 8:30 am



~ BOARD & STAFF ~

SWCD Staff

Amanda Whitman, District Manager

Marylou Martin, Office Assistant

Taylor Bullock, Watershed Coordinator

Tatiana Taylor, Conservation Technician

NRCS Staff

Misty Strayhorn, District Conservationist

Becky Hilderbrand, Conservation Technician

Theron Taylor, Conservation Technician

Michael Cistulli, Resource Conservationist

Sherman County SWCD Board of Directors

Jesse Stutzman, Chair

Josh Hilderbrand, Vice Chair

Brian Simantel, Treasurer

Nick von Borstel, Secretary

Ryan Thompson, Member

“The earth laughs in flowers” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

We're on the Web! Don't forget to check us out for current news! www.shermancountyswcd.com

We're also on Facebook @ Sherman County SWCD

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