

THE ROLLING THUNDER



October 2024

SHERMAN COUNTY SWCD & WATERSHED COUNCIL

Soil & Water Conservation District

Upcoming Meetings

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

County Cost Share

The SWCD has County Cost Share (CCS) grants still available! CCS funds conservation projects in crop, range, and/or riparian areas. We have made some changes to our CCS program. Haul roads and boundary fence are no longer limited by product/distance. You can now apply for those projects the same as the other projects. Eligible projects include **cross and border fencing, haul roads, 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 the SWCD at 541-565-3216 to learn more or to apply. There is no deadline to apply. Applications are reviewed every month at SWCD board meetings.



Sherman County Area Watershed Council

Small Grant Funding Available!

We have Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) funding available. Sherman County has two Small Grant Areas, Lower John Day and the Lower Deschutes. The Small Grant Program awards up to \$15,000 for on the ground restoration projects.

Eligible projects include:

- Livestock and wildlife water developments
- Range seeding
- Riparian planting



Odds and Ends

Range Drill

A Range Drill is available to landowners/operators to rent from the SWCD. It's primary function is to be able to accurately apply grass seed to rangeland areas that are too difficult for standard equipment, but it can be used to enhance existing pastures, improve decadent grass stands, or establish food plots. The drill is capable of applying any size of grass or grain seed at a 10 ft width on 12 inch spacing. It weighs approximately 4,000 lbs and is capable of being pulled with a standard three quarter ton pickup over most moderate terrain. If you would like to rent the range drill call the office (541-565-3216) to make an appointment.

How to Reach Us



USDA Service Center
2004 1st Street, Moro, OR
(Open Monday through Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm)



Amanda Whitman
SWCD District Manager
541-565-3216 ext. 109
Amanda.whitman@or.nacdnet.net

Marylou Martin
SWCD Office Assistant
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Taylor Bullock
SWCD Watershed Technician
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Farm Service Agency (FSA)

FSA Deadlines and Important Dates

- **September 30, 2024** – End of USDA Fiscal year
- **September 30, 2024:** Deadline for ALL signatures to be received and enrollment complete for late-filed ARCPLC Contracts, Deadline for all CRP/CREP/Grasslands signatures on contracts
- **October 14, 2024:** USDA Service Center Closed in observance of Columbus Day
- **November 11, 2024:** USDA Service Center Closed in observance of Veteran's Day
- **December 2, 2024:** Last day for COC ballots to be counted
- **December 15, 2024:** Deadline to report Fall Seeded Acreage

Report Banking Changes to FSA

Farm Service Agency (FSA) program payments are issued electronically into your bank account. In order to receive timely payments, you need to notify your FSA servicing office if you close your account or if your bank information is changed for any reason (such as your financial institution merging or being purchased). Payments can be delayed if FSA is not notified of changes to account and bank routing numbers.

For some programs, payments are not made until the following year. For example, payments for crop year 2023 through the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage program aren't paid until 2024. If the bank account was closed due to the death of an individual or dissolution of an entity or partnership before the payment was issued, please notify your local FSA office as soon as possible to claim your payment.

Obtaining Payments Due to Deceased Producers

In order to claim a Farm Service Agency (FSA) payment on behalf of a deceased producer, all program conditions for the payment must have been met before the applicable producer's date of death.

If a producer earned a FSA payment prior to his or her death, the following is the order of precedence for the representatives of the producer:

- administrator or executor of the estate
- the surviving spouse
- surviving sons and daughters, including adopted children
- surviving father and mother
- surviving brothers and sisters
- heirs of the deceased person who would be entitled to payment according to the State law

For FSA to release the payment, the legal representative of the deceased producer must file a form FSA-325 to claim the payment for themselves or an estate. The county office will verify that the application, contract, loan agreement, or other similar form requesting payment issuance, was signed by the applicable deadline by the deceased or a person legally authorized to act on their behalf at that time of application.

If the application, contract or loan agreement form was signed by someone other than the deceased participant, FSA will determine whether the person submitting the form has the legal authority to submit the form.

Payments will be issued to the respective representative's name using the deceased program participant's tax identification number. Payments made to representatives are subject to offset regulations for debts owed by the deceased.

FSA is not responsible for advising persons in obtaining legal advice on how to obtain program benefits that may be due to a participant who has died, disappeared or who has been declared incompetent.

Annual Review of Payment Eligibility for New Crop Year Beginning 10/01/2024

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 (FSA) 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.

Sherman County Fair

The Sherman County SWCD, Sherman County Prevention, and Sherman County Public/School Library hosted 2 days of nature crafting in the old beef barn at the fair. This year's theme was "May the Forest Be with You Always". The kids created habitats for animals and bugs, painted wood round necklaces and wooden snakes, designed nature journals, and more. The library gave away free forest-themed books. Also, the SWCD display table was up all week long.



Library Summer Reading Program "Dig In!"



SWCD participated in the Summer Reading Program at the Sherman County Library on Tuesday, June 25. After examining the different parts of a worm, the kids listened to the story *Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin. Outside, we examined the soil, noting the texture and color. After that, we met in the program room to learn about the different layers of soil while creating edible "dirt cups". Also, seeds were planted into small butterfly gardens as a take-home activity.



Moro Weather

Oregon

U.S. Drought Monitor

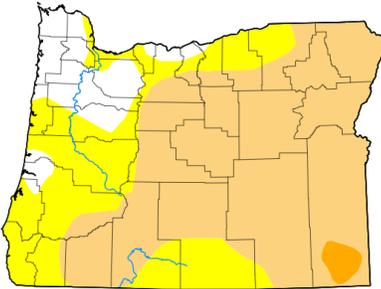
Map released: Thurs. September 26, 2024
Data valid: September 24, 2024 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

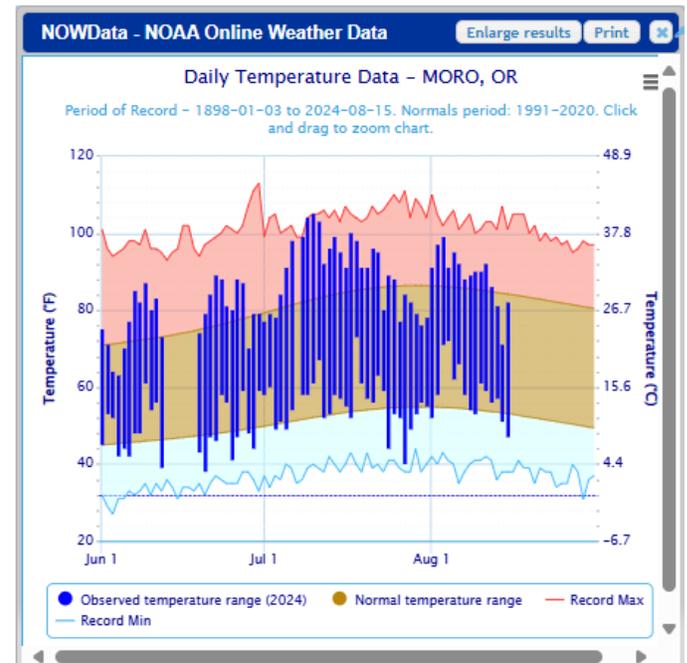
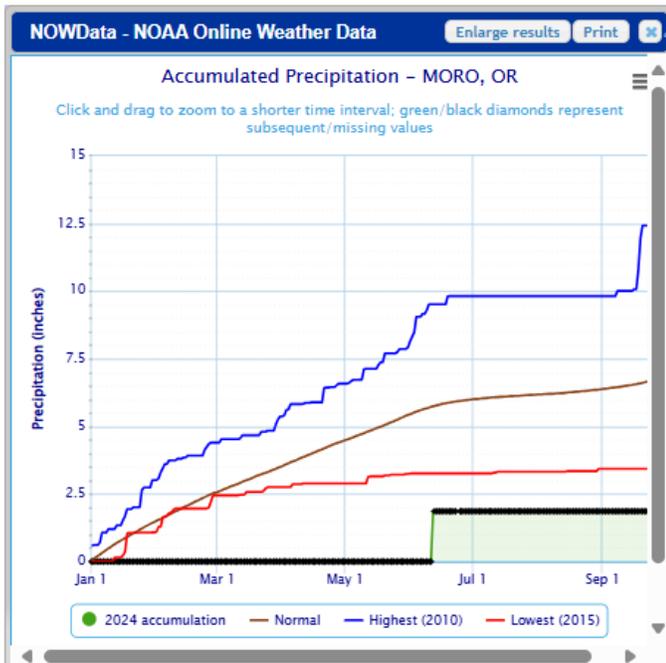
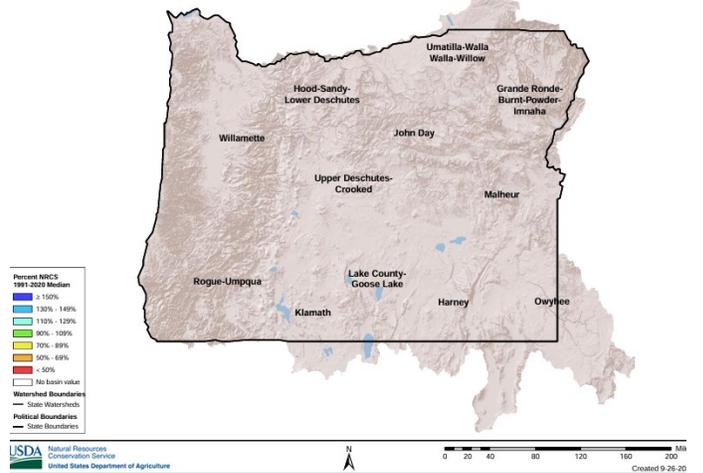
Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):
[Brad Rippey](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture
Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):
[Rocky Bilotta](#), NOAA/NCEI



Snow Water Equivalent | Oregon SNOTEL | September 25, 2024, end of dt

Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median

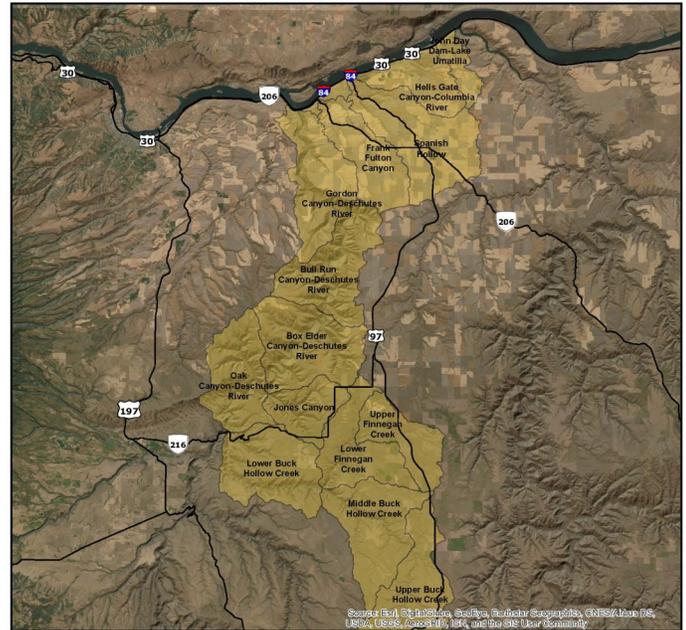


Eastern Lower Deschutes Strategic Implementation Area (SIA)

The Eastern Lower Deschutes watershed has been selected by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) as one of their Strategic Implementation Areas. This is a program in which ODA evaluates agricultural activities across the state to identify opportunities to improve water quality.

Over the last year, ODA has been working with landowners to improve areas of their land. There is a virtual open house to provide information about the SIA and what it means for you and your property. You can watch the Virtual Open House at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dRdzrBEN4E>.

If you have land in the SIA area and are interested in implementing conservation projects there is funding available through the SWCD and NRCS. For assistance, please call the ODA at (503) 931-1754 and ask to speak to a Theresa DeBardelaben. You may also e-mail questions or concerns to tdebardelaben@oda.state.or.us or the Sherman Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) at (541)-705-5070 or visit www.shermancountyswcd.com for funding and project information.



Eastern Lower Deschutes Strategic Implementation Area



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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contactmcp@mcpcoop.com 
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Mid Columbia Producers, Inc. operates three offices to better serve our customers. Our main office is located in Moro, Oregon.

Moro Office | 2003 First Street | Moro, OR 97039 | 800-325-9327
 Bend Office | 913 1st Street | Bend, OR 97701 | 888-616-0690
 Hermiston Office | 345 N 1st Pl | Hermiston, OR 97838 | 541-289-5015

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Mike DeGrange
cell: (541) 993-1963

office: (541) 442-5712 • fax: (541) 442-8588
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Contact Sherman
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~ CONSERVATION CALENDAR ~

October 8: SWCD Regular Board Meeting, 8:30am
October 14: Columbus Day Holiday, office closed
November 11: Veterans Day, office closed
November 12: SWCD Regular Board Meeting 8:30am
December 10: SWCD Regular Board Meeting 8:30am
December 24: Christmas Eve, office closed
December 25: Christmas, office closed



~ BOARD & STAFF ~

SWCD Staff

Amanda Whitman, District Manager
Marylou Martin, Office Assistant
Taylor Bullock, Watershed Technician
Vacant, Watershed Coordinator

NRCS Staff

Misty Strayhorn, District Conservationist
Becky Hilderbrand, Conservation Technician
Theron Taylor, Conservation Technician

Sherman County SWCD Board of Directors

Jesse Stutzman, Chair
Josh Hilderbrand, Vice Chair
Clint Moore, Treasurer
Trevor Fields, Secretary
Nick von Borstel, Member

"Farming is a Profession of Hope" — Brett Brian

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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