

THE ROLLING THUNDER



May 2021

SHERMAN COUNTY SWCD & WATERSHED COUNCIL

Soil & Water Conservation District

Upcoming Meetings

The next SWCD meeting is May 11th at 8:30 am in the OSU Extension Conference Room.

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. Call the SWCD office at 541-565-3216 ext 5 to learn more or apply. There is no deadline to apply. Applications are reviewed every month at SWCD board meetings.



Job Opening

We have a job opening for the Watershed Technician. The Technician will provide outreach and technical assistance to landowners for programs offered and managed by the Sherman County SWCD and USDA. The Technician will provide support for the SWCD on grant submittals and tracking, and project implementation. Contact Amanda Whitman at 541-565-3216 ext. 109 or visit shermancountyswcd.com to learn more.

Grant Extension

The SWCD received an extension from OWEB for the 218-6003 Lower Grass Valley Canyon Upland Restoration Grant. If you have property within the Lower Grass Valley Canyon Watershed and are interested in implementing restoration projects, please contact the SWCD office at 541-565-3216.

New Watershed Coordinator

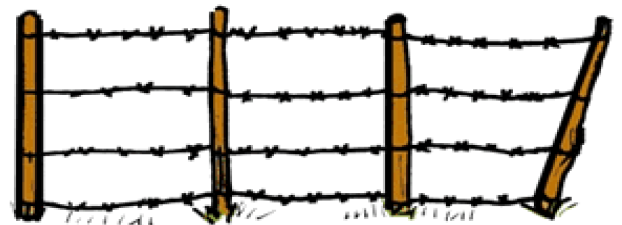
Welcome Hannah Fatland!

Hannah will assist in executing day to day management, outreach, education, and administrative tasks for both the SWCD & Watershed Council. Hannah is originally from Condon, OR. After earning a B.A. in Environmental Studies at the University of Montana she went to work as the watershed coordinator for the Gilliam—East John Day Watershed Council in Gilliam County for two and a half years. Over the last year and a half she traveled around the Caribbean and studied Apparel Entrepreneurship at the Portland Fashion Institute. She is now excited to be back in Eastern Oregon to serve the agriculture community of Sherman County.



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 June 8th at 8 am at the OSU Extension Conference Room.





FSA DATES TO REMEMBER:

July 15, 2021: Spring acreage Reporting Deadline

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

CRP

Conservation Reserve Program- General sign up: We are still on hold for the sign up and deadline. We will be contacting everyone who previously submitted an offer as soon as we have a deadline.

Emergency Loans Available

Family farmers in Sherman County may qualify for emergency loan assistance due to the Secretarial Disaster Declaration, S4927 for extreme drought.

USDA Expands and Renews Conservation Reserve Program

USDA will soon be re-opening the CRP General sign up as well as other options for conservation. ***IF you previously ran a scenario to bid in General CRP, FSA will be calling you to make an appointment to re-do any previously submitted scenario for contracts to start 10/01/2021. Once we have the sign up dates and soil rental updated, we will be calling you to set up your appointment.***

USDA's goal is to enroll up to 4 million new acres in CRP by raising rental payment rates and expanding the number of incentivized environmental practices allowed under the program. CRP is one of the world's largest voluntary conservation programs with a long track record of preserving topsoil, sequestering carbon, and reducing nitrogen runoff, as well providing healthy habitat for wildlife.

CRP's long-term goal is to establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, improve soil health and carbon sequestration, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a number of signups, including the general signup and continuous signup, which are both open now, as well as a CRP Grasslands and pilot programs focused on soil health and clean water.

Higher Rental Rates and New Incentives: In 2021, CRP is capped at 25 million acres, and currently 20.8 million acres are enrolled. Furthermore, the cap will gradually increase to 27 million acres by 2023. To help increase producer interest and enrollment, FSA is:

- Adjusting soil rental rates. This enables additional flexibility for rate adjustments, including a possible increase in rates where appropriate.
- Increasing payments for Practice Incentives from 20% to 50%. This incentive for continuous CRP practices is based on the cost of establishment and is in addition to cost share payments.
- Increasing payments for water quality practices. Rates are increasing from 10% to 20% for certain water quality benefiting practices available through the CRP continuous signup, such as grassed waterways, riparian buffers, and filter strips.
- Establishing a CRP Grassland minimum rental rate. This benefits more than 1,300 counties with rates currently below the minimum.

Enhanced Natural Resource Benefits - To boost impacts for natural resources, FSA is:

- Moving State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) practices to the CRP continuous signup. Unlike the general signup, producers can sign up year-round for the continuous signup and be eligible for additional incentives.
- Establishing National Grassland Priority Zones. This aims to increase enrollment of grasslands in migratory corridors and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Making Highly Erodible Land Initiative (HELI) practices available in both the general and continuous signups.

Please continue to watch the FSA newsletters for updated information on CRP sign up dates. Do not hesitate to call our office if you have questions.

Farm Service Agency Continued

Drought Programs for Livestock Producers

Livestock Forage Losses

Producers in Sherman County MAY SOON be eligible to apply for 2021 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on native pasture, improved pasture and mixed forage due to 8 consecutive weeks in Severe Drought (D2) or Extreme Drought (D3). Please continue to watch the US drought monitor and our newsletters for eligibility for this program at a later date.

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land, or fire on federally managed land.

County committees can only accept LFP applications after notification is received by the National Office of a qualifying drought or if a federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on federally managed lands due to qualifying fire. Eligible livestock producers must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than February 1, 2022, for 2021 losses. Additional Information about LFP, including eligible livestock and fire criteria, is available at your local FSA office at 541-565-3551 x 2.



Oregon Department of Agriculture

Eastern Lower Deschutes

Strategic Implementation Area - Wasco and Sherman Counties

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Water Quality Program



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) is working with local partners to evaluate and address water quality concerns associated with agricultural and farm activities in the Eastern Lower Deschutes Strategic Implementation Area in Sherman and Wasco Counties. Inside the *Strategic Implementation Area (SIA)*, ODA will evaluate agriculture's impact on water quality, provide outreach and connect landowners with technical assistance, ensure compliance with Oregon's water quality regulations, and account for the effectiveness of these collective efforts to prevent and control water pollution.

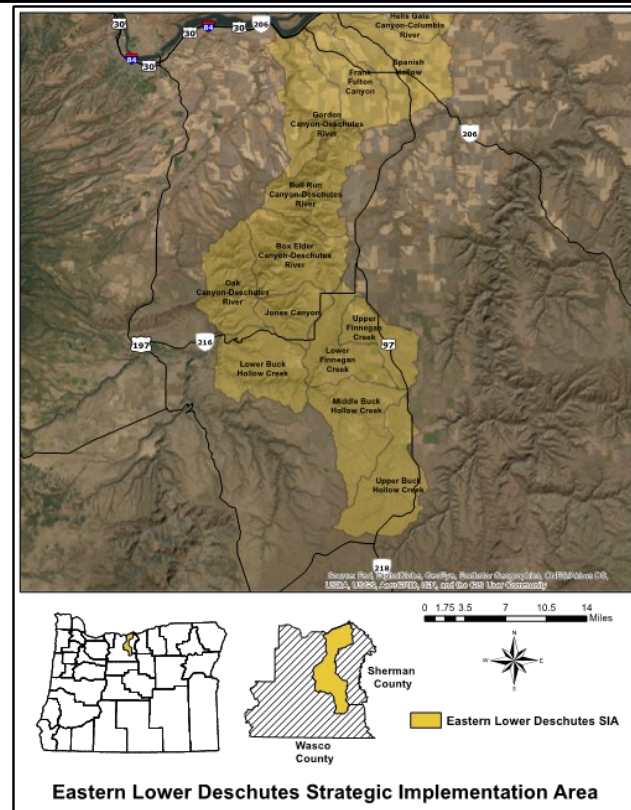
Purpose: The Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) initiative includes four key components:

1. Demonstrating compliance with Oregon's agricultural water quality regulations.
2. Voluntary, incentive-based conservation.
3. Monitoring to track water quality and land conditions.
4. Locally-led collaborative partnerships.

Evaluation Process: ODA remotely identifies opportunities for water quality improvement within agricultural lands by reviewing aerial imagery, maps, stream and drainage locations, property boundaries, soils, and well logs. The presence of an agricultural activity (such as livestock or cropping), slope, proximity to the waterbody, size of the waterbody, and stream type (seasonal or year-round) are considered when identifying potential water quality impacts. ODA also completes a field evaluation from public viewpoints to verify results from the remote evaluation and document any additional observations.

Why this watershed? ODA's SIA selection process includes the location of agricultural lands and streams, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) list of impaired waterbodies and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) local fish habitat priorities. These data sources help prioritize areas for SIA work.

If you have any questions or concerns about the ODA SIA process, 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.

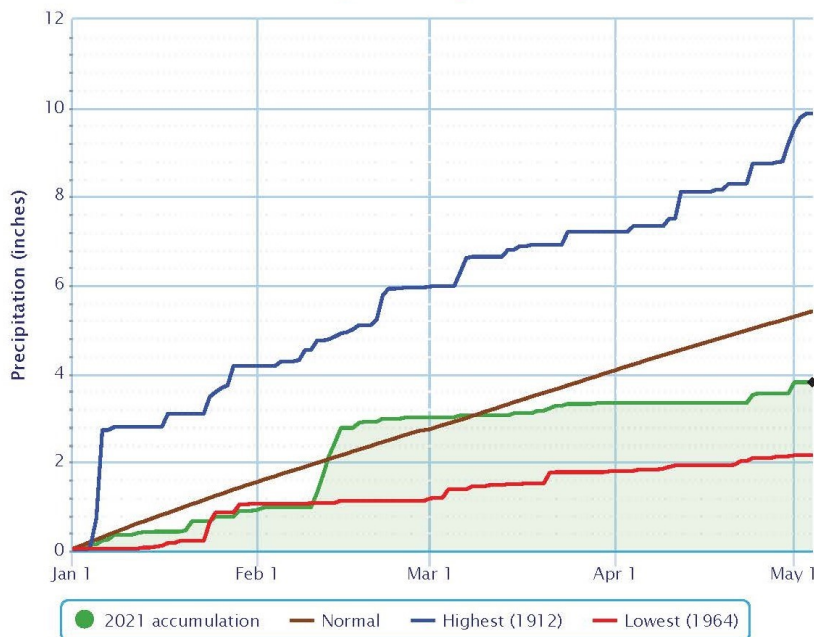
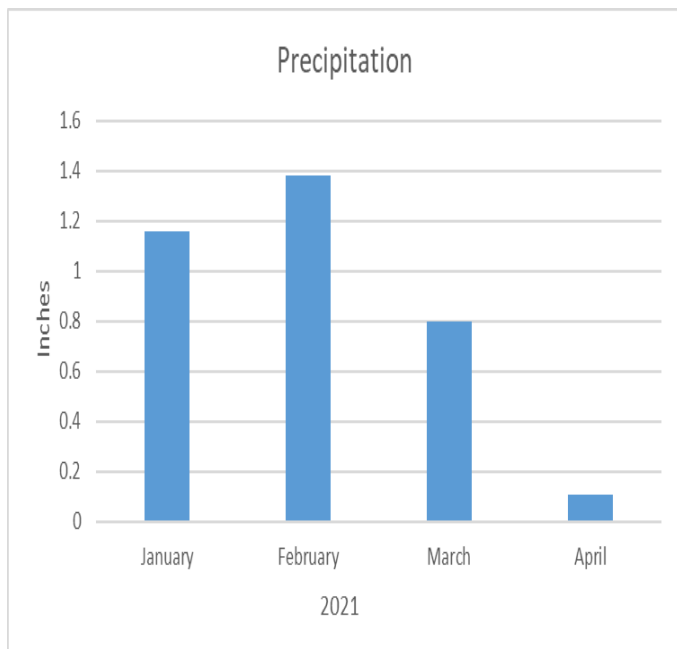


Moro Weather

Air Temperature

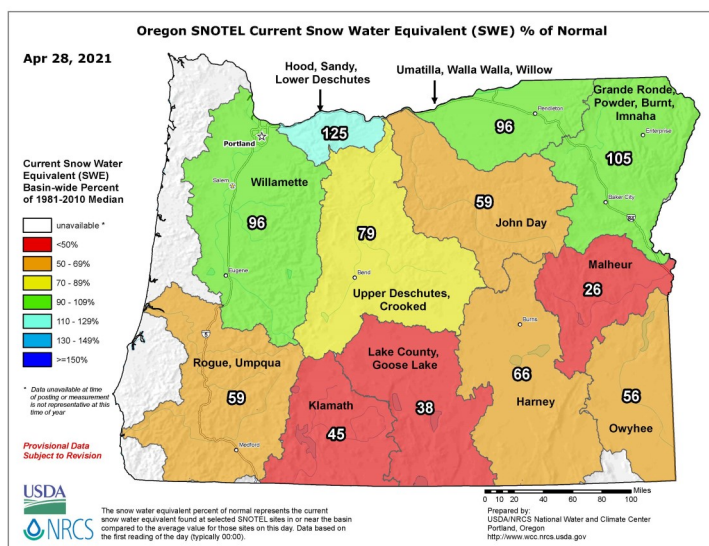
Month	Max High	Average High	Min Low	Average Low
January	62°F	49°F	18°F	26°F
February	62°F	48.5°F	10°F	17°F
March	68°F	54°F	23°F	35°F
April	72°F	56°F	23°F	35°F

Precipitation



Powered by AC

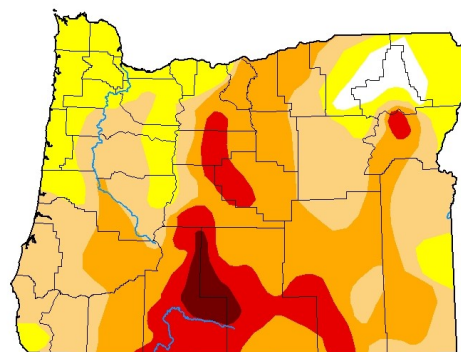
Snow Pack



Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

April 27, 2021
(Released Thursday, Apr. 29, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
Richard Heim
NCEI/NOAA

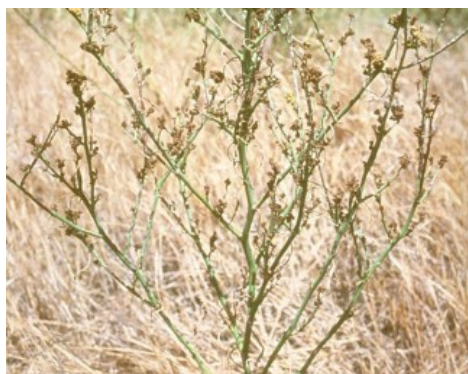
USDA NDMC IADP NCEI
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Weed Control Spotlight: Biological Control for Rush Skeletonweed

Biological weed control agents are often a very successful alternative to chemical weed control. For Rush Skeletonweed there are two bug agents present in Sherman county. The first being Rush Skeletonweed Gall Midge or *Cystiphora Schmidti*. It is best collected and placed in mid-summer by gathering an infested plant, combining it into bouquets and placing it at the new site. Most success is found at large host patches. The larvae of the *Cystiphora Schmidti* causes purplish galls to form on the leaves and stems of the Rush Skeleton weed. This reduces photosynthesis and stresses the plant.



Rush Skeletonweed Gall Midge
(*Cystiphora Schmidti*)



Rush Skeletonweed treated with Gall Mite
(*Aceria chondrilla*)

Considered to be the most effective, is the Rush Skeletonweed Mite or *Aceria chondrilla*. It is collected and dispersed the same as the *Cystiphora Schmidti*, by collecting the infested plant mid-summer, combining it into bouquets and planting it at the new site. The mites cause galls to form in the developing flower buds and growing tips. This restricts seed production and stunts the growth of the plant.

These two agents have most recently been distributed in Lower Grass Valley Canyon with great success as well as along Deschutes river.

If you are interested in dispersing either of these bio control agents on your land or are curious about others used for different weeds, please contact us at the Sherman SWCD and we will be happy help you gain access to them.

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!

Mid Columbia Producers, Inc.
www.mcpcoop.com
contactmcp@mcpcoop.com
Supervised Fuels

Grain * Fuel * Oil * Seed * Farm Stores

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

Your Business
Advertised
Here

Contact Sherman
County SWCD at 541-
565-3216

DeGrange Construction, LLC.

OR LIC# 161930
WA LIC# DEGRACL961R3

Ken DeGrange
cell: (541) 993-0442

Mike DeGrange
cell: (541) 993-1963

office: (541)442-5712 ▪ fax: (541)442-8588
PO BOX 222 ▪ Wasco, OR 97065 ▪ dcl@saw.net

Morrow County Grain Growers, Inc.

Wasco: 1-800-824-7185
Lexington: 1-800-452-7396
Fax: 541-442-5780

www.mcgg.net

Your Business
Advertised
Here

Contact Sherman
County SWCD at 541-
565-3216

Bank of Eastern Oregon

AMY MCNAMEE
Commercial Loan Officer

Office (541) 565-3712
Fax (541) 565-3470
amcnamee@beobank.com

P.O. Box 444
Moro, OR 97039
www.beobank.com

~ CONSERVATION CALENDAR ~

May 11: SWCD Regular Board Meeting, 8:30 am

May 11: OSU Livestock Evacuation during Wildfires, 12pm-1pm

May 18: OSU Beat the “cheat”: Dealing with Cheatgrass, 12pm-1pm

May 25: OSU Mitigating Wildfire Risk and Taking an Inventory, 12pm-1pm

May 31: Memorial Day— Service Center Closed

June 8: Sherman Area Watershed Council Regular Board Meeting, 8am

June 8: SWCD Regular Board Meeting, 8:30am

July 5th: Independence Day Observed—Service Center Closed

July 15, 2021: FSA Spring acreage Reporting Deadline

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

~ BOARD & STAFF ~

SWCD Staff

Amanda Whitman, District Manager
Hannah Fatland, Watershed Coordinator
Vacant, Watershed Technician

NRCS Staff

DelRae, District Conservationist
Morgaine Riggins, Soil Conservationist
Lauren Healey, Soil Conservationist

Sherman County SWCD Board of Directors

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

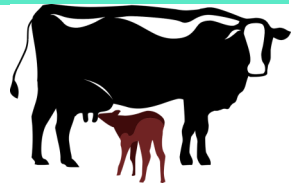
“Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land.”

Aldo Leopold



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

We're also on Facebook!



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800)795-3272 (voice) or (202)720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
MORO, OR 97039
PERMIT # 15

Sherman County SWCD
P.O. Box 405
Moro, OR 97039