

## Sherman County Area Watershed Council Coordinator Updates March 2019

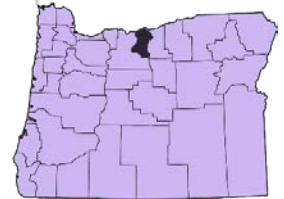
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### Watershed Council/Project Updates:

- Large Grants
  - Completed / In Progress
    - Lower Grass Valley Canyon Weed Technical Assistance grant completed and final report sent on 1/3/2019: 9,370 acres surveyed and 8 different noxious weeds were found covering 370 acres with 22.75 acres treated in 2018
    - Oregon State Weed Board Grant for \$41,195 to target noxious weeds in the Lower Grass Valley Canyon: Treat 215 acres of noxious weeds using integrated pest management during 2019.
    - DEQ CAP outreach assistance 2: Coordinator assisted with Sherman Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Oak Springs Fish Hatchery on 10/30/2018. In addition, Egg to Fry STEP program with Sherman Elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> grade: 10/30 – 11/13/2018. More planned this spring.
    - Lower Grass Valley Canyon Restoration Grant is ongoing with 14 WASCBS and 3,611 ft of Terrace rebuilt in 2018. By spring of 2021 the following will be completed: 28,591 ft of Terrace, 18 WASCBS, 1 grass waterway, 6 guzzlers, 540 acres of seeding.
  - Upcoming
    - Awarded NRCS Technical and Administrative Assistance Grant for \$154,683
- Small Grants
  - Completed Conservation Practices
    - **2016:** 3,372 ft of Terrace Rebuild, 1,470 ft of new Terraces, 9,009.5 ft of fence, 226 acres Direct Seeding
    - **2017:** 11,179 Terrace Rebuild, 6 WASCBS, 1 Spring
    - **2018:** 21,001 ft of Terrace Rebuild, 2 WASCBS, 2 Springs, 12,521 ft of Fence, 269 acres seeded
  - Upcoming
    - Still planned: 45,320 ft of Terraces, 12 WASCBS, 1 Spring, 3 Guzzlers
    - Currently all small grant funds are used and will get awarded more in July 2019



# Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's Investments in Sherman County



**OWEB's Mission: To help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies.**

## OWEB Grant Awards and Results

Since 1999, OWEB has awarded more than \$3 million in grants in Sherman County.

### Accomplishments

Restoration and improvements accomplished in Sherman County:



15 instream or riparian habitat miles treated (5,417 statewide)

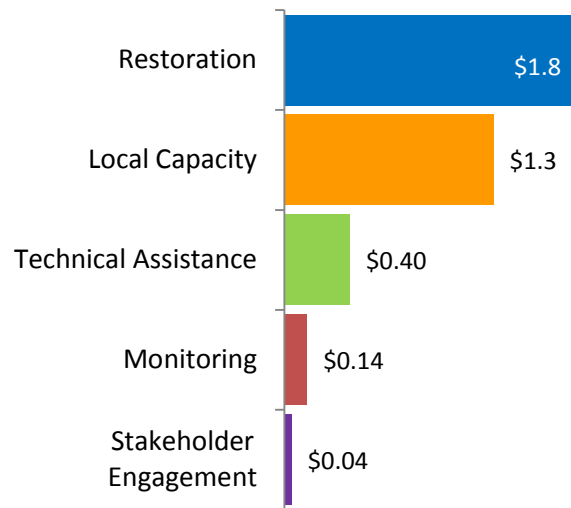


55,526 upland habitat acres improved (1,198,227 statewide)

### Grant Awards by Project Type

All Fund Sources, 1999-2018: \$3,606,056

Numbers below are in millions of dollars



## Local Economies and Communities Benefit

OWEB funds are used to pay those who design and implement projects, hire field crews, and buy goods and services they need to get the job done.



= 15 - 24 local jobs

According to a University of Oregon study, every \$1 million of OWEB investments creates 15-24 jobs in local communities across Oregon.



90¢ of each \$1 supports local economies

On average, more than 90¢ of every OWEB grant dollar supports local businesses, services, and suppliers within Oregon.

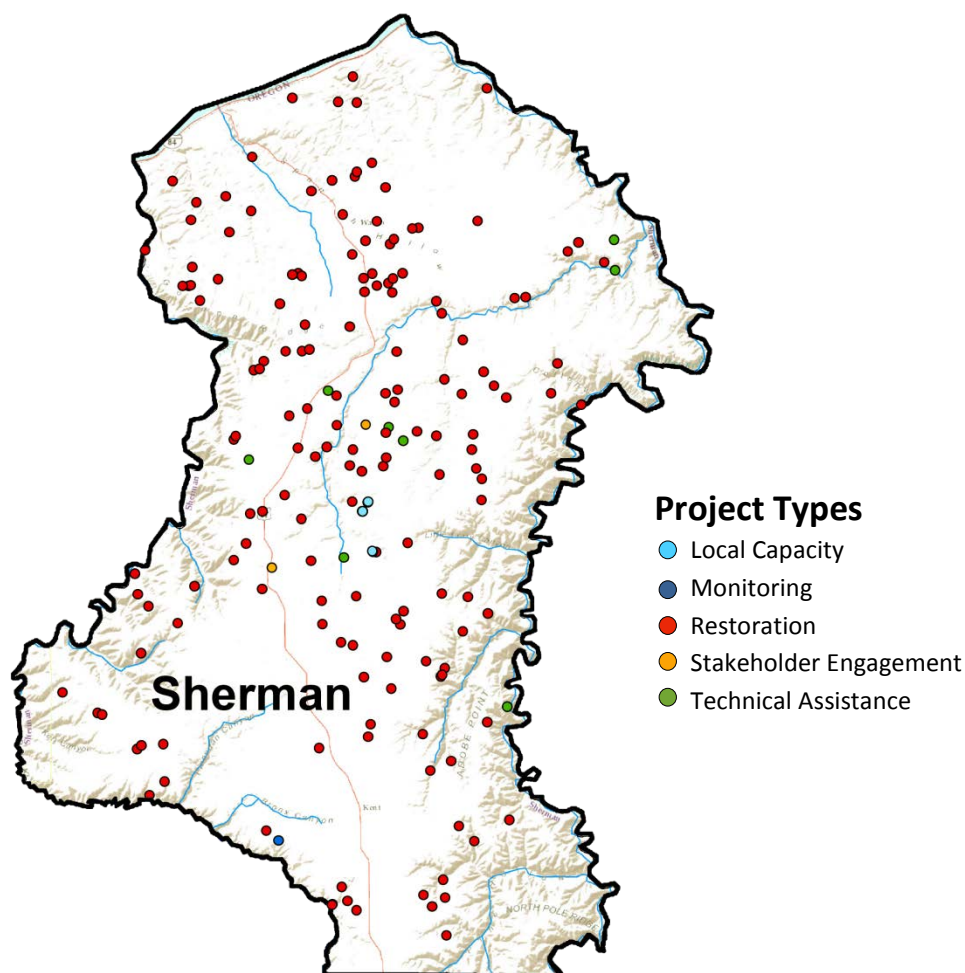
Numbers generated for this fact sheet are based on the best data available as of 12/31/2018 from the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory and OWEB's Grant Management System. "Local Capacity" includes Council Capacity and Soil & Water Conservation District grants.

## About OWEB

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board cares about and invests in the long-term health of Oregon's watersheds, both on the land and in the water that flows through it. Together with local partners across the state of Oregon, we invest funds from Lottery, federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, Salmon License Plates, and other sources in local communities. These funds help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies. Through all of our work, we are dedicated to the belief that:

- Healthy watersheds sustain healthy communities.
- Every Oregonian plays a role in the health of our watersheds.
- It takes broad partnership to support resilient watersheds.
- Improving our watersheds requires taking the long view.

## Projects in Sherman County by Type, 1999 – Spring 2018



## Contact

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➤ **District Operations**

**Objective** – Continue to efficiently and effectively provide natural resource conservation options.

**Programs** – Fiscal responsibilities, meetings, planning, reporting, civil rights compliance, assist NRCS and provide training & development opportunities for staff.

**DISTRICT & WATERSHED COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

➤ **Education Projects**

**Outdoor School** – The SWCD's Education Incentive Grant provides funding for this sixth grade educational experience

**4-H Camp** – Provide staff for 1-2 days at camp to teach 4-H'ers about conservation

**"Conservation After Hours"** – Informational meeting(s) for producers. These sessions include information from NRCS, FSA, Extension Service, SWCD, Watershed Council, Mid-Columbia Producers, ODFW, Sherman County Weed District and the Sherman County Trapper.

**Oregon Youth Conservation Corp** – The SWCD contracted with the OYCC to do the spring cleanup at the "Bill Todd Memorial Nursery" which is located south of the Sherman Junior/Senior High School.

**STEP** – Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) provides valuable tools, resources, and support to provide education opportunities in and outside the classroom as well as in the community. One of our most popular programs is "Fish Eggs to Fry" where salmon or trout eggs are raised in a classroom incubator. The District along with ODFW staff presented in classroom the dissecting of a fish to learn about the fish anatomy.

**CAP** – Conservation Awareness Program (CAP) gives Sherman County residents an opportunity to learn about, appreciate, and understand Sherman County soil and water resources. The District puts on several outreach events throughout the year for students, producers and community members.

**Summary of Conservation Practices Implemented**

- 11 Haul Roads equaling approximately 7 miles were implemented
- 49 CREP contracts
- 3 new Livestock Water Developments were installed
- 14 WASCAB's (water and sediment control basins)
- 12,712 feet of terrace re-shaping
- 12,521 feet of Cross Fencing
- Noxious weeds were scouted, marked and treated for in the lower Grass Valley watershed

**Watershed Project Updates**

The Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Sherman County Area Watershed Council and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) work together to support and promote conservation practices in our area. The Directors of the SWCD each take responsibility for goals and projects that are included in the Annual Work Plan. The formation of the Sherman County Area Watersheds Council improved the SWCD's ability to obtain funding for cost shared projects. The Council holds quarterly meetings and an annual meeting to discuss and review projects and elect officers and directors as well as making any changes to the bylaws and action plan. A self-evaluation of the Council's efforts also takes place. The Watershed Advisory Areas are as follows:

**South Sherman County Watershed** – The Buck Hollow and Macks Canyon watersheds were combined so that the two watershed areas are served by one watershed advisory council. The watersheds both drain into the Lower Deschutes. Approximately 22 landowners and 117,285 acres are involved.

**Grass Valley Canyon Watershed** – This watershed encompasses 199,930 acres of land drained by Grass Valley Canyon Creek and its tributaries which discharges in to the John Day River. The Lower Grass Valley Canyon watershed has been the continued Focus Area through ODA funding.

**Pine Hollow/Jackknife Watershed** – Pine Hollow Creek and Jackknife Canyon watersheds comprise an 84,870 acre area ultimately discharging into the John Day River.

**North Sherman County Watershed** – This watershed includes lands drained by China Hollow, Mud Hollow, Spanish Hollow, Biglow Canyon, Box Canyon, Draper Canyon, Emigrant Canyon, Fox Canyon, Gerking Canyon, Helms Canyon, Scott Canyon, Fulton Canyon and Gordon Canyon. The 127,290 acres drain into the Deschutes, Columbia and John Day Rivers.

**Lower Deschutes & Lower John Day River Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan** – The SWCD serves as local management agency (LMA) for the implementation process in cooperation with the Wasco County & Gilliam County SWCD's. Information and assistance is available for water quality improvement projects. The Ag Water Quality Plans are reviewed every two years.

**COUNCIL PRIORITY GOALS**

The Council will work to reduce the soil erosion and to improve water quality in the area's streams. The Council will further work to improve upland range condition for the benefit of both wildlife and livestock. The Council seeks support and cooperation from the Sherman County Court, Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District, and other interested agencies and individuals.

**Summary of short and long term goals**

- ✓ Identify, address, monitor, and evaluate key resource concerns within the watershed.
- ✓ Coordinate activities with government agencies and other organizations to promote public awareness about watershed science and key resource issues through workshops, displays, the STEP and CAP programs.
- ✓ Track watershed projects and activities and report progress to the Council, landowners, other stakeholders, and the public.
- ✓ Mitigate the effect of human activities and farming on water quality on Sherman's outlying rivers and their tributaries which impact fish, wildlife, and livestock habitat rearing.
- ✓ Reduce soil erosion, acreage left bare of stubble, and catastrophic flooding and damage with the encouragement of reduced tillage techniques.
- ✓ Ensure economic viability of farms/ranches.

**Contact information:**

If you have any problems or concerns about conservation issues, programs, or practices in the county, please call the district office at 565-3216, or come by the office that is located in the Old Moro Grade School building at 302 Scott Street.

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