



# Rolling Thunder Review

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### APRIL

- 1 - OWEB Project Requests due to SWCD office
- 3 - Daylight Savings Time, set your clocks ahead
- 4 - CSP Informational Meeting, 9:00 am, Wasco Parish Hall
- 11 - CSP Self Assessment Workshop, 6:30 pm, Wasco Parish Hall
- 12 - SWCD Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Moro Field Office
- 14 - OSU Extension Wasco County Bull Tour
- 24 - May 1- Soil and Water Stewardship Week
- 25 - CSP Self Assessment Workshops, 6:30 pm, Wasco Parish Hall

### MAY

- 8 - Mother's Day
- 10 - SWCD Board Meeting, TBA
- 30 - Memorial Day, office closed



Be sure to refer to our website ([www.sherman.oacd.org](http://www.sherman.oacd.org)) for up to date meeting notices and activities.

### WHAT'S INSIDE

Board Highlights.....	2
NRCS Report.....	3
Noxious Weed Alert.....	4
Assessment Update.....	4
Experiment Station	
Weather Statistics.....	5
DEQ Healty Lawn.....	5
Tree Sales.....	5

## CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM (CSP) SIGNUP TO BEGIN

Top conservation stewards in the Middle Columbia-Hood Watershed now have the opportunity to sign-up for USDA's new Conservation Security Program *March 28th through May 27th, 2005.*

The Conservation Security Program, or CSP, is a voluntary program that financially rewards private land managers who are actively conserving natural resources at the highest levels. The Middle Columbia-Hood Watershed was selected as one of the nation's 220 priority watersheds for this spring's CSP signup. The Middle Columbia-Hood Watershed includes land in Oregon and Washington that drains directly into the Columbia River beginning generally at Bonneville Dam and moving eastward to the John Day Dam.

Dusty Eddy, District Conservationist for Wasco County stated "CSP is a voluntary program that supports ongoing conservation stewardship of agricultural working lands, including small farms, in Wasco, Hood River, Sherman, Skamania, and Klickitat Counties and enhances the condition of natural resources. All farmers and ranchers are encouraged to attend one of the information meetings".

Additional information on CSP, can be found at <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov> or contact Wy'East Resource Conservation & Development by going to <http://www.wyeastred.org/> and follow CSP links on the left or call 541- 296-2391 x 3.

Story continued on page 3 . . .

# SHERMAN SWCD BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

## MARCH 8, 2005

### • Watershed Updates

**Buck Hollow:** Projects cost shared by PL-566 are being reviewed. Several contracts were cancelled by producers, but some will try to complete their projects within the next year. Combining Macks Canyon watershed with Buck Hollow watershed was discussed. A landowner meeting will be scheduled.

**Pine Hollow/Jackknife:** Brian and Jason have been working with landowners to get BPA/OWEB projects on the ground. The turn around for cultural resource and T & E clearance for projects is still slowing down the implementation of projects.

**Fulton/Gordon Canyons:** The Council is meeting tomorrow night with North Sherman to finalize the merger with the North Sherman Watershed Council.

**Grass Valley Canyon:** Jeff reported that assessment work is going well. He is working on mapping all of the stream reaches, and gathering data about precipitation and water quality. His timeline is a little off so he will be revising it. He will be contacting landowners for help with project inventory.

**Macks Canyon:** Brian reported that members of the council were willing to discuss combining with Buck Hollow landowners to form a new council.

**North Sherman:** Data collection for the Direct Seed grant was discussed. Infiltration testing, annual soil samples, production data, residue measurements, and operational records are required. Final business for the merger with Fulton & Gordon Canyons Watershed Council will be done at the meeting tomorrow night.

**OWEB Grant Application:** The review team evaluation for the grant submitted in October of 2004 was discussed. The board and staff found the comments very disturbing. Brian had drafted a letter to the review team members. Kyle made a motion to send the letter to the review team members with an invitation to our tour. He asked that the letter be signed by Bill as Chair of the board. Brad seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The letter will be sent as soon as possible.

### • Lower John Day Update

Jason is still assisting with the final draft of the Sub Basin plan. The Lower John Day Ag Water Quality Management Area Plan discussions are still continuing. Ellen Hammond, Tom Straughan and Dave Wilkinson of ODA met with Tom McCoy and Jason Faucera to do a compliance review for Tom McCoy's place. The board will wait to see the ODA response to the review before taking any further action.

### • Lower Deschutes Update

Jeff Goebel reported that NOAA Fisheries is working on a recovery plan for the Deschutes Sub Basin.

### • ESA Update

There was nothing new to report. Jason will be attending future meetings

### • Final Plans for Tour

The tour date will be April 21<sup>st</sup>. Sandy presented a proposed tour route. It would begin in Moro, go North, return to Moro, go South, and then return to Moro. Sandy will drive the route tomorrow to get a time frame. If possible the tour would start at 8:30 or 9:00 AM, include lunch then end at 3:30 or 4:00. Gary would like to offer a dinner afterward. He will do more research on the cost of a dinner. The OWEB review team will be invited to attend. The remainder of the guest list is being developed.

### • New Business

**OACD Officers:** The board discussed nominating Gary Irzyk for a state office but Gary had left before this discussion. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

**Wy'East RC&D Representation:** Krista has been serving as the SWCD representative to the RC&D Council. She asked to be relieved of the responsibility. This will be discussed at a later date.

### • NRCS Report

Mary Beth reported that she has 35 GRP applications to work on. There is \$114,000 in EQIP funding to be allocated in the County. CSP sign up will begin toward the end of March. Four meetings for information and assistance will be scheduled in the county.

Jeff reported that the Moro Field Office has shown very high production and has therefore been recommended for additional staffing. He also said that extra help will be made available for CSP sign ups. This year, one half of the EQIP funding allocation in the Basin will be directed toward assistance for CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operations). Watersheds slated for the next CSP area will get priority for the remaining EQIP funds. Jeff predicts that the Lower John Day will be the next area funded by the Conservation Security Program with the Lower Deschutes being next.

### • Agency Report

**Extension Service:** Sandy updated the board on the SARE grant which is being administered by the District. The grant is being used to provide funding for the Jill Clapperton Soil Workshops to be held May 16 & 17. The Wasco County Bull Tour is scheduled for April 14.

**BLM:** Cari Johnson asked if any one had any questions. She handed out several BLM maps. She said that BLM is still trying to sell small parcels of land.

### • Other Business

Jason asked for a committee of board members to help him develop the BPA budget for the next fiscal year which starts May 1, 2005. Budget will need to include any pay raises and insurance cost increases. Jason will develop the budget and get board approval before submitting it to BPA.

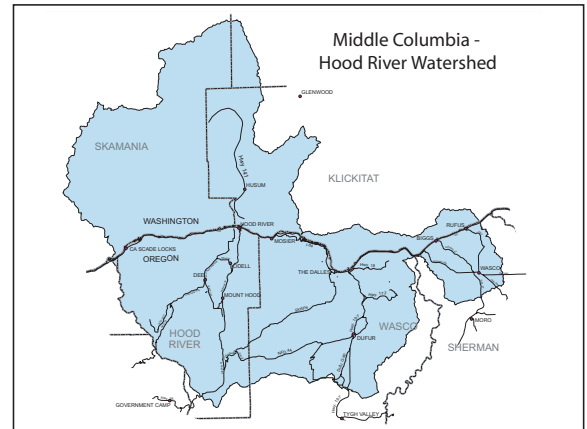


Story continued from page 1 . . .

CSP informational meetings:

Mid-Columbia Hood Watershed Information Meetings

Town	Location	Date	Time
Wasco	Wasco Parish Hall	3/30/2005	6:30 PM
Dufur	Christian Church	3/31/2005	9:00 AM
The Dalles	The Discovery Center	3/31/2005	6:00 PM
Wasco	Wasco Parish Hall	4/4/2005	9:00 AM
Trout Lake	Trout Lake Grange	4/5/2005	1:00 PM
White Salmon	White Salmon Library	4/5/2005	3:30 PM
Carson	Skamania County PUD	4/5/2005	7:00 PM
Pine Grove	Pine Grove Grange	4/6/2005	1:00 PM
Pine Grove	Pine Grove Grange	4/6/2005	4:00 PM
White Salmon	Park Center Building	4/14/2005	6:00 PM
The Dalles	Discovery Center	4/18/2005	6:00 PM



## FISH SQUEEZER TO GRAPE SQUEEZER



I suspect many of you know that March will be Brian Stradley's last month as our district technician. He will be employed by our neighbors across the river at Maryhill Winery. I suspect this is a subtle marketing ploy by the winery to attract more Sherman Countians to the winery/amphitheater. I hope they realize that a good neighbor discount on wine and tickets will be expected.

Brian always kept us up to speed on the latest in oyster farming at our June meetings; his print shirts are beyond fashion statement - actually a breath of fresh air. As a director, it has been very rewarding to witness the personal and professional growth that Brian has gone through since 1998. He came as an employee, he leaves as a peer, a friend.

immediate past el jefe  
- Gary Irzyk

### New Watershed Coordinator

Sherman County's SWCD welcomes Joli Hill, the new Watershed Coordinator. She is looking forward to meeting and working with the local producers and hopes to help address their conservation needs. Stop by to sign up for future funding opportunities and meet the newest member of the SWCD office. She can be reached at the Conservaiton District office at 565-3216, extension 109 or via email at [joli.munkers@oacd.org](mailto:joli.munkers@oacd.org).

### Small Grant Funds Still Available

Small grants funding for projects concerning soil and water conservation is still available for the Lower Deschutes sub-basin. Funding up to \$7,000 is available. Grants are considered on a first-come-first-serve basis. Interested individuals should contact the new Watershed Coordinator, Joli Hill. Deadline for small grant sign up is June 15th.

### Trees & Shrubs Still Available!



There will be several varieties of trees and shrubs available at the beginning of April. If you would like to order any of the following, please call the Conservation District office at 565-3216 extension 3 to place an order. Availability is limited.

<u>Tree Specie</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<u>Caragana</u> (43 available)	4-5 ft	\$2.25 each
<u>Blue Elderberry</u> (14 available)	12-18 in.	\$2.25 each
<u>Honeysuckle</u> (26 available)	18-24 in.	\$2.25 each
<u>Sugar Maple</u> (21 available)	3-4 ft.	\$5.75 each
<u>Russian Mulberry</u> (21 available)	2-3 ft.	\$3.50 each
<u>Pinyon Nut Pine</u> (17 available)	9-12in.	\$3.25 each

# NOXIOUS WEED ALERT

## JOINTED GOATGRASS

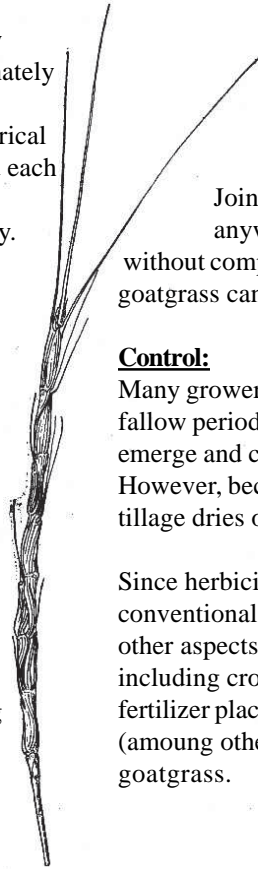
### Description:

Jointed goatgrass is a winter annual grass, vegetatively similar to wheat in the seed stage. The leaves are alternately arranged with auricles at their base and occasional hairs extending along the margins. The flower spike is cylindrical and distinct from wheat. It is jointed in appearance and each joint contains one to three seeds. The seed of jointed goatgrass ripens before winter wheat and shatters easily.

Jointed goatgrass generally emerges during cooler seasons. Peak emergence usually occurs in September through early November, with a secondary flush of seedlings emerging in early spring.

### Economic Importance:

Jointed goatgrass is highly competitive in winter wheat, CRP, and rangeland. Grain contaminated with jointed goatgrass cannot be certified. Jointed goatgrass is a serious problem in small grains because the similar seed size and weight makes for a very difficult job in separating goatgrass from small grain seed (especially wheat seed). This means clean fields may be easily contaminated with wheat seed containing goatgrass.



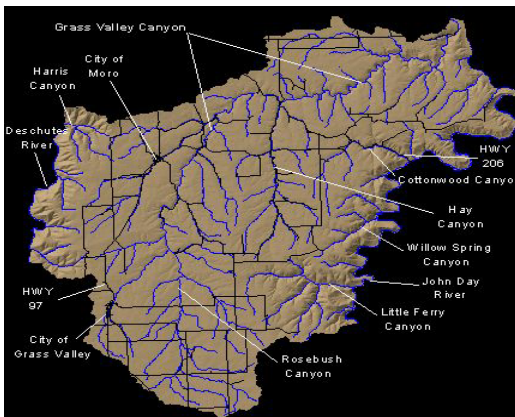
Jointed goatgrass competes with wheat for essential resources such as water, light, and nutrients. In general, jointed goatgrass in competition with winter wheat can reduce wheat grain yields by 25 to 50%.

Jointed goatgrass growing in winter wheat can produce anywhere from 100 to 300 seeds per plant. If growing without competition (e.g., in areas of winterkilled wheat), jointed goatgrass can produce 3000 seeds or more.

### Control:

Many growers will use tillage to promote germination during fallow periods. If adequate soil moisture is available, seedlings emerge and can be easily controlled prior to planting wheat. However, because precipitation is erratic in semiarid regions and tillage dries out the soil, this tactic is not effective consistently.

Since herbicides cannot selectively control jointed goatgrass in conventional wheat, scientists have focused their attention on other aspects of management. Aspects of cultural control including crop rotations, wheat cultivar selection, seeding rates, fertilizer placement, fallow weed control and field burning (among others) have been looked at to help manage jointed goatgrass.



## GRASS VALLEY WATERSHED ASSESSMENT UPDATE

by Jeff Bird

As part of the ongoing assessment in the Grass Valley watershed, the Soil and Water Conservation District will be performing an inventory of conservation practices within the watershed. The assistance of land operators will be needed to accurately complete this inventory. Producer maps of individual land tracts will be mailed out and the operators will be asked to add existing conservation structures and practices to the maps. We plan to collect data on a variety of practices including terraces, range seed plantings, fencing, brush clearing, and many more. Aside from the type of practice and location we also hope to gather dates when the practices were put into use, their functionality, as well as any funding sources.

In other assessment news, data collection has begun for the water quality and hydrology segments of the assessment. Among the criteria examined in the water quality section are temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH level, and contaminants. Much of this data can be gathered from government agencies such as the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Annual precipitation, peak flow data, and land use will be examined to analyze their impact on local hydrology.



Following completion of these segments I will begin working on the sediment source and channel modification assessments. For these sections I will be looking at important sediment sources and erosion problems, as well as any channel habitats that have been modified by channel disturbances.

# SHERMAN COUNTY EXPERIMENT

## JANUARY WEATHER STATS

- ✓ Total precipitation for January was .42" which is 1.22" below normal.
- ✓ 2004/2005 Crop year total is 3.55" which is 2.79" below normal.
- ✓ The highest air temperature was 61 degrees on the 19th and 22nd.
- ✓ The lowest air temperature was 6 degrees on the 5th.
- ✓ Long time averages indicate we can expect air temperatures of 52 and 5 degrees.
- ✓ The average air temperature was 32.4 degrees which is 1.7 degrees below normal.
- ✓ 4" soil temperature ranged from 48 to 35 degrees.
- ✓ The average wind speed was 2.7 mph which is .6 below normal.
- ✓ Total snowfall was 4.1".



# STATION WEATHER STATISTICS

## FEBRUARY WEATHER STATS

- ✓ Total precipitation for February was .12" which is 1.00" below normal.
- ✓ The crop year total is 3.67" which is 3.79" below normal.
- ✓ The highest air temperature was 64 degrees on the 4th.
- ✓ The lowest temperature was 18 degrees on the 15th, 17th, and 18th.
- ✓ The average air temperature was 37.1 degrees.
- ✓ Long time air temperature averages indicate we can expect 57 and 10 degrees.
- ✓ 4" soil temperature ranged from 50 to 35 degrees.
- ✓ The average windspeed was 2.2 m.p.h. which is 1.5 below normal.

## DEQ Launches Web site about Environmentally Friendly Lawn Care



Finding information about how to have a great-looking lawn without using chemical fertilizers and weed killers is now easier with the launch of a new Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Web site.

The DEQ Healthy Lawns, Healthy Families site at [www.healthylawns.org](http://www.healthylawns.org) includes information about how our lawn care habits influence water quality and tips on how to practice natural lawn care.

Misuse and overuse of pesticides and chemical fertilizers on the lawn can lead to lawn problems, and the chemicals themselves are often washed off the lawn by rain, headed for the storm drain and ultimately to Oregon's rivers. Once in the river, the chemicals can cause problems for fish.

Natural lawn care can actually produce a healthier lawn. Healthy grass can help keep weed populations down.

The Healthy Lawns, Healthy Families Web site includes an interactive demonstration of how our lawn care habits affect the health of our rivers. The site also has videos of Oregonians telling stories about how they successfully use natural methods to create healthy, attractive lawns without chemicals.

Visitors to the site are invited to take a pledge to use alternatives to lawn and garden chemicals. Those who pledge will receive a "Natural Lawn Care Practiced Here" lawn sign.

The Healthy Lawns, Healthy Families Web site was designed by White Horse, a Portland online marketing agency, and funded by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. DEQ partnered with Metro, Clean Water Services, the City of Eugene and the Coalition for Clean Rivers and Streams to create [www.healthylawns.org](http://www.healthylawns.org)

## Why Conserve Soils?

There are 7 words hidden in this puzzle. These words are listed below. Try to find as many as you can. You can circle them across, down and diagonally. Use the words to fill in the blanks in the statements below.

```

I T T G T L M A D G X R I N
C L R U U J S C E D E R O C
O M I M R O O E N T D I F I
N K T Z E A I A G A T R M Q
S B I G D W L I X U G A I R
E X O L H M E R L R F O Q L
R E N D R M R L E Y U S Y T
V P A A F O O D F S R K P B
A Y F T G P S U Q Z O B G M
T X G T R X I X L A C U G L
I O U A Y L O Q N B V Z R E
O B P E O F N V N F B O M C
N W F W I L D L I F E J S K
P P R O D U C T I V I T Y C
    
```

1. Severe soil erosion can lead to water \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Soil \_\_\_\_\_ must be kept high to produce all of the food we need.
3. Many soil conservation practices create homes for birds, deer, rabbits and other kinds of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. More than 40 years after the Dust Bowl era, \_\_\_\_\_ is still a national challenge.
5. Soil erosion can increase the price of the \_\_\_\_\_ that we eat.
6. Soil \_\_\_\_\_ is an important part of prosperous farming.
7. Everyday, more and more \_\_\_\_\_ is lost to non-agricultural use.

*conservation*  
*food*  
*pollution*  
*productivity*

*farmland*  
*wildlife*  
*soil erosion*



## Sherman County SWCD Board of Directors

Bill Martin, Chairman  
Kyle Blagg, Vice Chair  
Brad Eakin, Secretary  
Tracy Fields, Treasurer  
Gary Irzyk, Member

### SWCD Staff

Krista Coelsch, District Coordinator  
Jason Faucera, District Technician  
Jessa Irzyk, CRP Technician  
Jeff Bird, Grass Valley Assessment Technician  
Joli Hill, Watershed Coordinator

### NRCS Staff

Mary Beth Smith, District Conservationist

*The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## Rolling Thunder Review

Sherman County SWCD  
PO Box 405  
Moro, OR 97039



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