

# THE ROLLING THUNDER



January 2024

SHERMAN COUNTY SWCD & WATERSHED COUNCIL

## Soil & Water Conservation District

### Upcoming Meetings

The next SWCD meeting is February 13th at 8:30 am in the USDA Service Center Conference Room

The SWCD and Watershed Council Annual Meeting will be held on March 5th. More details to come soon!

### Program Updates

A public meeting will be held on February 21st to provide updates on SWCD grant programs. More details to come.

### 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 \$10,000 have a 75% cost share rate and projects \$10,001-\$15,000 have a 50% cost share rate. Our completion deadline for all CCS projects is now 2 years from the date of approval. Call the SWCD at 541-565-3551 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

### Upcoming Meetings

The next Watershed Council meeting is March 12th at 7:30 am in the USDA Service Center Conference Room.



## How to Reach Us

### USDA Service Center (Open Monday through Friday, 8:00am—4:30pm)

Sherman County's USDA Service Center houses Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS), Sherman County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), and Sherman County Area Watershed Council. We are located at 2004 First Street in Moro, just down the hill from the OSU Extension Office.

#### How to reach us:

Amanda Whitman - SWCD District Manager

541-565-3216 ext. 109

Amanda.whitman@or.nacdn.net

Marylou Martin - SWCD Office Assistant

541-565-3216 ext. 101

shermancountywc@gmail.com

## Tree Sale

The order deadline for the Sherman County SWCD tree sale is **April 1st**. Trees and shrubs look great and can serve many purposes including providing shade, creating a wind break, stabilizing stream banks, creating wildlife and pollinator habitat, improving property value, and more!

**This sale is pre-order only. We are not buying extra trees for the pick-up dates.** Pick-up will be at the Sherman SWCD office (dates TBD). An order form is included in the newsletter and available at the office or on our website (shermancountyswcd.com).

Call the office at 541-565-3216 for more information.



# NACD Poster Contest

Sherman County students participated in a local conservation poster contest "One Water". Congratulations to our local first and second-place winners. Helena Stuart and Erin Burbank's posters placed first in State and got sent on to compete at the national level (National Association of Conservation Districts).



Helena Stuart-  
Grade 1, First place



Grady Webber-  
Grade 5, First place



Madeline West-  
Grade 2, Second  
place



Erin Burbank-Grade 11, First place  
Olivia Burbank-Grade 5, Second place  
Simon Burbank-Grade 2, First place  
Isaiah Burbank-Grade 7, First place



## STEP



Sherman County School 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders participated in the STEP program this fall. This program involved receiving trout eggs from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to hatch in their classrooms. The trout were observed and studied for a few weeks before being released into a local pond by Mrs. Wambold's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class.



## National Resource Conservation Services (NRCS)

NRCS Updates:

### Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

All participants that applied for and did not receive funding for their CSP General 2023 will automatically be eligible for CSP General 2024. If you would like to make any changes to your CSP General 2023 application, you will need to schedule an appointment on Tuesday / Thursday during the month of January.

NEW participants will need to have an application submitted by March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Participants will need to have an appointment scheduled with Misty Strayhorn during the month of May. It is the responsibility of the participant to schedule and maintain your appointment.

CSP General 2024 applicants will be informed of acceptance into the program by June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

Producers can apply for the EQIP program year-round, but the 2024 application deadline was November 17<sup>th</sup> 2023. Any application submitted after November 17<sup>th</sup> will be eligible for the 2025 funding cycle. Participants will be informed of pre-approval for 2024 applications by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Please contact Becky Hilderbrand at (541) 565-3551 ext. 108 for any EQIP questions

Please contact Misty Strayhorn at (541) 565-3551 ext. 102 for any CSP questions

# Farm Service Agency (FSA)

## **Sign Up Open for Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that agricultural producers can now enroll in the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) [Agriculture Risk Coverage \(ARC\) and Price Loss Coverage \(PLC\)](#) programs for the 2024 crop year. Producers can enroll and make election changes for the 2024 crop year starting Dec. 18, 2023. The deadline to complete enrollment and any election change is March 15, 2024.

On Nov. 16, 2023, President Biden signed into law H.R. 6363, the *Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024* (Pub. L. 118-22), which extended the *Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018* (Pub. L. 115-334), more commonly known as the 2018 Farm Bill, through September 30, 2024. This extension allows authorized programs, including ARC and PLC, to continue operating.

### **2024 Elections and Enrollment**

Producers can elect coverage and enroll in ARC-County (ARC-CO) or PLC, which provide crop-by-crop protection, or ARC-Individual (ARC-IC), which protects the entire farm. Although election changes for 2024 are optional, producers must enroll through a signed contract each year. Also, if a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm it will continue for 2024 unless an election change is made. If producers do not submit their election revision by the March 15, 2024, deadline, their election remains the same as their 2023 election for commodities on the farm.

Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the cropland. Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

### **Web-Based Decision Tools**

Many universities offer web-based decision tools to help producers make informed, educated decisions using crop data specific to their respective farming operations. Producers are encouraged to use the tool of their choice to support their ARC and PLC elections.

### **More Information**

For more information on ARC and PLC, producers can visit the [ARC and PLC webpage](#) or contact their local [USDA Service Center](#). Producers can also make elections and complete enrollment [online with level 2 eAuth](#). To learn more, visit [usda.gov](https://usda.gov).

## **Disaster Assistance for 2023 Livestock Forage Losses**

Producers in Sherman County are eligible to apply for 2023 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on native and improved pasture. LFP provides compensation if you suffer grazing losses on non-irrigated pasture for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land.

Please contact the county office to obtain a copy of the 2023 Livestock Inventory Worksheet along with a list of the items needed to start the application process. You must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than January 30, 2024, for 2023 losses. Please call Kayci at 541-565-3551 ext 105.





# Watershed Education Incentive Program

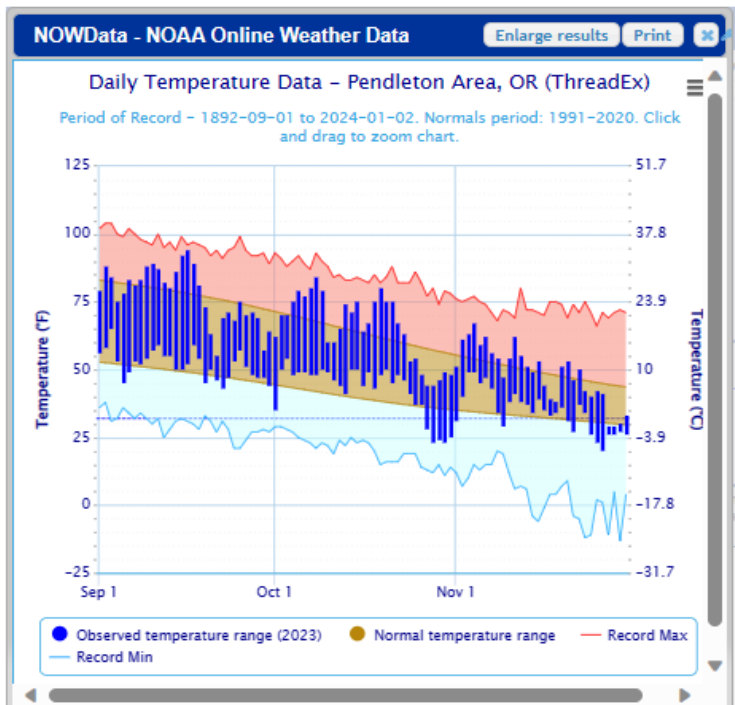
The Watershed Education Incentive Program is to provide financial resources for local conservation education including workshops, demonstrations and youth conservation projects; to provide technical resources for implementation of education projects that will benefit Sherman County residents and resources;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

Applicants can apply for up to \$2,000.

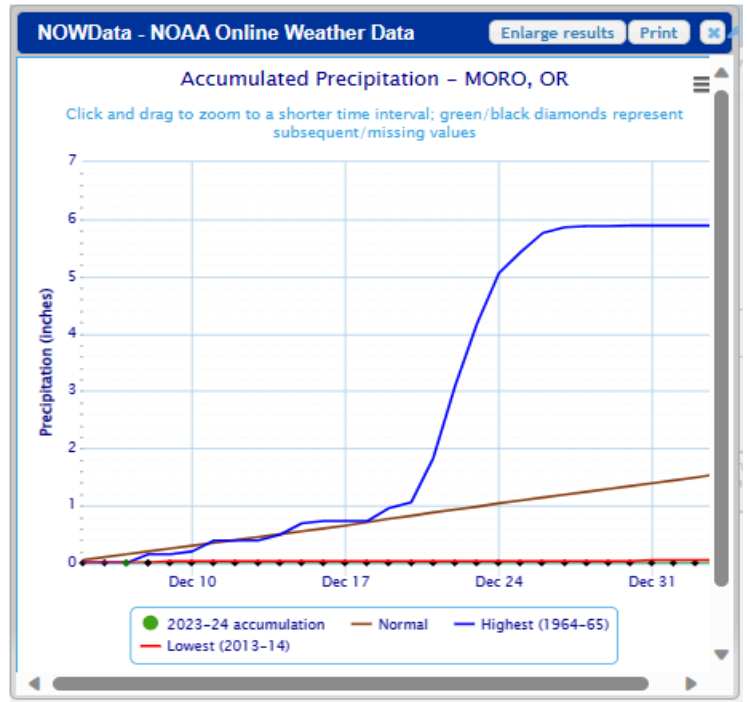
Past grants have included greenhouse projects, field trips, 4-H camp, Bull Tour, tree planting, chick hatching projects, and more! Call us at 541-565-3216 for more information or to apply.

## Moro Weather

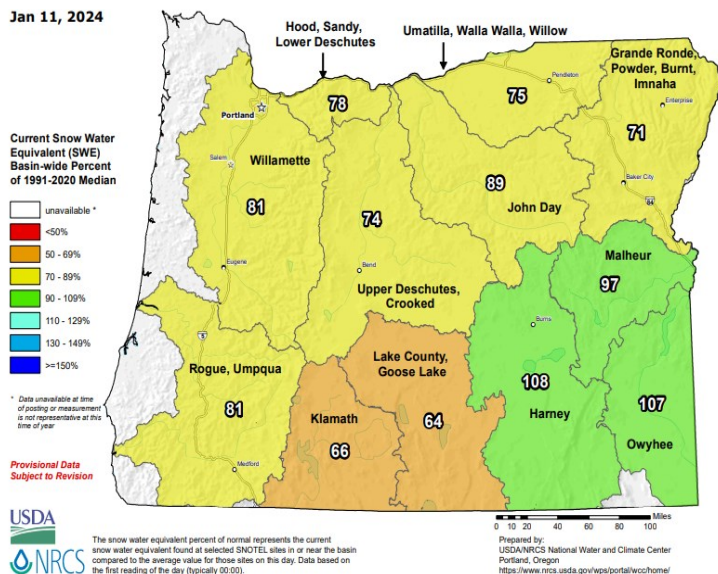
Daily Temperature Data Moro, OR



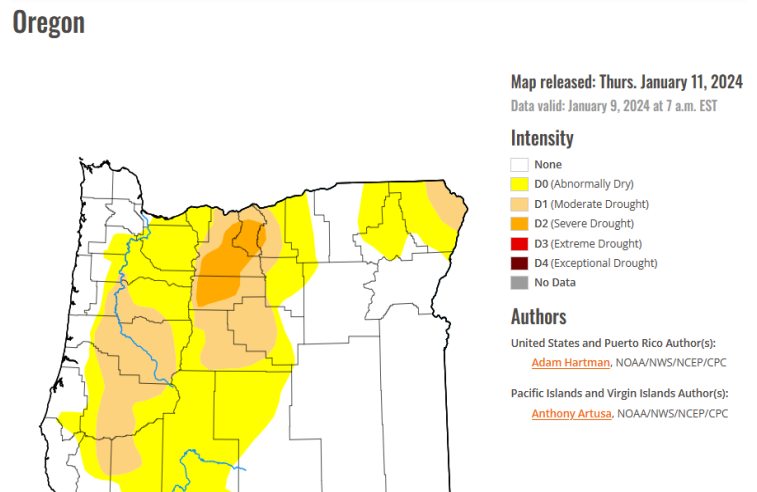
Accumulated Precipitation Moro, OR



Snow Pack



Drought Monitor

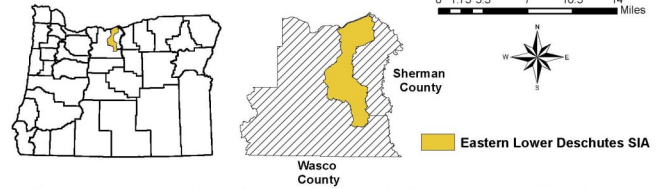
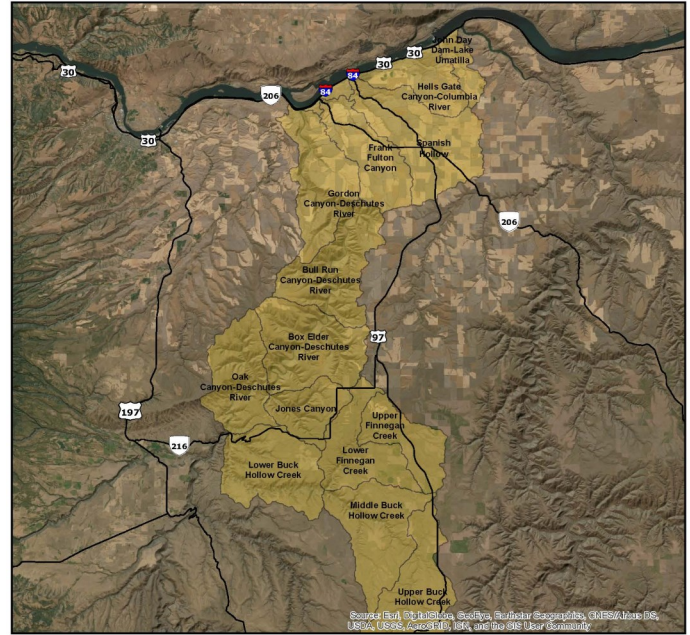


# Eastern Lower Deschutes Strategic Implementation Area (SIA)

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](mailto:tdebardelaben@oda.state.or.us) or the Sherman Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) at (541)-705-5070 or visit [www.shermancountyswcd.com](http://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!

**MCP** *Mid Columbia Producers, Inc.*  
[www.mcpcoop.com](http://www.mcpcoop.com)  
[contactmcp@mcpcoop.com](mailto:contactmcp@mcpcoop.com)   
 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# 461930  
 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](mailto:dcl@saw.net)

**M.C.G.G.**  
Morrow County Grain Growers, Inc.



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

[www.mcgg.net](http://www.mcgg.net)



Phone: 541-565-3712  
 508 Main Street  
 Moro, Oregon 97039

Your Business  
Advertised  
Here



Contact Sherman  
County SWCD at  
541-565-3216

# ~ CONSERVATION CALENDAR ~

February 13: SWCD Regular Board Meeting, 8:30am

February 19: Presidents' Day, Office Closed

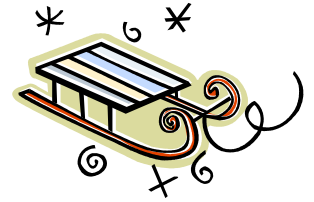
February 21: After Hours Meeting

March 5: SWCD and Watershed Council Annual Meeting

March 12: Watershed Council meeting, 7:30am; SWCD Regular Board Meeting, 8:30am

April 1: Tree & Shrub Sale Order Deadline

April 9: SWCD Regular Board Meeting, 8:30am



## ~ BOARD & STAFF ~

### SWCD Staff

Amanda Whitman, District Manager

Marylou Martin, Office Assistant

Vacant, Watershed Coordinator

Vacant, Watershed Technician

### 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 intrinsically about sustaining land, family, and community." - Hal Hamilton

We're on the Web! Don't forget to check us out for current news! [www.shermancountyswcd.com](http://www.shermancountyswcd.com)

We're also on Facebook @ Sherman County SWCD

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