

Volume 20, Issue 1

January 2019



SHERMAN COUNTY SWCD & WATERSHED COUNCIL

# The Rolling Thunder

## Soil & Water Conservation District

### Upcoming Meetings

The next District meetings will be January 14th at 8:30 am in the SWCD Office and February 11th in the OSU Extension conference room.

### SAVE THE DATE

The SWCD and Watershed Council Annual Meeting will be March 10th, location TBD. Social hour starts at 5:30 pm and dinner at 6:00 pm. This is a celebration of the conservation work we have all been doing in the past year! Cost is \$20 with dinner included. RSVP to the SWCD at 541-565-3216 ext 109.

### Tree & Shrub Sale

Pre-order deadline for the annual tree & shrub sale is **March 16th!** Pick up will be March 24-27 at the Sherman SWCD office. An order form is included in the newsletter and available at the office and on our website (shermancountyswcd.com). Order fruit trees ASAP as quantities are limited. Call the office at 541-565-3216 for more information.

*The sale is through pre-order only. We are not buying extra trees for the pick up dates.*



## Sherman County Area Watershed Council

### Upcoming Meetings

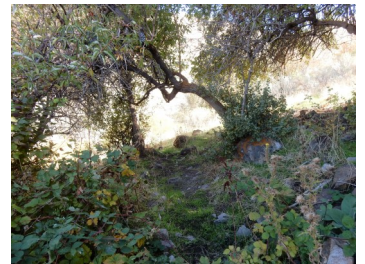
The next Small Grant Team meeting is January 14th at 9 am in the Sherman SWCD Office. The next Watershed Council meeting is March 10th at 8 am in the Sherman SWCD Office.

### Small Grant Funding

We have Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Small Grant funds available! The cost share is 75% for projects up to \$10,000 and 50% for projects \$10,001-\$15,000. Projects must be completed in two years. Examples of eligible projects include:



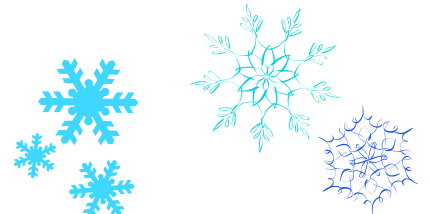
- Spring development
- Range/pasture seeding
  - Cross fence
- Terrace and WASCB construction and repair
- Integrated pest management
- Riparian planting
- In-stream restoration
- Wildlife guzzlers



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You can't get too much winter in the winter- Robert Frost



# Natural Resource Conservation Service

## Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Grant Opportunities

Farmers and ranchers interested in financial and technical assistance for conservation measures on their working lands should think about applying for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding for Federal fiscal year 2020. No application deadline has been set yet, but we expect it to be in early Spring.



Apply for EQIP

One funding pool is for landowners within the Pine Hollow/Jackknife Watersheds. This includes property in Sherman and Wasco Counties. The primary practices to be cost shared will be juniper removal, livestock water developments, cross fence, range seeding, and prescribed grazing.

The second funding pool includes all expiring CRP acres within Sherman and Wasco Counties. The primary focus of this project will be to make vegetative and infrastructure improvements on recently expired CRP acres to maintain perennial grass stands and facilitate livestock grazing. The primary practices to be cost shared will be livestock water developments, fence, fuel/fire breaks, prescribed grazing, herbaceous weed control, and range planting.

Applications that address local conservation priorities are evaluated and ranked for funding. The number of applications funded will be based on ranking and available 2018 Farm Bill funding.

Interested parties should contact DelRae Ferguson or Emily Huth at the Moro USDA-NRCS service center located at 302 Scott St. to apply or call 541-565-3551 extension 102 (DelRae) or extension 108 (Emily).

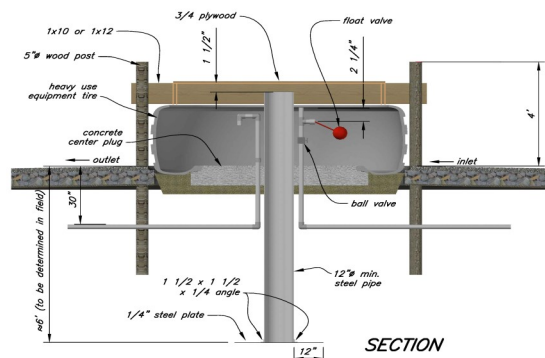
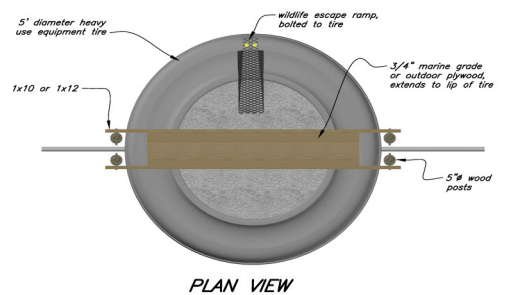
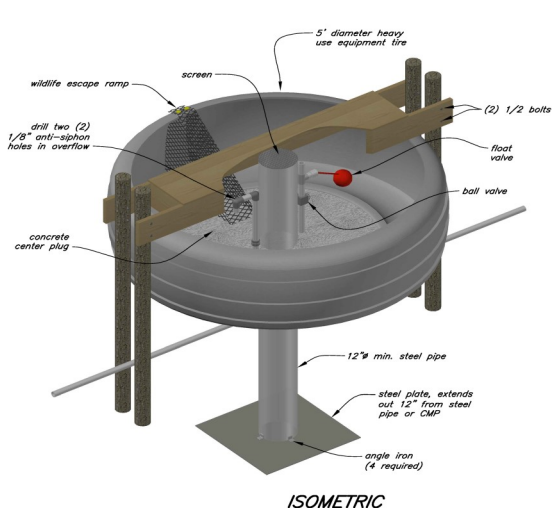
## Local Work Group Meeting February 11th

The Local Work Group will be February 11th at 11 am in the OSU Extension conference room. Lunch will be provided after the meeting. The Local Work Group provides input to the NRCS on local natural resource priorities and on the use of Farm Bill programs, such as EQIP, to address those priorities. NRCS will also be soliciting input from attendees on current and future conservation issues within Sherman County.

## Ice Free Troughs

Use the heat from the ground to keep your troughs ice free in the winter. The ice free trough design is a tire tank with a 24 in diameter pipe installed into the trough. The pipe is installed at least 10 feet below ground, well below the frost line. You can add an insulated lid to the trough with a small door to open a small part of the trough at one time. Below is the standard NRCS design. Troughs should have an 8 ft radius of hard packed area around them to have enough space for cows to get water without injury to themselves or causing soil erosion.

An example can be found here: <https://www.farmprogress.com/energy/step-step-guide-geothermal-installation>



### THERMAL EXCHANGER NOTES:

1. Minimum pipe size is 12" diameter.
2. Weld 1/4" thick steel plate on bottom that extends a minimum of 1' from pipe wall. The weld must be water tight. Install 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" x 1/4" angle welding straps from the pipe to the base plate to ensure proper attachment is maintained.
3. All trough piping shall be galvanized steel pipe.
4. 6" concrete center plug must be constructed on a firm, well compacted foundation.

# Farm Service Agency



## Farm Service Agency Important Reminders:

DEADLINES QUICKLY APPROACHING!!!! Sherman County FSA wants producers to be aware of the following important deadlines and reminders! **Please call ahead and make an appointment as we will be busy in the upcoming months. We want to be able to serve you best, so call ahead. 541-565-3551 ext 2**

- **CRP (Conservation Reserve Program):** General sign up has begun and runs through **February 28, 2020**. Please call for an appointment.
- **ELAP/LIP Losses:** livestock and/or feed losses must be reported within 30 days of event.
- **ARCPLC:** Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program sign up for 2019 runs through **March 15, 2020**. 2020 Sign up must be completed by **June 30th**.
- **WHIP+:** Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program + began in Sherman County on September 11th. No deadline has been announced.

**HOLIDAYS:** Please note that the **USDA Service Center will be closed on the following days: Monday January 20 (Martin Luther King Jr Day) and Monday February 17 (President's Day)**

## FSA Program Producer meetings

Sherman County Farm Service Agency will be partnering with Sherman County SWCD and NRCS to host two producer informational meetings. We will discuss how the General CRP sign up will be conducted, the different options that you may have, land and producer eligibility and a vast array of Conservation Reserve Program topics. NRCS will also be talking about the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and FSA will discuss Agricultural Risk Program and Price Loss Coverage Program sign up and election processes. **Please RSVP at the FSA office if you plan to attend one or both meetings by calling us at 541-565-3551 ext 2.** The meetings are tentatively scheduled as follows, but are subject to change if weather or other circumstances require:  
**Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at the Sherman County School Cafeteria – 6pm light dinner/appetizers, meeting 6:30pm**  
**Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at the Sherman County Fairgrounds Pavilion – 10am meeting, doughnuts & coffee provided**

## FSA Asks Producers to Report Weather Events that Could Cause Harm or Death to Livestock

Sherman County FSA asks that Producers call and report any adverse weather events (unusual cold, blowing, heavy snow, etc). We understand that parts of the county may get some unusual weather while others do not. Unfortunately we do not have a great way to track all of this. If Producers will report when temperatures, high winds, blowing snow are occurring, we can document the days, times, etc and better serve our livestock producers in the event of a disaster.

# Conservation Science

## WE'VE LOST ONE IN FOUR BIRDS SINCE 1970

In less than a single lifetime, North America has lost more than one in four of its birds, according to a report in the world's leading scientific journal.

Published in *Science* by researchers at seven institutions, the findings show that 2.9 billion breeding adult birds have been lost since 1970, including birds in every ecosystem.

The losses include iconic songsters such as Eastern and Western Meadowlarks (down by 139 million) and favorite birds at feeders, such as Dark-eyed Juncos (down by 168 million) and sweet-singing White-throated Sparrows (down by 93 million).

The disappearance of even common species indicates a general shift in our ecosystems' ability to support basic birdlife, the scientists conclude.

Steps you can take to help birds include putting up screens and stickers on windows to stop birds from hitting them; plant native plants in your yard; reduce chemical use in your yard; and drink bird friendly coffee.

Source: [3billionbirds.org](http://3billionbirds.org)



# Moro Weather

## Air Temperature

### October

This was the coldest October on record. The highest temperature was 65 °F on the 7th. The average high temperature was 55.0°F. This is 7.1°F degrees below normal. The lowest temperature was 11°F on the 30th. The average low temperature was 32.9°F. This is 4.0°F below normal.

### November

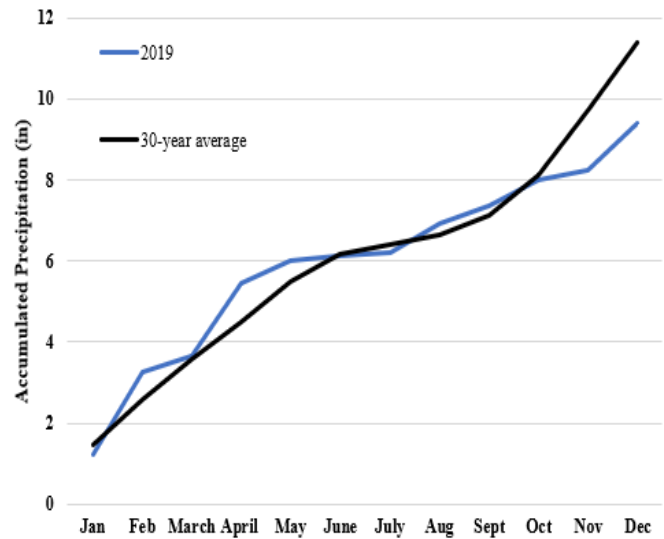
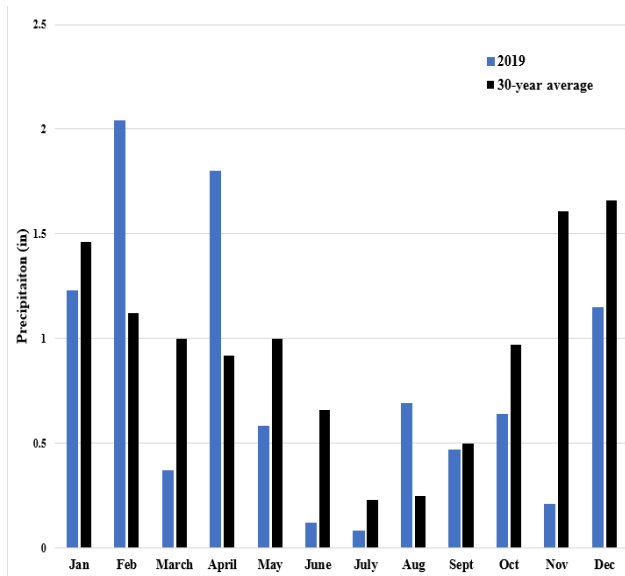
The highest temperature was 65°F on the 5th. The average high temperature was 50.5°F. This is 3.0°F above normal. The lowest temperature was 4°F on the 29th. The average low temperature was 25.9°F. This is 4.5°F below normal.

### December

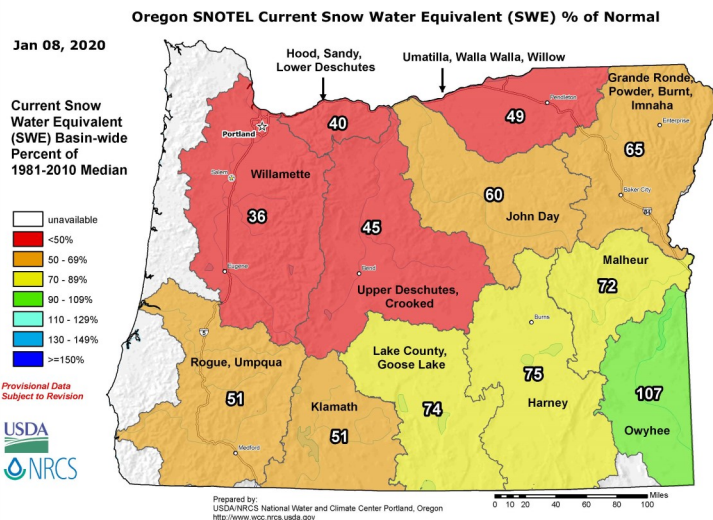
The highest temperature was 59°F on the 21st. The average high was 40.5°F . This is 2.8°F above normal. The lowest temperature was 5°F on the 1st. The average low temperature was 27.2°F . This is 2.9°F above normal.

January is predicted to have below normal temperatures and nearly normal precipitation.

## Precipitation



## Snow Pack



## Soil Temperature

Month	4" max	4" min	12"
October	62°F	40°F	51°F
November	54°F	37°F	42°F
December	41°F	28°F	36°F



# Free Park Days

Planning your 2020 trips and don't want to pay entrance fees on public land? The National Park Service, Oregon State Parks, and Washington State Parks have several free days! Some free days even include free crabbing and fishing.

## Washington State Parks

- Jan. 1: First Day Hikes; New Year's Day
- Jan. 20: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- March 19: State Park's 107th birthday
- April 11: Spring day
- April 22: Earth Day
- June 6: National Trails Day (Parks and Fish & Wildlife)
- June 7: Fishing Day (Parks and Fish & Wildlife)
- June 13: National Get Outdoors Day
- Aug. 25: National Park Service 104th Birthday
- Sept. 26: National Public Lands Day
- Nov. 11: Veterans Day
- Nov. 27: Autumn day

## Oregon State Parks

- Jan. 1: First Day, free day use if attending the ranger hike
  - June 4th: State Parks Day (Free day use and camping)
  - Nov. 27: Green Day
  - **ODFW Free Fishing**— no license or tag needed. Area closures, bag limits, and other regulations still apply
  - Feb. 15-16: President's Day Weekend
  - June 6-7: Fishing Day
  - Aug. 15-16: Summer Fishing
  - Nov. 27-28: Thanksgiving Weekend
- ## National Park Service
- January 20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
  - April 18: National Park Week
  - August 25: National Park Service Birthday
  - September 26: National Public Lands Day
  - November 11: Veterans Day

# Local Advertisements



**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)

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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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Commercial Loan Officer

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Fax (541) 565-3470 Moro, OR 97039  
[amcnamee@beobank.com](mailto:amcnamee@beobank.com) [www.beobank.com](http://www.beobank.com)

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**Ron Mobley, owner**

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Kent, OR 97033 [rmobley@gorge.net](mailto:rmobley@gorge.net) Cell 541.980.2716

**DEGRANGE Construction, LLC.**

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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 • [ddl@saw.net](mailto:ddl@saw.net)



**Mid Columbia Producers, Inc.**

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[contactmcp@mcpcorp.com](mailto:contactmcp@mcpcorp.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  
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## ~ CONSERVATION CALENDAR ~

**January 15: CRP and Farm Bill Producer Meeting, Sherman County School Cafeteria, 6 pm**  
**January 20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Service Center Closed**  
**January 28: CRP and Farm Bill Producer Meeting, Sherman County Fair Grounds Pavilion, 10 am**  
January 29: Lower John Day Place Based Planning Meeting, Condon, 10 am– 2 pm  
February 1: NCLA Annual Meeting, The Riverside, Maupin, 6 pm  
**February 11: SWCD Board Meeting, OSU Extension Conference Room, 8:30 a.m.**  
**February 11: NRCS Local Work Group Meeting, OSU Extension Conference Room, 11 am, lunch provided**  
**February 17: Presidents Day - Service Center Closed**  
February 22: OSU Oregon Small Farms Conference, Corvallis  
February 25: John Day Basin Partnership Meeting, Condon, 10 am– 2 pm  
**March 10: Watershed Council Board Meeting, 8 am, SWCD Office**  
**March 10: SWCD Board Meeting, 8:30 am, SWCD Office**  
**March 10: SWCD Annual Meeting, 5:30 pm, Location TBD**  
March 16: Pre-order deadline for Sherman County SWCD tree sale  
**March 24-27: Sherman County SWCD Tree Sale, Sherman SWCD Office, 8 am -4:30 pm**

## ~ BOARD & STAFF ~

### SWCD Staff

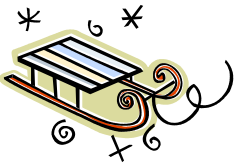
Amanda Whitman, District Manager  
Emily Freilich, Watershed Coordinator

### NRCS Staff

DelRae Ferguson, District Conservationist  
Emily Huth, Soil Conservationist

### Sherman County SWCD Board of Directors

Jesse Stutzman, Chair  
Josh Hilderbrand, Vice Chair  
Clint Moore, Treasurer  
Thad Eakin, Secretary  
Trevor Fields, Member



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

We're also on Facebook!



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