

# Rolling Thunder Review

## BILL TODD

### Memorial Nursery



**B**ill Todd's legacy as past SWCD Director and Outstanding Conservation Farmer of Sherman County is honored by the focus of this quarter's *Conservation From the Road*. Just south of the Sherman County High School baseball field is the location of the **Bill Todd**

#### Memorial Nursery.

Remembered as one of the true conservation innovators and advocates, Bill was raised in Sherman County and farmed just outside of Grass Valley. Bill, who passed away in 1997 at the age of 75, is survived by his wife, Vivian, and their children.

In 1999, the Sherman County Athletic Foundation allowed the SWCD to develop the area for the nursery to honor Bill's work for the SWCD and his leadership in the farming community. Contributions from Columbia River Bank, MCP, Raleigh Curtis, and Wheatacres Irrigation made it possible to build a fence, and set up an irrigation system.

Today the nursery is maintained by the Sherman SWCD and is used for tree and shrub propagation for use in watershed projects. Cuttings from the trees and shrubs, which include Poplar, Ash, Willow, Spruce, Cottonwood, and Wood Rose, are available to all citizens of

Sherman County. Many trees from the nursery have already found homes close by. Poplars from the nursery now line the portion of Barnum Creek that



*This conservation nursery was developed to honor the memory of past SWCD Director and Outstanding Conservation Farmer Bill Todd.*

runs by the baseball field just south of the High School.

If you are interested in getting clippings or trees from the nursery, contact the SWCD office at 565-3551.

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## Sherman SWCD Board Highlights June 12, 2007

### WATERSHED UPDATES

Education Projects - The District is assisting with a "Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program". Projects will be set up in North and South Sherman Elementary schools and the Junior/Senior High School. Fish will be released into ponds so that they do not enter the river system.

Pine Hollow/Jackknife – Brian met with Wasco County SWCD, ODFW and USDA Wildlife Services to discuss the feral pig problems in southern Sherman and Wasco Counties. Traps and cameras will be set up in several locations. Captured pigs are checked for diseases. Pictures will be available and some information will be aired on the Oregon Public Broadcasting channel.

Grass Valley Canyon – OWEB grant 205-057 has used \$30,959 and has a completion deadline of June 30, 2007. One landowner has requested an extension. Joli will request an extension. The board discussed encouraging landowners to complete projects within the time frame of the grant and asked Joli to put an article reminding them of this in the next newsletter.

North Sherman County – OWEB grant 205-056 is complete. Final report and fund requests will be sent as soon as all bills are received.

Grant Updates – The Council Support grant funding was increased to \$63,000 for two years. This should be the amount on the grant agreement which will be coming by the end of June. Joli showed the board the new tracking system for grants and projects that she developed. It includes a map and legend showing funding sources and project locations.

Fencing Costs – Brian recommended the following prices to the board for our project cost list: Easy—\$1.25/foot, Medium—\$1.50/foot, Difficult & Riparian—\$2.00/foot. The board concurred with these changes on the cost list.

2008 Annual Work Plan & Workload Analysis – A motion was made by Gary and seconded by Brad to approve the 2008 Annual Work Plan, Workload Analysis, and ODA Statement of work and budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Wy'east RC&D Update—Gary and Jessa both attended the last meeting. They expressed their concerns to the council about the emphasis being put on conflict resolution type

projects and also about the discussion of real estate investments. The lack of action on the project requests from the Sherman County SWCD were also discussed but not action will happen unless project requests are submitted on the form they provided in January. Gary will plan to attend at least one more meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS

Display Booth for County Fair – The board asked the employees to develop ideas for a display booth at the fair.

Job Descriptions—This discussion was tabled until the September meeting.

### NRCS REPORT

Earth Team volunteer hours were reported and Kristie handed out hats to the board to thank them for their participation.

### AGENCY REPORTS

None present.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Volunteer Resolution for worker's comp—A motion was made by Gary and seconded by Brad to sign Resolution 6-07-1 stating that the District chooses to extend worker's compensation coverage to board members. Motion carried unanimously.

Oyster Feed—The annual oyster and steak feed for employees, board and guests will be held on Friday, June 15th at the Fairgrounds.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on September 11, 2007. The time will be determined later.

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.



### It's A Girl!

Congratulations to Kristie and Bryce Coelsch who recently added a new face to their growing family. Bailey Michelle Coelsch was born on July 11th and joins her older sister Courtney at the Coelsch house in Moro.

While Kristie is on maternity leave Mary Beth Smith will be the acting District Conservationist.

## EQIP Sign-Up

The Environment Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) sign-up deadline for fiscal year 2008 is November 30, 2007.

Practices eligible for funding include (but are not limited to):

- Livestock Watering
- Management Practices (residue management, pest management, nutrient management, etc.)
- Structures (sediment basins and terraces)
- Irrigation Improvements

If you have any resource concerns that need attention, please come in or call the Moro Field Office at 565-3551.



## A LOOK BACK

With wheat prices above \$6/bu, local growers keep track to see if history will repeat itself.

Dick Stradley, a Grass Valley farmer, has kept a running record of wheat prices since the early 1950's. Below is an excerpt of his records from 1980 to the present. Thank you, Dick, for sharing your information with us!

Crop Year	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	Average
1980-81	4.15	4.06	4.22	4.47	4.68	4.40	4.52	4.52	4.41	4.51	4.41	4.26	\$4.38
1981-82	4.27	4.24	4.21	4.38	4.42	4.00	4.12	4.08	4.02	4.14	4.24	4.18	\$4.19
1982-83	4.13	4.16	4.29	4.29	4.44	4.45	4.52	4.59	4.68	4.62	4.35	4.15	\$4.39
1983-84	4.08	4.06	4.12	4.03	3.90	3.81	3.79	3.69	3.73	4.03	4.05	4.03	\$3.94
1984-85	3.73	3.74	3.70	3.73	3.78	3.76	3.77	3.83	3.93	3.94	3.91	3.73	\$3.80
1985-86	3.57	3.45	3.57	3.75	3.77	3.80	3.75	3.74	3.84	3.88	3.78	3.03	\$3.66
1986-87	2.75	2.68	2.70	2.78	2.84	2.92	2.93	3.07	3.07	2.99	3.09	2.87	\$2.89
1987-88	2.79	2.73	2.94	3.08	2.97	3.08	3.28	3.22	3.12	3.33	3.37	3.79	\$3.14
1988-89	4.05	4.14	4.38	4.45	4.65	4.78	4.98	4.98	4.83	4.63	4.66	4.47	\$4.58
1989-90	4.47	4.50	4.56	4.55	4.56	4.63	4.44	4.11	3.76	3.68	3.61	3.59	\$4.21
<b>Average</b>	<b>3.80</b>	<b>3.78</b>	<b>3.87</b>	<b>3.95</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>3.96</b>	<b>4.01</b>	<b>3.98</b>	<b>3.94</b>	<b>3.98</b>	<b>3.95</b>	<b>3.81</b>	<b>\$3.92</b>
1990-91	3.44	3.21	3.10	2.87	2.86	2.89	2.92	3.03	3.20	3.35	3.43	3.45	\$3.15
1991-92	3.37	3.48	3.67	3.91	4.28	4.55	4.57	4.76	4.52	4.39	4.37	4.46	\$4.19
1992-93	4.19	3.99	4.33	4.34	4.21	4.20	4.34	4.05	3.85	3.77	3.53	3.46	\$4.02
1993-94	3.53	3.44	3.42	3.42	3.47	3.61	3.64	3.52	3.46	3.58	3.74	3.64	\$3.54
1994-95	3.52	3.71	4.32	4.61	4.54	4.49	4.33	4.23	3.98	4.08	4.45	4.65	\$4.24
1995-96	4.94	4.65	4.96	<b>5.17</b>	<b>5.35</b>	<b>5.50</b>	<b>5.44</b>	<b>5.59</b>	<b>5.38</b>	<b>5.69</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>5.55</b>	\$5.35
1996-97	4.96	<b>5.02</b>	4.79	4.28	4.10	4.06	<b>5.44</b>	4.13	4.25	4.54	4.70	4.20	\$4.54
1997-98	3.85	4.10	4.12	3.98	3.88	3.79	3.67	3.58	3.56	3.34	3.28	2.93	\$3.67
1998-99	2.72	2.66	2.69	3.15	3.15	3.12	3.15	3.10	3.22	3.23	3.17	3.17	\$3.04
1999-00	3.06	3.14	3.25	3.24	3.09	2.83	2.91	2.88	2.84	2.89	2.97	2.92	\$3.00
<b>Average</b>	<b>3.76</b>	<b>3.74</b>	<b>3.87</b>	<b>3.90</b>	<b>3.89</b>	<b>3.90</b>	<b>4.04</b>	<b>3.89</b>	<b>3.83</b>	<b>3.89</b>	<b>3.96</b>	<b>3.84</b>	<b>\$3.88</b>
2000-01	2.78	2.65	2.78	2.86	2.94	2.98	3.01	3.15	3.26	3.20	3.37	3.37	\$3.03
2001-02	3.45	3.52	3.65	3.73	3.75	3.71	3.68	3.64	3.51	3.32	3.43	3.60	\$3.58
2002-03	3.75	4.07	4.51	4.57	4.48	4.15	3.86	3.87	3.48	3.41	3.44	3.47	\$3.92
2003-04	3.56	3.90	3.85	3.70	3.87	3.96	4.09	4.11	4.20	4.36	4.25	4.17	\$4.00
2004-05	4.02	3.90	3.94	3.94	3.92	3.94	3.87	3.92	3.95	3.92	3.91	3.86	\$3.92
2005-06	3.69	3.54	3.46	3.61	3.46	3.46	3.54	3.54	3.59	3.62	3.79	3.80	\$3.59
2006-07	3.86	3.86		4.97		4.94	4.96	5.29	5.67	5.97	5.95	6.06	
<b>Average</b>	<b>3.59</b>	<b>3.63</b>	<b>3.70</b>	<b>3.91</b>	<b>3.74</b>	<b>3.88</b>	<b>3.86</b>	<b>3.93</b>	<b>3.95</b>	<b>3.97</b>	<b>4.02</b>	<b>4.05</b>	<b>\$3.85</b>
	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	

## *Watershed Restoration Work Stronger Than Ever*

*Over \$1.5 Million used for Watershed and CREP Projects this Fiscal Year*

Landowners along with District and NRCS staff have been hard at work securing funds for watershed restoration work totaling over \$1.5 million this past fiscal year (July 1, 2006—June 30, 2007).

With over 40 active grants and countless EQIP contracts, the staff and landowners have implemented:

- 13 rangeland water and sediment control basins
- 117 cropland water and sediment control basins
- 372,950 feet (over 70 miles) of terrace
- 6 spring developments
- 6 watering facilities
- 20 acres of brush control and re-seeding
- 6,250 feet of riparian or pasture cross fencing
- 18 acres of grassed waterway
- 4,960 acres of direct seed trials,
- Over 300 acres of CREP protecting approximately 12 miles of riparian and intermittent stream channel habitat.

With more grant application deadlines fast approaching, the District hopes to secure even more funds for watershed restoration projects. If you are interested in applying for cost share assistance, contact the Moro Field Office prior to **August 30<sup>th</sup>**!

## *Biological Control Insects Put to Work in Sherman County*

*Providing Beneficial Biological Control of Weeds*

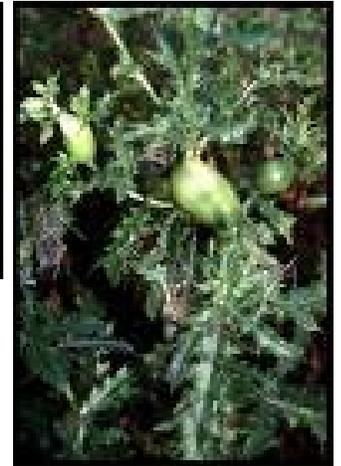
Thanks to a grant provided by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's Small Grant Program, landowners were able to participate in the distribution of biological control insects throughout Sherman County. Four different species of insects were selected to control Canadian Thistle, Knapweed, and Yellow Starthistle, three invasive weeds that are a high priority concern in the county.

Considered by many to be the most cost-effective weed management method available, bio-control is an environmentally friendly way to treat areas near streams and other waterways. Once established, the insects will continue to attack the weeds year after year providing long lasting control. Landowners can continue to use herbicides as long as they limit chemical treatments around the insect release sites during the first few years.

The deep canyons native to Sherman County lend themselves to noxious weed infestations. Inaccessible



*The Canadian Thistle Gall Fly (above) will lay their eggs on the thistle plant in the early summer when plants are bolting. The developing larvae stimulate the plant to form a hard, woody, stem gall (left).*



to most motorized vehicles, the proposed sites were difficult to treat with routine weed management methods. The noxious weeds in these areas have caused direct exclusion and competition with native plants, affecting wildlife habitat and overall watershed health.

The District plans to submit a grant through the Oregon State Weed Board this December to address future management plans for noxious weeds in Sherman County. For more information on this grant or the biological control insects contact Joli at 565-3216, ext. 109.

*Sherman County Experiment**Station Weather Statistics***MAY WEATHER STATS**

- Total precipitation for May was .34" which is .45" below normal.
- The precipitation for the crop year is 10.02" which is .01" above normal.
- The highest air temperatures was 84° on the 9<sup>th</sup>.
- The lowest air temperature was 30° on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Long time air temperature averages indicate we can expect 87° and 30°.
- The average air temperature for the month was 55.3°.
- 4" soil temperature ranged from 82° to 46°.
- The average windspeed of 4.8 MPH is .3 below normal.

**JUNE WEATHER STATS**

- Precipitation for June was .55".
- Total precipitation for the crop year is 10.57".
- The highest air temperature was 95° on the 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The lowest air temperature was 35° on the 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Long time air temperature averages indicate we could expect 92° and 37°.
- The average air temperature for the month was 61.6°.
- 4" soil temperature ranged from 92° to 60°.
- The average windspeed of 5.7 mph.
- June pan evaporation was 11.28" which is 1.35" above normal.

**This Article Will Save You Money**

Wading through the various grant funds can be confusing and if you ask a producer what program is funding what project, the usual response (usually accompanied with a chuckle) is "I thought that is what they paid you for!" Never a truer statement has been said, but even so, there are a few things that you should know about conservation economics that can save you money in the long run.

Many times, by the time a grant is approved by a funding agency, it has been 6 months to a year since the first estimate was made. In addition, most grants are on a two year cycle. This means that if you do your project at the grant deadline, three years will have passed between the time the project was estimated and the time it was installed. When was the last time you went to an equipment dealer and got an estimate that was good for three years? The same thing holds true for conservation practices.

We try very hard to make estimates that will pass the test of time, but it is difficult to find the middle ground between paying too much for a project and making sure the project doesn't run short of money. When unforeseen costs hap-

pen (i.e. \$3.00 diesel) there's not much anybody can do. We don't like to see a 75% cost share turn into a 65% cost share because materials and services have increased higher than the original estimate, so here is a short list of things that will help us help you get the highest return on your project:

1. When applying for projects, ask about the cost per unit, and the expected time frame
2. Try to time your projects so that you can complete them within the first year of the grant
3. Let us know at least a month in advance before you start so that we can get all of the paperwork in order to keep your project from being delayed
4. Double-check the cost share and available dollars before you start your project to ensure that you can still get the project on the ground without exceeding the hold down rate
5. Don't apply for more projects than you can finish within the time given. Giving back money looks bad to funding sources, and reduces future likelihood of funding.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### *August*

25 Wasco Salmon & Steelhead Tournament

27– Sept. 1 Sherman County Fair

### *September*

3 Labor Day, Office Closed

11 SWCD Board Meeting, Time TBA

### 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  
Joli Munkers, Watershed Coordinator  
Brian Stradley, District Technician  
Jason Faucera, District Technician  
Jessa Irzyk, CRP Technician

#### NRCS Staff

Krisitie Coelsch, District Conservationist  
Mary Beth Smith, Basin Resource  
Conservationist

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### *Rolling Thunder Review*

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