



# Rolling Thunder Review

## Global Warming . . . Just a Bunch of Hot Air?



*George Taylor, Oregon State University's Climatologist, to Speak at Sherman County's SWCD Annual Meeting*

How much impact do humans have on global warming? If you've watched Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* you assume that the end is just around the corner, but George Taylor, Oregon State University's Climatologist, does not believe human activities are the main cause of global climate change.

Taken as fact by many, the theory that man is either causing or accelerating the rate of climate change, is a theory that Taylor does not deny but believes is one of the big unanswered questions in science today.

As past president of the American Association of State Climatologist, a member of the American Meteorological Society, and a Certified Consulting Meteorologist, Taylor does believe there is a human influence on climate change, but in his opinion, natural variations dominate the climate system, and will continue to do so.

Criticized by many, Taylor's views don't fit into the state's world view of climate change. These views have made him a popular man on the speaker cir-

cuit, discussing seasonal forecasts and his take on long-term climate trends in Oregon and elsewhere.

Taylor has published over 200 reports, symposium articles, and journal articles related to the topic of climate and climate change. His extensive background and enthusiasm for the subject should make for a very interesting and lively dinner conversation. To hear Taylor's presentation, please join us for dinner on Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at the Sherman County Senior and Community Center in Moro.

Social hour will start at 5:00 pm with a no-host wine and beer bar. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm. Rod McGuire's Paradise Rose Chuck Wagon will be catering your choice of tri-tip beef or chicken, cheesy potatoes, beans, salad, bread, and punch with a berry cobbler dessert! Dinner will be \$7.00 per person. RSVP by February 4<sup>th</sup> to reserve your spot.

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**Delicious Tri Tip Dinner**  
Catered by  
**Rod McGuire's**  
**Paradise Rose Chuck Wagon**  
**\$7.00 per person**

**Please RSVP by February 4th to:**  
**Krista Coelsch, 541-565-3551, ext. 3**

## Sherman SWCD Board Highlights December 11, 2007

### WATERSHED UPDATES

South Sherman - There have been district hours spent doing EQIP and CREP projects in the watershed.

Pine Hollow/Jackknife - The BPA contracting dates have necessitated a funding adjustment. They will only allow us two years to complete the contract which means that there is \$42,000 available for projects in the next fiscal year. BPA will allow up to 85% cost share. Joli will be letting operators in the watershed area know about the funding availability. The Watershed Assessment is progressing. Landowner Inventory Maps will be sent out next week. There are some EQIP projects being completed in the watershed.

Grass Valley Canyon - There are some EQIP projects being completed in the watershed.

North Sherman County - There are some EQIP projects being completed in the watershed.

Grant Updates - The Yield Monitor/Variable Rate Fertilizer Grant application is due to DEQ by December 17<sup>th</sup>. Joli asked the board to review the letter she had sent out on Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>. They asked her to double check that the unit cost for a yield monitor was still correct. They discussed the rental rate for the variable rate applicator and asked Joli to use \$2 per acre as the unit cost. They agreed that a one time payment on 400 acres was acceptable. It was agreed that soil testing is expensive and that if we are asking for them for 3 years we should request additional funds to help with the costs. Joli will work up the costs and send the application to DEQ requesting 30% of the cost for the total project. If the grant is approved we will seek additional funding from OWEB. A Weed Control Grant was sent off to ODA. There are 6 producers signed up asking to treat 275 acres of Yellow Starthistle, 70 acres of Spotted Knapweed and 20 acres of Diffuse Knapweed. The total project cost will be \$15,954. Oregon State Weed Board is being asked to fund \$9,812. Producers will receive a 75% cost share if funded.

Small Grants - There is currently \$6,029.75 available for projects in the Lower Deschutes. There is no funding available in the Lower John Day.

John Day River and Deschutes River Update - A date has not been set for the Lower John Day and Lower Deschutes joint LAC meeting. It is planned for early January. The board stressed that they would like to be sure that Tom McCoy and Ken Bailey are both able to attend. Jason has been communicating with the writers of the Middle Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan. The wording about uplands on the John Day River portion was much more acceptable to the board than the way the Deschutes River upland issues were addressed. Jason will communicate these concerns to the contact person.

### NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers - Brad nominated the following slate of officers: Chair—Tracy Fields; Vice Chair—Kyle Blagg; Secretary—Brad Eakin; Treasurer—Bill Martin. A motion was made by Kyle and seconded by Bill to accept these nominations for 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

Annual Meeting - An evening meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup> was chosen for the Annual Meeting. Krista will reserve the Senior Center in Moro and check to see if Paradise Rose Chuck Wagon (Rod McGuire) can cater. Jason will check to see if the speaker who talked about Global warming at Gilliam and Wheeler County annual meetings is available to speak at ours.

### NRCS REPORT

Deadline for EQIP obligations was December 7, 2007. 8 contracts were obligated so far, but more money is possibly coming from other offices. Kristie will give an updated dollars spent in Sherman County at the next meeting.

Jessa handed out her CREP progress report. She had completed 5 cultural site visits with NRCS. All of the sites were approved to proceed. She did site visits and surveys at two guzzler sites. She designed and laid out planting plans for 142.2 acres of riparian forested buffer; 257.5 acres of riparian herbaceous buffer, approximately 33,930 feet of riparian fence, and a brush management and range seeding project. She assisted Gilliam County with a CREP plan folder for approval from the Sherman County FSA. She performed 1 status review and 10 on-site visits. Jessa gave an update about CREP to the FSA county committee. She is finishing her RMS plan that is to be submitted to the NRCS state office by the end of December.

### AGENCY REPORTS

FSA - Sheri reported that she has been appointed Acting CED for the Sherman County FSA and will serve until a CED is hired. Work had been received from the FSA state office saying that all work on CREP had to be stopped until further notice but Sheri had called for clarification. No new sign ups can be taken but work on all current applications can be done so that contracts can be completed once funding is authorized.

### AGENCY REPORTS

Wy'east RC&D - Krista and Jessa reported that no response to the Sherman County SWCD withdrawal from membership had been received.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on January 8, 2008 at 8:30 AM.

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.



## **PRIORITY GOALS**

### **Soil and Water Conservation**

**Objective** – The District will continue to establish and encourage projects that will reduce soil erosion and improve water quality.

**Programs** – Resource Management System planning, Food Security Act, Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Continuous CRP (CCRP), Environmental Quality Incentive Program, Noxious weed control, Confined Animal Feeding Operations & Animal feeding operations, Coordinated Resource Management planning, Wildlife damage control, Direct seed/No-till incentives.

### **Watershed Enhancement & Restoration**

**Objective** – Enhancement and restoration of our watersheds in conjunction with Senate Bill 1010 and the Oregon Plan including up to date assessments.

#### **Programs** –

South Sherman County Watersheds  
Pine Hollow/Jackknife Watershed  
Grass Valley Canyon Watershed  
North Sherman County Watershed

### **Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Implementation**

**Objective** – District will work in partnership with all interested persons on the review and implantation of the Ag. Water Quality Management Area Plan in the Lower Deschutes and Lower John Day River areas.

### **Securing Funds**

**Objective** – Funds for on-the-ground projects and district staff will be applied for. Seek additional funding sources. Promote tree and shrub sale.

**Programs** – ODA administrative funds, Watershed Project funds (OWEB, DEQ, BPA, USFW, Wy'east RC&D), Tree and shrub sale, Funding to support watershed coordinator and 3 technicians.

### **Education**

**Objective** – District will involve all schools in our District in soil and water conservation activities. Educational field trips will be encouraged. Tours will be planned. Newsletter published, and web site kept up to date.

**Programs** – Poster contest, Monitoring projects, Outdoor School assistance, and Stewardship week information distributed.

### **District Operations**

**Objective** – Continue to efficiently and effectively provide soil and water conservation services.

## **DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **Poster Contest**

This years Poster Contest theme was “*Conservation Power*”. Students from South Sherman Elementary submitted some very nice posters. The first place winner was Victoria Anderson. Second place winner was Elizabeth Kieling.

Congratulations to these two outstanding young artists!

## **Watershed Project Updates**

The Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) work together to support and promote conservation practices in our area. The Directors of the SWCD each takes responsibility for goals and projects that are included in the Annual Work Plan. The formation of Watershed Councils in several of our watersheds has improved the SWCD’s ability to obtain funding for cost shared projects. The following projects are now being managed by the SWCD.

**South Sherman County Watershed** – Sherman County SWCD met with landowners in the Buck Hollow and Macks Canyon watersheds and the decision was made to combine the two watershed areas in to one watershed council. These watersheds both drain in to the Lower Deschutes. Approximately 22 landowners and 117,285 acres are involved.

**Grass Valley Canyon Watershed** – Council members are: Martin Belshe, Brad Eakin, Marvin Thompson, Bruce Pinkerton, Pat Bird, Leo Coelsch, and Kyle Blagg. Cost share funding has been received from OWEB, Deschutes Resource Conservancy, and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation.

**Pine Hollow/Jackknife Watershed** - Council members are Ron Mobley, Jon Justesen, Shannon Hansen, Neil Hansen, Byron Carlson, and Bill Tatum. Linnea Holmes is contracted by the Conservation District to develop plans with the landowners in this watershed. Funding for this project comes from OWEB, BPA, USFW, and PG&E Northwest.

**North Sherman County Watershed** – Council members are Chris Kaseberg, Jesse Stutzman, Jim Macnab, Doug Martin, and John Hilderbrand. Funding for projects has been secured from OWEB for projects in the watershed.

**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.

**Tree and Shrub Sale** – The tree and shrub sale is held in March and April every year.

### **Contact information:**

If you have any problems or concerns about conservation issues, programs, or practices in the county, please call the district office at 565-3551, ext. 3, or come by the office that is located in the Old Moro Grade School building.

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To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

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## Sherman County Experiment

### NOVEMBER WEATHER STATS



- Precipitation for November was 1.75" which is .15" above normal.
- The precipitation for the crop year is 4.02" which is 1.01" above normal.
- The highest air temperatures was 67° on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The lowest air temperature was 18° on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Long time air temperature averages indicate we can expect 62° and 17°.
- The average air temperature for the month was 38.6°.
- 4" soil temperature ranged from 56° to 36°.

## Station Weather Statistics

### DECEMBER WEATHER STATS

- Precipitation for December was .72" which is .95" below normal.
- The precipitation for the crop year is 4.74" which is .06" above normal.
- The highest air temperature was 59° on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The lowest air temperature was 13° on the 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Long time air temperature averages indicate we could expect 56° and 15°.
- The average air temperature for the month was 34.5°.
- 4" soil temperature ranged from 48° to 35°.



### CONSERVATION AFTER HOURS SESSIONS

**What are they?** Conservation After Hours Sessions are informational sessions that are in a comfortable atmosphere for producers to get updates on all the conservation programs in their area.

**Where are they held?** Each year there will be at least one public meeting in the county so that everyone can attend. There will also be 3-5 sessions that are hosted by volunteer producers or parties interested in conservation. If you are interested in hosting one, please contact our office. Hosts invite whomever they would like.

**Who are the speakers?** Representatives from Sherman County SWCD, NRCS, FSA, and Extension Offices.

**When is the Public Session being held?** February 19, 2008 at 1:00 pm there will be a session at the Senior Center in Moro.

### Integrated Pest Management Plan Information Session

If you are interested in a Pest Management Plan or if you have a CSP contract with the enhancement for a Comprehensive Pest Management Plan, you may want to consider attending the IPM meeting following the Marketing Meeting at the Senior Center on January 25, 2008 starting at 7:00 am. Paul Jepson, the Professor and Director for Integrated Plant Protection Center at Oregon State University, will be the speaker and discuss the plan that is being developed by OSU Extension with the help of Sherman and Wasco County NRCS.



### STEP Starts in February

*Sherman County Schools will soon be Hatching Trout in their Classrooms*



This February, two hundred fertilized trout eggs will be delivered to each school within Sherman County - Mrs. Cranston's class at North Sherman Elementary, Mrs. Sharp's class at South Sherman Elementary, and Mrs. Thompson's class at the Sherman County High School. As part of an education outreach program provided by the Sherman County SWCD and local Watershed Councils and in partnership with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife the schools are participating in a popular and valuable classroom education tool known as *Fish Eggs to Fry*.

*Fish Eggs to Fry* is part of ODFW's Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) that allows students to observe the early development of a trout or salmon while learning important concepts and caring attitudes about Oregon's fish species and their habitats.

Thanks to grant money received from the ODFW's Restoration and Enhancement board, the classrooms are equipped with chillers and tanks for the incubation process. The students are responsible for monitoring water quality parameters such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH levels to ensure the fish eggs survival. After hatching, the small fish—called "alevins" - spend their first two weeks hiding in gravel. Gradually they absorb their yolk sac and become known as "fry".

The students will release the fry at a local pond in March. The classroom incubator project is not part of a fish stocking program and it is not intended to enhance existing fish population or start new ones. The objectives are to allow students to observe and participate in the development process of fish and understand fish habitat needs while fostering a sense of stewardship for their local watersheds.

### Sherman County Farm Service Agency Historical Maps Available

Interested in the history of your farm? The 1937 and 1949 aerial maps originally used by the AAA (Agricultural Adjustment Agency) and ASCS (Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service) are available for sale. These maps had been stored at the Courthouse, the Museum and now are being used as a fund raiser for the Sherman County Public/School Library building fund. Call Lowell Smith at 541-333-2297 or Sheri Carlson at the FSA Office, 541-565-3551 ext 105 for more information about the maps. If you know your township, range, and section numbers, it will be easy to find the maps, if still available. Maps will be available for viewing and sale the evening of Friday, February 1, beginning at 4:30 at the Sherman Junior Senior High School Library. A tax deductible \$25 donation to the library building fund will send you home with some very interesting history of your farm.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### JANUARY

- 19 Sherman Athletic Foundation Crab & Oyster Feed, MCGG
- 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Office Closed
- 22 Lower John Day LAC Meeting, 1:00 @ Moro Senior Center
- 23-24 Direct Seed Conference, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, WA
- 25 Integrated Pest Management Discussion, 7:00 AM following Marketing Meeting @ Moro Senior Center
- 29-31 Northwest Ag Show, Portland Expo Center

### FEBRUARY

- 5-7 Spokane Ag Expo, Spokane Convention Center
- 12 SWCD Board Meeting, 8:30 @ Moro Field Office
- 12 SWCD Annual Meeting, 5:00 @ Moro Senior Center**
- 18 President's Day, Office Closed
- 19 Conservation After Hours, 1:00 pm @ Moro Senior Center

## Sherman County SWCD Board of Directors

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

### SWCD Staff

Krista Coelsch, District Coordinator  
Joli Munkers, Watershed Council 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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