

Sherman SWCD Board Highlights

January 10, 2006

● ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A motion was made and seconded to retain the officers as they are for another year. They are as follows: Chair, Bill Martin; Vice Chair, Kyle Blagg; Secretary, Brad Eakin; Treasurer, Tracy Fields. Motion carried.

● WATERSHED PROJECT UPDATES

Practice Components and Cost List

A motion was made to keep the Practice Cost List as it is now and develop a policy to back it up. A package including Practice Cost List, design, and landowner agreement would be given to every landowner requesting cost share for a project. The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Buck Hollow

Sandy Macnab took pictures at the mouth of Buck Hollow during the recent run-off event. He said that it was running very clear when it entered the Deschutes River. Jessa reported that there will be approximately 7 miles of CREP going in to the Buck Hollow watershed. Joli will be planning a meeting of land owners in the Buck Hollow and Macks Canyon watersheds to discuss forming a Watershed Council.

Pine Hollow/Jackknife

A Council meeting will be organized in late January or early February.

Grass Valley Canyon

The draft assessment is nearly finished. It should be ready for review by the end of next week. Jeff has still only received about 50% of the maps. The board asked that the next newsletter include another request for the maps. A watershed council meeting will be held in late January or early February.

Macks Canyon

Joli will be planning a meeting for landowners in the Buck Hollow and Macks Canyon watersheds.

North Sherman

Photos of the full trash racks, installed above Rufus in Gerking Canyon, were viewed. A watershed council meeting will be set for late January or early February.

● SMALL GRANT UPDATE

The board (serving as the small grant team) reviewed an application for funding. A motion was made and seconded to approve the application. Motion carried.

● JOHN DAY RIVER UPDATE

There will be a meeting of the Lower John Day Local Advisory Committee (LAC) later this month. Krista will get information to members when the date, location and time are set.

● DESCHUTES RIVER UPDATE

Patricia Gainsforth of the Deschutes Coordinating Group will be contacted to remind her that the Sherman County SWCD wishes to receive all information available about the Deschutes Sub Basin Plan and the meetings related to it.

● ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday February 16th, 12 noon, at the Senior Center in Moro. Bob Graham, NRCS State Conservationist, has agreed to be the speaker. Other suggestions for the program were awards presentation for the poster contest and the newsletter and possibly a slide presentation of watershed project implementation.

● NEW BUSINESS

Review Audit - Copies of the Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2005 were handed out and discussed.

● NRCS REPORT

The board asked Mary Beth to update them on the status of the Lower John Day for the Conservation Security Program. At this time the Lower John Day is ineligible because the soil survey for Wheeler County has not been done. NRCS estimates at least 3 years will be needed to complete it. The Wheeler Co. Soil Survey is one of the topics that the board wants to discuss with Bob Graham after the Annual Meeting.

● AGENCY REPORTS

Extension

Sandy reported that there is a meeting scheduled for 1 o'clock, January 24th at the Senior Center in Moro to discuss enhancements that will be beneficial to those interested in the CSP program.

FSA

Kevin reported that ECP sign ups are ongoing. He had not received any information about the Livestock Assistance request. Kevin clarified that CREP buffers will not be funded around any "pond" that is supplemented by ground water.

County Court

Steve advised the board that the county road department budget has lost one third of its budget so things will be extra tight for other agencies requesting funds for the next fiscal year.



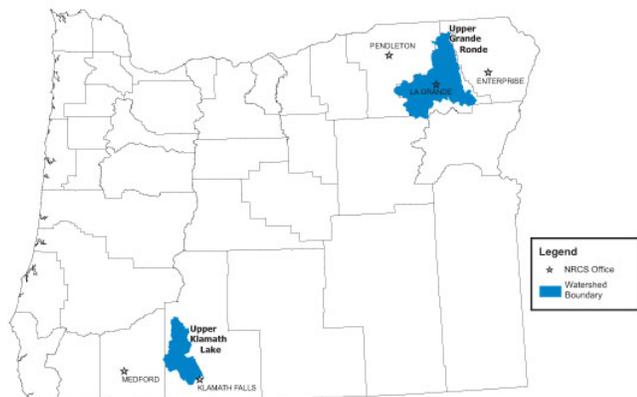
2006 Conservation Security Program Watersheds Finalized

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on Tribal and private working lands. Working lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pasture, and range land, as well as forested land that is an incidental part of an agriculture operation. The program provides equitable access to benefits to all producers, regardless of size of operation, crops produced, or geographic location.

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced the 2006 Conservation Security Program sign-up will be held Feb. 13, 2006 to March 31, 2006 in 60 watersheds nationwide.

"USDA is committed to providing a fair and equitable program that rewards our nation's leading conservationists," said Johanns. "This year, we're providing applicants the ability to sign-up prior to most planting decisions to encourage more conservation leaders." USDA announce preliminary selection of 110 watersheds for fiscal year 2006 based on the President's budget request. Based on available funding, CSP will be offered in only 60 of those watersheds across all 50 states, the Caribbean and Guam. In Oregon, the Upper Grand Ronde and Upper Klamath Lake watersheds have been selected to participate in this year's CSP.

Oregon 2006 Selected Watersheds - Conservation Security Program



2006 marks the third CSP sign-up. The privately-owned land currently enrolled in CSP covers nearly 11 million acres in the 220 eligible watersheds in all 50 states and the Caribbean area.

CSP will be available any year on a rotational basis in as many watersheds as funding allows. Additional information about CSP is available from your local USDA Service Center or at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp>.

More Local News Concerning

EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program)
and 2007 CRP Re-enrollments and Extensions

EQIP

The EQIP sign-up for 2006 contracts ended November 30th, 2005. We received 23 applications. Approximately 6 will be funded out of the Sherman County EQIP allocation of \$147,786.

For 2006, an incentive will be offered for new EQIP contracts. For those contracts where all structural practices are completed within the first year, producers will be awarded between \$300 and \$4,000, depending on the total contract dollar amount. If practices are completed within the second year, producers will be awarded \$150 - \$2,000. The purpose of the incentive is to keep contracts on schedule so that public dollars for conservation achieve their intended purpose.

2007 CRP

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced that starting today USDA will begin notifying certain agricultural producers with Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts expiring in 2007 that they may extend or re-enroll their contracts.

"Approximately 16 million acres subject to CRP contracts expire in 2007," said Johanns. "Fulfilling President Bush's directive to allow eligible farmers and ranchers to re-enroll or extend their CRP contracts helps ensure that the quality of soil, water, air and wildlife benefits of CRP continue across the nation for years to come."

Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices will begin notifying certain CRP participants by mail with expiring contracts in 2007 if they are eligible for re-enrollments or two- to five-year extensions. Participants eligible for re-enrollment will be offered a 10- or 15-year contract provided there are restored wetlands on the original land enrolled in the contract. Fifteen-year contracts expiring September 30, 2007, are not eligible for extension.

FSA used the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) to determine eligibility for CRP re-enrollments or extensions. Additional credit was considered for contracts within national CRP conservation priority areas. The EBI addresses expected benefits to water quality, erosion, enduring benefits, air quality and wildlife habitat.

FSA ranked individual contracts into one of five tiers based on the environmental benefits of the original EBI score. Eligible participants ranking in the first tier (i.e. between 81-100%) of the EBI will be afforded the opportunity to re-enroll their land in new contracts. Farmers and ranchers with wetlands in this top tier ranking are eligible for a 15-year contract.

Eligible participants ranking in the second tier (i.e. between 61-80%) may extend their CRP contracts for five years. Eligible participants ranking within the third tier (i.e. between 41-60%) may extend their CRP contracts by four years. Eligible participants ranking in the fourth tier (i.e. between 21-40%) may receive three year extensions. Eligible participants ranking in the bottom tier may extend their contracts by two years.

Before approving a re-enrollment contract or an extended contract, FSA will review the contract to ensure that the required cover is maintained and there is compliance with other contract provisions. In addition, to be eligible, participants must be able to show that they meet eligibility requirements for the new enrollment period. In the case of re-enrollments, updated rental rates will apply.

For more information on CRP, contact your local FSA office or visit the FSA web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/cfap/crp/crp.htm>.



Grant Funding 101

Suggested Reading for Individuals Seeking Cost-share Assistance

With the recent storm event which hit Sherman County, there have been many requests for funding to implement water quality improvement projects, such as terraces, water and sediment control basins, and conservation tillage. If you are interested in seeking funding for implementation of conservation practices on your farm, there are a few essential questions you need to ask yourself prior to approaching us for funding.

1. What do you want to do and where is the location of the project?

Have a clear idea of what your project will be and where it will be located. Know the township/range/section or the Tract number your project will be located on. Please Note: If you are interested in rebuilding or cleaning out already existing structures cost-shared through our office, please determine the age of the structure. If they are less than 10 years old and funding for the original construction was received through the SWCD office, it is your responsibility for the maintenance of the structure per the Project Agreement you signed prior to receipt of funding.

2. What is the resource concern you are trying to address?

Things such as cropland erosion or stream bank degradation are resource concerns that directly affect watershed limiting factors such as temperature and sediment load in streams. If you have photos documenting these resource concerns, bring them with you when you sign up for funding.

3. When would you like to install your project?

The time line from walking in the door to getting funding in hand can be anywhere between 1-2 months for small grants and 6-8 months for large grants (depending on the backlog of projects the technicians are working on). The specific grant type for which you apply will the start date of your project.

4. What other conservation structures are located in your area?

You are the leading expert on what conservation work has been done on your farm. Existing structures on your farm will have a direct impact on the design of your project.

More specific items will be addressed when talking with the SWCD staff in the Moro Field Office, but these few essential questions will help pave the way to a successful proposal.

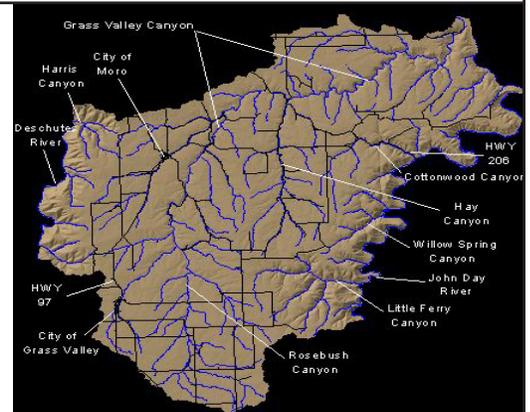
With the upcoming Watershed Council meetings, come prepared with this information if you are interested in applying for cost-share funding. Please visit the web site, www.sherman.oacd.org, for up-to-date information including meeting minutes and future funding opportunities.

GRASS VALLEY WATERSHED ASSESSMENT UPDATE

BY JEFF BIRD

I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to assist with the inventory of conservation practices. I have received responses from roughly 50% of those contacted. I am nearing the point where I will begin cataloging the data from the returned maps. For anyone who would still like to add their support to the inventory project, it's not too late to turn in your maps, and I would appreciate hearing from you. Please feel free to contact me at the SWCD office with questions or concerns about the inventory.

The assessment itself will be finished and ready for review shortly after the first of the year. The assessment will be sent out to various organizations for fact checking and content review, and will also be available for public viewing at the SWCD office. Following the review period and the editing process, the final assessment of the Grass Valley Watershed will be submitted by the month of June. I will be discussing the assessment at the upcoming Grass Valley Watershed Council Meeting on February 7th.



SHERMAN COUNTY EXPERIMENT DECEMBER WEATHER STATS

- ◆ Total precipitation was 3.65" which was 1.98" above normal
- ◆ The crop year total is 7.39" which is 2.69" above normal
- ◆ The highest temperature was 49 degrees on the 25th and the 26th
- ◆ The lowest temperature was 7 degrees on the 10th
- ◆ Long-time average indicates we can expect 56 and 15 degrees
- ◆ The monthly average temperature was 28.4 degrees which is 4.5 degrees below normal
- ◆ 4" soil temperature ranged from 37 to 28 degrees
- ◆ The average wind speed was 2.2 miles per hour which is 1.5 below normal



STATION WEATHER STATISTICS JANUARY WEATHER STATS

- ◆ Total precipitation was 2.67" which was 1" above normal
- ◆ The 2005/2006 crop year total is 10.06" which is 5.38" above normal
- ◆ The highest temperature was 57 degrees on the 24th
- ◆ The lowest temperature was 26 degrees on the 25th
- ◆ The monthly average temperature was 38.4 degrees which is 5.5 degrees above normal
- ◆ 4" soil temperature ranged from 46 to 35 degrees
- ◆ Total snowfall was .3"
- ◆ Crop year total for January 2005 was 3.55"

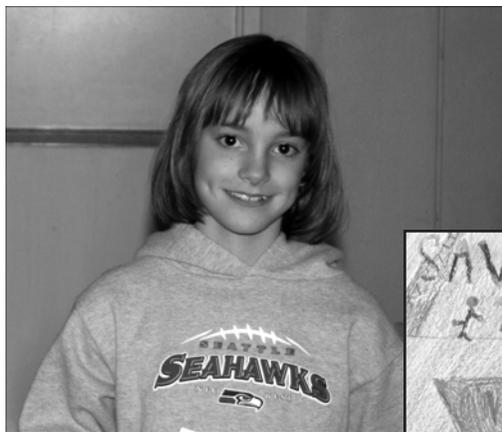
Celebrating Conservation in 2005

Local and State Poster Contest Winners

Students from South Sherman and North Sherman Elementary participated in the Annual SWCD Poster Contest. With 32 participants, this year's theme, Celebrate Conservation, proved to be very challenging with some tough competition. The judges had a difficult time deciding the ultimate winners, but when the pencils dropped, Andie Harrison, a fourth grader from North Sherman Elementary, was the winner for the 3rd and 4th Grade Division and Ryan Hart, a fifth grader from South Sherman Elementary, won the 5th and 6th Grade Division.

Their winning posters traveled to the Oregon OACD Convention in Newport where they were judged against other winning posters from around the state. Ryan Hart's poster tied for 1st in his age division earning him a \$25 savings bond. If you see these budding artists around the county, be sure to congratulate them on a job well done and a poster well drawn!

Andie Harrison



Great shirt Andie - Go Seahawks!

4th Grade
Winner!!!



Ryan Hart



5th Grade
Winner!!!



SHERMAN COUNTY SWCD
2004-2005

ANNUAL REPORT

Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 39,754
Income	
<u>General Funds</u>	
County Match	5,000
Sale of Trees	93
Interest	57
Misc. Income	67
Project Admin. Funds	31,666
Donations	1,432
NRCS Contribution Agreement	12,028
Total.....	\$ 52,273
<u>Watershed Restoration Funds</u>	
BPA Tech Grant	\$ 59,995
Watershed Coordinator	18,412
CREP Tech.	24,333
Grass Valley Assessment Tech	24,023
ODA Grants	40,315
OWEB Small Grants	24,657
Watershed Projects	32,115
Total.....	\$ 223,850
TOTAL INCOME.....	\$276,123

Expenses	
<u>General Funds</u>	
Salaries/Payroll	\$ 19,592
Legal/professional fees	3,181
Education	67
Dues	90
Meetings	2,321
Trees	97
Office expense	1,096
Supplies/Equipment	2,441
Mileage	58
Total.....	\$ 31,787
<u>Watershed Restoration Funds</u>	
BPA Technical Grant	\$ 59,995
Watershed Coordinator	18,412
CREP Tech	24,333
GV Assessment Tech	24,023
ODA LMA/ Tech	40,315
Watershed Projects	32,115
OWEB Small Grants	24,657
Total.....	\$ 223,850
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	\$ 255,637

Ending Balance-June 30, 2005..... \$ 60,240

SWCD BOARD MEMBERS

Bill Martin.....	Chair
Kyle Blagg.....	Vice Chair
Brad Kin.....	Secretary
Tracy Fields.....	Treasurer
Gary Irzyk.....	Member
Kenneth Hattrup.....	Associate Member
Sandy Macnab.....	Associate Member

SWCD Staff

Krista Coelsch.....	District Coordinator
Linnea Holmes.....	Pine Hollow/Jackknife Project Planner

Joli Miles.....	Watershed Coordinator
Jason Faucera.....	District Technician
Jessa Irzyk.....	CREP/CRP Technician
Jeff Bird.....	Grass Valley Assessment Technician

Natural Resource Conservation Service Staff

Mary Beth Smith.....	District Conservationist
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Co-operating Agencies

Farm Services Agency.....	Kevin McIvrye
County FSA Committee.....	Ken Melzer

Jim Macnab

Stuart vonBorstel

Sherman County Court.....	Gary Thompson
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Sherrie Keshberg

Steve Burnet

Sherman County Weed

District..... Rod Asher

County Weed

Brad..... Kyle Blagg

Tracy Fields

Martin Richelderfer

Harry Macnab

Roy Wilson

Agricultural Research

Service..... Betty Klemm

Bureau of Land

Management..... Lyle Andrews

Jim Harf

O.S.U. Extension

Service..... Sandy Macnab

O.S.U. Experiment

Station..... Erling Johnson

Oregon Department of

Fish & Wildlife..... Keith Kohl

2004-2005 ANNUAL PLAN of WORK

The Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District strives to promote and protect the natural resources of not only Sherman County, but also all the areas included in our watershed drainages. The board of directors believes that cooperation between State and Federal agencies, public interest groups, and landowner/operators is of the utmost importance in achieving the goals of this District. We will continue to work for not only better soil and water conservation practices, but also for a better understanding between all parties concerned with the protection of our natural resources.

The Sherman SWCD goals are to efficiently deliver treatments to the ground; provide education regarding natural resources and conservation; and act as a buffer between government agencies and landowners whenever needed.

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 -
 - Buck Hollow Watershed
 - Pine Hollow/Jackknife Watershed
 - Grass Valley Canyon Watershed
 - Macks 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 2 technicians.
- Education
Objective - District will involve all schools in our District in soil and water conservation activities. Educational trip will be encouraged. Tours will be planned. Newsletter published, and web site kept up to date.
Programs - Poster contest, Monitoring projects, Outdoor School assistance, Stewardship week information distributed.
- District Operations
Objective - Continue to efficiently and effectively provide soil and water conservation services.

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Outstanding Newsletter Award

The SWCD quarterly newsletter, "Rolling Thunder Review" received the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts recognition as the Outstanding Newsletter of the year for Oregon. The original design of the newsletter is credited to Jessa Irzyk who is now serving as SWCD CREP Technician. The newsletter is now produced by Joli Minkers. Joli is the Watershed Coordinator for Sherman County. The SWCD is very proud of this outstanding newsletter!

"Conservation Celebration" Poster Contest

Andie Harrison, a fourth grader at North Sherman Elementary was the winner of the Sherman County SWCD poster contest award for her age group.

Ryan Hart, a sixth grader at South Sherman Elementary was the winner of the Sherman County SWCD award for his age division and was also the recipient of a First Place award at the state competition held at the Oregon Association of Conservation District Convention.

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:
Buck Hollow Watershed - This project is very near completion. Sherman and Wasco County SWCD's took this on as a joint project. The planning and implementation were done as a joint effort of the Directors and Staff of the two Conservation Districts and NRCS.

Many funding sources have been utilized and landowner participation has been very high. This project has been an outstanding example of what can be accomplished by cooperative efforts.

Fulton and Gordon Canyons Watershed - This council voted to consolidate with the North Sherman Watershed Council.

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.

Macks Canyon Watershed - Council members are Jim Bird, Pat Nogle, Dick Stradley, and Joe Sharp. Projects have been funded by OWEB and Deschutes Resource Conservancy grants.

Pine Hollow/Jackknife Watershed - Council members are Ron Mobley, Jon Justesen, Shannon Hansen, Noah Williams, 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. This watershed now includes all of the area previously covered by the Fulton & Gordon Watershed Council. Funding has been secured from OWEB for projects in the watershed.

Lower Deschutes & Lower John Day River Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan - The SWCD is serving as local management agency (LMA) for the implementation process in cooperation with the Wasco & Gilliam County SWCDs. 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 of fire at 565-3551, ext. 3, or come by the office that is located in the Old Moro Grade School building.

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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
Jason Faucera, District Technician
Jessa Irzyk, CRP Technician
Jeff Bird, Grass Valley Assessment Technician

NRCS Staff

Mary Beth Smith, District Conservationist

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Rolling Thunder Review

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