



Rolling Thunder Review

GOVERNOR KULONGOSKI ISSUES PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 1-7 SWCD WEEK



For nearly 70 years, Oregon's soil and water conservation districts have helped protect the state's natural resources through varied but effective projects and programs that continue to stand the test of time. Those districts are now getting high level recognition as Governor Kulongoski has

designated November 1-7 as Soil and Water Conservation District Week in Oregon.

"Successful on-the-ground projects made possible by funding and direction from the districts prove to all Oregon landowners that conservation is good business," says Oregon Department of Agriculture Director Katy Coba. "There is a higher public expectation for clean water, environmental enhancement, and watershed protection. Districts are conservation leaders in each of their communities."

ODA's Natural Resources Division oversees the state's 46 soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs).

"The districts are an essential component of the state's effort to address conservation needs, whether it involves soil, water, or fish and wildlife habitat," says administrator Ray Jaindl. "They have played that role since 1940 and relish the opportunity to provide assistance to landowners. This proclamation also gives them a well deserved pat-on-the-back."

The governor's proclamation offers a number of strong statements supporting the good work performed by SWCDs over the years:

- SWCDs' locally elected directors and staff have provided exemplary leadership in implementing natural resource conservation programs across the state
- SWCDs have a long history of being on the leading edge of providing technical assistance and finding financial aid to implement best conservation practices to private landowners
- SWCDs have led the way in developing much of the

on-farm infrastructure for Oregon's irrigated agriculture

- SWCDs are working with private landowners, state and federal agencies, and interested organizations to protect habitats for threatened and endangered aquatic and terrestrial species
- SWCDs are continually searching for ways to implement the best scientific and technological solutions to protect and enhance Oregon's natural resources while protecting and maintaining local economies

It's that last statement that truly captures the balance SWCDs seek between environment and economy, recognizing that farmers and ranchers play a critical role in resource management.

"Districts are always looking for opportunities to protect the soil, protect the water, and provide habitat while maintaining the economic viability of Oregon agriculture," says Jaindl.

"I would like for Oregonians to reflect on all the work to protect Oregon's natural resources that has been done over the past 60 plus years by so few for the benefit of so many," says OACD President-elect Charles Boyer of Jackson County. "I would like the citizens-at-large to take a minute and think about the people who are on the ballots every election running for SWCD director positions and give a hearty thanks for all the time and energy they have donated toward the welfare of us all."

Each district has a success story to tell. Projects aren't always visible to the public, but the

list is growing as landowners take care of the land and water that takes care of Oregon agriculture and our way of life.

For more information, go to the OACD Web site at www.oacd.org.

Media contact: Ray Jaindl at (503) 986-4713 or your local SWCD.

<i>Inside this issue:</i>	
<i>Board Highlights</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Funding Opportunities</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Poster Contest Winners</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Weather Statistics</i>	<i>5</i>

Sherman SWCD Board Highlights October 13, 2009

WATERSHED UPDATES

Amanda gave updates about watershed activities to all landowners that attended the three CSP informational meetings that were co-sponsored by the SWCD and NRCS.

Pine Hollow/Jackknife – Jessa is working on quarterly reports for BPA. There is a lot of funding available for projects using BPA cost share. Landowners will be encouraged to participate. The assessment chapter on Channel Habitat Classification is nearly complete.

Grant Updates – An extension for OWEB Grant 208-4016 was approved. The new completion date is December 31, 2010. Council Support grant (OWEB 210-046) funding has been received. All monitoring reports are up to date. A grant agreement has been signed for the new OWEB Grant 210-6004, Grass Valley Watershed Sediment Control and participants have been notified. Amanda has nearly completed two grants for the OWEB Fall grant cycle. One is a restoration grant for cropland structures involving six landowners with a total project cost of \$37,567 with the OWEB request of \$28,275. The other grant is an Education Grant called Sherman County Conservation Awareness Program. It will involve all County students from grades 5 through 10. It will include a “conservation awareness month”, classroom lessons and field trips. The total project cost is for \$19,000 with the OWEB request of \$11,862.

OWEB Small Grants – Amanda has completed one monitoring report for the Lower John Day side and two for the Lower Deschutes side. She has received correspondence saying that we will be receiving \$33,330 per “side” again this year. Agreements with the Gilliam County SWCD and the Wasco County SWCD are being prepared.

Range Drill – Brian reported that Wasco County SWCD has secured funding for one range drill, a trailer to haul one drill and the cost of half of the hitch for both drills. Our drill has been ordered but Brian is not sure how long it will take to get it. Brian will talk to the

Sherman Development League about cost share for the drill.

Education Incentive Grant Update – Sandy Macnab turned in a bill for the Extension Tour grant. There are currently no other active grants or applications.

Riparian Workshop – Amanda and Kristie are still working on coordinating a workshop for late February or early March. Ellen Hammond, ODA, has volunteered to participate in the workshop.

John Day and Deschutes Updates – The Lower John Day Conservation Work Group met on October 1st. Brian, Jessa and Amanda attended. There is still a possibility that funding may be available from OWEB for the group. The question of who will be the fiscal agent is still being discussed. The Sherman SWCD may be asked to be the fiscal agent. Another possibility would be asking the Columbia-Blue Mountain RC&D to act as fiscal agent. The board asked the staff to talk about how it would affect our time and efficiency. Brian will be meeting with OWEB in early November. He will update the board at the next meeting. The next meeting of the Lower John Day Conservation Work Group will be held in Moro in February. Gary, Jessa and Amanda are working on time, place and agenda for the meeting which will focus on education. Gary presented a draft letter that he plans to send out to all teachers in the County. The letter explains the basic direction of the LJDC Work Group and asks for the teachers input and participation in the education component of the Work Group. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs representative asked if the local conservation districts would be interested in funding that would be specifically for an engineer. Gilliam County SWCD does not think that they could keep a full time person busy. It was suggested that they see if the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs would be willing to have a “funding pool” for districts to have access to for hiring contract engineering services as needed. They will approach the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs with this idea and get back to us.

OACD Convention Nov. 4-7 in Pendleton – Krista plans to attend on the 4th & 5th and Jessa will attend on the 5th & 6th. No board members plan to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

Practice Cost List & Hold Down Rates – Brian presented an updated version of both documents for the boards review. He suggested removing the Animal Trails & Walkways and Stream bank & Shoreline Protection because they have not been used in years. He added Water Harvesting Catchment (guzzlers). Brian will look in to the costs for Juniper Cutting and suggested just one unit cost at a medium level. Other changes would include changing Filter Strips Contour planting to “non-native” and Riparian planting to “native”, and Range Planting costs will include seed with more allowed for native seed. Changes will include changing “burn/drill” to “spray/drill”, adding “broadcast with harrow” and “aerial seeding”. A motion was made by Bill and seconded by Gary to accept the changes to the cost list and the Miscellaneous Equipment list. Motion carried unanimously.

Monitors – Amanda and Krista both requested permission to buy new monitors. The board concurred that 2 should be purchased. Funding for Amanda’s monitor will come from the OWEB Council Support Grant and Krista’s from unrestricted funds.

NRCS REPORT

Kristie was Acting Deschutes Basin Team Leader at the time of the board meeting. She attended Basin Team Leader meetings in Astoria. Mary Beth was acting District Conservationist for Jefferson and Deschutes Counties until the middle of November. Three meetings were held in order to get information out about the new CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program).

AGENCY REPORTS

Extension – Sandy reported on the National tour for extension agents that was recently conducted with some support provided through the SWCD Education Incentive grant program. He said that the tour was ranked very highly by the attendees.

2009-2011 SMALL GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE!



OWEB Small Grant funds for the Lower Deschutes and Lower John Day Watersheds are now available. Grants are awarded on a first-come-first serve basis. The Small Grant Program is an easy-to-engage-in, competitive grant program that awards funds of up to \$10,000

for on-the-ground restoration projects. Projects eligible for funding include various projects on agricultural and/or rangeland which address priority watershed concerns. For more information on the Small Grant Program please contact Amanda at (541)565-3216 ext. 109 or email at amanda.whitman@or.nacdnet.net.

PINE HOLLOW/ JACKKNIFE WATERSHED PROJECT FUNDING AVAILABLE

Attention property owners in the Pine Hollow/Jackknife Area Watershed! The Sherman SWCD currently has access to funding available for conservation projects that address water quality and/or quantity issues on range and agricultural land.

Cost-share is available for eligible on the ground projects at a rate up to 85% of total project costs. If you have a project that you would like cost share assistance with or for more information please contact Jessa at (541)565-3551 ext.110 or send an email to jessa.irzyk@or.nacdnet.net.



The NRCS has extended the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) sign up for all 2010 projects. Anyone interested in **rangeland restoration, irrigation upgrades** or any other conservation practices, please talk to Kristie at your earliest convenience. Signup is anticipated to end in January. Kristie can be contacted at (541)565-3551 ext.102 or at kristie.coelsch@or.usda.gov.

2009 Stewardship Poster Contest Winners

This year the annual Soil and Water Conservation District Poster Contest theme was “Dig It! The Secrets of Soil”. There was great participation this year with approximately 55 students submitting their poster art. This year there was participation from the 1st, 4th and 6th grade classes. The talented poster contest winners were:

1ST GRADE WINNERS:



1st Place: Violet Wilson



2nd Place: Zackery Leffler

4TH GRADE WINNERS:



1st Place: Paige McLeod



2nd Place: Zachery Fluhr

6TH GRADE WINNERS:



1st Place: Wyatt Stutzman



2nd Place: Alex Fields

Congratulations to all of this year's winners!!!!



Sherman County Experiment Station

Weather Statistics



- ◆ Total precipitation for September was .18”.
- ◆ The highest air temperature was 93° on the 3rd.
- ◆ The lowest air temperature was 34° on the 29th.
- ◆ Long time averages indicate we can expect air temperatures of 91° and 33°.
- ◆ The average air temperature was 62.2° which is 1.8° above normal.
- ◆ 4” soil temperature ranged from 85° to 60°.
- ◆ The average wind speed was 4.3 m.p.h. which is 0.6 m.p.h. above normal.
- ◆ Total monthly evaporation in 8.62” which is 1.47” above normal.

- ◆ Total precipitation for October was 1.51” which is 0.59” above normal.
- ◆ The crop year total is 1.69” which is 0.28” above normal.
- ◆ The highest air temperature was 72° on the 18th.
- ◆ The lowest air temperature was 24° on the 13th.
- ◆ Long time averages indicate we can expect air temperatures of 77° and 26°.
- ◆ The average air temperature was 46.5° which is 3.4° below normal.
- ◆ 4” soil temperature ranged from 67° to 43°.
- ◆ The average wind speed was 3.8 m.p.h. which is 0.7 m.p.h. above normal.
- ◆ Total monthly evaporation was 3.16” which is 0.50” below normal.

Odds-N-Ends



Our Feathered Friends

Now is the ideal time of the year to feed native wild birds. Backyard bird feeders can help birds get enough food to maintain sufficient body heat during the cold weather. October through April is the best time to feed birds when their natural foods are not in abundance.

If you do choose to feed your backyard birds please do so responsibly, here are some helpful tips:

- Experts recommend black oil sunflower seed as one of the best single seeds to attract a variety of birds at feeders.
- Once you start feeding wild birds, continue throughout the cold season.
- Locate your feeder in a sheltered area.
- Do not feed birds breads or salty, sugary snacks.
- Clean feeders regularly to avoid diseases.
- Hang suet feeders instead of posting them. Starlings will not eat from hanging feeders, but native wild birds will.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



~DECEMBER~

- 5 CHRISTMAS TREE & SWAG SALE, MORO
- 7 CPR CLASS, ODFW SCREEN SHOP-8:00AM
- 8 BOARD MEETING, SERVICE CENTER– 8:30AM
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED

~JANUARY~

- 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED
- 12 BOARD MEETING, TBA
- 18 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY (OBSERVED)
OFFICE CLOSED



Sherman County SWCD Board of Directors

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

SWCD Staff

Krista Coelsch, District Coordinator
Brian Stradley, District Technician
Jessa Irzyk, CRP Technician
Amanda Whitman, Watershed Coordinator

NRCS Staff

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

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