



# Rolling Thunder Review

## 2nd Annual Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program in Sherman County Another Success



This year marked the second time the Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) has been a success in Sherman County. Through the co-operation of Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Oak Springs Fish Hatchery, Sherman County Soil and Water Conserva-

tion District and North Sherman Elementary four grades were able to participate in this years program.

The students that participated in this years STEP were Mrs. Cranston's 5th-6th grade, & Ms. Kaseberg's 1st-2nd grade classes. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Salmon-Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) division generously provided the materials needed for the trout classroom incubators. Each class received 200 eyed Rainbow Trout eggs from the Oak Springs Fish Hatchery near Maupin.

The objective of the STEP program is to allow students to observe and participate in the development process of fish and understand fish habitat needs and lifecycle requirements. Coupled along with other outdoor field activities, the egg incubation project provides important long term educational benefits. Hands-on biological projects also provide opportunities to incorporate chemistry, ecology, math, economics, writing, and social studies into the scientific investigations.

During the incubation process, students monitored temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, and ammonia levels. Students also monitored daily mortality; kept a daily log of

test results, egg development, and overall survivability rates.

Once the eyed eggs hatched into alevins (or sac-fry) the fish swam around the aquariums where students watched and monitored their activity. As alevins developed, their yolk sacs diminished as the fish absorbed the available nutrients from the egg. When the yolks were no longer visible the fish are called buttoned-up fry. Once the fry began coming to the surface actively looking for food it was time to release the fry.

Once fry had reached the required developmental stage a field trip was scheduled to a local pond for their release. On March 20th North Sherman Elementary participating classes, teachers and volunteers met at a local pond to release the fry they had raised. Out of the original 400 eyed eggs received from the hatchery, there were over 230 healthy fry released.

The District and students would like to thank the Restoration and Enhancement Board at Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for their generous contribution, Jennifer Luke, the Oak Spring's Fish Hatchery, and everyone else that volunteered their time- it made the project a real success We are looking forward to repeating this fun and educational program again next year.



2009 STEP participants releasing the fry on March 20th

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## Sherman SWCD Board Highlights

### April 15, 2009

#### **WATERSHED UPDATES**

Amanda delivered Canada Thistle biological controls to several landowners that requested assistance.

South Sherman County – Nothing new to report.

Pine Hollow/Jackknife – Amanda participated in the Redd Survey today. No Redds were found on the portion of Pine Hollow creek that she walked. ODFW will report back to us about the portion they walked. Jessa has also been assisting landowners with plans for BPA projects and has completed quarterly reports.

Grass Valley Canyon – Amanda visited sites and took pictures for the restoration grant that she is currently working on.

North Sherman Watershed – Nothing new to report.

Grant Updates – The application for the OWEB spring grant cycle has been completed. The total project cost is estimated to be \$122,444. A motion was made by Gary and seconded by Bill to approve the application for submittal. Motion carried unanimously. There are six landowners participating in the project. All OWEB monitoring and completion reports are up to date. OWEB grants 206-123 and 207-323 must have all projects completed by June 30, 2009. Amanda has notified all landowners involved. The grant agreement for the Range Improvement grant was signed and returned to OWEB. Amanda has notified the participants that they can begin their projects.

Small OWEB Grants – A motion was made by Bill and seconded by Gary to approve two applications for funding. One was for a terrace and the other was for brush clearing and seeding. Motion carried unanimously. There will be no funds left for disbursement on the John Day side. There is still \$1,671 left to be allocated on the Deschutes side.

Education Project Updates – Students from North Sherman Elementary took a field trip and released fish fry in to Burnet's pond. This was part of the Salmon & Trout Enhancement Project. Gary asked that the Education Incentive Grants be featured in the next District newsletter.

CREP Updates – Jessa has taken GPS points and flagged proposed fence boundaries for CREP projects. She has worked with contractors and Landowners on seven projects. One project in Buck Hollow utilized a machine called a "stinger" to plant trees in rocky areas. Representatives from NRCS, FSA, OSU Extension and the landowner were present to watch the planting. There are no

new CREP enrollments at this time. Jessa attended cultural resource training in Corvallis.

Basin Work Group Updates – The Basin Work Group met on March 19<sup>th</sup> in Madras. Kristie, Brad and Krista attended. The next meeting has not been scheduled. Kristie would like to have a Local Work Group meeting prior to the District board meeting in May. This was approved by the board.

John Day River & Deschutes River Updates – Walter reported that Gilliam and Wheeler SWCD have not signed the MOU with the Lower John Day Conservation Work Group.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Education Incentive Grants – The board reviewed two applications for grant funds. Sandy Macnab applied for funding for a tour that will be held in September. The tour is for extension agents from across the nation. A motion was made by Gary and seconded by Bill to approve this request for funding. Motion carried unanimously. A South Sherman Elementary group called the "South Sherman Seedlings" submitted a request for funding for assistance with their plant project. They requested assistance with the purchase of supplies and plants. The board asked Krista to consult with the applicant about what specifically the funds would be used for and where the plants will be planted. Krista will get back to board members with the answers and the project will be funded if board members are in agreement.

2010 Annual Work Plan & Workload Analysis – Krista is preparing draft plans that will be reviewed by Kyle and Tracy before the next meeting.

Connect 2009 – Jessa attended the Connect 2009 sessions and reported that it was interesting and informative.

#### **NRCS REPORT**

Kristie reported that she is making payments for existing EQIP contracts and preparing RMS plans for all 2009 EQIP applications. She attended the Basin Work Group Meeting and went reviewed resource concerns and process of the BWG. Kristie also discussed with the board the need for signatures from the SWCD on the Tri-county Biological Opinions in producer files. The board agreed that they want Krista to review letters and sign. Kristie will also be helping with a CSP audit in Morrow and Umatilla counties, there are approximately 300 contracts to audit.

*Continued on page 3.....*



## Spring 2009 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Funding Updates

**The District Receives Funding for Future Restoration Work:** This spring OWEB approved funding for a Range Restoration Grant for implementation throughout Sherman County. The restoration grant, totaling over \$109,000, focuses on improving rangeland that was affected by wildfires last summer. Some of the conservation practices to be implemented include range seeding and fence reconstruction.

**OWEB Grant Completion Dates:** There is an OWEB grant that will be ending on June 30th, 2009. This grant number is 206-123. If you are expecting cost-share for conservation projects signed up under this grant please have them completed no later than June 30th. If you have any questions please contact the office at 565.3216 ext. 3.

**Small Grant Funds Available:** The biennium is coming to an end and there are still some OWEB Small Grant funds available. If you have a conservation project that you are interested in implementing and would like cost-share assistance please contact Amanda by June 1st, 2009 at 565.3216 ext. 109.

**Possibility for Variable Rate Application Funding:** If you are interested in upgrading your current spray system we may be able to help. We are looking for people interested in receiving cost-share for fertilizer and/or herbicide application technologies. Please contact Amanda at the office for more information.

### AGENCY REPORTS

**Extension** – Sandy reported that he is working on plans for a Riparian Workshop.

**OWEB** – Sue reminded the board about upcoming grant deadlines and discussed plans for the first Region 6 review team meeting. It will be held in John Day. She is also hoping for a project tour for the team in May.

**FSA** – Martin handed out information about farm programs, sign up dates and deadlines.

### OTHER BUSINESS

**Workshops** – Amanda requested to be allowed to attend a “New Coordinator Workshop” in Eugene on May 7 & 8 and a Grant Writing Workshop in Bend on May 28 & 29.

**Budget Discussion** – The board reviewed draft of the budget for the General Fund and the Watershed Improvement Fund. Increases in personnel will be discussed at a later date. Plans need to be made to set a date for the first meeting of the budget committee.

**Employee Evaluations** – A date will be set for employee evaluations before the next meeting.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on May 12, 2009 at 8:30am. A Local Work Group meeting may be scheduled for one hour before the District meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

### Sherman County FSA News

FSA is currently still taking applications for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. The deadline to sign-up for both programs is August 14, 2009. No late-filing provisions are available for these programs for this year.

A second opportunity to buy-in for insurable and non-insurable crops is currently available to producers to meet the risk management purchase requirement for the 2008 disaster programs. The 2008 Farm Bill requires producers to insure all crops in all counties nationwide to be eligible for the new Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance (SADA) programs. Producers have until May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to sign-up and pay the applicable program fees.

The nomination period for the 2009 FSA County Committee Elections is fast approaching. This year’s election is for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3 – South County. Interested persons can turn in nominations beginning June 15, 2009. The last day to turn in nominations is August 3, 2009.

Please contact the Sherman FSA office for eligibility requirements and/or nomination forms. If you have any questions regarding the information above please stop by the Sherman County FSA Office or call us at (541) 565-3551.

## **Sherman County SWCD Watershed Incentive Program**

The Sherman SWCD is pleased to offer the community funds available through the Watershed Education Reserve Fund. The SWCD realizes the importance of natural resources education and have made it one of their top priorities to help provide it to the community. Eligible applicants includes all educational and resource organizations in Sherman County. A detailed description of the terms follows:

### **Purpose:**

- To provide financial resources for local conservation education including workshops, demonstrations and youth conservation education projects.
- To provide technical resources for implementation of education projects that will benefit Sherman County residents and resources.

To assist with worthwhile projects that don't fit traditional funding sources.

### **Program Qualifications**

- Applications must include Applicants name, address, telephone number and email (if applicable)
- A description of the Project which includes: What will be done, who will do it, where it will be done, environmental and other benefits, budget and schedule. (1 page)
- Eligible Applicants are Educational and Resource Organizations in Sherman County.
- Eligible Projects are any Conservation Education Projects which meet our purpose for this program.

Match funding (either cash or in-kind) for grants must be shown at 25% of the \$2,000 allowed per grant.

### **Agreement:**

Upon approval, grantee must sign an agreement for proposed work. Grantees must also provide the following:

- Provide copies of all receipts
- Provide copies of permit(s) if required

Authorize access for District to inspect completed projects

For more information or to pick up an application contact Amanda at 565.3551 ext.109.



The Sherman SWCD encourages you to think about our personal responsibility to be a good stewards of all natural resources, including soil, during its annual Stewardship Week celebration. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has proclaimed April 26 – May 3, 2009 as Stewardship Week. 2009 Stewardship Week is themed “DIG IT! The Secrets of Soil.”

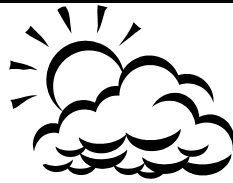
Soil supports forests, wetlands, grasslands, tundra, and aquatic ecosystems. Soil makes up the outer layer of the earth's surface, it nourishes the plants

we eat, the animals we use for food and fiber and the thriving underground kingdom of bacteria, fungi, protozoa, earthworms and other microbes that are critical to the planet's food web. Soil directly and indirectly effects agricultural production, water quality and climate. Thanks to the earths soils, most of the rainfall hitting the planet is trapped and absorbed, watering plants and replenishing aquifers, rivers, lakes and streams.

The Sherman SWCD is a member of the National Association of Conservation Districts ([www.nacdnet.org](http://www.nacdnet.org)) which oversees the Stewardship Week program. Stewardship Week is one of the largest national annual programs to promote conservation. NACD represents the nations 3,000 conservation districts, which were established to encourage resource conservation across the country.

For information about Stewardship Week contact the Sherman SWCD at 565.3216 ext. 3. You can also visit [www.nacdnet.org](http://www.nacdnet.org) to learn more about NACD and Stewardship Week.

# Sherman County



# Experiment Station

## MARCH WEATHER STATS

- Total precipitation for March was .73" which is .29" below normal.
- The precipitation for the crop year is 6.56" which is 1.87" below normal.
- The highest air temperatures was 63° on the 21st.
- The lowest air temperature was 16° on the 12th.
- Long time air temperature averages indicate we can expect 66° and 20°.
- The average air temperature for the month was 38.1°.
- 4" soil temperature ranged from 56° to 36°.
- The average wind speed of 4.5 MPH is .2 above nor-

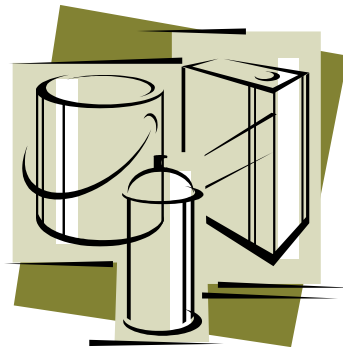
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## APRIL WEATHER STATS

- Precipitation for April was .73" which is .06" below normal.
- Total precipitation for the crop year is 7.29" which is 1.93" below normal.
- The highest air temperature was 80° on the 21st and 22nd.
- The lowest air temperature was 26° on the 24th.
- Long time air temperature averages indicate we could expect 76° and 26°.
- The average air temperature for the month was 46.6°.
- 4" soil temperature ranged from 73° to 41°.

## Odds ~N~Ends

### Upcoming Tri-County Collection Events in Sherman County



It is time for spring cleaning. Do you have leftover household, agricultural or business chemicals sitting around that you would like to properly dispose of? Well here is your chance.

Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling Program will be holding a collection event in Sherman County. The collection date is set for **Saturday, May 16th** at the Sherman County Road Department. The agriculture and business disposal will run from 10am-12pm where the first \$400 dollars worth is free. Preregistration is required for agricultural and business event, call 1.800.228.7872.

The household collection will be from 1-3pm where folks can dispose of their home chemicals for free. Remember, **NO LATEX PAINT**, it is not toxic.

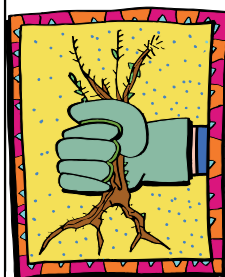
What you can bring: oil-based paints and stains, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, household cleaners and chemicals, brake fluid, antifreeze, old fuels, propane bottles and tanks, dry cell and lithium batteries, fluorescent

bulbs and compact fluorescent bulbs, thermometers and thermostats, and fire extinguishers. Remember, no motor oil or car batteries....these can be recycled locally. Hope to see you there! Questions? Call Tri-County at 541.506.2636.

### PineHollow/Jackknife BPA Grant Deadline Fast Approaching

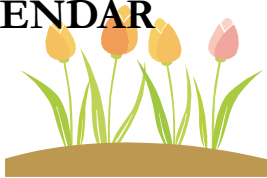
Just a reminder that if you have a conservation project in the PineHollow or Jackknife watersheds with funding from Bonneville Power administration, you have a deadline coming up for completion of those projects. The final day to have bills submitted by this year is **September 20, 2009**. Please contact the office if you have any questions or will be needing design specifications before that time. You can contact Jessa or Amanda at the office at 565.3551 ext. 3.

### Weed Control



Landowners and producers interested in getting cost-share for weed control measures are encouraged to contact the office. The deadline for this funding opportunity is **June 15, 2009**. Contact Amanda at 565.3551 ext. 109 for more details or to sign up.

# SPRING CALENDAR



## MAY

- 12 Local Work Group Meeting, Office 7:30am
- 12 Board Meeting, Office 8:30am
- 13 Riparian Workshop, Rebekkah Hall, 9:30am
- 14 Livestock Tour, The Dalles Auction Yard, 7:30am
- 14 Lower John Day Working Group, Family Services Building, Fossil, 9:00am
- 15 GRP Signup Deadline
- 19 Crop Tour, The Dalles Auction Yard, 7:30am
  
- 25 **Memorial Day, Office Closed**
- 30 Sherman High School Graduation

## JUNE

- 5 Last Day of School
- 9 Board Meeting, Office, 8:30am
- 10 Sherman County Experiment Field Day

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*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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## *Rolling Thunder Review*

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