



# Rolling Thunder Review

## Bill Todd

## Memorial Nursery



Bill Todd's Memorial Nursery, located due south of the baseball field at the Sherman County High School, got a makeover this past July. Members from both the Oregon Youth Employment Initiative (OYEI) and the Oregon Youth Conservation Corp (OYCC) pitched in cleaning up the nursery.



The OYEI & OYCC crews hard at work at the nursery

Participants in this years clean-up were: Hayli Sharp, Jenni Guzman, Chelsie Cunningham, Kat Crowder, Ryanne Whitley, Karissa Mobley, and their Leader Amy Richelderfer. We would like to extend a big thank you and a thumbs-up to these hard workers on a job well done.

The Bill Todd Memorial Nursery honors the legacy of a past SWCD Director and Outstanding Conservation Farmer and steward of the land. Bill Todd was raised in Sherman County and spent the majority of his life farming just outside of Grass Valley. Bill passed away in 1997 and is survived by his wife Vivian, and their children.

Today the nursery is maintained by the Sherman SWCD and is used for tree and shrub

propagation. Cuttings and bare root stock of the various tree and shrub species are available to all citizens of Sherman county. Poplar trees from the nursery now line the

portion of Barnum Creek that runs along the baseball field at the High School.

If you are interested in getting cuttings or trees from the nursery, or would like more information, contact the SWCD at 565-3551 ext.3.

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## Sherman SWCD Board Highlights June 9, 2009

### WATERSHED UPDATES

South Sherman County – Buck Hollow monitoring photos were taken and sent off to the Wasco County SWCD for reporting.

Pine Hollow/Jackknife – Amanda completed another site visit for the assessment. She also requested an extension for the OWEB assessment grant. Jessa has been working with landowners who have BPA cost shared projects. If they have a project planned for completion in 2009 there may be extensions available. There is also a good chance that more funds will be available in the next fiscal year. Landowners need to get requests in as soon as possible so that cultural resource surveys can be completed.

Grass Valley Canyon – OWEB Review team members were taken on a tour of project sites for the new grant. Amanda assisted Kristie with a Rangeland Inventory for a Small Grant application.

North Sherman County – There is nothing new to report at this time.

Grant Updates – All monitoring and completion reports are up to date. OWEB Council Support Grant was awarded for \$73,500 for two years. This was the amount that the board budgeted for 09-10 fiscal year. All projects in OWEB Grant 206-123 have been completed and Amanda is working on the completion report and final fund request.

OWEB Small Grants – All monitoring reports on the Deschutes side are complete. Amanda completed two monitoring reports on the John Day side and is working on two more. She is also working on several completion reports. Landowners have been contacted about using the final funding on both the John Day and Deschutes sides. The board reviewed a small grant application. A motion was made by Brad and seconded by Gary to approve the application. Motion was approved unanimously. All funds must be allocated by June 20, 2009.

Grant Writing Workshop - Amanda attended a two day workshop in Bend and found it very informative. She was able to bring back a lot of information about Foundation funding.

CREP Updates – Jessa reported that she has completed four plan modifications and six status reviews. She sent out cancellation letters to landowners who

have been on the waiting list for CREP but have not moved forward in enrolling. They will be encouraged to sign up again or initiate plan design and layout process. There is still no information on when new CREP contracts will be able to enroll.

John Day & Deschutes River Updates – The memorandum of understanding that had been presented by the Lower John Day Conservation Work Group was not agreed upon by all partners. Therefore a Declaration of Cooperation has been drafted and is being reviewed by partners at this time. Brian and Gary will continue to monitor progress and action involving the work group. Walter Powell of the Gilliam County SWCD would like to discuss the possibility of hiring an engineer who would be shared between Gilliam, Morrow and Sherman counties. He is discussing possible grant funding through the Confederated Tribes and will get back to us if we are interested. The board would like to hear more about it.

2009 Annual Work Plan & Workload Analysis – ODA Statement of Work & Budget – A motion was made by Bill and seconded by Gary to approve the 2010 Annual Work Plan, Workload Analysis, and ODA Statement of work and budget. Motion carried unanimously.

### NEW BUSINESS

Display Booth for County Fair – The board gave permission for employees to put a display up at the Fair. Suggestions were to focus on the Education Projects that have been funded by the District. Jessa also suggested a Stream Simulator that Benton County SWCD has.

Education Incentive Grant requests – No fund requests have been received to date. There have been no other applications for grant funding.

### NRCS REPORT

Kristie reminded everyone about the Experiment Station Field Day coming up on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Earth Team volunteer hours were reported. Applications for funding from the EQIP pool of 25% of Basin funding were discussed at the Basin Work Group Meeting.

The Basin Work Group selected Water Quality-Temperature, Plant Condition and Energy Conservation as the top resource concerns for this Basin. Proposals for this funding will need to provide targeted assistance to producers for enhancing conservation of priority resource concerns. Areas of assistance will be

selected competitively through applications of eligible partners. Eligible partners include state, local and tribal governments, producer associations and cooperatives, institutions of higher education and nongovernmental organizations. The office staff will develop a survey to be sent to Sherman County landowners requesting their input on projects that they would like to have emphasized for funding.

This survey will go out as soon as possible.

Riparian Workshop – Amanda, Kristie and Jessa attended the Riparian Workshop that was sponsored by the Extension Service. The attendance was low at the workshop but the information was very good. They suggested that the SWCD and NRCS try to put on another workshop with the same speakers. The board agreed that they should look in to it and get back to them.

New Cooperative Operational Agreement – NRCS is requiring that new agreements be developed between them and the SWCD's. The new format will resemble the current Contribution Agreements. Quarterly progress reporting will be part of the new agreement. Kristie will be getting that information to the SWCD as soon as she receives it.

**AGENCY REPORTS**

FSA – Sheri reported that the CED position for FSA can not be filled at this time because of a hiring freeze. DCP sign ups have been extended to August 14<sup>th</sup>. Letters for the CRP contracts that expire in 2009 have been sent out.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Sept. 8, 2009 at a time to be announced. Gary offered to plan the Oyster and Steak feed for that same evening. Plans for this will be developed during the summer.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.



Landowners along with SWCD and NRCS staff have been hard at work securing funds for watershed restoration work totaling over \$1 million this past fiscal year (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009).

With numerous Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) active grants, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) contracts, the staff and landowners have implemented:

- 67 cropland water and sediment control basins
- 5 rangeland water and sediment control basins
- 114,493 feet (over 21 miles) of terrace
- 5 spring developments
- 2 wildlife watering facilities
- 88 acres of brush control
- 50 acres of pest management
- 25 acres of range planting
- 2 acres of grassed waterway
- 55,840 feet (over 10.5 miles) of riparian or pasture cross fencing
- 8,593 acres of direct seed trials
- 499 acres of CREP protecting 28.3 miles of riparian and stream channel habitat.

With more grant application deadlines fast approaching, the Sherman SWCD 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 at 541-565-3216 ext 3 no later than September 25, 2009.

## *Purple Starthistle (Centaurea calcitrapa)*

Keep a watch out for Purple Starthistle. A site has been confirmed along the John Day River in Wheeler County. The weed has only been found in the state two other times in recent years. Purple Starthistle is an “A and T” rated plant in the state and is only known to occur in Clackamas County and now in Wheeler County. Both known populations are under eradication by the Oregon Department of Agriculture and local cooperators. The two most recent detections of Purple Starthistle took place in Sherman County, where only a single plant was found and eradicated in 1998, and Clackamas County, which has been contained and annually treated for more than a decade.



*Purple Starthistle flower*

*Photo by Tom Forney*

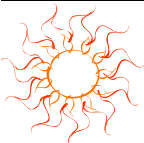
“We don’t know how this site became infested with Purple Starthistle,” says Tim Butler, supervisor of the Oregon Department of Agriculture’s Noxious Weed Control Program. “It could have come in on a piece of equipment or possibly in contaminated hay or seed planted in the area, or by livestock. It might have come down from a site upriver. We need more eyes looking for additional plants. So we are getting information about the weed out to local ranchers and others in the area. We hated to find the weed where we did, but if there is more, we want to locate it because we need to deal with it.”

The plants were detected within the flood plain of the John Day River, effectively opening up a large area down river that will need to be monitored. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is providing some funding to Wheeler County to do conduct some of the surveying.

Purple Starthistle, also known as Red Starthistle, can be either an annual or a biennial. The rosettes typically form in May and June, with blooms lasting midsummer through the fall. They can grow anywhere from one to six feet in height, are covered in fine hairs and have a stout taproot. The leaves are divided into narrow linear segments and the rosettes have spines in the center. The flower heads are purple in color with straw-colored spine-like bracts over one inch in length. The seeds are not plumed, which is the distinguishing factor between this plan the Iberian Starthistle.

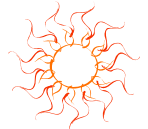
Purple Starthistle is extremely competitive along roadsides and in low-rainfall range situations where it can displace valuable native forage species. The sharp spines deter grazing animals, access to livestock and wildlife and can impede recreational use. This weed has the potential to become wildly established, causing significant impact to agriculture and wildland resources. An extremely conservative estimate of Purple Starthistle’s potential economic impact suggests an annual loss of \$12 million in Oregon due to its effects on grazing activity and control costs. Left unchecked, the invasive species can infest a large number of acres and can spread under a wide array of conditions. An estimated 1.5 million acres are at risk in Oregon alone.

For more information about Purple Starthistle visit the Oregon Department of Agriculture website at: [http://oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/profile\\_purplestarthistle.shtml](http://oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/profile_purplestarthistle.shtml) or contact Tim Butler or Tom Forney at (503) 986-4621. If you see this plant please call 1-866-INVADER or contact your county weed agent.



## *Sherman County Experiment Station*

### *Weather Statistics*



- ◆ Total precipitation for June was .43"
- ◆ Long time average June precipitation is .70"
- ◆ Total precipitation for the crop year is 9.07" which is 1.84" below normal
- ◆ The highest air temperature was 89° on the 1st
- ◆ The lowest air temperature was 36° on the 23rd
- ◆ Long time averages indicate we can expect air temperatures of 92° and 37°
- ◆ The average air temperature was 63.4° which is 2.2° above normal
- ◆ 4" soil temperature ranged from 91° to 62°
- ◆ The average wind speed was 5.8 m.p.h. which is 0.9 m.p.h. above normal
- ◆ The greatest evaporation occurred on the 29th with .50"

- ◆ Total precipitation for July was a trace of rain
- ◆ Long time average July precipitation is .22"
- ◆ Total precipitation for the crop year 08/09 is 9.07"
- ◆ The highest air temperature was 102° on the 29th
- ◆ The lowest air temperature was 44° on the 9th
- ◆ Long time averages indicate we can expect air temperatures of 42° and 99°
- ◆ The average air temperature was 71.7° which is 2.8° above normal
- ◆ 4" soil temperature ranged from a minimum of 70° to a maximum of 97°
- ◆ The average wind speed was 5.0 m.p.h. which is 0.1" above normal
- ◆ Greatest evaporation occurred on the 4th with .66" of evaporation

## Odds-N-Ends

### Canada Thistle Bugs Available!

Sherman County SWCD has placed a limited number of orders for Canada Thistle biological control agents. We will be ordering the Canada Thistle Stem Weevil (*Ceutorhynchus litura*). The Canada Thistle Stem Weevil attacks the young plants as they sprout from the soil in early spring. The developing larvae internally mine the stem of the thistle plant as the shoot elongates. Adults will over winter in the soil, ready to attack the emerging thistle the following spring.



*Canada Thistle Stem Weevil*

The bugs will be available for release in August or September. Releases of 105 adults (1 carton) are available for \$10/each. Please contact Amanda at 565-3551 ext.109 to place your order. Orders will be available on a first come first serve basis.

### News From NRCS

~EQIP dollars were released in mid-June and Sherman County funded all 7 applications amounting to \$173,421.

~Fiscal Year 2010 EQIP sign-up ends October 1, 2009 so start thinking about practices that may need to be installed to improve your resources. Contact Kristie for more information on practices eligible for EQIP at 565-3551 ext. 102.

~If you have a planned practice in a contract for 2009, it needs to be completed before December 31, 2009.

~CRP Status Review will be taking place during the month of August for the newly seeded fields. Our office will be in contact with those producers to make appointments for field days.

**SUMMER CALENDAR**

**August**

<b>10</b>	<b>Stewardship Sign-up Begins</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>ACRE Sign-up Deadline, FSA</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Reporting of Acres Deadline, FSA</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Wy'East RC&amp;D Meeting, Maupin 10AM</b>
<b>25-29</b>	<b>Sherman County Fair &amp; Rodeo</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Fair Kick-off BBQ, Fairgrounds 5-7PM</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>Basin Work Group Meeting, Madras 10AM</b>

**September**

<b>7</b>	<b>Labor Day, Office Closed</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>SWCD Board Meeting, Time TBA</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>Stewardship Sign-up Deadline</b>

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***Rolling Thunder Review***

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