

Okanogon County Noxious Weed Board's 2014 Spring News Bulletin

Coming Events

April Events

April 2: Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting. **(For more information please contact Ferry County Noxious Weed Office (509) 775-5225 ext. 1111)**

April 2: WSU Ferry County & Okanogon County Noxious Weed Board will be holding a hands on calibration seminar at the Nespelem Longhouse. **(For more information please contact Linda McLean at (509) 634-2305)**

April 3 & 10: The Okanogon County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding "hands on" calibration workshops at various locations. **(For more information please contact the Weed Office at (509) 422-7165)**

April 15: Class 'A' and New Invader Contracts must be back to the Okanogon County Noxious Weed Office.

April 23: Okanogon County Noxious Weed Board will be holding its monthly board meeting in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at the Virginia Grainger Building in Okanogon at 4:00 pm. **(Note: You will receive 1 pesticide license recertification credit for every board meeting that you attend)**

April 24: is Earth Day! Today would be a great day to get involved in conservation efforts that are taking place in your area. **(Contact your local conservation district to find out what projects are taking place in your area)**

May Events

May 7: Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting. **(For more information please contact Ferry County Noxious Weed Office (509) 775-5225 ext. 1111)**

May 28: Okanogon County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting at 4:00 pm in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

June Events

June 4: Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting. **(For more information please contact Ferry County Noxious Weed Office (509) 775-5225 ext. 1111)**

June 25: Okanogon County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting at 4:00 pm in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Field Season is Here

The Okanogon County Noxious Weed Control Board will start inspecting for noxious weeds on the first of April. We are starting with lower elevations in the Okanogon Valley and Methow Valley first, and will be working our way up to higher elevations as the season progresses. As always, we look forward to working with you again this year.

2014 Office Service Changes

Due to limited personnel, lack of grant funding, and a very large workload this field season, the Noxious Weed Office will be implementing some major changes to the services that we provide in 2014.

Office Hours

Again this field season (April through November), the Noxious Weed Office will be reducing the number of hours that the office is open to the public. Field season office hours will be Monday through Wednesday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Thursdays and Fridays will be dedicated field days.

Class 'A' Weed Control



The Noxious Weed Office was forced to make a few minor changes to our Class 'A' Noxious Weed control program in 2014. This year, we will again be providing for the herbicide control of Meadow Clary, Garlic Mustard, and Syrian Bean-Caper at no cost to the landowner. However, due to a lack of funding, in 2014, the Noxious Weed Office will only be able to pay for one half of the control cost of each application in excess of \$100 for Spurge Flax and Mirabilis (aka Wild 4 O'clock). The landowner will be responsible for the remainder of the application costs. To take advantage of this Class 'A' weed control assistance, landowners must return their contracts by no later than April 15.

New Invader Program



For the past several years, The Noxious Weed Office has provided for the herbicide control of New Invader noxious weed species at no cost to the landowner. However, Due to a lack of grant funds, we will no longer offer our New Invader Program (these species will now be treated the same as Class 'B' Designate noxious weeds). This year, landowners will be responsible for all costs associated with controlling these weed species.

Class 'B' Designate Weed control



To assist landowners in their weed control efforts, starting in 2014, the Noxious Weed Office will be offering a contract to landowners who have Class 'B' Designate noxious weeds on their property. If signed, the contract will allow Weed Board staff to oversee herbicide applications (by licensed commercial pesticide applicators) to control Class 'B' Designate weed species for landowners (landowner will be billed directly by the applicator for application costs). By coordinating treatments and monitoring contracts, Weed Office staff can focus their attention on inspecting and contacting those landowners who may not be

2014 Aquatic Weed Projects

Multiple Aquatic Projects to take place in 2014

In 2012, the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board elevated control requirements for Eurasian watermilfoil for several water bodies in Okanogan County because of increasing landowner concern about safety and water quality issues. Since then, we have been aggressively searching for sources of funding to help survey and treat water bodies that have infestations of Eurasian Milfoil and other aquatic noxious weeds.

The Weed Office just received confirmation from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources that we were granted slightly over \$50,000 to conduct a wide-scale aquatic weed survey in Okanogan County. This funding will provide for a comprehensive survey of both the Okanogan and Columbia Rivers, within the boundaries of Okanogan, Ferry, Stevens and Douglas counties, to determine the extent of Eurasian Watermilfoil infestations and the presence of other noxious weeds. The information obtained during this survey will enable land managers along these rivers to develop an Aquatic Weed Management Plan and begin control efforts on noxious weeds within their areas.

The Okanogan Conservation District also received confirmation that they had received funding from the Washington State Department of Ecology to conduct aquatic surveys of the upper Okanogan River, the Methow River, as well as 13 lakes within Okanogan County.

These projects are part of a wider effort, and increased collaboration with Chelan, Lincoln, Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Orielle counties, to perform surveys of the Columbia River and its major tributaries. These survey projects will encompass the Columbia River from Rock Island Dam north to the Canadian border, including all major tributaries and several other water bodies.

Spring Weed Control Checklist



If you plan to use any pesticides this year, you should thoroughly inspect your pesticide application equipment to make sure that it is in good working order and replace any damaged or faulty components. You should also calibrate your pesticide application equipment to ensure that you are applying pesticides at the proper labeled rate.



If you plan to use biological control agents in your weed control strategy, please stop by the Noxious Weed Office to pick up your order form or download it from the publication page on our web site, www.okanogancounty.org/nw. To ensure you get bios this year, please return your order forms to Okanogan Noxious Weed Office as soon as possible.

Noxious Weeds of the Season

The Mustard Family

(The annoying family next door that nobody likes)

Several plants in the Mustard family are the first weedy plants to show up each spring, crowding out more beneficial plants in the area. Some of the more obnoxious members of the Mustard Family include: Shepherdspurse, Tumble Mustard and London Rocket (to name a few). And, other members of the family are on the noxious weed list including:

Garlic Mustard



Garlic Mustard is a Class 'A' Noxious Weed, and it is mandatory for landowners to eradicate this species. Garlic Mustard is a biennial to short-lived perennial plant that is garlic scented and can grow to a height of around 3 feet. Garlic mustard flowers have 4 white petals, 4 sepals and 6 stamens. The stems generally grow up-right and may be branched or un-branched, there may be one to many stems growing from a single taproot. Garlic mustard reproduces by seed (up to 8,000 seeds).

Perennial Pepperweed



Perennial Pepperweed, a Class 'B' Designate noxious weed, typically grows 1 to 3 feet tall but may reach up to 6 feet. Flowers are milky white and are formed into dense rounded clusters at the branch tips. They have 4 sepals and 4 petals. Plants have multiple stems that emerge from a woody base. Perennial Pepperweed reproduces by seed, creeping rhizomes and root fragments.

Hoary Alyssum



Hoary Alyssum, a Class 'B' Designate noxious weed (with the exception of a small buffer area in the northeast corner of the county), is usually one of the first noxious weeds to show up each Spring. Plants grow between one and three feet tall. The flowers grow in clusters at the end of its branches, with each individual flower having 4 petals. Please contact our office for recommendations and possible control assistance. **Remember, we are working to make Hoary Alyssum mandatory control county wide in 2015!**

Hoary Cress



Hoary Cress (aka Whitetop) is a perennial Class 'C' Noxious Weed that can grow to 3 feet tall. The leaves are grayish-green and shaped like arrowheads. The flowers are white with 4 petals that typically bloom in late April to early May. Hoary Cress can form dense monocultures, choking out native vegetation. It is easiest controlled with herbicides when at full bloom, but hand digging plants can be effective on smaller patches.