

# Okanogan County's 2015 Spring Noxious Weed Bulletin

## Coming Events

### April Events

**April 8:** 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 7:** Colville Tribes F & W and Range Dept. in collaboration with WSU Extension (through USDA APHIS PPQ Section 10007 Project RAIN2 Funding) will be holding a hands on calibration seminar at the Nespelem Longhouse. Pre-Registration is required. (To pre-register please contact Linda McLean at (509) 634-2304).

**April 22:** Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at the Virginia Granger Building in Okanogan at 4:00 pm. (Note: You will receive 1 pesticide license recertification credit for every board meeting that you attend)

**April 22:** 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 13:** 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 27:** Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting at 4:00 pm in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

### June Events

**June 10:** 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 24:** Okanogan 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

### Noxious Weed Inspections Have Begun



Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board staff have begun inspecting for noxious weeds. We are starting with lower elevations in the Okanogan Valley and Methow Valley first, and will be working our way up to higher elevations as the season progresses.

As always, if you see us out and about, please feel free to stop and talk with us. We are more than happy to answer any weed related questions that you might have. We look forward to working with everyone again in 2015! This year, our office will again be offering free onsite weed control consultations to landowners in Okanogan County. To schedule, please give us a call at (509) 422-7165.

### Field Season Office Hours Have Started

During the 2015 field season, the Noxious Weed Office is again reducing the number of hours the office is open to the public. Field season office hours are Monday through Wednesday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. This allows Thursdays and Fridays to be dedicated field days and allows for adequate follow up on landowner concerns.

## Carlton Complex Wildfire Projects

### We May Be Able To Assist With Weed Control



The Carlton Complex Fire devastated a very large portion of Okanogan County this past summer. As you may have already heard, the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Board has received funding from the Washington State Legislature, which (once approved by the Okanogan County Commissioners) will be used to organize a massive weed control effort within the Carlton Complex Fire area.

Fire has a tendency to release a lot of dormant weed seeds and, during inspections conducted last fall and early this spring, Noxious Weed Office staff noted a huge increase in the number of Scotch Thistle and other noxious weed rosettes within the burned area.

If you have property within the Carlton Complex area, we strongly encourage you to contact our office by telephone at 509-422-7165, send us an email at [noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us](mailto:noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us), or stop in and see us in room 102 of the county courthouse to discuss your weed control needs.

## Aquatic Weed Treatment Funding

### Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board's Aquatic Proposal Was Not Funded



Last year, the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board received a grant from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, which was used to conduct a wide-scale aquatic weed survey of the Columbia River from the Canadian border down to Wells Dam, as well as, a portion of the Okanogan River from McLaughlin Falls to the confluence with the Columbia River.

During the winter, after the survey was completed, the Noxious Weed Office applied for a \$75,000 grant through the Washington State Department of Ecology, which would have been used to conduct noxious weed treatments on the weed sites that were identified during last summer's survey. Unfortunately, this spring, we were notified by the Department of Ecology that our grant did not receive funding. We will continue to seek and apply for treatment funding in the future.

## Volunteers Needed

### The Okanogan Conservation District Could Use Your Help



The Okanogan Conservation District is in need of volunteers to help prepare plants for its annual plant sale and for the 6,000 plants that are being donated to landowners within the Carlton Complex Wildfire area (thanks to the Arbor Day Foundation and the Washington State Nursery and Landscape Association).

Volunteers are needed on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> at the USDA Service Center at 1251 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave in Okanogan and again on April 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in downtown Okanogan.

Those volunteers who are able to give at least 3 hours of service will be able to select plants from the surplus plant sale on April 11<sup>th</sup> ahead of the sale opening. If you would like to volunteer for any of these events, or for more information, then please contact Kirsten Cook at the Okanogan Conservation District via telephone at (509) 422-0855 ext. 123 or by email at [kirstenc@okanogancd.org](mailto:kirstenc@okanogancd.org).

## Planned 2015 Weed Control Projects

### We Have Submitted A Supplemental Appropriation Request To The County Commissioners



On March 19, the Noxious Weed Office submitted a supplemental appropriation request to the County Commissioners asking for approval to utilize the multiple grants and other outside funding sources that we were able to secure to assist landowners with controlling noxious weeds this year. The commissioners are scheduled to vote on our request on April 13.

### Grants and other funding sources included in the supplemental request include:

Title II funds, which will be used to assist landowners in controlling Class 'A' Noxious Weeds on their property and within a few weed control project areas.

Funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which will be used to treat Scotch Thistle and other weeds on the Colville Reservation.

Funds from the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, which will be used to assist landowners in controlling Mirabilis on their property.

Funding from the Department of Ecology, which will be used to treat Milfoil in Lake Osoyos.

Funds from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, which will be used to conclude aquatic surveys on the Okanogan & Columbia Rivers and to treat mandatory control weeds on DNR Lands.

Funding from Washington State Legislature, which will be used to conduct noxious weed control & re-seeding projects within the Carlton Complex Wildfire area (Carlton Complex Fire projects will be conducted in conjunction with projects being completed by the Okanogan Conservation District).

## Noxious Weeds Of The Season

### Common Bugloss



Common Bugloss is a perennial herb that can grow to over 2 feet tall. Plants have a deep taproot and the whole plant is overall quite hairy. Common Bugloss leaves are long, narrow, and pointed at the ends. Flowers can vary in color from blue to purple to pink, and grow in clusters, which curve into a fiddle-neck at the tips.

Common Bugloss is a Class 'B' Designate Noxious Weed throughout Okanogan County, and landowners are required to stop propagation of the species.