

# Okanogan County's 2015 Winter Noxious Weed Bulletin

## Coming Events

### January Events

**January 14:** Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting. (For more information about Ferry County's Weed Board meetings, please contact the Ferry County Noxious Weed Office at (509) 775-5225 ext. 1111.)

**January 28:** Okanogan County Noxious Weed Board will be holding its monthly board meeting in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at the Virginia Grain-ger Building in Okanogan at 4:00 p.m. (Note: You will receive one pesticide license recertification credit for every board meeting that you attend.)

### February Events

**February TBD:** Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding a pesticide license recertification workshop. (For more information, please contact the Ferry County Noxious Weed Office at (509) 775-5225 ext. 1111.)

**February 4:** Mark your calendars—the Horticulture Show will be held in the Agriplex building at the Okanogan County Fairgrounds. This year's show will be worth two (possibly three) credits toward your pesticide license recertification (the trade show starts at 8:00 a.m.).

**February 11:** Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting.

**February 17:** Chelan County Noxious Weed Board is holding a seven credit pesticide license recertification workshop at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee. (For more information please contact the Chelan County Noxious Weed Office at (509) 667-6550.)

**February 25:** Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

### March Events

**March 5:** Okanogan County Noxious Weed Board's Spring Pesticide License Recertification Class.

**March 11:** Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting.

**March 25:** Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at 4:00 p.m.

## 2015 Weed Control Contracts

### We are again offering weed control contracts

Again in 2015, all landowners (who have had Class A or Class B Designate Noxious Weeds on their property in past years) will receive a contract from the Okanogan Noxious Weed Office to hire a local licensed commercial pesticide applicator to treat any mandatory control/eradication noxious weeds found growing on their property this year.

Again this year, under the 2015 contract, those landowners with Class B Designate Noxious Weeds on their property (who sign the contract) will be responsible for all costs associated with hiring the commercial applicator. Under the Class A Noxious Weed Contract, the Weed Office may be able to pay some of the cost of control (if we are able to secure grant funding).

Landowner contracts for Class A and B Designate Noxious Weeds will be mailed out in February and must be returned no later than the end of March. Landowners who do not wish to take advantage of the contract will be responsible for controlling any Class A or B Designate Noxious Weeds on their property. All landowners who do not control mandatory control noxious weeds on their property will receive a posting letter (with enforcements following as needed). When time permits, landowners with mandatory control noxious weeds on their property will receive a phone call or notice to control by a specific date prior to receiving a posting letter.

## Wildfire Rehabilitation Projects

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



As we all know, the Carlton Complex Fire, and other wildfires around the county, devastated a very large portion of Okanogan County this past summer. These wildfires have, and will continue to, place a great deal of financial burden on the landowners who were in their paths.

When wildfires go through an area, landowners not only have to contend with the costs of rebuilding and replacing items that were lost in the fire, but, they may also have other costs, such as controlling noxious weeds (which can easily take over in the absence of native vegetation). Consequently, the Okanogan Noxious Weed Office has applied for funding (from several different sources) to provide post wildfire noxious weed control assistance to affected landowners.

We have already received some of the funding that we applied for and are still waiting to hear back on others, so we are encouraging affected landowners to check in with us periodically to see if there is any new assistance available.

## 2014 Weed Control Accomplishments

### What Got Done In 2014?



Okanogan Noxious Weed Office coordinated several noxious weed survey and control projects in 2014, as well as providing for a Class A and Class B Designate noxious weed control contract. Pictured left; an infestation of Spurge Flax (a Class A noxious weed) was detected and treated in a new area near the town of Riverside in 2014.

**Some of 2014's highlights included:**

A complete aquatic weed survey of the Okanogan and Columbia Rivers from Wells Dam to the Canadian Border. Noxious weed surveys on much of the Colville Reservation, as well as, a Class A noxious weed survey of several BLM land parcels. We were also able to conduct multiple noxious weed control treatments on DNR, USFS, BLM, and Tribal lands. The Noxious Weed Board was able to provide post wildfire noxious weed control assistance to many of the landowners who were affected by last summer's wildfires.

Funding for all of these projects was provided through various grants, cooperative agreements, and donations that the Noxious Weed Board received. While these projects did make for a very busy field season in 2014, they also provided for some extra funding in our budget, which meant that we did not have to raise the 2015 noxious weed assessment.

## 2015 Calibration Seminars

### Does Your Equipment Need to be Calibrated?

The Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board is tentatively scheduling a series of hands-on spray equipment calibration seminars for the beginning of April. If we have enough people interested in calibrating their spray equipment, we will put on the seminars at various locations around the county (Locations and topics covered can be custom tailored based on the needs of those who are attending the seminar).

Topics that can be covered at each seminar include: calibrating backpack, ATV, and other types of spray equipment, as well as, proper preparation of spray records. If you are interested in attending one of these seminars, we ask that you please contact the Weed Office to pre-register before March 10 so we can schedule locations and ensure that credits are available for each seminar (we must have at least 4 people signed up within an area of the county before we can schedule a seminar).



## Hoary Alyssum Designation Change

### Control Is Now Required County Wide



Hoary Alyssum is noted to invade pastures, and sandy or gravelly soils. This plant will grow one to three feet tall. A member of the mustard family, this plant will produce a large amount of seeds (its only method of reproduction) rapidly increasing the size of an infestation. Hoary Alyssum rapidly spreads throughout drought stressed areas and will move readily into irrigated alfalfa fields.

Since Hoary Alyssum was first added to the State Noxious Weed List in 2004, there has been a small buffer area located in the northeast corner of Okanogan County where Hoary Alyssum was not designated for control. The buffer area was put in place due to the large amount of Hoary Alyssum that was growing in the northern end of Ferry County, which was providing a continuous seed source to re-infest Okanogan County landowners who were trying to control Hoary Alyssum on their property near the border.

Over the past several years, Ferry County has begun to aggressively target Hoary Alyssum in Ferry County, which is making it now possible for Okanogan County landowners to effectively control Hoary Alyssum on their properties near the Ferry County line. Consequently, last summer, the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board petitioned the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board to eliminate the Hoary Alyssum buffer area in Okanogan County.

At their November board meeting, the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board voted in favor of removing the Hoary Alyssum buffer area (starting in 2015), meaning that Hoary Alyssum is now a Class B Designate Noxious Weed throughout all of Okanogan County. In 2015, all landowners throughout Okanogan County are required to stop Hoary Alyssum from producing seeds.

## Be Ready To Spray This Spring

### Don't Forget To Renew Your Pesticide License Before Spring!

If you plan to use any restricted use pesticides this year, you will need to make sure that your pesticide applicator license is current. To check on the status of your pesticide applicator license, or to see how many pesticide license recertification credits you have, please visit the Washington State Department of Agriculture's pesticide license website at <http://agr.wa.gov/pestfert/licensing/search> or contact the Okanogan Noxious Weed Office at (509) 422-7165.