

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ferry County Weed

Board Meeting:

January 13

509-775-5225, Ext. 1111

Okanogon County

Noxious Weed Control

Board Meeting:

January 27, 4:00 pm

1 pesticide license credit

Ferry County

Recert Workshop:

February TBD

509-775-5225, Ext. 1111

Horticulture Show:

February 4, Agriplex/
Fairgrounds, Tradeshow
starts at 8:00 am
2 or possibly 3 credits

Ferry County

Weed Board Meeting:

February 10

509-775-5225, Ext. 1111

Chelan County

Noxious Weed

Recert Workshop:

February 23

Confluence Technology
Center, Wenatchee
509-667-6550

7 Pesticide License

Credits

Okanogon County

Noxious Weed Control

Board Meeting:

February 24, 4:00 pm

1 pesticide license credit

Okanogon County

Noxious Weed Spring

Recertification Class:

February 25

Ferry County Weed

Board Meeting:

March 9

509-775-5225, Ext. 1111

Okanogon County

Noxious Weed Control

Board Meeting:

March 23, 4:00 pm

1 pesticide license credit

Optional Contracts Organize Control

In 2016 all landowners, with known sites of Class A or Class B Designate Noxious Weeds on their property, will be contacted regarding their control plans for 2016.

They will receive a contract with the option to hire a licensed commercial pesticide applicator to treat any mandatory control/eradication noxious weeds found growing on their property during the current field season. The contract is intended to assist OCNWCB in organizing control efforts and reduce the expense of repeated



travel to infested properties.

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.

Those 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.

Landowners with mandatory control noxious weeds on their property may receive a courtesy call or notice prior to a certified posting letter. All landowners who do not control mandatory control noxious weeds will receive a certified posting letter (with enforcements following as needed). Enforcement proceedings are to protect adjacent properties from further infestation.

Wildfire Rehabilitation Projects

We May be Able to Assist with Weed Control

Wildfires the past couple of years devastated a very large portion of Okanogon County. These wildfires may have placed a huge financial burden on those who were in their paths.

When wildfires go through an area, landowners may not

only have to contend with the costs of rebuilding but they may also have other costs, such as controlling noxious weeds. Consequently, OCNWCB has applied for funding to provide noxious weed control assistance to those affected.

We are encouraging landowners to check in

with us periodically to see if

there is any assistance available. And remember, we offer free on site consultations to help identify noxious weeds and assist in developing a control plan that works with your current needs and long term goals for your property.





Our goal here at the Noxious Weed Office is to help you reach your goal.....

Noxious Weed Free!!!



Thank You All!!!

We all know that 2015 was an extremely challenging year for trying to control noxious weeds. Between the severe drought conditions, long stretches of excessive heat, and the record setting wildfire season, it is a wonder that any noxious weeds were controlled in 2015.

In spite of all of these challenges, we still managed to pull together and have another great year for controlling noxious weeds in 2015. Because of that, we would like to thank you all for the weed control efforts that you made this last year. Many of you went above and beyond your own borders, helping your neighbors and others in need of noxious weed control assistance.

And, we would like to extend a big thank you to all of our local commercial pesticide applicators

for all the hard work and long hours that you put in during the 2015 weed control season. You all deserve a big round of applause for being so flexible with your work schedules and for the effort that you put in to ensure that noxious weeds were controlled (even with all of the challenges that hampered your efforts).

A big thank you also goes out to KOMW for all of their support and for allowing us to provide the weekly update on weeds and associated issues. Without this support from KOMW we would not be able to provide you with timely information regarding weed species, new weeds, or other noxious weed news.

A big thank you also goes out to Wayne Carpenter, who has been providing our office with invaluable assistance with our web site,

keeping it up to date and looking fresh. You can always check it for current recertification classes and other educational information.

We would also like to thank those of you who provided the Weed Office with comments and suggestions for our programs; without your input our office could not continue to modify and improve the services that we aspire to provide for you.

While the list is long, and we are unable to mention everyone, we would like to **thank you all** for helping to make 2015 another successful year for weed control in Okanogan County. And, thank you all for your patience and understanding while we worked through the many challenges that the 2015 weed control season threw at us.

Less Restrictive Credit Requirements

WSDA is Now Recognizing Aquatic Training Sessions for All Pesticide License Categories.

Those of you who hold Limited or Rancher Pesticide Licenses may recall that, in the past, the Washington State

Department of Agriculture did not count Aquatic Training Sessions that you attended as credits toward your pesticide license recertification. After reviewing their requirements, the WSDA has determined that

applicators who attend aquatic sessions will now receive credits for the class, regardless of the license that they hold.

For more information, visit the WSDA's website at: <http://agr.wa.gov/pestfert/licensingEd>.

Our Aquatics Program...

Where we are and where we are going

Because of the increasing interest in aquatic weeds we added several aquatic noxious weeds talks to our fall recertification class schedule. The talks provided a lot of useful information and we received a lot of positive feedback.

While the primary concern is recreational safety and limiting the spread of these aquatic weeds, we need to be aware of the impacts that they can have to both water quality and wildlife habitat.

Currently the Noxious Weed Office holds a DOE permit for Osoyoos, Palmer, and Spectacle Lakes. This permit allows for "in water" control efforts. These control efforts are primarily for Eurasian watermilfoil or Curly leaf pondweed and other noxious weeds. While there are only



three lakes currently on our permit, we can add as many as we want or need to. So, if you live on a lake in the county that has aquatic noxious weeds, we can add your lake to our permit at no charge, it just takes a bit of time and effort. Of course the cost of the actual control effort is another matter entirely!

We also hold a WSDA NPDES permit that allows for shoreline applications to emerged species such as

Purple loosestrife and Yellow flag Iris. If you are interested in controlling these emerged noxious weeds along the shoreline area, you will need to contact our office and we can arrange for the designated commercial applicator to perform the treatment. This permit is associated with a specific license holder, so all applications must be made by the applicator.

And as for funding these control efforts, we have applied to DOE for funding noxious weed control on Osoyoos, Palmer, and Spectacle Lakes. We should know sometime in the spring if we receive this funding, so keep your fingers crossed! We will keep everyone posted on our aquatic program, and keep it moving forward with more aquatic control.



Eurasian watermilfoil

Hydrilla

Curly leaf pondweed

Brazilian elodia



February 21—27, 2016

Helping to raise awareness and identify solutions to
invasive species issues at local, state, tribal, regional,
international and national levels.

Be involved, be part of the solution!

***** And please remember to mark your calendars for
our Recertification Class on February 25th! *****



Noxious weed seeds can be
persistent hitchhikers on our
pets and other animals!

**SHOW
YOU CARE,
BE
AWARE!**



Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board

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Please feel free to forward this newsletter on to your friends. Make sure you keep our office up to date with your email address, so we can keep you informed. Or, to be added to our email list, please send us an email at noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us.