

**OKANOGAN COUNTY
NOXIOUS WEED
CONTROL BOARD**

Okanogan County Noxious Weed News

January 2017

Winter

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ferry County Weed Board

Meeting:

January 11

509-775-5225 ext. 1111

Ferry County

Recertification Workshop:

January 24

509-775-5225 ext. 1111

Okanogan County

Noxious Weed Control

Board Meeting:

January 25, 4:00 pm

1 pesticide license credit

Ferry County

Weed Board Meeting:

February 8

509-775-5225 ext. 1111

Chelan County Noxious

Weed Recert. Workshop:

February 21

Confluence Technology

Center, Wenatchee

509-667-6550

7 pesticide license

credits

Okanogan County

Noxious Weed Control

Board Meeting:

February 22, 4:00 pm

1 pesticide license credit

Okanogan County Noxious

Weed Spring

Recertification Class:

February 23

Ferry County

Weed Board Meeting:

March 8

509-775-5225 ext. 1111

Okanogan County

Noxious Weed Control

Board Meeting:

March 22, 4:00 pm

1 pesticide license credit

All About Reseeding



Reseeding Considerations

Before you spend the time, money, and effort to reseed your property, there are a few things that you should be considering.

1. Is it really necessary to reseed the area?

Typically, sites with more than 20-30 percent canopy cover of desired vegetation do not require reseeding if weeds are controlled within the area.

2. It is crucial to reduce weed interference before and after reseeding!

At a minimum, weeds should be controlled for 2 years prior to seeding and for at least 2 years following reseeding.

3. Make sure to properly prepare the seed bed.

This includes removing existing plant debris that is in the area, and may require disking (**note:** seed bed preparation is usually not necessary when drill seeding the area).

4. Design a seed mix that is customized to meet your goals for the area.

Consider what you want to grow in the area (i.e. forage for livestock, competition for noxious weeds,

etc.), as well as, site conditions in the area (i.e. soil properties, precipitation and elevation).

5. Decide which seeding method will work best for your situation.

Drill seeding is the preferred method. Broadcast seeding should be used in steep or rocky terrain. Transplants are good for critical/high priority sites.

6. When to seed?

Spring is typically the best time to plant, however fall dormant seeding of cool season species can be effective.

7. Realistic expectations.

It may be 10-15 years after you seed an area before you see the results you are looking for (so be patient).

2017 Noxious Weed Control Contracts

In 2017 all landowners, with known sites of Class A or Class B Designate Noxious Weeds on their property, will again 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 repeated travel to infested properties.

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 (contracts received after the return by deadline will receive a lower priority for treatment).

The 2017 contracts are optional. Landowners who wish to control their own weeds do not have to sign.

ATV's and Noxious Weeds

Noxious Weeds are Rapidly Spreading!



Off Road ATV Travel is Rapidly Spreading Noxious Weeds (Like Spurge Flax) into New Areas



Off road ATV travel has created some major issues when it comes to the spread of noxious weeds. Every year, the Noxious Weed Office finds new noxious weed infestations, which got their start from seeds which were moved around by ATVs that were traveling off road. The following story about Spurge Flax is just one instance of weeds being spread by off road vehicle travel, which we hope will help to illustrate the magnitude of the problem.

Spurge Flax was first identified in Okanogan County in 1995 and was officially added to the Washington State Noxious Weed List as a Class A Noxious Weed in 1996. At that time, the Noxious Weed Office was only aware of one small infestation, which was spread out over about 60 acres in the Limebelt area of Okanogan County.

As soon as Spurge Flax was added to the state noxious weed list (as a Class A Noxious Weed), the Noxious Weed Office began an education and eradication campaign to try to eliminate Spurge Flax from Washington State (this included herbicide treatments of all plants at least 2 times per year).

It was believed that these efforts were making a substantial impact on the infestations. And, by 2004, we believed that the site was all but eliminated.

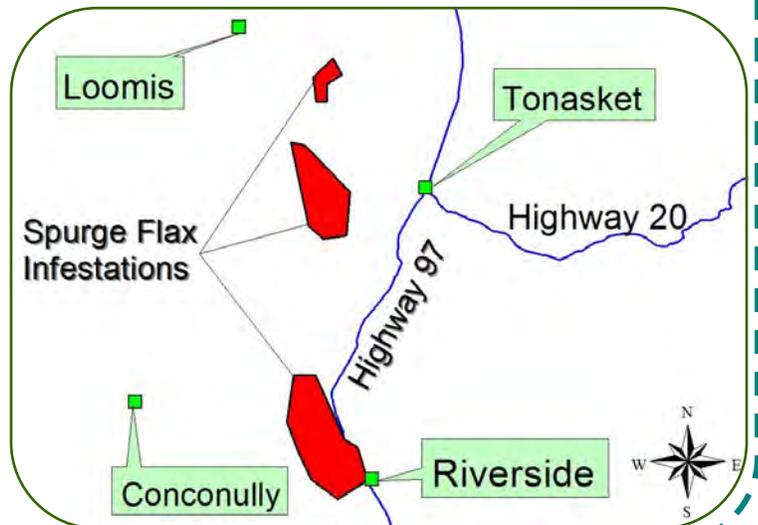
Then in 2010, one of our local commercial applicators found a new small infestation of Spurge Flax in the Beeman Road area, which led to an extensive survey effort over the next two years. This survey revealed 2 new very large infestations of Spurge Flax (one in the Beeman Road area and one just south of Spectacle Lake). We do not know exactly how Spurge Flax traveled from the Limebelt to these new areas, but there is a lot of hunting recreation that occurs in them.

Fast forward to the fall of 2016; when our office again conducted a large survey for Spurge Flax throughout the Limebelt area. The 2016

survey efforts focused on inspecting the many off road ATV trails that were created in the Limebelt since wildfire raced through the area in 2015. Unfortunately, nearly every ATV trail that we surveyed turned up new Spurge Flax infestations.

At this time, Spurge Flax infestations have been detected throughout an area of more than 17 square miles, in spite of extensive yearly control efforts.

Okanogan County is the only place in Washington State that is known to have Spurge Flax, which means we have an obligation to keep it from spreading, but, we need your help. We are asking that all ATV recreationists try to stay on established roads and trails, and that they clean the seeds off of their equipment on a regular basis and before traveling to new areas.



Invasive Mussels in Montana Waters

Means that “Clean, Drain, Dry” is more important than ever

Zebra and Quagga Mussels are small, aquatic freshwater mussels, which have the potential to cause millions of dollars in economic losses in areas where they establish.

On November 8, 2016, the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Department announced that they had discovered larvae of invasive Zebra Mussels in a reservoir in north-central Montana, and that there was potentially larvae in another reservoir near Helena.

This discovery marked the first time that these invasive mussels have been found in Pacific Northwest waters, and has sounded the alarm siren for Washington, Idaho, and Oregon.

At this point, it is likely that it is only a matter of time before we start seeing Zebra and/or Quagga Mussels showing up in Washington State waters, but, we all need to be doing everything that we can to slow their advance.

Aside from invasive mussels, there are also several invasive aquatic and riparian plants which can be easily spread by watercraft as well.

We all need to do our part to stop their spread by practicing the “**Clean, Drain, Dry**” principle with our watercrafts (**Clean** off all mud, animals, and plants from your boat, **Drain** all items that can hold water, and **Dry** all items on your watercraft before launching into other bodies of water).



Zebra/Quagga Mussels



Eurasian Watermilfoil



Purple Loosestrife



Curly Leaf Pondweed

2017 Noxious Weed Listing Hearing



For those folks who may not already know, each year the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board (OCNWCB) holds a Noxious Weed Listing Hearing, where we adopt the list of noxious weeds for Okanogan County.

At the hearing, the Noxious Weed Board members adopt the classifications of noxious weeds that are set forth on

the Washington State Noxious Weed List, and, vote whether to add any other noxious weeds to Okanogan County's Noxious Weed List.

This year, we will be holding our Noxious Weed Listing Hearing on January 25th, at 4:00 pm, in the Commissioner's Hearing Room, of the Virginia Grainger Administration Building.

During this year's hearing, aside from adopting the state noxious weed list, the board members will be discussing making Puncturevine and Longspine Sandbur mandatory control noxious weeds in all public right of ways and parking areas.

We would like to encourage everyone to attend the meeting and provide their input.



February 27 - March 3, 2017

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

Be involved, be part of the solution!

***** And please remember to mark your calendars for
our Recertification Class on February 23rd! *****

**From Everyone Here at the Noxious Weed Office,
Thank You All for Making 2016 Another Great Year!**



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.