

Okanogan County Noxious Weed 2023 Winter Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

- January 25, 2023

4:00 P.M.

Public hearing regarding adoption of State (and County) noxious weed list.

Regular board meeting to follow.

- February 22, 2023

4:00 P.M.

Regular board meeting

- March 2, 2023

9:00 am– 4:00 pm

Spring Recertification Class

- March 22, 2023

4:00 P.M.

Regular board meeting

Wildfire Rehabilitation Projects

We May be Able to Assist with Weed Control

Wildfires the past couple of years devastated a very large portion of Okanogan 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.



Announcements:

Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board is actively working on Town Hall style meetings for the beginning months of 2023. These meetings are meant for the public to attend and provide their feedback on what they would like to see from the Noxious Weed Office. These meetings will be held at various locations throughout Okanogan County. We will keep our website up to date with more information regarding these meetings, once specific dates & locations are scheduled.

To access our NEW website please search:

www.okanogancounty.org/government/noxiousweeds

- Since 2021 we have worked tirelessly on our website. We have a lot of new up-to-date information and weekly updates provided to you! Please take a second to check our website out, you won't regret it!!



Thank You All!!!

We all know that 2022 was an extremely challenging year for trying to control noxious weeds. Between the wet spring, cost of living, and the wild-fire season, it is a wonder that any noxious weeds were controlled in 2022.

In spite of all of these challenges, we still managed to pull together and have another great year for controlling noxious weeds in 2022. 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.

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 2022 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).

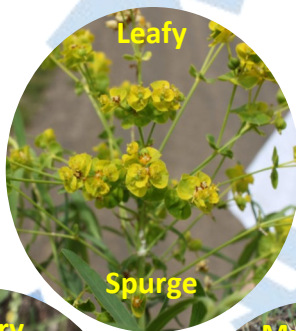
A big thank you also goes out to our local radio station, KOMW @ AM 680 and KNCW @ FM 92.7, for all of their support and for allowing us to provide the weekly update on weeds and associated issues. Without this support from KOMW & KNCW we would not be able to provide you with timely information regarding weed species, new weeds, or other noxious weed news.

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 2022 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 2022 weed control season threw at us.



Keep a lookout for!



Leafy

Spurge



Common

Bugloss



Yellow

Hawkweed



Orange

Hawkweed



Hoary

Alyssum



Musk

Thistle



Scotch

Thistle



Rush

Skeletonweed



Yellow

Starthistle

Some of the Common Class B Designate Noxious Weeds in Okanogan County



Additional Staff Needed

For the 2023 Field Season

The Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board will soon be ramping up for the 2023 field season and will be looking to hire additional seasonal field staff within the upcoming months (March or April). We will be looking to hire two (possibly more) Field Technicians to work for approximately 6 to 9 months.

These individuals will assist the Noxious Weed Office Manager in all phases of the weed control program, including providing office support and will be responsible for their own record keeping, photos, posting information and land-owner contact. These individuals will work outdoors to perform the work and inspections as necessary as well as in the office to keep the proper records as required by Policies and Procedures and RCW 17.10.

Position Summary:

All work is performed as outlined by the Manager in accordance with Washington State Weed Law RCW 17.10 and Okanogan County Policies and Procedures.

- This individual will act as Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) licensed pesticide consultant/operator offering specialized information regarding safe and legal use of herbicides, hand pulling noxious weeds, biological control and overall Integrated Weed Management (IWM) principals.

- Individual needs to know how to trace legal ownership of land and be able to find information on the Okanogan County Assessors' TaxSifter website.

- This individual must be able to communicate effectively with landowners to convey RCW requirements and provide control options using current scientific data and best management practices.

Required Qualifications:

- Ability to understand Washington State Weed Laws and ensure compliance on private/state land, with enforcement actions as outlined in RCW 17.10, including issuing notices of non-compliance and taking regulatory actions as necessary
- Washington State Department of Agriculture Pesticide Consultants/Operator license with an Ag Weed endorsement (Or the ability to acquire this license, and endorsement, within 45 days of employment)
- A valid Washington State Drivers' License
- A reliable vehicle of their own (the vehicle will be required to travel off of paved roads)
- Ability to understand and follow written and verbal instructions
- Must be able to put in long hours, in extreme heat, during the field season.

****Interested persons are invited to request an application packet in person, from the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board at 1234 S 2nd Ave or email at noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us. To apply, provide a completed Okanogan County employment application with cover letter and resume to the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board.**

Our Mission Statement:

To protect all lands and waters in Okanogan County from the devastating influences of non-native noxious weeds. We will promote control efforts through integrated weed management, focusing on education and prevention as the best control practice.

Your weed control issues are a priority with the Noxious Weed Control Board and we will always strive to help you in your control efforts. We encourage you to contact our office with your weed related concerns; whether it is regarding a particular weed, weed control requirements under RCW 17.10 or weed infestations on privately owned lands or public lands under a County, State or Federal agency. If we cannot provide the information or assistance you need, we will give you the contact information of the person we believe will be able to best assist you. Only by sharing our concerns, seeking information, and adapting to differing circumstances can we hope to achieve the invasive species control that is needed to protect the lands of Okanogan County.

YOUR SUCCESS
IS OUR GOAL



February 20, 2023 - February 26, 2023



Please remember to mark your calendars for our Spring Pesticide License Recertification Class which is coming up on March 2nd, 2023!



Show you care!



Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board

1234 S 2nd Ave, P.O. Box 791

Okanogan, WA 98840

(509) 422-7165

noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us

www.okanogancounty.org/nw



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. To be added to our email list, please send us an email at noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us.