

**OKANOGAN COUNTY
NOXIOUS WEED
CONTROL BOARD**

Okanogan County Noxious Weed News

October 2017

Fall

UPCOMING EVENTS

Okanogan County
Noxious Weed Control
Board Meeting:
October 25, 4:00 pm
1 pesticide license credit

Ferry County
Weed Board Meeting:
November 8
509-775-5225 ext. 1111

Okanogan County
Noxious Weed Control
Board Meeting:
November 15, 4:00 pm
1 pesticide license credit

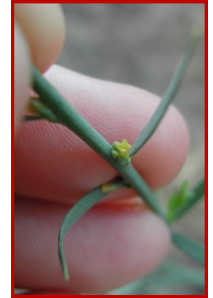
Okanogan County
Noxious Weed Control
Recertification Class:
December 7
12 Tribes Casino
6 pesticide license credits

Ferry County
Weed Board Meeting:
December 13
509-775-5225 ext. 1111

Okanogan County
Noxious Weed Control
Board Meeting:
December 20, 4:00 pm
1 pesticide license credit

Spurge Flax...Still Moving On

Prior to 2010, it was believed that the only Spurge Flax infestation in Washington State was confined to a small area just west of the town of Riverside, in the Limebelt area. Later on, two new infestations were found in the Beeman Road area and just south of Spectacle Lake. In 2016, surveys found Spurge Flax along the many off road ATV trails that were created in the Limebelt area since wildfire went throughout the area in 2015.



In spite of extensive yearly control efforts, new Spurge Flax infestations are being found each year in Okanogan County. Recently Spurge Flax has also been found on Department of Wildlife and Department of Natural Resources land in the Carter Mountain area.

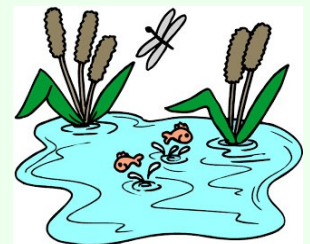


This Class A noxious weed is very hard to spot and extremely hard to control. It is most likely spread by wildlife such as deer and other animals, and by off-road vehicles and equipment. ATV recreationists can do their part to help stop its spread by staying on established roads and trails, and cleaning the seeds off of their equipment on a regular basis and before traveling to new areas.

Aquatic Program Update

We are passionately working to improve water quality, and to ensure safety for those who enjoy swimming, fishing, boating, or any other water activities, by moving forward with our aquatic program.

We are very happy to report that many lakes in our area have been treated for non-native Phragmites, Eurasian Watermilfoil, and Curly Leaf Pondweed. These lakes include Alta, Palmer, Osoyoos, Spectacle, Conconully, Salmon, and also Leader Lake.



“70 Years of Pride, County Wide”

Okanogan County Fair



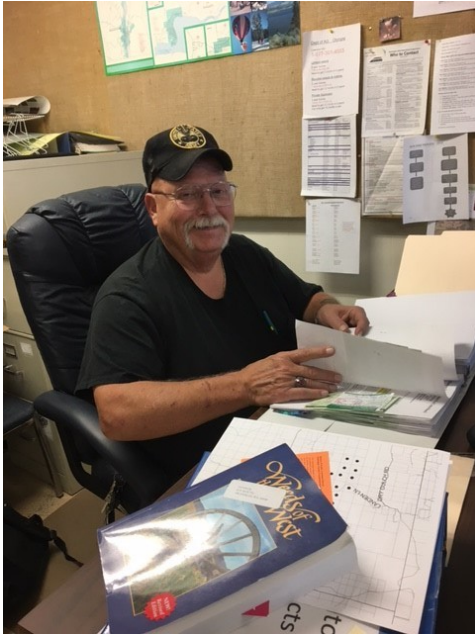
Nice Job Mid Valley Rangers 4 - H Club !!!

We were so fortunate and grateful for all the help we got from the Mid Valley Rangers 4-H Club at the Fairgrounds this year. Altogether they pulled 75 bags of weeds just in time for the beginning of the Okanogan County Fair, and all of their hard work was volunteer. We were all so impressed with how hard they all worked, and with the cheerful attitude they had during their whole weed control efforts!!!

**Be proud of your amazing work
Mid Valley Rangers, we sure are!!**



And the Pride Continues...A Big Thanks To Our Seasonal Staff



Mike Slattery has been such a pleasure to work with this summer. He faced a lot of challenges with the computer since his expertise has always led him to careers “away from a desk”, but he mastered it, along with being a tremendous help in the field, locating infestations of noxious weeds, and educating landowners on integrated noxious weed control options.



Erin Quinlan spent her summer helping us out immensely by inspecting for noxious weeds, mainly up in the northern part of the county, since she is very familiar with that area and with many of the northern area landowners.

Erin had to leave us a little early because of her involvement with the Okanogan County Fair, but she promises to come back next summer.

You are
Appreciated



Ryan Balkcom was a tremendous help over the summer, with surveying and mapping out noxious weed infestations, providing information to many, many landowners, and getting our educational materials up to date. His insight on “what works best” has allowed him to offer some great ideas for 2018. He is finishing his last year of college, and we’re looking forward to him returning next summer.

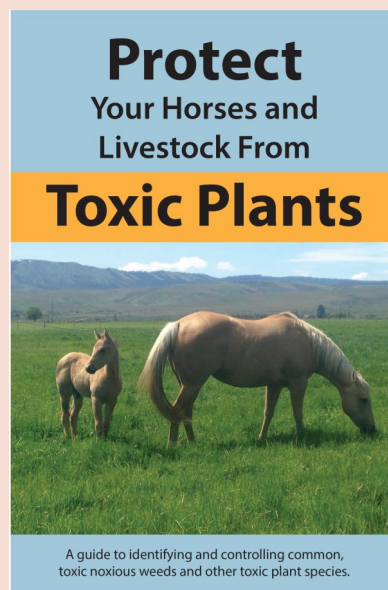
Protection From Toxic Plants

The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board has come out with an excellent booklet full of information about plants which can be toxic to horses and livestock. It features some great pictures of potentially toxic noxious weeds, and offers important information and a description of each one.

The booklet has a section that tells what to do if you believe your animal was exposed to toxic plants, and offers helpful suggestions for integrated pest management (IPM) once you realize you do have an infestation of unwanted plants.

The booklet talks about how to choose suitable hay for your horses and livestock. One way to keep your animals healthy is to buy certified noxious weed free hay through the Washington Wilderness Hay and Mulch program, commonly referred to as WWHAM, where certified noxious weed free growers have their fields inspected within ten days prior to cutting, to ensure that no propagative portions of noxious weeds are present. If you are interested in purchasing WWHAM certified hay for your horses and livestock, then please give us a call and we can help you find a grower who is WWHAM certified here in Okanogan County.

We have free copies of this booklet in our office, Room 102 of the County Courthouse. Please stop in and take one home.



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.