

OKANOGAN COUNTY  
NOXIOUS WEED  
CONTROL BOARD

# Okanogan County Noxious Weed News

April 2018

Spring

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Earth Day April 22

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

Ferry County  
Noxious Weed Control  
Board Meeting:  
May 9  
509-775-5225 ext. 1111

Okanogan County  
Noxious Weed Control  
Board Meeting:  
May 23, 4:00 pm  
1 pesticide license credit

Ferry County  
Noxious Weed Control  
Board Meeting:  
June 13  
509-775-5225 ext. 1111

Okanogan County  
Noxious Weed Control  
Board Meeting:  
June 27, 4:00 pm  
1 pesticide license credit

Ferry County  
Noxious Weed Control  
Board Meeting:  
July 11  
509-775-5225 ext. 1111

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



## Hitchhikers... Not Allowed!



Remember to be on the lookout this year for two of our top roadside hitchhikers, ***Puncturevine*** and ***Longspine Sandbur***. These are both designated by the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board as ***mandatory control within all public right of ways and parking areas in Okanogan County.***

***Puncturevine***, also known as ***Goatheads*** (shown above), is a low growing annual that matures from a taproot and branches out along the ground. Flowers are small and yellow. They produce a woody fruit that has long sharp spines. Animals will not graze it.

***Longspine Sandbur*** is a summer annual that favors sandy or well-drained gravelly soils. Leaf blades and leaf sheaths are flat in appearance, and immature plants spread horizontally. It thrives on roadsides and fence lines. Seeds are easily spread from burs that cling to clothing, fur, machinery and tires.



## We Are Moving!



After April 30th, the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Office will no longer be located in the Okanogan Courthouse. We are moving to the Public Works Administration Building, located at 1234 South Second Avenue, Okanogan, Washington, along with the WSU Extension Office. Please be sure to stop in and see us at our new location!!!

We will be keeping our current mailing address throughout 2018, and our phone number will remain the same. All correspondence via mail should be mailed to P.O. Box 791, Okanogan, WA 98840.

# Spurge Flax Control in 2018

## Spurge Flax Selected for Control Within Right of Ways and Parking Areas

As we mentioned in our Winter Newsletter, the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board reclassified Spurge Flax on the State Noxious Weed List to a Class B Noxious Weed in Okanogan County. As a Class B Noxious Weed, landowners are strongly encouraged to control Spurge Flax on their property, but control is no longer a requirement from the State Noxious Weed Control Board.

On January 24th, the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board held our 2018 Noxious Weed Listing Hearing, where we officially adopted Okanogan County's 2018 Noxious Weed List. At the hearing, the Board Members discussed several possible options for requiring control of Spurge Flax in Okanogan County.

Due to Spurge Flax being so widespread and well established in Okanogan County, and the fact that Spurge Flax is highly difficult to identify and control, the Board felt that it would be too burdensome to require landowners to control Spurge Flax on their property. However, they also felt that, since Okanogan County has the only known Spurge Flax infestations in the State of Washington, that we should be doing all that we can to limit its spread to other parts of the state. Consequently, the Board voted to add Spurge Flax to Okanogan County's 2018 Noxious Weed List as a county select noxious weed within all public right of ways and parking areas throughout Okanogan County. As such, Spurge Flax must be controlled (not allowed to produce seed) within those areas.

To further reduce the rate at which Spurge Flax is spreading, the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board is also strongly encouraging all landowners to control any Spurge Flax infestations on their property, and will be developing assistance programs to aid landowners in their control efforts. On April 25th, during our regular monthly Weed Board Meeting, the Board will be discussing assistance options and deciding on what programs will be offered in 2018 (we encourage everyone to attend and provide your input).



**Spurge Flax is a slender, wiry plant that can grow to over 2 feet tall. Plants can grow as a single stem or branch from the upper plant. The leaves are alternate, small, narrow and leathery. It has small yellow flowers, and the plant turns reddish in the fall. Animals will not graze it, and it quickly crowds out native vegetation.**



# Noxious Weed Inspections Have Begun



The Noxious Weed Office has begun inspections for noxious weeds in the lower elevations throughout the county and we will be working our way up to higher elevations as this spring continues to warm up. We have also begun doing some contract work with herbicides to get a head start on controlling some of the early season noxious weed species.

If you should happen to see us out and about, please feel free to stop and ask us any noxious weed related questions that you may have. Or if you should happen to notice an area that you think may have noxious weeds where you feel our office should be looking at, then please let us know; it always helps to have input from the public, and we are more than happy to check it out.

And, if you should happen to need some assistance with identifying various weeds on your property, or need assistance in developing a noxious weed control plan for your property, we also offer free onsite noxious weed control consultations to landowners in Okanogan County. To schedule, please send us an email at [noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us](mailto:noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us), or give us a call at (509) 422-7165.



## 2018 Aquatic Program Meeting

On March 15th, we held a public meeting to discuss and plan out Okanogan County's 2018 Aquatic Weed Control Program. During the meeting, we discussed that the Noxious Weed Office received \$25,000 from the Washington State Department of Ecology to conduct treatments on Patterson, Alta, and Leader lake in 2018.

At the meeting, Dave Klutz from Lakeland Restoration Services, discussed the various aquatic treatments that have taken place in Okanogan County over the past few seasons, and covered the treatments that are planned to occur in 2018.

We also had Jerry Ellis, from Wilbur Ellis, discuss the various herbicides that Lakeland Restoration will be using during this year's treatments. Jerry covered which weeds are controlled with the various products and product safety.

**If you'd like more information about Okanogan County's Aquatic Weed Control Program, please email us at [noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us](mailto:noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us) or give us a call at (509) 422-7165.**





# Spring Weed Control Checklist

## Spraying Checklist

This year if you plan to use any pesticides, you need to:

1. Thoroughly inspect your pesticide application equipment to make sure that it is in good working order and replace any damaged or faulty components.
2. Calibrate your pesticide application equipment to ensure that you are applying pesticides at the proper labeled rate.
3. Ensure your pesticide license is current.



## Bio-Control Checklist

If you plan to use Biological Control Agents this year:

1. Make sure your weeds have been properly identified to ensure bio-controls are available.
2. Stop by the Noxious Weed Office to pick up your order form, or download it from the publication page on our website at [www.okanogancounty.org/nw](http://www.okanogancounty.org/nw).
3. Return your order forms to Okanogan County Noxious Weed Office as soon as possible.



**Be good to our planet and Okanogan County...**  
**Help stop the spread of noxious weeds!**



Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board

P.O. Box 791

Okanogan, WA 98840

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[noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us](mailto:noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us)

[okanogancounty.org/nw](http://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. Or, to be added to our email list, please send us an email at [noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us](mailto:noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us).