
Noxious Weed Control

Mission Statement:

To serve as responsible stewards of Clallam County by protecting and preserving the land and resources from the degrading impacts of noxious weeds.

Functions:

Administer and enforce **RCW 17-10**, Noxious Weeds-Control Boards and **WAC 16-750**, State Noxious Weed List and Schedule of Monetary Penalties.

Long Term Goals:

To limit economic loss and adverse effects to Clallam County's agricultural, natural, and human resources due to the presence and spread of noxious weeds on all terrestrial and aquatic areas in the county.

Short Term Objectives:

- Eradicate, manage and/or contain Class A, Class B-designate, or selected Class B or C noxious weed infestations in Clallam County
- Maintain public and private landowner contacts in person, by phone calls, notices, and regular and certified mail delivery
- Maintain a landowner contact and mapping database for monitoring noxious weed infestations, their growth or decline, and landowner compliance with RCW 17.10 and WAC 16-750
- Respond to requests for information, site-specific consultations and take action on complaints
- Expand public education through the use of appropriate media sources, informational presentations, displays or presence at public events
- Coordinate with and sponsor community volunteer groups, schools and other agencies for manual weed removal and management projects, and annual surveys throughout the county

Accomplishments in 2007

Our accomplishments in 2007 can be highlighted in three categories, education, coordination and compliance. They are as follows:

Education

- As of June 2007, the Weed Control Program was involved with 19 public presentations or educational events for very diverse audiences ranging from school children and general public to agency crews or staff and professional land managers. We responded to over 376 requests for information and/or on-site consultations to identify plants or help owners initiate an overall control strategy.
- We maintained a Noxious Weed Demonstration Garden at the Robin Hill County Park. This garden contains not only all our common noxious weeds, but also many of the plants which are frequently mistaken for them. The purpose of the garden is to allow people to see first hand what the weeds look like and to allow the noxious to be compared with their look-a-likes. (Note: Control measures are in place to prevent spread of the weeds.)
- We continued to distribute Weed of the Month posters; each focusing on a different problem weed. These have been distributed and displayed in over 30 different locations--public agencies, non-profit organizations and private businesses—in all parts of the county. These weed of the month posters netted a number of new weed sites this year as homeowners learned that beautiful flowers in their yards were actually noxious weeds. Our internet site which displays these and other publications is frequently accessed by those who want to identify their noxious weeds and learn how to control them.
- We were featured in numerous newspaper articles ranging in topics from invasive species awareness, biocontrol releases and various on-going weed control projects.
- We continue to work on our webpage to include interactive reporting forms for knotweed and to update available weed control information.
- We sponsored and organized pesticide license training and exam session, and a field practicum taught by WSU, NPS, and Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board and funded by WSDA. 68 individuals representing 22 agencies and organizations from Gray's Harbor to the Hood Canal participated.
- We developed new informational material describing multiple control techniques and summarizing best management practices for knotweed control that was widely distributed to groups engaged in knotweed control statewide.

Coordination

- **General Program**-During 2007 the Weed Control Program coordinated with or provided technical support, in-kind match, or project supervision for a wide range of major landowners, resource managers or private organizations including Peninsula Trails Coalition, Back Country Horsemen, Merrill and Ring, Washington State Departments of Transportation, Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife, State Parks and Ecology, Clallam County Streamkeepers, the National Park Service, Olympic Natural Resource Center, and the cities of Sequim, Port Angeles and Forks, in addition to many small private landowners. We've also worked closely with every Native American tribe on the Peninsula, such as the Hoh, the Quileute, the Makah, the Elwha, and the Jamestown S'Klallam to control specific noxious weeds in their respective areas. We helped implement 2007 grants or supported new grant proposals for each of the above mentioned tribes.

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- **Lake Sutherland Milfoil Control**-We continue to make progress controlling Eurasian watermilfoil in Lake Sutherland. We coordinate monthly lake-wide weed removal days throughout the summer. This is accomplished by teaming approximately 20 divers and 20 support boats to scour the entire lake. Lake residents provide lunch for all volunteers. During these sessions, volunteers contributed over **400** hours (each session) in addition to extensive use of equipment such as power boats, kayaks, SCUBA gear, and food donations. We have stepped up personalized training sessions, and volunteer divers are better trained than before. In June we had our first **main pull** event in which approximately 45 volunteers participated. Additionally we had **10 other special dive days so far this year**. They included diver training, focus pull days and barrier maintenance projects. Two seasons ago, we perfected a new, easier to install, and longer lasting, barrier system. Within 2 months small crews had reinstalled barriers over all previous locations, (amounting to over 4000 sq. ft). Due to the progress made by the barrier, all large patches have been eliminated and no new barriers have had to be laid this year. Divers are finding smaller and smaller sites and younger plants. This has allowed greater focus on finding small or new "orphan" populations rather than struggling with control in large patches. All told, volunteers have donated well over **6568 hours of time** alone, (since October 2000) at a fraction of the cost of hiring contractors. More importantly, this volunteer-based program has greatly increased community interest in becoming part of a long term solution. The Lake Sutherland Management District, coordinated and managed by the Noxious Weed Control Board and a community based steering committee is in its third of five year life span and has providing stable funding for the volunteer-based milfoil control project. Members meet at least six times a year to plan season activities, analyze season performance and make improvements or adaptations with each successive year. We distribute 2 **newsletters** per year to approximately **450 individuals**, including all owners of lake property and those who have volunteered for milfoil control activities. The control program has been highly visible and the public has been extremely supportive of continuing work.
 - **Olympic Knotweed Working Group**-We continued to provide technical information and other services for the control of knotweed, in addition to facilitating the efforts of the Olympic Knotweed Working Group. This group, comprised of tribes, federal, state, and local governments, and private citizens has been working on various knotweed projects, primarily in the west end of the Olympic Peninsula, (both in Jefferson and Clallam Counties). This year, we organized a major training event held in Forks that assisted with pesticide licensing and field training for crews from Grey's Harbor to Mason County. Over 65 people participated and nearly 50 people took their applicator's test. We received two grants to fund landowner permission coordination for control work on private and public lands for several field crews in conjunction with the Makah and Quileute Tribes. We secured permits for aquatic herbicide applications to control knotweed in most major river systems in both Jefferson and Clallam Counties. This year crews have retreated the Big and Hoko Rivers, the Hoko-Ozette Rd, the Pysht, Sekiu, Sol Duc, and Hoh Rivers, and the towns of Sekiu and Clallam Bay. We were able to begin treatment of sites in Forks, 10 more miles of the Sol Duc, all of Lake Creek and additional sites near Sapho, that pose a threat to the Sol Duc. Our grants from the Washington Department of Agriculture and National Forest Service also provided funding for supplies that are being used by the Quilayute, Hoh, Jamestown S'Klallam, and Makah tribes, ONP and FS. We continue to facilitate activities for the many partners within the Olympic Knotweed Working Group and in doing so, leverage many grant sources by effectively pooling our collective resources. A final report of this season's activities will be distributed to granting agencies and presented this fall along with our partner's achievements at an OKWG meeting. We will also manage a knotweed database for the Peninsula with the help of the ONP.
 - **Weed Trials**-We began control trials for **sulfur cinquefoil** and **butterfly bush** in conjunction with the WSU, Mount Vernon Research Station. The cinquefoil site is on county land and is the only large cinquefoil infestation in Clallam County. The butterfly bush site is one of the biggest in the state and is on the

Dungeness River upstream of a major multi-year control project led by the Jamestown S'Klallam tribe to control butterfly bush. Such research is vital for establishing scientifically validated effective control methods for these species within the western portion of Washington State. We have completed monitoring of the butterfly bush treatments and the results are forthcoming. The cinquefoil site treatments were repeated as the previous trial results were inconclusive. This new information will be published in the Pacific Northwest Weed Control Handbook, a major informational resource for vegetation managers in Oregon, Idaho, and Washington. We have just established a study area to conduct trials for **herb Robert**. Study parameters will include germination conditions and seed longevity, and herbicide timing and efficacy trials in a mixed site (one that contains target and non-target species). This information is of particular concern to both the Forest Service and National Park as herb Robert populations have been exploding on these public lands.

- **Highway Weed Control**-We continued to work closely with the Department of Transportation to control noxious weeds along state highways. We assisted with mapping and surveying noxious weed infestations and created local control prescriptions. In previous years this has led to excellent reductions in major infestations and slowed expansion of new sites. Monitoring of the DOT's treatment of a newly discovered hawkweed last year showed almost complete eradication. The few remaining plant were handpulled. However, we had poor compliance earlier in the season, which was ascribed by agency personnel, to budget deficits. We have had to insist on better compliance, which is getting back on schedule. We continue to conduct our annual "tansy sweep" by removing all visible tansy plants from state highways as that plant is now becoming visible. This task requires multiple trips because mowing practices remove obvious blooming plants, and often we must wait for them to grow back before they are visible once again.
- **Forest Service Title II Program**-We continue coordination of noxious weed control for Jefferson County and US Forest Service lands in both Clallam and Jefferson County with Title II funds. This year, this program funded a two person "swat team" that implemented the Forest Service Integrated Weed Management Plan and a weed specialist who performed weed control activities within Jefferson County and supervised the field crew. The crew continues to survey both known and new infestations, controls small infestations, implements a work plan for herbicide treatments under the 1998 Forest Service EIS. Additionally, the weed specialist addresses landowner complaints and provides on-site consultations for weed identification and control measures within Jefferson County. Survey and control information is updated and entered into NRIS, a national weed data base. The crew also maps all new weed sites using GIS. The team placed "weed alerts" in most campgrounds to engage the public in the search for noxious weeds. This year, we received extra funding to managed a pilot program utilizing a prison crew to manually remove Scotch broom and blackberry for several large West Jefferson County pits. We produce and distribute an extensive report of weed control activities under Title II to Jefferson and Clallam Commissioners, state legislators and other interested or involved parties at the end of the treatment season. Funding for the final year of the Secure Rural Schools Act (2007) was approved by the Olympic Resource Advisory Committee that oversees Title II projects.
- **Biocontrol**-We facilitated many biocontrol releases this year, including insects that suppress meadow knapweed, Scotch broom, tansy, and purple loosestrife. We hope to create nursery sites for tansy flea beetles on two tansy sites in particular, one on the Hoh River, and one in Joyce, where tansy engulfs more than 70 acres. We recently released a special strain of tansy flea beetles that we hope will better endure our wet, cold conditions. Similarly, we hope to establish insects that prey on spotted knapweed in the Carlsborg area. To date three different bugs have been released there. The WSU biocontrol program has provided the insects and services of a specialist free of charge. We continue to periodically monitor these sites to see whether populations are successfully establishing.

Compliance

- Ongoing monitoring of all weed sites to make sure landowners are in compliance is very important and time consuming. Some sites are visited as many as seven times in the course of the year, and many more are visited two, three or four times. In previous years our surveys focused on covering all city roads and alleys, in addition to highways and major roadways. But this year we again concentrated on monitoring and getting control of known sites (we survey all major roads and highways two or three times annually). Poison hemlock was a species of particular concern. In addition to our regular road surveys, we made over **200** compliance contacts so far this year. This figure does not include multiple visits made to a single site.
- Our current policy is to make contact with the property owner at the time the weeds are discovered or monitored, if possible, and in some cases help the owner remove the weeds on the spot. Although weeds are completely gone from only a few sites, in general, once a landowner understands the need to control their weeds, compliance is excellent. This year we have focused on personalized follow-up compliance actions-phone calls and in person visits. This method appears to be working well as we have had to send out less than 20 compliance letters so far this year.
- Although the DOT and the county road crews do spray or mow roadside weeds, weed control staff often spends nearly two weeks removing weeds, especially tansy ragwort, knapweed and poison hemlock, from over **252 miles** of roadways to ensure a higher level of weed control than the DOT is required to perform. After continual efforts over the past several years, fewer weeds needed removing, reducing staff time spent on this project to about half of that spent in previous years.

Performance Indicators:

	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	6/30/07 Actual	2008 Estimate
Formal Landowner Notification (currently attempting a total in-person follow up policy)	68	0	20	30
Compliance Checks			205	400
Information requests/ Site visits by landowner request	932	450	376	500
Community Presentations or Events	37	21	19	30
Weeds removed (directly by staff or efforts coordinated by staff)	Staff-51,775 WCC-88,655 Chain gangs 450,225	Staff-11,800 plus treatment of 20 miles of Forest Service Rds Funding for WCC will not be avail. Chain gangs- 226,500	N/A	Grant dependent

Workload Indicators:

	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	6/30/07 Actual	2008 Estimate
Grants	LMD #2 \$17,500	LMD #2 \$17,500	LMD #2 \$17,500	LMD #2 \$17,500
	Title II Forest Service \$57,952 (for Clallam & Jefferson)	Title II Forest Service \$46,195 (for Clallam & Jefferson)	Title II Forest Service \$94,114 (for Clallam & Jefferson)	N/A
	Forest Health Protection Fund \$10,000	Forest Health Protection Fund \$10,000	Forest Health Protection Fund \$10,000	Annual Grants Currently \$8,000 through 6/31/07
		Washington State Department of Agriculture Knotweed Control Fund \$35,000 plus \$5000 worth of herbicide North Olympic Community Salmon Fund (Knotweed Control) \$40,000	Washington State Department of Agriculture Knotweed Control Fund \$35,850 plus \$10,000 worth of herbicide	
Number of weed sites to control or monitor on county lands/FS lands	1012/852	1023/870	1062/986	1062/986

Road miles to survey including city, county and state highway. Does not include alleys, private roads and acreage.	1,500 (estimate including Jefferson County and Forest Service Roads)	1,500 (estimate including Jefferson County and Forest Service Roads)	1,500 (estimate including Jefferson County and Forest Service Roads)	1,500 (estimate including Jefferson County and Forest Service Roads)
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Staffing Level:

	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	6/30/07 Actual	2008 Budget
Full Time Equivalents	2.0	2.125	3.06	1.85

Operating Budget

Revenues:

	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	6/30/07 Actual	2008 Budget
Beginning Fund Balance	98,130	84,464	83,723	83,723
Taxes	87,899	86,403	56,417	89,399
Licenses and Permits	0	0	0	0
Intergovernmental Revenues	69,495	75,920	50,283	17,650
Charges for Goods and Services	1,773	10,000	0	8,314
Fines and Forfeits	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Revenues	0	0	0	0
Nonrevenues	5,744	0	0	0
Other Financing Sources	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	\$263,041	\$256,787	\$106,700	\$199,086

Expenditures:

	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	6/30/07 Actual	2008 Budget
Salaries and Wages	95,489	114,598	35,714	60,423
Personnel Benefits	9,092	15,141	7,889	17,151
Supplies	4,179	14,801	2,819	8,600
Other Services and Charges	2,571	9,551	875	8,238
Intergovernmental Services	0	0	0	0
Interfund Payments for Services	67,246	45,470	30,147	29,618
Capital Outlay	0	0		
Ending Fund Balance	84,464	57,226	89,323	75,056
TOTAL	\$263,041	\$256,787	\$77,444	\$199,086

Agency Structure:

Board of County Commissioners



Noxious Weed Control Board
 5 voting community representatives, appointed by Commissioners
 WSU Extension Agent, -non voting member



Coordinator
 .9 FTE



Temporary Staff
 .14 FTE,
Office Assistant



Temporary Staff
 .14 FTE, .14 FTE
Field Inspectors



Temporary Staff
 (Forest Service Title II Grant Funded)
 .165 FTE & .165 FTE
Weed Control Specialist & Field Inspector



Temporary Staff
 (Knotweed Grant)
 .33 FTE
Knotweed Control Specialist
Temporary Staff
 (Knotweed Grants)
 .33 FTE, .33 FTE,
 .14FTE, .14FTE, .14FTE
Technicians

***Temporary Staff**
 Forest Service Title II Grant Funded
 .165 FTE, & .165FTE
Weed Control Coordinator & Field Inspector

***NOTE:** Title II Funding under the Secure Rural Schools Act, from Jefferson County, and funds from the Jefferson County General fund pay for this staffing. The accomplishments of this staff are not shown in this document because those efforts, although overseen by the Clallam Weed Control Program go toward weed control needed in Jefferson