
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 to in 2009:

Our accomplishments in 2009 to June 30 can be highlighted in three categories, education, coordination and compliance. They are as follows:

Education

- As of June 2009, the Weed Control Program was involved with **15** 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 **318** 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.
- New invaders are being discovered annually through routine surveys, volunteer sightings, or through public request for plant identification. In '07, we discovered European hawkweed along Hwy 101, one of very few throughout the state. In '08, we discovered hoary alyssum, the only sites known in western Washington, and were alerted by volunteers about hairy willow herb at Carrie Blake Park, the only site known in Clallam County and on the Olympic Peninsula. This year, garlic mustard was brought in by a concerned citizen after learning about it on a television news report. We alert the public about these and other species through education events but also through the media. We were featured in **8** newspaper articles ranging in topics new invader alerts, biocontrol releases and various on-going weed control projects.
- Our internet site which displays a number of publications and useful links has been accessed **644** times (since January '09) by those who want to identify their noxious weeds and learn how to control them. We continue to work on our webpage which includes an interactive knotweed report form and plan to update available weed control information. **12** knotweed infestations have been reported to date. We responded and treated all reported sites. Our "Weed Catchers" photo gallery, hundreds of local plant pictures collected by a group of Master Gardeners, will be displayed on our website soon.

Coordination

- **General Program**—During 2009 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, 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 2009 grants or supported new grant proposals for each of the above mentioned tribes.

- **Lake Sutherland Milfoil Control**-We continue to make progress controlling Eurasian watermilfoil in Lake Sutherland. We coordinate lake-wide weed pull days during the summer. Because of our success over the years, we reduced the number of lake-wide events from three to two. During this year's events, approximately 10 divers and 10 support boats will be teamed together to maintain barriers, document site locations and to scour the entire lake for Eurasian watermilfoil. Lake residents provide lunch for all volunteers. During these sessions, volunteers are expected to contribute over **160** hours (each session) in addition to extensive use of equipment such as power boats, kayaks, SCUBA gear, and food donations. In 2008, the bulk of Eurasian watermilfoil showed up quite late, end of August through November, versus late June and slowing by September. In response, the Lake Steering Committee decided to schedule our community pulls later than usual. Our first community wide pull is scheduled for August 8th, and the second for September 12th. We conducted **6 other special dive days by June 30th**. They included diver training, focus pull days and barrier maintenance projects. Each of these has been attended by 2-3 volunteers. Several seasons ago, we perfected a new, easier to install, and longer lasting, barrier system. Small crews reinstalled new barriers over all previous burlap barriers, a material recommended by DOE which turned out to be ineffective in our lake. We were finally able to cover all dense patches by the end of the next year. (49,830 sq feet). Due to the progress made utilizing the new barriers, all large patches have been eliminated and no new barriers have had to be laid in the last two years. Additionally, volunteers were hand-pulling an estimated 10,000-15,000 sq. ft. infested area at scattered locations around the lake. That area has been greatly reduced. Through June of this year, we surveyed approximately half the lake and found only 56 plants. By the end of July, after an almost complete survey, an additional 98 plants were found, over half in a single location. Put together, the weeds covered less than 100 square feet. Since the program's inception, volunteers have donated well over **7265 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 final year of the original five year life span and has provided stable funding for the volunteer-based milfoil control project. After many meetings, and an extensive canvassing effort, Committee members collected over 115 lake owner signatures requesting the Commissioners to extend the duration and assessment collection for another 5 yrs. Members meet at least five 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 lake residents have been extremely supportive of continuing work.
- **Olympic Knotweed Working Group**-We continued to provide technical information and other services for the control of knotweed. Additionally we facilitate the efforts of the Olympic Knotweed Working Group which meets biennially to plan and coordinate in the spring, and to share results and experiences in the fall. 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, (in both Jefferson and Clallam Counties). Members from four Olympic counties participate. 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 Quileute Tribe, Jefferson County Weed Board and 10,000 Years Institute. We secured permits for aquatic herbicide applications to control knotweed in most major river systems in both Jefferson and Clallam Counties. This year crews are retreating the Big, Sol Duc, and Hoko

Rivers, the Hoko-Ozette Rd, the Pysht, Sekiu, Dosewallips, and Hoh Rivers, Lake, Wisen, Valley, Ennis, Peabody, Snow, Salmon and Spencer Creeks, and the towns of Sekiu, Clallam Bay, Forks, Sapho and Port Angeles. We were able to begin treatment of sites in the Bogachiel, Big and Little Quilcene Rivers. 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. To support a pool of professional, licensed applicators, we sponsored a free license credit day that included morning lectures, and hands-on training with applications in the afternoon. 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 where participants will also be able to garner needed license credits. We also manage a knotweed database for the Peninsula with the help of the ONP.

- **Washington Wilderness Hay and Mulch program (WWHAM)**-As of 2009, USFS and other agencies require certified weed free hay and straw products for any project on or use of agency land. Bales are often wrapped in a proprietary twine. Prior to 2008, no such product was available in WA. To serve local needs, the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board launched a pilot weed free hay program that meets North American Weed Management Association standards. This is a standard which is recognized in many western states. County coordinators were trained and licensed to certify local fields in time to meet the 2009 deadline. We were able to certify one Clallam County hay producer last year and plan to do so again. Unfortunately, one grower in Jefferson County who requested inspection, was unable failed to meet minimum requirements. We hope to be more successful this year.
- **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 good control, however, another site emerged just east of Lake Crescent. We assisted with both local and regional education and licensing events. We have had to insist on better compliance, which is getting back on schedule. We will 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 field crew to implement the Forest Service Integrated Weed Management Plan and a weed specialist who performs weed control activities within Jefferson County. Supervision and training for field crew emanates from the Clallam office. The crew continues to survey both known and new infestations, controls small infestations, and implements a work plan for herbicide treatments under the 1newly completed Invasive Plant Control 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. This year, money held-over from last year was used to continue the work of an Olympic Correctional Crew who manually removed Scotch broom from 8 large West Peninsula pits, and continued removing plants in highly visible areas of Hwy 101 near Forks. We conducted an herbicide training for WCC crew and other staff requiring WSDA approved-license credits. 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 2009 is uncertain; the program has continued with unexpended dollars saved from 2008 and new FS money provided from various programmatic sources.

- **Biocontrol**-We facilitated several biocontrol releases again this year, including insects that suppress meadow knapweed, Scotch broom, tansy, Canada thistle 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 many times in the course of the year. 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 **400** 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. We noted trouble areas from last year, and sent pre-season letters to encourage landowners to control weeds earlier. The process seems to have helped. Over half the sites had performed weed control before staff arrived to inspected. We continue to 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 **60** compliance letters so far this year.
- Although DOT crews spray and the county road crews mow roadside weeds, weed control staff often spends several 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.
- With the assistance of County Park staff, we performed a survey of all Clallam County parks (20, and assisted with required weed control at several.
- Inspecting pits and other soil or gravel stockpiles for weeds is a high priority because these areas are often the source of many new infestations. We are collecting more information about pits and soil stockpiles to increase our ability to monitor these areas.
- We are in the process of updating our database to better detail progress made in controlling weeds overall and to better quantify compliance.

Performance Indicators:

	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	6/30/09 Actual	2010 Estimate
Formal Landowner Notification	20	108	60	75
Compliance Checks	350	1025	400	600
Information requests/ Site visits by landowner request-(in '09 includes internet hits)	953	662	962	600
Community Presentations or Events	34	35	15	30
Weeds removed (directly by staff or efforts coordinated by staff)	<p><i>STAFF</i>-general weed control 4,500</p> <p>Projects</p> <p>Knotweed Control* STAFF -65 river miles, approx. 202 acres</p> <p>Weed control on FS lands* <i>STAFF</i>-approx 60 acres</p> <p>Olympic Correctional Crew-375 acres (funded through FS grant)</p> <p>Chain gangs-72,700-county-FS combined.</p> <p><i>WA CONSERVATION CORPS</i>-approx 22 acres (funded by FS grant)</p> <p>Lake</p>	<p><i>STAFF</i>-general weed control 6,922</p> <p>Projects</p> <p>Knotweed Control* STAFF -140 river miles,</p> <p>Weed control on FS lands* <i>STAFF</i>-approx 186 acres</p> <p>Olympic Correctional Crew-approx. 75 acres (funded through FS grant)</p> <p>Chain gangs-24,350-county-FS combined</p> <p>Lake</p>	<p><i>STAFF</i>-general weed control 6,091 weeds pulled, approx 10 acres sprayed</p> <p>Projects</p> <p>Knotweed Control* STAFF -30 river miles, approx. acres currently unavailable</p> <p>Weed control on FS lands* <i>STAFF</i>-est 65 acres</p> <p>Olympic Correctional Crew-approx. 75 acres (funded through FS grant)</p> <p>Lake</p>	<p><i>STAFF</i>- general weed control 3,000 weeds</p> <p>Projects</p> <p>Grant dependent</p> <p>Lake</p>

	Sutherland milfoil control-lake- wide control	Sutherland milfoil control-lake- wide control	Sutherland milfoil control-lake- wide control	Sutherland milfoil control-lake- wide control
	*Contact our office for full project reports.	*Contact our office for full project reports.	*Full reports are forthcoming in the fall.	

Workload Indicators:

	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	6/30/09 Actual	2010 Estimate
Grants	LMD #2 \$17,500	LMD #2 \$17,500	LMD #2 \$17,500	LMD #2 \$19,400
	Title II Forest Service \$94,114 (for Clallam & Jefferson)	Title II Forest Service \$107,215 (for Clallam & Jefferson)	Title II Forest Service \$39,600 (remaining from 08), \$27,500 new (for Clallam & Jefferson)	Title II Forest Service unknown
	Forest Health Protection Fund \$10,000		Forest Health Protection Fund \$9,400	
	WSDA Knotweed Control Fund \$35,850 plus \$10,000 worth of herbicide North Olympic	WSDA Knotweed Control Fund \$44,5920 plus \$5,000	WSDA Knotweed Control Fund \$34,700 plus \$5,000	

	Community Salmon Fund (Knotweed Control) \$4,000 (final phase and reporting)			
Number of weed sites to control or monitor on county lands/FS lands	1208/870	1305/986	1335/986	1335/986
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)

Staffing Level:

	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	6/30/09 Actual	2010 Budget
Full Time Equivalent	3.02	3.44	1.53	1.49

Operating Budget

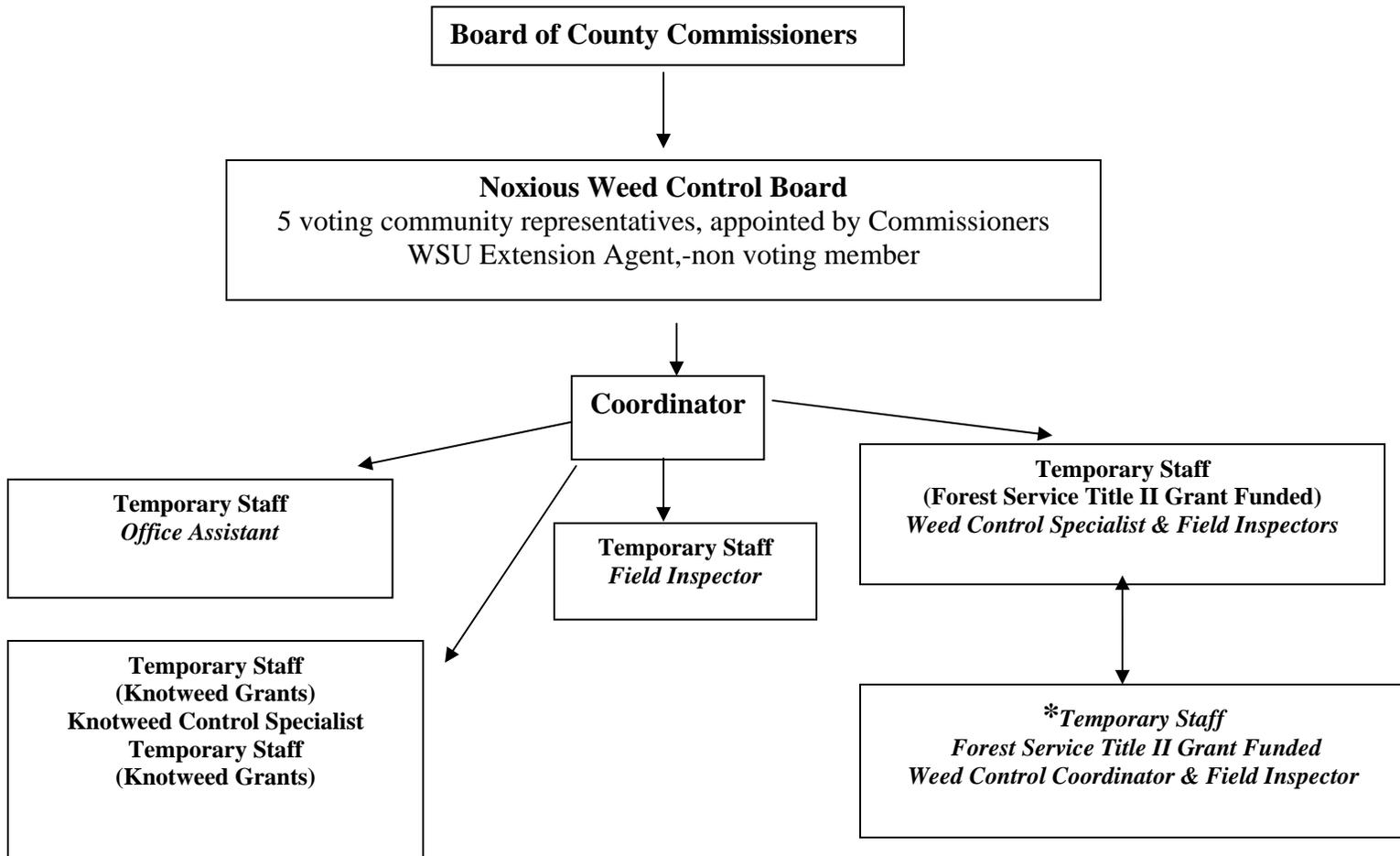
Revenues:

	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	6/30/09 Actual	2010 Budget
Beginning Fund Balance	63,524	83,723	109,122	109,122
Taxes	87,490	87,517	56,115	89,399
Licenses and Permits	0	0	0	0
Intergovernmental Revenues	99,283	112,133	70,053	2,649
Charges for Goods and Services	7,531	7,154	350	10,333
Fines and Forfeits	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Revenues	3180	1,205	0	0
Nonrevenues	0	0	0	0
Other Financing Sources	0	0	0	17,500
TOTAL	\$261,180	\$291,906	\$235,640	\$229,003

Expenditures:

	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	6/30/09 Actual	2010 Budget
Salaries and Wages	92,341	108,471	60,283	72,528
Personnel Benefits	21,137	27,973	15,294	20,454
Supplies	6,932	5,875	4,943	4,700
Other Services and Charges	24,473	21,473	16,054	7,488
Intergovernmental Services	0	0	0	0
Interfund Payments for Services	33,952	18,992	16,609	31,483
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0
Ending Fund Balance	82,173	109,122	122,457	92,350
TOTAL	\$261,008	\$291,906	\$235,640	\$229,003

Agency Structure:



**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*