

## FIELD PROCEDURE: NOXIOUS WEEDS

### EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

- Picture booklet: "Selected Noxious Weeds of Clallam County"
- Plant identification guidebook
- Ziplock bag, permanent marker
- Small shovel, pruners
- Camera, photo log
- Noxious Weed Report sheet, clipboard, pencil

Noxious weeds are introduced plant species that are aggressive, invasive, and once established, difficult to control. Noxious weeds tend to crowd out native plants, causing environmental damage, economic losses, and even public health and safety problems. State law mandates control of some species.

Complete a Noxious Weed Report for ***each site that you visit during the annual Streamwalk***, and then submit update reports as needed when you visit your quarterly monitoring reaches. Turn in reports a.s.a.p. This data will go directly to the Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board Coordinator.

Feel free to turn in additional Noxious Weed Reports for any other infestations that you notice in your daily travels.

- 1) Survey your reach area for noxious weeds. It may help to review the identification booklet before going out in the field, or to ask the Noxious Weed Coordinator (as of June 2001, Cathy Lucero at 360-417-2442) what weeds you might find at your sites. If you don't find the plant in your Noxious Weed booklet, you may find it in the plant identification book.
- 2) If you are doing the July Streamwalk, fill out a Noxious Weed Report at every site, whether you find noxious weeds or not.

- 3) If you are doing quarterly Streamkeepers monitoring:
  - a) Fill out a Noxious Weed Report only if you find new or advancing weeds, unless you are asked specifically to do an update.
  - b) On your Streamkeepers data sheet, indicate whether you have completed a Noxious Weed Report for that site on that day. Put your complete initials in the "Sampler's initials" box, even if you did not find any new or advancing weeds and thus did not complete a report.
- 4) On the Noxious Weed Report, fill out the date, your name, and the location (brief description). Circle a choice from 1-9 indicating property ownership. Fill in the landowner's name, when known.
5. Check the box indicating whether noxious weeds were detected. If the answer is no (which it might be if you are on a Streamwalk), skip down to the comment section as desired.
6. If the answer is yes, estimate the density level for each weed that you find:
  - (1) Not obvious = one plant or very few
  - (2) Patchy = a few plants
  - (3) Easily seen = obvious at a first glance at the area
  - (4) Codominant = greater than 50% coverage
  - (5) Dominant = greater than 90% coverage

### ***DON'T BE DENSE ABOUT DENSITY!***

What you see out in the field may not fit neatly into these categories. But your purpose in filing this report is to alert the Noxious Weed Board of possible problem areas, so don't sweat over which box to check off. For further descriptions of the density categories, see the following page.

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7. Estimate the width and length of the patch for each noxious weed, in feet.
8. If you find a plant that you would like identified, use the "OTHER" line at the bottom of the survey sheet, and write "Sample #\_\_." Use a marker to write the date, location, and Sample # on a ziplock bag. Place a **complete** sample of the unknown plant in the bag, and seal it. (Include leaves, flowers, and roots if possible.) Keep the sample in as good a condition as possible (refrigerating it if

you store it temporarily at home, or even putting it in water), and when you return your field kit, turn the bag in to the Noxious Weed Control Office or Cooperative Extension. ***If you would like to be notified of the results, include a note with your name and phone number.***

9. Take photos if possible, especially if the weeds have advanced or are in bloom. Complete the photo log for each picture.

**Dominance Rating General Descriptions**

<u>Dominance Rating</u>	<u>Definition</u>
1	It can be found by searching in and around other species. A dominance of "1" is not obvious.
2	It can be seen only by moving through the vegetation or by searching for it while standing on one place. A patchy pattern observed by moving through the vegetation rates a dominance of "2".
3	It is easily seen by standing in one place and glancing around, but it is not an obvious dominant. In a mixed stand, several species may fall into this category.
4	It is at least a codominant. It shares dominance relative to cover or is considered slightly subordinate to other species, native or introduced; for example: cheatgrass or Kentucky bluegrass in a rangeland community or a mixture of weeds on abandoned farmland.
5	It dominates the site. It is dominant in the sense that it provides essentially total cover when viewed casually.

***Rough Sketches of Dominance Categories***

1 = one plant

2 = few

3 = easily seen

4 = >50% coverage

5 = >90% coverage

