

OKANOGAN COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD

2016 Annual Report



The 2016 weed control season proved to be a very challenging year, meeting our contract and grant obligations and keeping up on the blooming weeds. State and Federal agency contracts from the past few years allowed us to free up some funding to hire a field assistant this year. We were also able to work with the Okanogan Conservation District with some legislative funding to assist landowners impacted by the Okanogan Complex Wildfires, and to provide for follow up weed control assistance to landowners who were impacted by the 2014 Carlton Complex Wildfires. While we were not able to provide weed control assistance to everyone who was impacted, we were able to focus on treating sites with mandatory control noxious weed species and in geographic areas where multiple landowners requested assistance in controlling species such as Toadflax and Knapweed.

Anna continued to oversee the aquatic program, coordinating treatments for Osoyoos, Spectacle, Palmer, Conconully and Salmon lakes. As Manager of the Noxious Weed Office, Anna also provided oversight to the various grants that we received for control efforts. Besides doing inspections for Musk Thistle and Hoary Alyssum, Anna spent a lot of time on various State Boards. Anna is president of the Washington State Weed Association, president of the Washington State Coordinators' Association and sits on the Board of the Washington Invasive Species Council.

Janet kept busy working on follow up treatments to the Carlton Complex area. And, continued increases in funding from the Colville Range Department and Bureau of Indian Affairs allowed Janet to oversee additional noxious weed survey and control efforts on the Colville Reservation in 2016. This funding was originally allocated for a Scotch Thistle control hand pull crew but in recent years has been expanded to include EDRR species, such as Yellow Starthistle and Rush Skeletonweed, as well as chemical treatments.

During the 2016 field season, Joan concentrated her efforts on inspecting for Scotch Thistle and assisting with Musk Thistle inspections in the north end of the county, and she assisted with WWHAM inspections (Washington Wilderness Hay and Mulch) in the Omak/Okanogan area. Joan also provided noxious weed education to middle school students at several school camps, and helped business owners become aware of Puncturevine issues in public access areas, leading to control efforts.

This year, Larry was able to focus his efforts on controlling our Early Detection Rapid Response and Class A noxious weeds, which are priority species, without the distraction of more widespread noxious weeds. Larry actively controlled several small or remote sites with chemical provided by the Noxious Weed Office and provided support, such as maps and survey information, to commercial applicators for the larger sites. Larry also organized and oversaw noxious weed control projects that were conducted for the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board

149 3rd N. Rm. 102

PO Box 791

Okanogan, WA 98840

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2016 Class A & B Designate Noxious Weed Control: In 2016, Okanogan County had a total of 170,471 acres of privately owned lands that were known to be infested with Class A or B Designate noxious weed species. From those infested acres, there were 2,147 landowners who were impacted by these mandatory control noxious weeds on their property. This year, contracts were again sent out to those impacted landowners, giving them the opportunity to be set up with a commercial applicator in advance (under the Class A Contracts: OCNWCB paid for one half the cost of treatment (over \$100), while under the Class B Designate Contracts: landowners were responsible for paying all costs associated with treatment).



Aquatic Noxious Weeds: In 2016, OCNWCB continued to expand on our aquatic noxious weed education and control program. We attended 9 meetings (or telephone conferences) with homeowner associations along 4 different Okanogan County lakes. These landowner education efforts led to 5 different lakes being treated for various aquatic noxious weeds.



2016 Wildfire Recovery Efforts: In 2016, OCNWCB offered noxious weed control assistance contracts to landowners who were impacted by the 2015 wildfires. These contracts provided for herbicide treatment of mandatory control noxious weed species at no charge, as well as cost share assistance for controlling non-mandatory control weed species. OCNWCB also provided follow up weed control assistance to landowners (with mandatory control noxious weed species) who were impacted by 2014 wildfires.



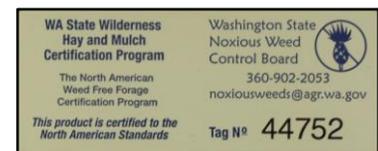
Grants and Other Outside Funding Sources: In 2016, OCNWCB was once again very successful in applying for and receiving grants and other outside funding sources which helped to supplement our noxious weed control budget. In 2016, OCNWCB secured 4 grants, and 6 agency noxious weed control contracts, which enabled us to spend \$322,966 on noxious weed control projects. These outside sources of revenue were used to pay for several different wildfire recovery, noxious weed control assistance, and educational projects that took place throughout Okanogan County in 2016.



Coordinated Weed Management Areas (CWMA's): In 2016, OCNWCB was once again able to maintain its obligations and commitments to the Okanogan County, Weeds Cross Borders, and the International Control of Invasive Aquatic Vegetation for the Upper Columbia River System CWMA's.



Washington Wilderness Hay and Mulch (WWHAM) Inspections: In 2016, OCNWCB was once again able to provide WWHAM crop inspection and certification services to local hay producers who wished to sell WWHAM certified products. OCNWCB staff inspected 5 fields for local producers.



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Biological Control Releases: 2016 was another great year for getting biological control agents out to landowners in Okanogan County, with a total of 17,000 acres being treated through the Regional Integrated Weed Control Project.



Radio Reports: In 2016, the Noxious Weed Office prepared 49 radio reports, which were broadcast on the KOMW and KNCW radio stations, and are currently available on our website.

Latest News

[Latest Weekly Radio Weed Report](#)

Okanogan County Fair: OCNWCB staff once again helped man a booth at the 2016 Okanogan County Fair. In total, 450 people stopped by the booth to pick up informational brochures or to have their weed related questions answered.



School Camps: In 2016, Noxious Weed Office staff again taught noxious weed classes for the 6th graders at Camp Progress, Camp Disautel, and Camp Tokawanee, helping to educate our local youth about identification of noxious weeds and the damaging effects that they can have.



Pesticide License Recertification Opportunities: Recertification credits were again made available for those who attended our monthly Noxious Weed Board meetings, or our Spring and Fall Recertification Classes (a combined 157 people were in attendance at both classes).



Other Communication Efforts: Emails sent and received, 18,684; phone calls in and out, 5,275; website visits, 2,213; outgoing mail, 3,696; office visits, 1,956; events and meetings attended, 62; and landowner onsite consultations provided, 85.



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