

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Policy Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: 12/05/17 **Approx Start Time:** 2:30pm **Approx Length:** 30 min

Presentation Title: Designation of the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District as Weed Entity

Department: BCS/County Parks & Forest

Presenters: Sam Leininger, Clackamas SWCD, WeedWise Program Manager; Rick Gruen, County Parks & Forest Manager

Other Invitees: Tom Salzer, Clackamas SWCD, General Manager; Laura Zentner, Director, BCS

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

Designation of the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District as Weed Entity

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Oregon Department of Agriculture recently announced a new grant program to support county weed control programs. Eligibility for these funds requires that an “*applicant must be a County Noxious Weed Program or the county weed entity designated by the County Commissioners. A SWCD, CWMA, Watershed Council or County Weed Advisory Board may qualify if designated as the county weed entity.*”

Clackamas County currently does not operate a County Noxious Weed Control Program as defined in ORS 569.360. Although there is no county noxious weed control program, the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District has effectively served this role within Clackamas County.

In 2006, the Clackamas SWCD sought and received voter approved for permanent tax base within Clackamas County. One of the primary components outlined in ballot measure 3-221 was to respond “*to citizen demands to implement a countywide weed program focused on education and sustainable control methods*”. Upon receiving the tax base, the Clackamas SWCD formed the WeedWise Program.

Since formation, the Clackamas SWCD WeedWise Program has been working to improve noxious weed control efforts across Clackamas County. Although the Clackamas SWCD has a demonstrated history acting as the *de facto* weed entity for Clackamas County, it currently lacks formal designation from the Clackamas Board of County Commissioners.

In an effort to take advantage of the newly available funding, the Clackamas SWCD is seeking a resolution that will formally recognize the Clackamas SWCD WeedWise Program as the county weed entity for Clackamas County, thereby fulfilling the requirements outlined by Oregon Department of Agriculture for county weed program grant funds.

Clackamas SWCD WeedWise Program accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2016-2017:

- Provided assistance to 2,134 Clackamas County residents;
- Maintained 2,015 active landowner permissions on 431,976 gross acres;
- Surveyed 230 properties totaling more than 3,809 acres;
- Carried out noxious weed treatments on 288 properties with 231,371 acres;
- Mailed noxious weed information to 2,101 households;
- Currently maintain a database of 42,902 mapped weed observations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):

None (Designation of Clackamas SWCD as Weed Entity allows for Clackamas SWCD funds to be used to leverage available grant funds to support existing).

Is this item in your current budget? N/A YES NO

What is the cost? N/A No County funds expended

What is the funding source? – Clackamas SWCD General Fund; Oregon Dept. of Agriculture grant funding; other grant funds secured by Clackamas SWCD

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- Honor, Utilize, Promote and Invest in our Natural Resources
- Build Public Trust through Good Government

LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:

N/A

PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:

Clackamas County routinely works with the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation both informally and through several existing MOUs and IGAs to support invasive noxious weed management and to protect our natural resources.

OPTIONS:

1. Support the efforts of Clackamas SWCD and its WeedWise Program by adopting the Resolution for the Designation of Clackamas SWCD as Weed Entity. This option will allow Clackamas SWCD to qualify for grant funds from the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture. If supported, staff will present the Resolution as a Consent Agenda item at an upcoming Business meeting.
2. Direct staff to explore other options for a countywide Noxious Weed Control Program. Currently there are no other county departments or external entities with capacity to operate a county wide program with the exception of Clackamas SWCD.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends Option 1 to Designate the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District as the County Weed Entity to improve and enhance the management of invasive noxious weeds within Clackamas County. If the Board supports this proposal, staff will present the Resolution as a Consent Agenda item at an upcoming Business Meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1 – A Resolution for the Designation of the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District as Weed Entity
- Attachment 2 – We’re Pulling for You: Target These Terrible Twelve (A sample of landowner outreach)
- Attachment 3– Clackamas SWCD WeedWise program Annual Report FY 2016-2017

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____

Department Director/Head Approval _____

County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact [Rick Gruen@ x4345](mailto:Rick.Gruen@x4345)

A Resolution for the Designation
Of the Clackamas Soil and Water
Conservation District as Weed
Entity

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, Clackamas County recognizes the damaging impact of invasive noxious weeds on our economic viability, community livability, and integrity of our natural systems; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oregon has enacted ORS Chapter 569 declaring noxious weeds as a public nuisance; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon Department of Agriculture has found there is an estimated annual loss of almost \$83,500,000 in personal income to the State's economy from 25 selected noxious weed species; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon State Weed Board has created a grant program to support a county noxious weed program or the county weed entity designated by the County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District received a permanent tax rate, in part to respond to citizen demands to implement a countywide weed program focused on education and sustainable control methods; and

WHEREAS, the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District currently operates a county-wide noxious weed program, that serves landowners, businesses, and residents throughout Clackamas County; and

WHEREAS, Clackamas County, through its Departments, works cooperatively with the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District to identify and implement noxious weed control projects, programs, and practices that meet mutual goals; and

WHEREAS, the Clackamas Board of County Commissioners recognizes the current and demonstrated ability of the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District to act as the weed entity for Clackamas County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Clackamas Board of County Commissioners designates the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District as the county weed entity to improve and enhance the management of invasive noxious weeds within Clackamas County.

DATED this ____ day of _____, 2017.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chair

Recording Secretary

WeedWise Tips for Reducing the Impacts of Invasive Weeds

- Ⓞ *Know your invaders.* Familiarize yourself with problem invaders in your area, so you can identify these species on your land.
- Ⓞ *Prevent weeds from invading.* Prevent disturbance and maintain healthy vegetative groundcover to prevent problem weeds from establishing.
- Ⓞ *Eradicate weeds before they become a problem.* Control weeds when populations and plants are small to reduce the time and expense needed to eradicate them.
- Ⓞ *Use a variety of control measures when possible.* If chemical control measures are needed avoid contaminating waterways and use less toxic products that protect fish and wildlife.
- Ⓞ *Don't let weeds go to seed.* Prevent plants from setting seed to reduce future weed populations and their rate of spread.
- Ⓞ *Avoid spreading weeds.* When working in weed-infested areas, clean your shoes, clothing, equipment and vehicle before leaving the site to prevent spreading seeds to other locations.
- Ⓞ *Know when to seek help.* Some weeds may require particular methods or techniques for control to be successful. Contact the **WeedWise** program for additional information about a particular weed or management practice.
- Ⓞ *Be patient and diligent.* Understand that controlling and preventing the reinfestation of weeds is a long-term process.



Contact the **WeedWise program for all of your invasive weed concerns. We provide assistance to landowners in Clackamas County.**



CLACKAMAS SOIL AND WATER
**CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**
Good dirt. **Clean water.**

CHECK OUR WEB SITE

weedwise.conservationdistrict.org

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facebook.com/clackamasweedwise



**We're pulling
for you!**



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CLEAN WATER
CONTACT**

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WEEDS are non-native invasive plants that adversely affect the social, economic, and ecological resources of our community. The Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District's **WeedWise** Program is working to stop these invaders *before* they become widespread.

The **WeedWise** program is offering **FREE** professional weed control services to target priority weeds, to qualified landowners in Clackamas County.

If you have any of these *Terrible Twelve* weeds on your property, you may be eligible for this program. Eligibility is dependent upon your location, size of the infestation, and the availability of funding.

Have you noticed any of the *Terrible Twelve* in your area? Report any sightings to the **WeedWise** program, or submit them online to the oregoninvasiveshotline.org.

Not sure if you have one of the *Terrible Twelve* weeds on your property? Contact the **WeedWise** program to have your property surveyed.

Do you have other invasive weed concerns on your property? The **WeedWise** program can help. Contact us to learn tips and tricks to improve your weed control efforts



WEEDWISE
CLACKAMAS SWCD

TARGET THESE TERRIBLE TWELVE

- Milkthistle
- Oblong spurge
- Garlic mustard
- Orange hawkweed
- Giant hogweed
- Starthistles
- Gorse
- Knotweed
- Goatsrue
- False brome
- Policeman's helmet
- Spurge laurel

Photos courtesy of Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and Bugwood.org



WeedWise Program
weeds@conservationdistrict.org
503-210-6000

REPORT PRIORITY WEEDS!
Have you noticed priority invasive weeds in your area? Report your sightings to the District's **WeedWise** program, or submit them online at oregoninvasiveshotline.org.





WeedWise

A conservation program of the *Clackamas SWCD*



WeedWise Program

*Clackamas
Soil and Water
Conservation
District*

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Policeman's helmet: A target for control along the Sandy River



Garlic mustard: A regional target for control and containment

WeedWise Approach

To improve the management of invasive weeds in Clackamas County, the WeedWise program has developed three initiatives designed to maximize the impacts of our efforts.

Service & Assistance

Our Service and Assistance initiative is focused on helping local landowners to improve management on their property.

We work with county residents to answer questions about invasive weeds. We also help residents develop weed control strategies for use on their property.

Assessment & Prioritization

Managing invasive weeds across an area as large as Clackamas County is a major undertaking.

The WeedWise program works to maximize our impact by carrying out landscape level evaluations of weed distributions. We evaluate invasive weed risk and the benefit from active management.

The WeedWise program uses this information to develop a list of priority weeds to target for our weed control efforts.

Invasive Weed Management

Implementation of on-the-ground invasive weed control effort is a primary focus of the WeedWise program.

Our management practices focus on cooperation with many local and regional partners, but our most important partners are our private landowners.

The WeedWise program routinely works with private landowners to access and treat priority invasive weeds. Since invasive weeds ignore property boundaries, our efforts would be severely compromised without the willing participation of our private landowners.

Many thanks to all of our cooperating landowners!

Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA)

The WeedWise program administers and coordinates both the 4-County CWMA, that serves the Portland Metropolitan Region, and the Columbia Gorge CWMA that serves the Columbia River Gorge and surrounding areas. Both focus on improving the management of invasive weeds between nearly fifty partnering organizations.



Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP)

The WeedWise program formalized an agreement with eleven public and non-profit organizations to form a new partnership to support invasive species control efforts in the Clackamas River Basin. This new partnership has secured funding to support weed control activities. We will continue to expand our current work in the coming year.

WeedWise Highlights

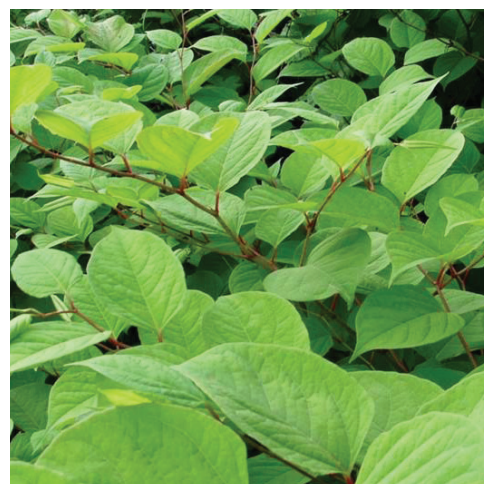
The WeedWise program initiatives focus on the active management of priority invasive weeds as well as providing assistance to Clackamas County residents.

In the past year the WeedWise program has:

- » Maintained the *Clackamas Weed List* with **217** weeds and **90** priority weeds;
 - » Provided assistance to **2,888** residents;
 - » Maintained permissions with **1,862** landowners for **109,338** acres of property;
 - » Surveyed **230** properties totalling **3,809** acres;
 - » Carried out **287** weed treatments on **283** infested acres;
 - » Sent targeted mailings to **2,101** households;
 - » Partnered with **54** public and non-profit organizations
 - » Administered **2** Cooperative Weed Management Areas
 - » Tracked **42,902** separate weed observations.
- Over the last year the WeedWise program has also been working on a number of large scale projects including:
- » Our county-wide *Rapid Response* weed control effort that targets all high priority Oregon class A noxious weeds in Clackamas County;
 - » The development of the **Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP)** to support weed control efforts in the Clackamas River Basin;
 - » The continuation of our *Weed Smackdown* in conjunction with the **Sandy River Basin Watershed Council** to survey and control priority weeds in the Sandy River Basin;
 - » Coordinating and sponsoring the expansion of the *Backyard Habitat Certification Program* to target invasive weeds in the urban areas of Clackamas County.



Goatsrue: A new priority weed discovered on the Clackamas River



Japanese knotweed: A primary target for weed control efforts



Before (left) and After (right): The WeedWise program recently assisted a resident with a large milk thistle infestation in a horse pasture. The results above were realized after only one year of active management.

About WeedWise

Since 2009, the WeedWise program has been working hard to improve the management of invasive weeds in Clackamas County.

We provide assistance and technical information to local landowners, and implement prioritized landscape-level management practices to target invasive weeds across Clackamas County.

Our team of dedicated professionals are working hard to protect working lands and natural areas, as well as the livability of our communities from the threat of invasive weeds.

If you are working to control invasive weeds on property that you own or manage please contact the WeedWise program for assistance today!



Why Should We Care?

Invasive weeds have a negative impact and are known to:

- » *Displace local plants*
- » *Harm crops and agricultural production*
- » *Threaten fish and wildlife*
- » *Be toxic or harmful to humans and livestock*
- » *Damage our property and infrastructure*
- » *Reduce forage for livestock and wildlife*
- » *Decrease the value of our property*
- » *Increase erosion*
- » *Decrease water quality and quantity*
- » *Limit land use*



The WeedWise Program Staff (left to right): Samuel Leininger, Jeff Lesh, Sarah Hamilton, Lindsey Karr