



JEFFERSON COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD

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2008 ANNUAL REPORT

This report concerns work accomplished by Weed Board staff and Board Members. The Board Members—all volunteers—put in an estimated 800 hours in 2008 at board meetings, weed pulls and giving presentations. We are thankful to have such an active and dedicated board. An estimated 800 hours were put in by other volunteers on Weed Board sponsored weed pulls.

Program Overview:

- The 2008 operating budget of \$16,054 from Jefferson County facilitated the hiring of a Coordinator (approximately 0.5 FTE for six months) and a Field Inspector (one day per week for 10 months) and use of the County Car Pool car for county-wide weed surveys.
- Grant funding from the US Forest Service and Washington State Department of Agriculture facilitated large-scale weed control projects in Jefferson County. These funds were directed to Jefferson County by Clallam County.

Administrative:

- Worked with the Jefferson County Commissioners' Office to advertise for, nominate and appoint new board members.
- Prepared the 2008 Jefferson County Weed List, distributed it in draft form to 35 potentially interested parties and made sure it was adopted by the Weed Board following the procedure outlined in the state weed law.

Surveys and Control:

- Attempted to survey all State Highways and major county roads a minimum of twice, monitoring known weed sites and recording new ones. Either pulled weeds on the spot or contacted WSDOT or county road crews to get them controlled. This was reasonably accomplished in east Jefferson County but few such surveys were done in west Jefferson County. It is estimated that half to two thirds of such weeds in road right of ways were successfully controlled. Despite many years of effort **Scotch broom**, **poison hemlock**, and **tansy ragwort** continue to proliferate and flourish on many roadsides. All of these plants adversely affect human and animal health as well as our environment. **Wild chervil**, **meadow knapweed** and **spotted knapweed** are all increasing on county roads. All three of these plants are extremely invasive in pastures and, if left unchecked, could seriously impact agricultural production in Jefferson County
- Monitored previously-recorded weed sites in east Jefferson County, focusing on weeds with control requirements. Weeds were controlled directly on site or Weed Board staff worked with the landowners to achieve control, and made follow-up visits. Made at least 400 site visits and contacted approximately 150 landowners. **We found landowners generally cooperative, though not highly motivated.** Poison hemlock continues to be a huge problem, particularly in Port Townsend where there are over 200 sites, some consisting of hundreds of plants. This plant is toxic and can be lethal to humans and animals.

State law says that control is the responsibility of the landowner, but the Weed Board has the responsibility of monitoring and ensuring that control takes place. However, current staffing levels are not sufficient to do this adequately.



Scotch broom

- Coordinated a weed pull at the Kah Tai Lagoon Park, twice a week for six weeks achieving good elimination of most of the scotch broom and poison hemlock on the south portion of the park.

- Assisted with many other community weed pulls, including two at Fort Worden and at least two at Sather Park, one of which was performed by high school students. The Weed Board helped by loaning tools, giving advice, coordinating or giving on-the-ground help. MANY more volunteers worked on weed control in 2008 than in previous years and it is imperative that the weed board continues to support volunteer efforts.

- Controlled invasive knotweed on the Dosewallips River, Big Quilcene River, Snow Creek and in Port Townsend. Worked with 10,000 Years Institute to monitor and control knotweed on the Hoh River. Knotweed is possibly the most destructive noxious weed in the County, with its ability to form monocultures covering acres of riparian land, crowding out native plants and seriously degrading salmon habitat. Funding through Clallam County has facilitated the knotweed program in Jefferson County; it is very important that the program continues.



Knotweed

- Worked cooperatively with Clallam County and the US Forest Service to control weeds on Forest Service lands in the Little Quilcene and Duckabush watersheds, and to hire a crew from Olympic Correction Center to control Scotch broom in pits and quarries in the west end of Jefferson County and on Highway 101.

Education and Outreach:

- Gained an agreement from one local business owner to “adopt” a nearby weed patch by having his staff assist in controlling it.
- Prepared and staffed educational booths at Jefferson County Fair and the Farm Tour; made contact with approximately 500 people through these events.
- Wrote articles for the Port Townsend Leader and the Master Gardeners’ monthly newsletter.
- Prepared a flier on weeds that was put up in all Jefferson County Parks
- Prepared material for a Noxious Weed Board web page and kept the web page updated.
- Prepared and gave presentations to Jefferson County Master Gardeners, Beach Watchers, Realtors, Kala Point Homeowners, the Quimper Grange and community groups on Marrowstone Island
- Wrote to all the nurseries in Jefferson County, sending State and County Weed Lists and the Quarantine List, and asking them not to stock or sell invasive plants.
- Responded to approximately 50 requests from the public for weed control information (phone calls, emails or walk-ins).