JEFFERSON COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD
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POLICY FOR TARGETED WEED CONTROL ON JEFFERSON COUNTY ROADS

Noxious weeds in Jefferson County are a costly problem, impacting the local economy by causing damage to agriculture, property, the environment, and animal and human health. County roads are vectors for the movement of noxious weeds. Controlling weeds on county roads reduces spread, costs, and impacts.

The Jefferson County Road Department and Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board are working cooperatively to address the spread and increasing populations of noxious weeds in an environmentally responsible manner. With limited funding and resources, citizen volunteers are an integral part of our strategy.

The following is adopted by the Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board as policy guidance for managing noxious weeds within Jefferson County rights of way:

POLICY 1—VEGETATION CONTROL FOR LINE OF SIGHT AND SAFETY IN COUNTY RIGHTS-OF-WAY:

1. County road crews will manage vegetation (in county rights-of-way) for line of sight and safety through mechanical means **only.**
2. County road crews will coordinate with the Weed Board to avoid mowing noxious weeds when seeds might be spread.

POLICY 2—MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL:

2 a. Priority Weeds in Jefferson County:

1. All State Weed List Class A species (**eradication** required)
2. Those Class B weeds which are designated by the State Weed Board for control in Jefferson County (B-des). (Control is defined as ***"preventing all seed production and preventing the dispersal of all propagative parts capable of forming new plants"***. See WAC 16-750-003 for definition.)
3. Class B and Class C species, as annually selected for control (see above for definition) by the Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board (B-select or C-select)
4. Any species on the State Weed List, newly found in Jefferson County.

2 b. Integrated Weed Management (IWM):

1. The Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board will use an integrated approach to noxious weed control that utilizes regular monitoring to determine if and when treatments are needed. The approach emphasizes prevention, followed by cultural, manual, mechanical and biological methods to keep weed infestations contained and to prevent spread (see definition of "control" above). When chemical controls are necessary, they will be the least toxic available and will be used only when no other control methods would be effective or practical.
2. The Weed Board, in partnership with Jefferson County GIS Services, will maintain and update maps and databases documenting locations of noxious weed populations, and tracking the efficacy of the IWM approaches applied in their control.
3. The Weed Board recommends that volunteers be utilized in manual control of weeds, and that control methods such as covering and\or mulching be tested and evaluated. See below in 3c.

2 c. Weed Control Hierarchy (to be followed in descending order as applicable:

1. Preventative practices, such as cleaning mowing equipment to prevent spreading seeds or plant parts
2. Cultural practices such as covering with cardboard or fabric, mulching, or installing native plants to help prevent re-infestation
3. Hand pulling or digging, as appropriate for the plant's biology and as labor and resources allow
4. Mowing or weed-whacking to prevent seed production, as appropriate for the plant's biology and as labor and resources allow
5. Biocontrols—insects, goats or managed grazing
6. Selective hand-spraying of herbicide
7. Monitoring and evaluating all methods to inform adaptive management

2 d. Selecting Optimal Strategies:

Treatment strategies will be selected based on their being:

1. Appropriate for the target plant's biology
2. Least hazardous to human health
3. Minimal impact to non-target organisms
4. Least damaging to the general environment
5. Best preserves the site's native ecosystem
6. Most likely to produce permanent reduction of the target weed
7. Cost effective in short and long term
8. Timely relative to the outbreak's growth and reproductive cycle

2 e. Guidelines for Herbicide Use:

1. Herbicide use is a last resort pursuant to the weed control hierarchy (2c) and selection process (2d) above.
2. Herbicides will be chosen for least risk to the environment and to human health.
3. Preference will be given to pesticides of those manufacturers who provide full disclosure of all ingredients.
4. Before spraying herbicide, the Weed Board will inform County Roads staff and adjacent landowners two weeks prior, giving a range of dates, since weather may preclude spraying on some days.
5. The Weed Board will notify the public via the Weed Board website and the ListServ, two weeks prior, when and where spraying will take place.
6. All sprayed sites will be posted in accordance with Federal and State regulations.
7. Spray records will be kept in accordance with Washington Department of Agriculture regulations, and will be available to the public any time they are requested.
8. Spraying will take place only with hand-held or back-pack sprayers.
9. Persons spraying will make every effort to spray **only** the targeted weed.
10. Spraying will be conducted only by state-certified Pesticide Applicators.
11. If herbicides are used in buffers or Critical Areas the Weed Board will consult with the Jefferson County Departments of Community Development and Environmental Health, and any other relevant governmental agencies.

<u>POLICY 3</u>—SITE SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT STRATEGY IN COUNTY RIGHTS OF WAY FOR 2013:

3 a. ***If any state-listed noxious weed, not previously seen in Jefferson County, is found on a County Road, steps will be taken to ensure its immediate control or eradication.***

3 b. Based on current knowledge and surveys, 13 required-for-control (RFC) weeds occur on Jefferson County roads. They are listed in the table below, together with a brief history of management to date, showing that manual, mechanical and in some cases biological control methods have been used and that the hierarchy described above has been, and will continue to be, followed

SITE SPECIFIC PLAN FOR 2013									
WEED	**INFESTED ROAD(S)**	**APPROXIMATE SIZE OF INFESTATION**	**CONTROL TO DATE**						**WEED BOARD RECOMMENDATION for 2013**
			2007	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	
Common hawkweed	Anderson Lake	500 ft^2	Not yet found	Not yet found	Not yet found	Not yet found	Sprayed	Dug	Monitor and assess.
Knotweed	E. Quilcene	50 ft^2	Not yet found	Not yet found	Not yet found	Not yet found	Not yet found	None	Knotweed infestations on county roads are small. Preventing their spread is a high priority. As knotweed cannot be controlled manually, spraying is the method required.
	Lone Star	4 ft^2	Not yet found	Not yet found	Not yet found	Not yet found	Sprayed	None	
	Old Eaglemount	4 ft^2	None	None	None	Sprayed	Sprayed	None	
	Leland Valley	50 ft^2	None	None	None	Sprayed	None	None	
	Dosewallips	20 ft^2	None	None	None	None	None	None	

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WEED	**INFESTED ROAD(S)**	**APPROXIMATE SIZE OF INFESTATION**	**CONTROL TO DATE**						**WEED BOARD RECOMMENDATION for 2013**
			2007	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	
Meadow knapweed	Center Road	2 acres (approx)	Biocontrols plus mowing	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Distribute biocontrols.
	West Valley Road—Mile 1	0.25 acre (approx)	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Sprayed	Sprayed	Mowed and dug	Monitor and assess—possibly spray.
	West Valley Road—Mile 2	0.25 acre (approx)	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Cover and mulch—assess efficacy.
	Scattered patches on many other roads	1 acre (approx)	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Pull or dig if possible. Otherwise mow.
Orange hawkweed	Oak Bay Road	20 ft^2	None	None	Dug	Dug	Sprayed	None	Monitor and assess.
Perennial sowthistle	Coyle Road	10 ft^2	Not yet found	Not yet found	Not yet found	Not yet found	Not yet found	Dug	Monitor and dig.
Poison hemlock	Egg & I Road, Hastings Road, South Point Road, Cape George Road and Beckett Point Road	0.25 acre (approx)	Pull	Pull	Pull	Pull	Pull	Pull	Continue to control manually, except that Hastings Road has a large patch that should be mowed to prevent seed production and spread.

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			2007	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	
Purple loosestrife	Coyle Road	30 ft^2	Bio-control	No plants present	No plants present	No plants present	No plants present	Plants had regrown—no treatment, waiting for biocontrol	Biocontrols have been used successfully in the past and should be used again.
Reed canarygrass	Many	Unknown	None—not on Weed List	None—not on Weed List	None—not on Weed List	None—not on Weed List	None—not on Weed List, but observed spreading	None—not on Weed List, but observed spreading	Newly selected by the Weed Board. We will work with road crews to ensure plants are mowed before seed set.
Spotted knapweed	Four Corners Road, Cape George Road and Discovery Road	0.5 acres (approx)	Large patches mowed, isolated plants pulled	Large patches mowed, isolated plants pulled	Large patches mowed, isolated plants pulled	Large patches mowed, isolated plants pulled	Large patches mowed, isolated plants pulled	Large patches mowed, isolated plants pulled	Isolated plants can be controlled manually. Larger infestations should be mowed in time to prevent seed production and spread.
Sulfur cinquefoil	Eaglemount Road, Center Road	200 ft^2	Dig	Dig	Dig	Dig	Dig	Dig	Manual control is difficult but feasible.
Tansy ragwort	Many	3.5 acres (approx)	Pulled	Pulled	Pulled	Pulled	Pulled	Pulled	Manual control.
Teasel	Many	Unknown	None—not on Weed List	None—not on Weed List	None—not on Weed List	None—not on Weed List	None—not on Weed List	None—not on Weed List	New addition to State Weed List. Needs to be surveyed.

SITE SPECIFIC PLAN FOR 2013									
WEED	**INFESTED ROAD(S)**	**APPROXIMATE SIZE OF INFESTATION**	**CONTROL TO DATE**						**WEED BOARD RECOMMENDATION for 2013**
			2007	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	
Wild chervil	Larson Lake	3 acres (approx)	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Mile 3-4 sprayed, the rest weed-whacked or hand-pulled	Mile 3-4—spray, because plants are already starting to bloom. Handpull remainder.
	Old Eaglemount	1 acre (approx)	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Sprayed	Mowed	Weed-whacked, some hand-pulling	Call for volunteers to handpull—spray if unsuccessful.
	Eaglemount	1.5 acres (approx)	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Weed-whacked, some hand-pulling	Call for volunteers to handpull—spray if unsuccessful.
	Peterson	0.1 acre (approx)	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Spayed	Pulled or dug	Pulled or dug	Handpull or dig.
	Center	1 acre (approx)	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Weed-whacked, some hand-pulling	Cutting and covering the worst site at mile 1. Otherwise, call for volunteers to handpull—spray if unsuccessful.
	Others—including Leland Valley, West Valley, Lind, Ole Tokelson and Gardiner Beach	2 acres (approx)	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Mowed	Weed-whacked, some hand-pulling	Weed Board staff will attempt to control manually.

3 c. Non-chemical control methods and community involvement—

1. As of May 2012, the Weed Board has designated three demonstration sites to test non-spraying control methods and to compare efficacy with sprayed sites. The three sites are:
    a) Wild chervil at MM 4 on Eaglemount Road—this has already been mulched by volunteers.
    b) Wild chervil at MM 1 on Center Road—will be cut or pulled, covered with mill felt and eventually re-seeded with grass seed.
    c) Meadow knapweed at MM 2 on West Valley Road—as above.

2. Volunteers will be recruited to pull and dig all target species at sites identified in Policy 3b., Site Specific Plan, starting on Page 3.

3. If these sites, and the three listed above, are not controlled successfully by non-chemical methods, the Weed Board will proceed to the next method in the IWM hierarchy meeting compliance with State weed law, and within program budgetary constraints.

4. The Weed Board will annually evaluate the feasibility and efficacy of weed control methods (non-chemical), and will communicate those evaluations with the BOCC and the public via the weed board website and ListServ.

5. The Weed Board will expand programs to enlist help from community partners and volunteers in the practice of non-chemical control methods, as time and resources are available, such as:
    a) Adopt-A-Road Program
    b) Adopt-A-Weed Patch Program
    c) WeedBusters Certification Program
    d) Community volunteer events

REFERENCES:

- Washington State Noxious Weed Law, RCW 17.10, available at http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=17.10.

- Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 16-750, includes the states Noxious Weed List and description of region boundaries and areas of required control for Class B weeds. Available at http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=16-750.

- Thurston County's Integrated Pest Management Plan, available at http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/tcweeds/documents/TC%20Integrated%20Pest%20and%20Vegetation%20Management%20Policy.pdf.