



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

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Photo above: Vernal pool habitat in the Rogue Valley is being protected from Italian thistle encroachment through a long-standing partnership between ODA, ODOT, TNC and the Southern Oregon Land Trust.

Cover photo: The Beautiful Lower Rogue of Southwest Oregon, a Wild & Scenic Designated River, known for its scenery, recreation, fishery, abundant wildlife, and world class whitewater rafting.

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To Report Noxious Weeds and other Invasive Species call or go online at the Oregon Invasive Species Hotline 1-866-INVADER.

Introduction

From the Noxious Weed Control Program Manager

Thank you for your interest in the 2025 Annual Report for the Noxious Weed Program. It was another busy, productive and exciting year for our program, and we are very proud of the work that we were able to accomplish. Much of that work would not have been possible without our incredible network of partners, cooperators and engagement from the public. If that's you, then I extend a heartfelt and personal "thank you!"



Troy Abercrombie Noxious Weed Control Program Manager

The early part of the year started as many of them do, planning our operations for the year and working our way through the Oregon State Weed Board Grant program. The importance of this program for cooperators across the state was underscored by another record number of applications and requested funding in 2025. The County Grants program continued to see an extraordinary amount of interest, which led to some changes for the 2026 cycle.

Multiple risk assessments were completed in 2025, leading to the listing of three new species. Oriental bittersweet (A), stinkwort (A), and yellow bush lupine (B) were all added to the state noxious weed list and official rulemaking will take place in 2026. The two former species are only known to single sites and are already being managed for prevention and eradication. Yellow bush lupine has been known in coastal areas for some time and ongoing efforts to restore these habitats now requires it to be managed intentionally.

2025 marked the first full year of our Rangeland Health Initiative, led by Mark Porter, and I am very proud of the work that is being done here. Invasive annual grasses, along with myriad species of state-listed noxious weeds have plagued our rangelands for decades. The impacts on forage quantity and quality, wildlife habitat, and the cycling of water and nutrients cannot be understated. These landscapes also act as one of our states most effective and reliable carbon

sinks, but those processes have been significantly disrupted due to altered fire regimes. Our work on these landscapes is focused on providing technical assistance and capacity to efforts across the eastern regions of the state as numerous organizations and landowners plan and implement projects to protect and restore our rangelands. The program has provided assistance in 11 different counties, created new technical documents to assist land managers, and has activated numerous working groups. We have much more work to do and have developed an ambitious workplan for 2026.



Federal partners Metolius River Project - ODA, USFS, Friends of the Metolius

Partnerships are paramount to our success, and 2025 marked the first year of our work with the Mt. Hood and Willamette National Forests to implement a collaborative Burned Area Response (BAR) effort. This work focuses on areas that were burned from 2020-2023 and provides critical EDRR management as these landscapes recover from those historic fires. Mitch Lex, who had previously served as a statewide seasonal technician, is leading this work and is doing a fantastic job. I really appreciate this partnership with the USFS and I'm looking forward to positive outcomes across the landscape.

We continue to prioritize cross-program collaboration with the Native Plant Conservation Program. We implemented a project in 2025 that will examine the effects of invasive annual grass control on the

recovery of Cook's lomatium, which is endangered at both the state and federal levels. Data collected here will inform future efforts to restore these habitats and recover this imperiled species.

Resilience is the theme for 2026. Federal budgets and agreements continue to show volatility, and I am committed to insulating our program from the uncertainty to whatever extent possible. I will be allocating our resources conservatively and with careful intention to ensure that our partners, cooperators and the people of Oregon receive the best service that we can possibly provide. In the field, our work will also be focused on creating resilience—simply killing weeds is not enough. We will prioritize work that provides protection and restoration of ecosystem services, agricultural security, wildlife habitat and access to recreation. Eventually, the winds of change will shift direction and, when they do, we will be well positioned to raise our sails and take full advantage.



Program Overview

The Noxious Weed Control Program has over 45 years of successful leadership working with cooperators to implement invasive noxious weed prevention and control projects. The investment in invasive weed control has tremendous value to Oregonians. For example, a recent study, “Economic Impact from Selected Noxious Weeds in Oregon,” looked at 25 of 128 state listed noxious weeds and estimated their impact at \$83.5 million a year to Oregon’s economy. If uncontrolled, the impact potential of these weeds could rise to \$1.8 billion. For every dollar invested in Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) projects, there is a \$34 benefit to Oregon’s economy.

The Noxious Weed Control Program’s role is to provide leadership, communication, and capacity for technical support to cooperators. Projects are directly tied to natural resource management strategies at federal, state, county, and local levels. Controlling invasive noxious weeds is a critical component for achieving success in conservation and natural resource protection and directly impact water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, preserving recreational opportunities, and ensuring a robust agricultural economy.

Our mission is to protect Oregon’s natural resources and agricultural economy from the invasion and proliferation of invasive noxious weeds by:

- Providing leadership and coordinating noxious weed management
- Serving as a technical resource for noxious weed issues
- Providing public outreach, education, and awareness
- Conducting weed risk assessments and listing State listed Noxious Weeds
- Implementing Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) projects for new invading weeds
- Coordinating and implementing biological control of weeds
- Administering the State Weed Board Grant Program

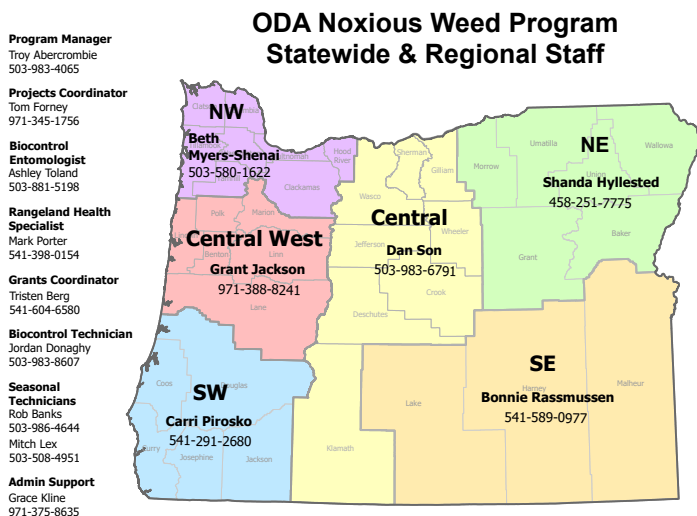
The program has technical staff located in Salem, Grants Pass, Burns, Enterprise, La Grande, and Prineville. Integrated Weed Management (IWM) Specialists serve six regions for the purpose of coordinating projects, working with local partners and implementing a statewide approach to invasive weed management. The program also employs a program manager, project coordinator, biological control entomologist, grant coordinator, program assistant, and seasonal staff to help implement projects.



Staff photo: Spring Staff meet at the Oregon Gardens
Front: Grant Jackson, Dan Son, Jordan Donaghy, Beth Myers-Shenai, Tristen Berg, Bonnie Rassmussen, Cari Pirosko
Back: Mark Porter, Tom Forney, Mitch Lex, Troy Abercrombie, Rob Banks

to provide oversight for the listing of noxious weeds, guide statewide noxious weed control priorities, and award noxious weed control grants.

A statewide approach that engages partners has proven successful for managing noxious weeds. Weeds do not respect jurisdictional boundaries and by their nature spread from one land ownership to another. To implement an effective weed program, the Noxious Weed Control Program must foster relationships and work with private, federal, state, county, and local interests. Developing and maintaining partnerships is critical to accomplishing our program mission. The program collaborates with federal partners to develop Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), cooperative agreements, and contracts to facilitate control projects and financially assist the program. About 40 percent of the program's budget comes from federal sources and the remaining balance is State Lottery Funds. Primary federal support comes from the US Forest Service Region 6 (USFS) and Oregon Bureau of Land Management (BLM).



Regional Map

Land ownership in Oregon—federal agencies oversee the management of roughly 50% of the state.

Noxious Weed Control staff collaborate with private landowners, county weed programs, state and federal land managers, and other cooperators to implement integrated weed management projects throughout their regions. The program is focused on Early Detection and Rapid Response for new invading noxious weeds, implementation of biological control, completion of statewide weed inventory and surveys, technology transfer and noxious weed education, noxious weed data collection, weed risk assessments, and maintenance of the Noxious Weed Policy and Classification System.

Program staff work jointly with the Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB) to host meetings, give updates, provide technical support, and administer OSWB grants. The OSWB is a seven-member board appointed by the ODA Director. The primary mission of the OSWB is

2025 WEED PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Program staff implemented 78 noxious weed projects, conducted 382 treatments, completed 39 pre- and post-treatment monitoring activities, and conducted 72 weed surveys. Staff treated 347.2 net acres over 490,823.6 gross acres.
- 60 biological control releases were made treating 300 acres, and 10 species of biocontrol agents were monitored at 79 sites in 20 Oregon counties to determine establishment and effectiveness.
- Staff gave 28 presentations, attended 202 meetings for planning and outreach, and conducted 112 consultations.

Oregon State Weed Board

The Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB) is a seven-member board appointed by the Director of Agriculture, with members serving five-year terms. Two seats are reserved for county commissioners from the eastern and western regions of the state. The other at large seats represent a broad range of interests including the livestock and agriculture, nursery, timber, and other natural resource industries impacted by invasive weeds as well as interests to protect fish and wildlife, water resources and the native environment. Pat Holiday's term ended in July of 2025. In the Fall of 2025, Wes Davies was appointed as the new East side at large position board member following the retirement of Pat Holiday. Thank you Pat for your years of service to the board!



OSWB - OSWB tour of Durkee Fire, Baker County



OSWB's new member Wes Davies

Program staff work jointly with the OSWB to host meetings, provide technical support, and administer OSWB grant programs. The primary mission of the OSWB is to provide oversight for the listing of noxious weeds, guide statewide noxious weed control priorities, and award noxious weed control grants.



OSWB - Joel Felix, OSU Extension, providing tips for identification of Palmer amaranth



OSWB - Board meeting and tour in Baker County

Two OSWB meetings were held in 2025 and both were well attended. The first was in February, held virtually, and focused on board updates, noxious weed risk assessments, noxious weed list updates, and OSWB grants reviews and awards. The annual fall meeting was held in October in person in Baker County with a virtual option. The fall meeting started with a Baker County Noxious Weed tour that highlighted two A-listed species, Hoary alyssum in Haines, and Palmer amaranth near Ontario. The Durkee Fire area was also highlighted on the tour to see post fire impacts

of invasive annual grasses as well as other invasive weeds. During this meeting the board approved a change to the county weed grant program to allow for more flexibility in targeting and treating B-listed weeds that remain a high priority for local partners. Under this new change, A-rated projects will no longer be considered under the county grant pool, opening opportunities for locally important projects to get funded under this pool and not compete against A-rated projects across the state. This new county grant change will go in effect for the 2026 grant cycle.



OSWB -October Board Meeting -tour of Hoary alyssum near Haines Oregon

OREGON STATE WEED BOARD MEMBERS

- Craig Pope, Polk County commissioner, OSWB Chair and West side representative for the Oregon Association of Counties.
- Dan Joyce, Malheur County Judge, East side representative for the Oregon Association of Counties.
- Margaret Magruder, Columbia County Commissioner, West side at large position board member.
- Wes Davies, Cattleman, Lake County, East side at large position board member.
- Todd Nash, Senator and cattleman, East side at large board member
- Mark Krautmann, Nursery Industry representative, West side at large board member
- Chris Benemann, Director of ODA Plant Protection and Conservation Programs

OREGON STATE WEED BOARD GRANTS

The OSWB Grant Program is a partnership with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and the ODA Noxious Weed Control Program. Funds reside within the OWEB budget while the Noxious Weed Program oversees and administers the grants. There are two grant cycles per biennium and grants are awarded annually. Under the OSWB Grant Program, staff and the OSWB work to fund as many high-priority projects as possible with the available funds. OSWB grants meet specific criteria and are used to implement projects for the protection and enhancement of watershed health and wildlife habitat. Success of the OSWB Grant Program is due to the outstanding work that is being accomplished on the ground by grantees through regional partnerships.



Grant monitoring, Grant Jackson ODA with Chris Cornwell -Rehad Natives



Grant monitoring, Yamhill SWCD Monitoring Ludwigia treatment site, before and after

The OWEB board approved \$3.5 million for OSWB grants for the 2025-2027 biennium. This enabled ODA to have additional funding for the regular ODA Noxious Weed grants and ODA County Noxious Weed grants for the biennium. For the 2025 OSWB Grant cycle, ODA received 54 grants requesting \$1,930,635 in funding (12 County, and 42 Regular OSWB Grants). The Oregon State Weed Board approved ODA Noxious Weed Staff recommendations for a total award of \$1,457,029 to the 2025 ODA Noxious Weed Grant cycle, funding 40 grants around the state.

NOXIOUS WEED LIST UPDATE

At the Oregon State Weed Board Meeting October 8, 2025, the board approved listing the following species:

“A” list: Roundleaf bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), Stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*), and Yellow bush lupine (*Lupinus arboreus*).

Noxious weed quarantine 603-052-1200 will be updated with new listings in 2026.



Yellow bush lupine

Education and Outreach Activities

Noxious Weed Control staff participated in many statewide and regional education and outreach events, regional planning meetings, and other cooperative activities. Staff made 29 presentations and attended over 112 meetings for planning, consultation, and outreach with cooperators and private landowners. Some of the highlights include Invasive Weed Awareness Week, the Oregon State Fair noxious weed booth, and numerous regional events.



BLM, ODA, and USFS partners from the brand-new Rogue Aquatic Invasives Network (RAIN) conduct aquatic weed surveys in the Recreation Section of the Rogue River.



A raft full of aquatic invasive weeds removed during a RAIN rafting outfitter training event. Plants are ferried across to exposed gravel bars and left “high and dry” to desiccate.

OREGON INVASIVE WEED AWARENESS WEEK

Oregon Invasive Weed Awareness Week was May 18-24, 2025. During this week, Oregonians were asked to learn more about the devastating effects of these aggressive and harmful invaders, what is being done at the local, state, and national level to fight back, and finally, what they can do to help to protect the Oregon we all love. ODA’s Noxious Weed Control staff and various partners work hard year-round to educate the public on how to prevent and control the spread of invasive weeds to protect our ecosystems and, ultimately, our economy.



Governor Tina Kotek encourages Oregonians to join in the observance of Oregon Invasive Weed Awareness Week.

Oregon Invasive Weed Awareness Week was an opportunity to highlight and showcase the importance of the work done by the Noxious Weed Program. Staff, OSWB grantees and other cooperators showcased weed control projects around the state with videos and photos posted on the program’s Facebook page and subsequently shared to others. The week also highlighted Updates and videos from the National PlayCleanGo campaign, which emphasized prevention measures that citizens can take while enjoying Oregon’s outdoors. This week also helped to highlight the importance and value of having active prevention and control programs at the federal, state, county and local levels to protect our economy and natural resources. During that week, posts reached 7,741 people and 1,124 followers, which was the highest week of followers to date.

SPOTLIGHT ON WEEDS

The Oregon Invasive Species Council Summer Tour Spotlight was on Oregon “Lottery-Funded” State Weed Board Grant Awardees. Tristen Berg, ODA, provided an overview of the projects that were working on the Willamette Basin. Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Director Sara O’Brien gave the welcome address and discussed the importance of protecting Oregon’s water resources. The tour highlighted work on Mission Lake ludwigia, updates on Oregon State Weed Board Grant and work on garden loosestrife

on the Willamette River from Michael Ahr (Benton SWCD), Jordan Anderson (Yamhill SWCD), and Vanessa Youngblood (Willamette Riverkeeper). History of ludwigia on the Willamette was provided by Beth Myers-Shenai, and Grant Jackson of ODA.



Invasive Species Council, OISC Summer Meeting Highlighting the Willamette River Initiative

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Noxious Weed Control Program uses a Facebook page to post announcements, promote upcoming events, provide updates on control projects, share progress updates on grant projects, and share timely news articles to promote other weed related issues to the greater public. The program also uses Flickr, a photo-based social media site, to compile photographs of individual noxious weeds and feature outreach activities. The program also shares Oregon noxious weed information thru GovDelivery list serves in both English and in Spanish to over 7,750 subscribers. The public can subscribe to ODA updates, announcements, grants, and more at <https://oda.fyi/Subscribe>.

OREGON STATE FAIR WEED BOOTH

The Invasive Species Education Station trailer was once again loaded and delivered to the Oregon State Fair in 2025. ODA Noxious Weed staff and cooperators were at the Oregon State Fair August 25-29, where they answered questions from the public on invasive weeds and biocontrol agents, distributed brochures, and handed out small promotional items with a “PlayCleanGo” theme reminding them to keep their recreational gear clean to prevent the spread of noxious weeds.



Fair goers, at the Oregon State Fair, playing weed themed pinball and wearing Play Clean Go backpacks. A big hit!

Hundreds of fair goers visited the booth, resulting in several invasive plant reports and connections to increase outreach opportunities. On display were the Deschutes County “Invasive Species Education Station” trailer, which featured a rotating selection of educational videos, “Weedy” the robotic weed dog, outreach materials, and posters. The focus was on preventing the spread of invasive plants and many children tried their hand at a “PlayCleanGo” pinball game.



Play Clean Go Image

Special Projects and Prevention

WEED FREE FORAGE CERTIFICATION

The Oregon Department of Agriculture completed 61 inspections for 24 growers and certified 2,525.45 acres as weed-free in 2025. The program is administered through the ODA Commodity Inspection Program and follows the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) weed free forage standards. The USFS supports this effort through State & Private Forest Health funding to ensure weed free products are available for use on National Forest lands.

WEED FREE GRAVEL CERTIFICATION

ODA completed its sixth year of the Weed Free Gravel program in 2025, providing voluntary annual inspection and certification to quarries to provide consumers assurance their operating areas are free of problem noxious weeds. In total, 26 quarries enrolled in 2025 and over 2.8 million tons of aggregate were certified. The standards for this program mirror those of the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) with the addition of any Oregon-listed noxious weeds that are not already included. Inspections are performed by ODA’s Commodity Inspection Program, which also inspect fields for Weed Free Forage certification.

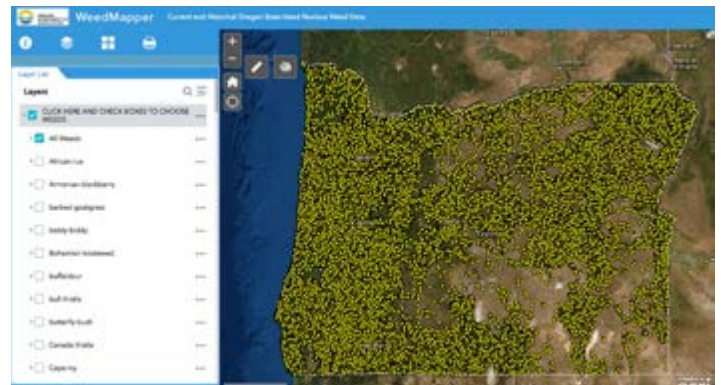


Equipment Wash Station, crews wash vehicles to prevent spreading noxious weeds when entering and leaving fire zones.

WEEDMAPPER

WeedMapper is an extensive database of current and historic noxious weed sighting data displayed as an interactive website map. Each year, the Noxious Weed Program collects new reports of weed locations from multiple organizations and from projects funded through the Oregon State Weed Board grant program. The Noxious Weed Control Program also has data sharing agreements with imapinvasives.org (which includes confirmed reports from the Oregon Invasive Species Hotline) and EDDMapS, both of which collect data from multiple sources.

WeedMapper is used by noxious weed managers throughout Oregon and beyond for planning, reports, and evaluating changes in weed populations over time. ODA maintains the database and completes annual updates of new weed locations from cooperators in addition to the data collected by Noxious Weed Program staff. The program employed a temporary technician to process and update the 2023 data, collect weed data from over 30 contributors and update over 10,000 location records for 128 State listed weed species. This data is viewable at <https://oda.direct/WeedMapper>.



Oregon WeedMapper is an online map displaying information on the distribution of noxious weeds listed by the Oregon State Weed Board and managed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Early Detection and Rapid Response

Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) is an essential focus of the program, with the goal of preventing the introduction and spread of new weed species through early detection efforts and quick implementation of control measures. The Noxious Weed Control Program accomplishes EDRR through listing and prioritizing state listed noxious weeds, developing statewide management plans, and implementing EDRR projects. Priority listed species, A-listed and T-designated noxious weeds are of limited distribution in the state and are primary EDRR targets. Priority species are incorporated into presentations and outreach activities to increase public awareness. Pest alerts and educational materials are distributed to help locate and report new infestations. Surveys for target weeds are conducted and if found, rapid response projects are planned and implemented for eradication or containment.



Yellowtuft Alyssum Partners -Victory planted field

Noxious Weed Control Program staff work with state and federal cooperators, county weed programs, Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs), and private landowners to implement EDRR projects. Many EDRR projects are funded in part by OSWB grants and/or with help from federal partners. The program implements 64 EDRR projects targeting 33 A-listed and B(T)-listed species.

EDRR HIGHLIGHTS:

ALYSSUM (YELLOWTUFT), ALYSSUM MURALE AND A. CORSICUM – A

Alyssum murale and A. corsicum species are unique plants in that they can hyper-accumulate metals extracted from the soil. In the 1990s, Viridian LLC promoted the use of Alyssum for phyto-mining in the Illinois Valley, which is the process of using plants to accumulate metal from naturally high mineral

rich (serpentine) soils. Viridian planted Alyssum on nine serpentine-rich sites in the Illinois Valley in southwest Oregon. The Viridian venture failed, and the project was abandoned. Alyssum spread from the planted fields and became invasive in the surrounding area. The Illinois Valley has a large concentration of serpentine soils that support a diverse and unique flora including state and federally listed “Threatened” and “Endangered” plants. Many of the planted Alyssum fields were directly adjacent to these highly valued botanically rich treasures.

Containment efforts continue in 2025 with survey and control as the Noxious Weed Control Program and partners collaborated in pushing Alyssum closer to our eradication goals. Annual helicopter surveys continue to be an important tool and have resulted in the detection of individual plants and new populations of Alyssum on the edges of known infested areas.

AFRICAN RUE, PEGANUM HARMALA – A

African rue is difficult to control, and containment is considered a success. Two locations have been detected in Oregon that require annual treatment. The first report was from an OSU herbarium record from the mid-1960s in Crook County and that was relocated in 1991. A second site was reported in 2008, on a tribal allotment located in the Harney Basin southeast of Burns and subsequent survey revealed a project area of 2,700 gross acres and 19 landowners, including the Department of State Lands, private landowners, and tribal lands.



A-Listed African rue, Harney County

African rue is treated annually by the Noxious Weed Program, Harney and Crook County since the rediscovery. These efforts are largely funded by an OSWB grant in Harney County and by BLM in Crook County. Overall, both populations have been contained.

BARBED GOATGRASS, AEGILOPS TRIUNCIALIS - A

Barbed goatgrass, an A-listed weed, is only known in three Oregon locations. While barbed goatgrass infests thousands of acres in California, only three populations are known to occur in Oregon. Two populations are found off Highway 199 in Josephine County and a new population was found in 2021 near Galice (all plants were hand removed by BLM partners). The infestation extends across private, state, and federal boundaries. Support from both the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and the Medford-Grants Pass BLM Office contribute to the ongoing success of this eradication project. Sites were sprayed and hand pulled in 2025 by ODA and federal crews.



BLM and USFS partners removing a patch of barbed goatgrass in the Rough and Ready Creek drainage outside of Cave Junction during a collaborative “all hands on deck” weed pull day.

CAPE-IVY, DELARIEA ODORATA - A

Cape ivy, another A-listed noxious weed in Oregon that is also invasive in California, Hawaii, and Australia. An extensive rhizome system makes it challenging to control, and its vines form dense mats of vegetation that extend over trees and shrubs, killing understory plants and eventually trees vital to a functioning riparian ecosystem. Populations are known to occur between Gold Beach and Brookings in Curry County. No new sites were detected in 2025 and the total number of Cape ivy sites in the state remains steady at twenty. ODA staff collaborate with the Curry SWCD in survey, control, and monitoring of Cape-ivy populations.

COMMON BUGLOSS, ANCHUSA OFFICINALIS - B(T)

Common bugloss has two primary population centers in Oregon—Wallowa County and the Walla Walla River drainage in Umatilla County. Consistent treatment efforts by the Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership in Wallowa County for over a decade (funded by OSWB) have kept the largest infestation largely contained in the Upper Imnaha Canyon. The population of common bugloss in Umatilla County is found along the North Fork of the Walla Walla River, where work to contain the infestations has been sporadic due to a lack of capacity and funding.



Common bugloss 2024 Jackson Co.

A new population of common bugloss was detected in southwest Oregon in 2024. While assisting with a wildfire response, BLM staff detected the first reported occurrence near Applegate Oregon in Jackson County. ODA Noxious Weed Staff followed up with the private landowner and initiated EDRR measures in 2024 and 2025.

CORDGRASS, SPARTINA SPP. SURVEY AND TREATMENT - A

The state has maintained an excellent track record of finding and treating new infestations of cordgrass. Portland State University’s Center for Lakes and Reservoirs (PSU) and Noxious Weed Program staff have developed a comprehensive plan to implement regular surveys of 13 Oregon estuaries that are at high risk of infestation. Three species of *Spartina* have been documented in Oregon. Prior to 2013, only two species, *S. alterniflora* and *S. patens*, were known to occur. The third species, *Spartina densiflora*, was detected in Coos Bay during a 2013 survey. In late October of 2024 a new site was found on the USFWS Bandon Marsh, near the mouth of the Coquille River. The area was surveyed and plants were treated. Additional survey and treatment were prioritized and conducted in 2025.



Staff from PSU CLR surveying for A-rated cordgrass (*Spartina* spp.) on one of the many mud flats in Yaquina Bay near Toledo.

All of Oregon's major estuaries are monitored on a regular rotating basis for early detection and treatment. The known infestations in the greater Coos Bay continue to receive annual monitoring and treatment for eradication.

FLOWERING RUSH, BUTOMUS UMBELLATUS - A

Flowering rush is a high priority for detection and control efforts in Oregon. This species is a perennial freshwater aquatic weed that grows in lakes, rivers, and wetlands. It spreads quickly by bulblets and rhizomes, invading shallow open water habitats and converting them to monocultures. Flowering rush is established in the upper and mid-Columbia watershed and occurs in the lower Yakima and Spokane rivers. It also occurs on the Pend Oreille, Snake, and Flathead rivers in Washington, Idaho and Montana. Flowering rush threatens the entire downstream Columbia River system as well as other waters in the state due to its ability to spread easily. In 2014, the first populations on the Oregon stretch of the Columbia were found in Lake Wallula, Umatilla County. A second population was detected in a private pond in Klamath County in 2017. With pressure from the Columbia and surrounding states, it will be a challenge to keep flowering rush at bay in Oregon.

Surveys are conducted by ODA and Portland State University's (PSU) Center for Lakes and Reservoirs annually for Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) for flowering rush. The Klamath County site has been treated several times since 201, a handful of plants were found and treated in 2025.

GARDEN YELLOW LOOSESTRIPE, LYSIMACHIA VULGARIS - A

Garden yellow loosestrife, an A-rated weed, was found on Wheatland Bar on the Willamette River along the Yamhill-Marion County line in 2016. Garden loosestrife is a riparian weed that outcompetes native vegetation

in wetlands and shoreline settings, even rivaling the invasive purple loosestrife. ODA coordinates with Yamhill SWCD to take the lead on survey and management of the site funded in part with an OSWB grant. An additional eight sites have been detected over a two-mile stretch during 2021 and 2022 river surveys. Follow-up monitoring and treatment has been a joint effort that has been completed through 2025.



Surveyors comb carefully through dense riparian vegetation to find and flag garden yellow loosestrife plants for the contractors to treat with aquatic-safe herbicide.

GIANT HOGWEED, HERACLEUM MANTEGAZZIANUM - A

Noxious Weed Program staff collaborate with the City of Portland and Clackamas, Columbia,

Clatsop, Tualatin, Tillamook, and Hood River SWCDs to monitor and treat all known locations of giant hogweed in Oregon. Many of the sites occur in northwest Oregon in the Portland Metro area. Of the 193 known sites, most are considered eradicated.

Overall, the number of active giant hogweed sites and plant numbers have dropped significantly since its discovery in 2001. This season while ODA staff were not available, East Multnomah SWCD, Tualatin SWCD, Clackamas SWCD and City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) managed sites in their respective areas.

GOATSRUE, GALEGA OFFICINALIS - A

Goatsrue is a state and federally listed noxious weed. It is historically known from sites in Lane, Josephine and Klamath counties and currently is found at one location in Clackamas County, four locations in Portland, and one site near Tualatin. ODA has historically assisted with treatment, but in recent years has relied on partners for survey and treatment. Tualatin SWCD took the lead on intensive survey and treatment of the population in Tualatin. Other sites were managed by East Multnomah SWCD, Clackamas SWCD, City of Portland BES, and Metro Regional Government.

HOARY ALYSSUM, *BERTEROA INCANA* - A

Hoary alyssum was listed as an A-rated weed in 2015. Prior to 2020, it occurred in two regions, one in northeast Oregon near the town of Wallowa and at sites in Deschutes County. A third population was found in Baker County near the end of the 2020 field season. Since that time hoary alyssum has been on the increase, pushing the limits of an A-listing.



Hoary alyssum, Deschutes Co.: Hoary alyssum flyer produced in cooperation with Deschutes County and ODA. The flyer has been distributed at outreach events and to landowners in the vicinity of existing hoary alyssum infestations.

ODA has been assisting Baker County and Tri-County CWMA with OSWB grants for survey and treatment since 2021. The hoary alyssum site near Haines spans across nearly 15,000 acres threatening rangelands, forest, hay, alfalfa, and other valuable crops in the area. In 2025, a new site was discovered on the south end of Baker County on National Forest land. It is a small isolated roadside population likely unrelated to the other population in Baker County. Rapid response treatments were implemented in hopes to eradicate that population quickly.

With a lapse in treatment, the Deschutes County populations have also rebounded and is expanding. ODA has taken the lead and surveys in 2024 to determine the extent of the populations and update our treatment strategy.

During the 2025 field season, staff followed up with additional monitoring and survey on a new property, south of the main infestation, that reported the presence of hoary alyssum in late 2024. Having the cooperation of the Deschutes County Vegetation Manager has provided much needed assistance on this A-listed species. Thanks to outreach, education and community involvement, Deschutes County was instrumental in locating two additional sites containing hoary alyssum in 2025.

MATGRASS, *NARDUS STRICTA* - A

Matgrass is a small perennial bunchgrass native to eastern Europe. It is unpalatable to grazing animals and can quickly render infested pasturelands unusable, outcompeting desirable or native species. Matgrass was first detected about 40 years ago in a peat pasture near Fort Klamath. The Klamath site was the only Oregon infestation until 2015 when new coastal sites were detected in Coos and Curry Counties where it threatens native flora. A fourth site was found in Clatsop on the north coast in 2016.



Kerry Johnston, BLM Klamath Falls Field Office Botanist, examines a matgrass specimen while partners look on.

The Klamath County matgrass treatments continued in 2025 and staff continued treatment efforts for the south coastal prairie habitats, which are mostly treated using federal funds. Treatments are proving successful at the coastal sites, effectively reducing populations and new detections.

MEADOW HAWKWEED, *PILOSELLA CAESPITOSUM* - B(T)

Meadow hawkweed has a limited distribution in northwest Oregon and is more widespread in the northeast region. Hawkweeds are highly invasive members of the aster family. Once established, they spread quickly and form solid mats of rosettes

that displace desirable and native plants, posing a particularly serious threat to native plant communities. The majority of the northwest population occurs within Mt. Hood National Forest along Lolo Pass in Clackamas County. The population has been successfully managed thanks to planning and coordination by the Mt. Hood Partners group. In northeast Oregon, meadow hawkweed is spread over several counties including Union, Wallowa, Morrow, and Umatilla. Meadow hawkweed control is one of the largest projects in northeast Oregon and thus involves many private, state, and federal partners. The majority of hawkweed in the region occurs in Wallowa and Union counties. Most of the historic sites have very few plants, and managers prioritize and cycle through treatment locations annually.



Before and After -This image is from reporting on project progress by the Tri-County CWMA's Meadow Hawkweed Oregon State Weed grant project. The site is on the Good Road to cleaner pastures.

MOUSE-EAR HAWKWEED, PILOSELLA PILOSELLA – A

Mouse-ear hawkweed is a yellow-flowered species of the aster family native to Europe and northern Asia. Like most other hawkweeds, it is highly invasive in pasture and meadows and is highly variable and

adaptive to a wide range of habitats. One site is known to occur in Yamhill County and a second more recent discovery in Clackamas County.

The Yamhill site is location in Gopher Valley spread over 20 acres in an oak woodland habitat at a site managed for the protection of Kincaid's lupine. The project is now managed through an ODA partnership with Yamhill SWCD using OSWB grant funds. The Clackamas County population occurs at two locations in Milo McIver State Park near Estacada. Currently under management by Clackamas SWCD and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). Treatment at one of the locations has been successful, but the second location in a disc golf course appears to be spreading by mowing. A multi-agency delimitation survey was conducted in May of 2025. The result will inform OPRD in updating their best management practices for managing the sites.

OBLONG SPURGE, EUPHORBIA OBLONGATA – A

Oregon's largest site located in Salem, is believed to have been introduced as a contaminant in flax seed that was grown and processed in the area in the mid-1900s. The core infestation is at the Oregon Office of Emergency Management along the south shore of a pond adjacent to Mill Creek. Several small sites continue to be monitored and treated annually. Other sites occur in Benton, Washington and Clackamas counties, as well as sites in the Portland Metro area that the City of Portland manage. Overall, the Noxious Weed Program has observed a 99% decrease in populations. In 2022, a new site was found and detected in Josephine County, a far outlier from the other populations. The Josephine site along with the Willamette Valley site were treated in 2025.



An unruly patch of oblong spurge awaits treatment in a residential backyard in Corvallis. Benton SWCD's EDRR grant helps identify and eradicate populations of oblong spurge in the Willamette Valley.

ORANGE HAWKWEED, *PILOSELLA AURANTIACUM* - A

Orange hawkweed is one of the most widespread of the invasive hawkweeds in terms of the number of counties where it occurs, 13 in all, but as far as acres infested, it still has a limited presence. The exception is Deschutes County, where it has become abundant in areas around Bend and on the Deschutes National Forest. Aside from some of the larger sites, orange hawkweed is treated annually. Small outlying populations were treated in the Portland Metro area, Clackamas, Clatsop, Klamath, Wallowa, and Harney Counties and at outlying sites in Deschutes County.



Flower and seed heads pulled off a newly discovered patch of orange hawkweed at the junction of Hwy 101 and Sunset Beach Rd before the remainder of the plants were treated.

PALMER AMARANTH, *AMARANTHUS PALMERI* - A

Palmer amaranth is native to Southwest United States and Mexico, and belongs to the large genus *amaranthus*, which are commonly referred to as pigweeds. Palmer amaranth can significantly reduce crop yields, and it has a proven resistance to many common herbicides used in crop production.



Palmer amaranth

Currently there are only a small number of sites in Oregon. Malheur County has two active sites where plants are continuously removed during the growing season, and Union and Marion Counties have each confirmed and eradicated single roadside plants.

PATERSON'S CURSE, *ECHIU PLANTAGINEUM* - A

Paterson's curse is an A-listed weed that threatens Oregon's native habitats with the potential to invade oak woodlands, native prairies, and dry upland slopes. Despite a beautiful appearance, this invasive weed truly is a curse in that it is extremely toxic to livestock. It infests thousands of acres across Australia. Three Oregon counties have infestations--Douglas, Linn and most recently Lane. All three sites are under intensive eradication and continue to see an overall decline in plant numbers and acres treated with over a 99% decrease in plant numbers.

In April 2024, ODA staff responded to an Oregon Invasive Species Hotline report of two small patches (less than a quarter acre) of Paterson's curse in Lane County and on a US Army Corps of Engineers right-of-way to Dexter Reservoir near Lowell. The identification was confirmed to be Paterson's curse and treated. The surrounding area was surveyed. Priorities in 2025 included follow up surveys and treatment in spring before flower and seed set.



Although delightful in its appearance, Paterson's Curse has destructive consequences for native plant communities and is an A-rated weed for good reason. An eagle-eyed Lowell resident has been credited for reporting the plant to the Oregon Invasive Species Hotline.

PLUMELESS THISTLE, *CARDUUS ACANTHOIDES* - A

Plumeless thistle is known from four counties: Klamath, Grant, Morrow and Wallowa. Originally, plumeless thistle sites were discovered nearly 20 years ago in Grant County. A second location was found in Klamath County in 2007 and most recently, several sites were discovered in Wallowa and Morrow Counties. In a usual year, the Noxious Weed Control Program monitors the sites and works with the respective counties to treat the infestations aggressively. ODA has relied heavily on the Counties in recent years and did not participate in plumeless thistle work due to budget shortfalls and staffing changes during those times. ODA was able to re-engage during the 2023-24 seasons and worked with partners to help manage the four historic populations in 2025.

RAVENNAGRASS, *SACCHARUM RAVENNAE* - A

Ravennagrass, an ornamental, was first listed in 2015. At the time, only a few sites were known near McNary Dam in a wildlife area managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Since then, additional locations have been found in the northeastern counties, most notably Malheur, where many new sites are moving out of landscaped areas to roadsides and into natural areas and irrigation ditches. In 2021, additional populations were detected in Wasco County along I-84 and at the Lewis and Clark Festival Park. ODA worked with Wasco SWCD and the city of The Dalles to develop a management plan. Subsequently, an OSWB grant was funded for much of the work. Treatments started in the area in 2022 and continue into 2025.



Scott Susi, Wasco SWCD, flags another A-listed ravennagrass for treatment within the Columbia Basin.

SQUARROSE KNAPWEED, *CENTAUREA VIRGATA* - A

A historic site in Grant County has been under intensive treatment since its discovery in the early 1980s. Grant County manages the project through an OSWB grant, while the Noxious Weed Control Program continues to monitor treatment efficacy. The original project area was spread across 3,200 gross acres.

Over the past 30 years, the infestation has been reduced by 99% down to a handful of plants. Grant County continued treatment of the site, with only a few hundred plants being found over 2.5 acres. This area was broadcast sprayed to treat the seed bank.

TAURIAN THISTLE, *ONOPORDUM TAURICUM* - A

Taurian thistle is a close relative to Scotch thistle, *Onopordum acanthium*, and has the same invasive tendencies. In Europe, it is more aggressive than Scotch thistle. Taurian thistle is lime green with large baseball-sized terminal flower heads that resemble an artichoke. The first Oregon infestation was detected and treated in Klamath County in 2007, and two additional sites were found in 2012—both sites totaled less than 200 plants and covered one net acre. ODA has been unable to consistently assist with the survey and control work, while Klamath County continues to monitor and treat known sites.



A wet spring in 2024 made for a year of resurgence of the *Onopordum* sub-species, *acanthium* and *tauricum*, in Klamath county. Todd Pfeiffer, Klamath County Weed Control Supervisor, hunts down Taurian thistle plants on a steep hillside of cereal rye.

TURKISH THISTLE, *CARDUUS CINEREUS* - A

Turkish thistle is only known to exist in a limited area of Hells Canyon including land in Oregon and Idaho. Both states are working to control the plant with the primary focus of management being containment rather than eradication due to the rugged and remote locations and a lack of adequate funding available to address populations on National Forest land.

While Idaho is focused on private land treatment along the Snake River corridor, there is still a need for delimitation survey in that state to determine the extent of the population. In Oregon, Wallowa Resources used OSWB and USFS funds to conduct an aerial inventory of 74,000 acres in Hells Canyon that has provide a baseline for the distribution on the Oregon side. Outlying sites are treated annually.

WATER PRIMROSE, LUDWIGIA SPP. – B(T)

ODA staff and cooperators have made efforts to increase detection and control of Ludwigia over the last decade. This species, along with flowering rush and yellow floating heart, has the potential to cause significant impacts to riparian health and water resources by altering water quality, increased sedimentation, and contributing to the loss of important habitat. Two partnerships have been active, the Willamette Aquatic Invasives Network (WAIN) and Rogue Aquatic Invasives Network (RAIN). Both groups have been instrumental in developing strong partnerships and coordinated outreach and control efforts on the Willamette Valley and Rogue basin. ODA's staff assists with survey, field days, river pulls and support of select projects with OSWB grants.



The Rogue Aquatic Invasives Network targets outlier (bright green, foreground) noxious weeds such as this single stem of B-listed ludwigia aquatic invader.



Grant Jackson, ODA, treating Ludwigia

WELTED THISTLE, CARDUUS CRISPUS – A

Welted thistle, first thought to be musk or plumeless thistle, was discovered in 2016 in Wallowa County. Welted thistle is only known from one other site west of the Rockies, in British Columbia, Canada. ODA assists Wallowa County Vegetation Department with an OSWB grant to manage the project. In 2025 a disturbance was made through the site creating a new flush of rosettes. ODA staff worked with Wallowa County and private landowners to monitor and treat the area throughout the 2025 field season.

WOOLLY DISTAFF THISTLE, CARTHAMUS LANATUS – A

Woolly distaff thistle was discovered in Oregon in 1987. This non-native is known to infest vast acreages in California and Australia. Elimination of seed production and seeds banked in the soil is key when battling an annual thistle. The project involves the control, survey, and monitoring of all known infestations of distaff thistle on more than 4,500 gross acres. At a minimum, each site is worked three times each year. Since the inception of this project, woolly distaff thistle has been reduced by 99% from historic levels.



Blue dye marks a sprayed patch of woolly distaff thistle in Douglas County; populations have been reduced by 92% since the eradication program began.

YELLOW FLOATING HEART, NYMPHOIDES PELTATA – A

Yellow floating heart is an escaped ornamental aquatic that is highly invasive in ponds and waterways. Infestations are proving to be difficult to eradicate and are requiring annual treatments. First detected in 2004 in Washington County, it is now known from Lane, Linn, Jackson, Douglas, and Deschutes counties. As of this field season, over 25 sites have been documented. The number of new sites continue to increase in western and central Oregon, and in recent years several new sites have been found in the Willamette River system that has increased the threat and rate of spread. ODA is working with several partners and private landowners to manage this species including Willamette Riverkeeper, local SWCDs, local watershed councils, and the Umpqua National Forest.

ODA worked with local partners to monitor the Dodson slough and Willamette River sites. Staff monitored and treated the Deschutes County sites, while outlier populations in Douglas and Jackson Counties were also monitored and treated. Two of the eight southern Oregon sites have been eradicated, and all others are showing good progress.



An example of the tiny yellow floating heart seedlings exposed on mud flats at Willow Sump, an infested waterbody on the Umpqua National Forest.

Biological Control of Noxious Weeds

INTRODUCTION

Classical weed biological control is the purposeful introduction of host-specific natural enemies from an exotic plant native range to an invaded range to establish a controlled ecological equilibrium between the herbivore agent and the plant host below an economic impact threshold. Since 1947, there have been 80 species of classical biological control agents

introduced against 28 species of invasive plants in Oregon (34% widespread and effective, 45% being actively redistributed, 21% no-longer used). Globally, 75% of all agents have at least minor impact, and of those, 35% are considered as having major impact. The Noxious Weed Program houses the State's biocontrol database, which contains more than 10k biocontrol release records from federal, state, county, and district cooperators.

Oregon is joining other forward-thinking states like Colorado and California and growing teams of experts working on biocontrol of invasive plants on a state level. The program was paused as a cost-savings measure in 2016-17. The biocontrol program restarted with a single fulltime employee and has made great gains in the seven years since. In 2024, the program was able to add a biological control technician to address the increasing agent rearing efforts for gorse, knotweed, and yellow starthistle agents while maintaining statewide field presence coordinating with participating organizations around the state. Following the departure of longtime biocontrol entomologist Joel Price in early 2025, biocontrol technician Jordan Donaghy filled the role on an interim basis until Ashley Toland assumed the position in September 2025. ODA's biocontrol of noxious weeds entomologist position is a critical part of a small and highly specialized 150 researchers and practitioners working to forward biocontrol in the western U.S. and a respected part of the larger community of 300 researchers and practitioners around the world. Oregon's program provides stakeholders with significant insight to future direction of federal research, status of invasive species control through collaboration with west coast partners, and a tangible "boots-on-the-ground" application of new biocontrol agents. This program provides oversight of environmental safety and proper use of agents by dozens of partners statewide in alignment with USDA-APHIS policy by conducting an average of 100 site inspections annually across all 36 Oregon counties.



Jordan Donaghy and Don Son monitoring Spotted knapweed in Central Oregon.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025

Fulfilled 21 special email/phone requests for specific biocontrols from members of the public.

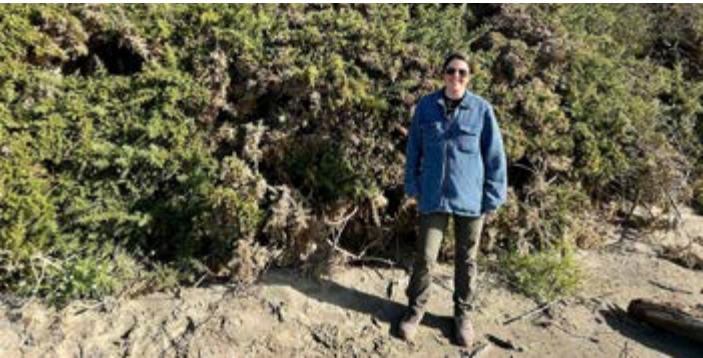
- Maintained program budgets with funding from USDA-APHIS-PPQ (\$50k FY2022, \$75k FY2023, \$110k FY2024, \$110k FY2025).
- Constructed a new wooden outdoor overwintering structure for psyllid cages, replacing the previous PVC-and-tarp setup.
- Provided purple loosestrife leaf beetles to Dr. Park at West Virginia University for precision drone drops of “bug balls” as part of research presented at Entomology Society of America’s National Conference.
- Provided three releases of field bindweed mites to Joey Milan in Idaho for releases in Ada County.
- Surveyed current range of adventive houndstongue root-weevil agent migration across Oregon.
- Provided 3 outreach biocontrol presentations reaching around 450 Oregonians and displayed live knotweed agents at Oregon State Fair to reach hundreds more.
- Ashley Toland attended the Entomological Society of America Annual meeting in Portland to engage with current biological control research and expand her professional network.

Table 1 - Total biocontrol activities statewide, including all collaborators.

Year	Collections	Releases	Monitoring
2019	21	25	82
2020	20	135	122
2021	24	103	66
2022	14	88	195
2023	19	67	65
2024	25	113	91
2025	17	60	79

Most work was conducted by Jordan Donaghy (ODA Biocontrol Technician – 44%), but a significant portion was done by ODA regional specialists (20%) and new ODA biocontrol Entomologist Ashley Toland (13%). Activities were also conducted with county, SWCD, and other partners (23%). Field work began April 23rd and continued until October 31st, 2025 (192 days) with our peak activity level on August 19th. Although 20 counties participated in biocontrol in 2025 (Table 2), the most active county was Coos with 17 biocontrol activities, largely due to increasing gorse work in Bandon, (Coos County) OR. Most activities were conducted on private lands (48%) with significant federal (20%), county (32%), and a small portion of others. Our biggest cooperators were the Lincoln SWCD (4 sites), Baker County (3 sites), and USFS (3 sites).

Overall, in 2025, 39 noxious weed infestations were treated with biocontrol totaling an estimated 1,673 net acres of infested lands.



Ashley Toland – New Biocontrol Entomologist for ODA, during site visit in Bandon Oregon

Table 2 - Field work summary for ODA biocontrol activities.

Year	Sites	Counties (of 36)	Field days
2018	41	16	36
2019	58	19	32
2020	54	17	35
2021	62	13	28
2022	119	28	51
2023	37	30	20
2024	68	27	54
2025	58	20	56

Table 3 - Oregon biocontrol releases conducted in 2025 by target weed.

Targets	Species	Releases		Benefiting Stakeholders
Bohemian knotweed	<i>Aphalara itadori</i>	4	6,800	Clackamas SWCD, Private
Dalmatian toadflax	<i>Mecinus janthiniiformis</i>	1	300	Private
Field bindweed	<i>Aceria malherbae</i>	3	6,000	Ada Co. Idaho
Giant knotweed	<i>Aphalara itadori</i>	8	8,800	Luckiamute Watershed Council, Private
Gorse	<i>Sericothrips staphylinus</i>	2	550	Coos Co., ODOT in Lane Co. (Florence)
Japanese knotweed	<i>Aphalara itadori</i>	5	11,500	Medford-BLM, Tillamook Co.
Purple loosestrife	<i>Galerucella spp.</i>	10	3,530	USFW NWRs, City of Keizer, City of Hillsboro City of Corvallis, Oregon State Parks, State, West Virginia University
Russian knapweed	<i>Aulacidea acroptilonica</i>	9	3,952	Prineville BLM, Lakeview BLM, 2 Private, State
Spotted knapweed	<i>Cyphocleonus achates</i>	15	947	4 Private, Ochoco National Forest USFS, State, Baker Co., Deschutes Co., Deschutes National Forest USFS
	<i>Larinus obtusus</i>	1	100	Private
	<i>Larinus minutus</i>	1	50	Prineville BLM
Tansy Ragwort	<i>Longitarsus jacobaeae</i>	1	110	Private

Table 4 - Overall Oregon biocontrol release summary statistics by year.

Year	Targets	Agent species	No. of agents	Releases	Benefiting stakeholders
2018	9	10	26,600	54	28
2019	9	11	900,472	63	29
2020	12	13	528,705	131	33
2021	12	13	75,710	113	41
2022	10	11	60,738	94	31
2023	10	12	25,138	68	40
2024	15	15	47,473	129	52
2025	10	11	42,639	60	31

MAJOR PROJECTS

INVASIVE KNOTWEEDS, *REYNOUTRIA JAPONICA*, *R. SACHALINENSIS*, *R. X BOHEMICA*

Aphalara itadori adult psyllids have been released on Japanese (Kyushu strain) and giant (Hokkaido strain) knotweed in Oregon since 2020, and the new Murakami hybrid strain have been released on bohemian knotweed since 2024. Significant field predation by mites prompted an entire egg/nymph/adult colony release strategy in 2022 to overwhelm predators; outdoor cages with infested potted plants helped exclude passing wasp/bird predators at field sites. With significantly increased agent persistence in 2023, we further invested in the strategy with self-watering dishes for potted plants. A release site in Camas Valley maintained low levels through 2024, but no psyllids were observed during monitoring in 2025. Kyushu psyllids released at the Myrtle Creek site in 2022 have persisted through three winters and appear to be increasing and dispersing. Adult counts during 30-minute surveys rose from 34 in spring 2023 to 39 in April 2024 and 47 in April 2025. Recovery across three consecutive seasons indicates that the Myrtle Creek site is established. Plant damage has remained minimal to date, though twisting of younger leaves has been observed on younger foliage during the summer months.

SPOTTED KNAPWEED, *CENTAUREA STOEBE*

Urban development continued to destroy historic knapweed root boring weevil (*Cyphocleonus achates*) nursery sites in Central Oregon in 2025 and extreme weather events continue to make timing of collections difficult. Despite these challenges, demand for agents by land-managers in Central and NE Oregon remain high. Nearly 1,700 weevils were collected in 2025, a substantial increase from the 500 collected in 2024. However, this total remains far below the thousands collected annually a decade ago. The knapweed flower weevils (*Larinus obtusus* and *Larinus minutus*) were also collected and released in 2025.



Jordan, displaying *Cyphocleonus achates*, an agent for spotted knapweed at a collection site in central Oregon.

GORSE, *ULEX EUROPAEUS*

In 2025, we started with two colonies of gorse thrips (*Sericothrips staphylinus*) in ODA greenhouses. Due to issues with host plant growth in the greenhouses, we were down to one colony of thrips by mid-summer. Our host plants have improved, and we expect to increase the number of thrips colonies in 2026. Field collections yielded 550 adult thrips from a 2020 release sites in Bandon. These thrips were used for two releases in Coos County. Monitoring efforts confirmed successful recovery of adult thrips at nine sites: three in Florence, three in Lincoln City, and three in Bandon.



Jordan Donaghy, ODA, Monitoring gorse thrips release site in Florence Oregon.

YELLOW STARHISTLE, *CENTAUREA SOLSTITIALIS*

After the failure of the Nez Perce Biocontrol Center rearing project and the limited production of CDFA and University of Idaho projects, the difficulty of the root-crown mining weevil was apparent, and more *Ceratapion basicorne* (CEBA) rearing centers were needed. In 2024, the Colorado Department of Agriculture provided ODA with five adult female weevils to establish a rearing colony. Multiple lineages were reared, and initial oviposition was successful, resulting in a total of 24 weevils, although some individuals were lost during aestivation/diapause. The 2025 rearing attempt was unsuccessful due to pest infestations in the greenhouse that rendered host plants unsuitable for weevil development. Plant damage was severe enough to prevent assessment of oviposition. Weevils from the 2024 colony were shared with Dr. Fritz Grevstad's laboratory at Oregon State University; however, those individuals did not oviposit either. Five weevils survived from the original 2024 rearing attempt, including two individuals that were returned from Dr. Grevstad's lab. An additional six weevils are being provided by Nathan Mercer with CDFA. With host plants now in much improved condition and the addition of new weevils, we are optimistic about increasing rearing production in 2026 and providing insects for Department of Defense/OSU and University of Idaho release projects within the next 2–3 years.

SMALLER PROJECTS OF NOTE

FIELD BINDWEED, *CONVOLVULUS ARVENSIS*

Field bindweed gall mites (*Aceria malherbae*) were collected from a field nursery in The Dalles, and 6,000 mites were shipped to Joey Milan with BLM for three separate field releases in Boise, Idaho. Since 1999, this mite has been released in 25 counties in Oregon and has become established in eight. However, levels of infestation and resulting impacts vary widely among established sites, ranging from no observable effect at some locations to greater than a 90% reduction in aboveground plant biomass at others. Redistribution efforts are infrequent and conducted primarily in response to special requests.

HOUNDSTONGUE, *CYNOGLOSSUM OFFICINALE*

The seed weevil (*Mogulones borraginis*) petitioned in 2021 has been stuck in the tribal consultation phase of the USDA-APHIS permitting process for three years. Meanwhile, we have been scouting northern Oregon houndstongue populations in Union, Harney, Umatilla, Wheeler Counties and Mt. Hood National Forest for the rapidly migrating root crown mining weevil, *Mogulones crucifer*. Despite not being approved for U.S. release, *Mogulones crucifer* has spread to the U.S. from releases Canada and is now present in Oregon. In collaboration with Teddy Orr (Umatilla County Weed Department) and Mark Porter (ODA), we discovered this adventive agent significantly impacting houndstongue at several sites in Umatilla County in 2024. In 2025, Teddy Orr confirmed the presence of *M. crucifer* in Union County, and Jordan Donaghy (ODA) observed characteristic feeding damage in houndstongue populations within Mt. Hood National Forest; however, the agent could not be conclusively identified as *M. crucifer*.



Shothole damage by *Mogulones crucifer* on leaves and stems of houndstongue.

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE, *LYTHRUM SALICARIA*

Jordan Donaghy (ODA) and Willamette Riverkeeper continued in 2025 the perennial *Galerucella* leaf beetle collections on a private farm near St. Paul, OR. Despite high demand from tribes, neighboring states, and Oregon SWCDs, historic collection areas have significantly reduced loosestrife and unpredictable interannual swings in climate, making timing and collections increasingly difficult. The site was collected from twice in 2025, with one observable outbreak of beetles. Historic highs of 30k adults collected in a single year in 1999 has dwindled to just under 3k in 2025.

RUSSIAN KNAPWEED, *RHAPONTICUM REPENS*

Russian knapweed gall wasps (*Aulacidea acroptilonica*) have been released in Oregon for several years and are well established in multiple counties. Federal funding for “new agents” has stopped for the project and we are on a “redistribute to remaining outlier sites and monitor impacts” phase. Adult emergence per stem stayed around 2023 levels at 24 adults per stem and at 26 adults per stem in 2024. Emergence rate per stem was not documented in 2025, but was noticeably lower than 2023 and 2024. Requests were much lower now that agents are becoming widespread. All requests were fulfilled with emergence from 240 stems vs 65 stems from last year. Two groups of stems were collected in September of 2025. Limited monitoring data exists but collections were made from sites in Harney County and Crook County with prolific gall production. Observational impact continues to slowly build but more imperial evidence is needed.

Rangeland Health

By Mark Porter

BACKGROUND

Rangelands in the western US are in peril due to the conversion of native perennial plant communities to those dominated by nonnative invasive annual grasses (IAG). Over the past decade, it is estimated that approximately 1.3 million acres are degraded annually, transforming ecologically stable native perennial plant communities into areas beyond restoration. This transformation is primarily attributed to the introduction and spread of nonnative invasive annual grasses, conifer encroachment, human modifications, and a synergistic effect of large wildfires. Consequently, there are permanent and substantial losses in ecological function and forage production. For instance, water and nutrient storage and cycling are disrupted, carbon sequestration is altered, wildlife habitats are degraded, and forage production is severely compromised.

ODA RANGELAND HEALTH SPECIALIST

The inaugural year of the Noxious Weed Program's Rangeland Health Initiative was kicked off in 2025. In December 2024, Mark Porter, formerly the NE Oregon Regional Integrated Weed Management Specialist, was hired as the first Rangeland Health Specialist. The program is initially funded through a five-year agreement with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and \$360K of Natural and Working Lands funding allocated by the State legislature.

The primary objective of this initiative is to offer technical support to landowners and land managers, enabling them to collaborate and coordinate efforts to identify priority treatment areas and establish partnerships for invasive grass management. The Rangeland Health Initiative's primary focus is on preserving intact and/or high-value native perennial shrub steppe and bunchgrass rangelands, known as "Core areas," by engaging partners at the state, federal, tribal, and local levels to implement strategic management strategies (e.g., Defend and Grow the Core).



Frosty fall native bunchgrasses greet the Sunrise on Zumwalt Prairie in Wallowa County OR.

These efforts align with the goals and objectives set by broader initiatives, such as the Global Climate Action Commission (OCAC), set forth by the Oregon State legislature through HB3409, USDA Working Lands for Wildlife Initiative, the USDA Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, the Western Weed Action Plan, the Oregon SageCon Partnership, and others aimed at safeguarding and protecting rangeland and forests from the impacts of invasive annual grasses and catastrophic wildfires. This Initiative also complements the work of other state entities, particularly the Oregon Division of State Lands and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), whose shared goal is to protect Oregon's rangelands.

ODA staff is working to provide technical assistance to landowners and land managers specifically around IAG management and to support coordination, collaboration, and outreach efforts by high value partnerships in and around Core areas. ODA is working to connect landowners and land managers to existing and emerging funding opportunities to promote IAG management and rangeland conservation efforts. ODA staff is also working to help monitor the effectiveness of ongoing project work to improve future outcomes.



Monitoring post fire bunchgrass survival after the 2025 evaluation with the "Poke Test". The Poke Test estimates how much of the plants root system was destroyed in the fire. The firmer the better.

2025 IMPLEMENTATION

PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

Regionally, the Rangeland Health Specialist is working with state weed experts from Montana, Wyoming and Idaho to develop IAG treatment evaluation tool that is applicable across the Inter Mountain West. The tool should help land managers understand treatment actions and their appropriate applications in different situations. At the State level, the Rangeland Health Specialist introduced the Rangeland Health Initiative to many organizations including the Oregon Board of Agriculture, the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, The Oregon Greater Sage Grouse Coordinating Committee, Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network, Oregon Climate Action Committee, the Oregon State Weed Board, SageCon, and USFWS rangeland managers from around the state. As an example of our outreach, the Oregon Board of Agriculture visited demonstration treatment plots

that are tracking the impacts of ODA implemented IAG herbicide treatments on native plants that are first foods of endemic Native American tribes.

In Northeastern Oregon, the Rangeland Health Specialist helped to organize and presented about IAGs at the first annual NE Oregon Rangeland Summit in LaGrande that was attended by approximately 130 people. ODA staff also participated with the Baker, Lakeview, and Prineville sage grouse Local Implementation Teams, the Malheur Range Partnership, Harney County Wildfire Collaborative and provided support and technical assistance in the potential creation of a new 4-County Regional Conservation Partnership Program in NE Oregon. With the Baker LIT, the Rangeland Health Specialist is a member of the technical review team providing evaluation of the potential effectiveness of submitted habitat management grant applications.

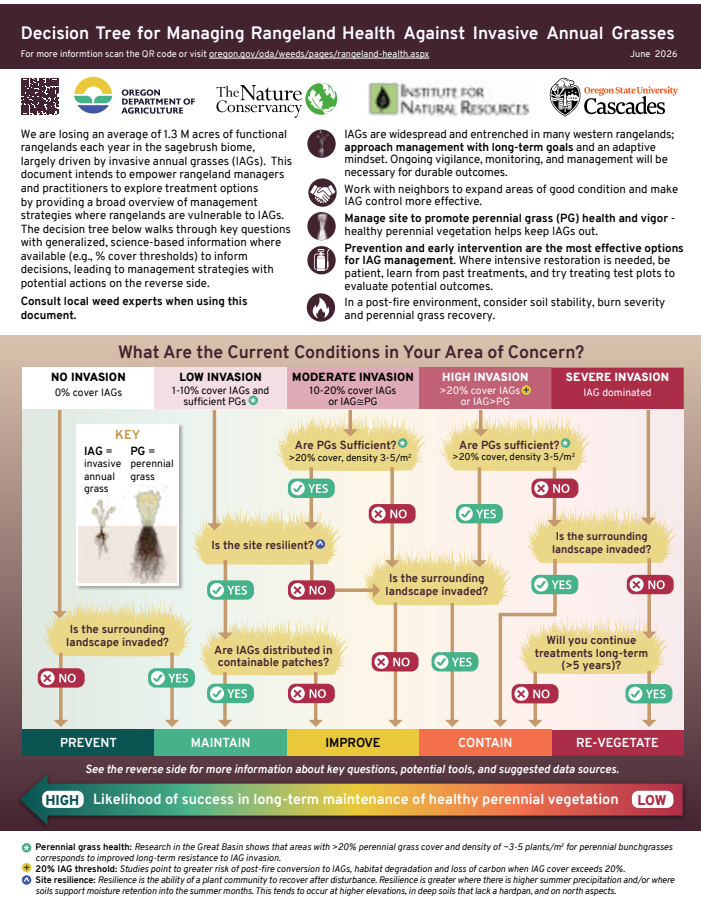
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

ODA staff has provided 36 field consultations for IAG treatments to landowners and land managers in 10 counties as of December 2025. These visits have ranged from post fire evaluation of perennial plant community survival to the post herbicide evaluation of treatments for IAGs. As mentioned above ODA is currently engaged in field trials in Northeast Oregon, partnering with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, private landowners, and the Eastern Oregon Ag Research Station (ARS/OSU, Union Station) to evaluate the effects of IAG treatments on first foods and culturally significant plant species. Information gathered here will inform strategies for larger scale treatments to ensure that impacts to native plants are understood and that first foods are protected.

ODA staff has also implemented field trials to track the response of moderately infested grasslands to IAG herbicide treatments within and outside of prescribed burns in Lake County. The Rangland Health Specialist also tested the response of jointed goatgrass to different combinations of IAG herbicides in Wallowa County. Common crupina is a cool season annual forb on the Oregon Noxious Weed list (B&T) that behaves very similarly to IAGs. ODA staff treated test plots to better understand the response of common crupina and Medusahead rye to herbicides (and their contextual native plant communities) in Umatilla County. To further the understanding of the impact of IAGs and their herbicides on federally Threatened and Endangered plants ODA staff facilitated herbicide treatments of IAGs over McFarland’s 4 O’Clock (*Mirabilis macfarlanei*) and on Cook’s Lomatium (*Lomatium cookii*).

We are also a part of a Tech Transfer Partnership with the Nature Conservancy, OSU University (Cascades Campus) and the Institute for Natural Resources to provide a primer for key considerations when planning IAG treatments. ODA presented a draft of the product

at SageCon 2025 for public feedback. A final version should be published by the spring of 2026.



An Invasive Annual Grass management decision tree to help assist rangeland managers and practitioners by providing a broad overview of management strategies, reviewing treatment options, to help assist management decisions to promote healthy perennial vegetation.

In an effort to help forward on-the-ground work, the Rangeland Health Specialist cooperated with Sustainable Northwest staff and partners from around Eastern Oregon to apply for grant funding from the Allen Family Foundation that supports Natural Climate Solutions in rangelands. Specifically, the application would create an integrated Rangeland Framework applicable at a broad scale that aligns existing resources to drive action at the scale the challenge demands. The Threat-Based ecostate mapping tool currently maps rangeland vegetative conditions across the Sagebrush Biome (Creutzberg et al. 2025) but does not account for wildfire risk and the potential carbon loss that can come with IAG invasion. The projects result will be a Rangeland Framework that integrates traditional rangeland priorities with NCS to address the leading drivers of carbon loss (wildfire and IAGs) while enabling community-led, adaptive rangeland management at landscape scale. Total Project amount \$3.1M, total ask \$1.35 M over 3 years. Additionally, ODA staff is working with Natural Working Lands Biologists from ODFW to gather a list of federal,

state, and private funding opportunities that will support rangeland health. The list will be available to rangeland managers across the state and will detail each funding sources respective parameters (timing, amounts available, purpose and preferred activities).

MONITORING

ODA's Rangeland Health Specialist not only visits many sites to evaluate and document effectiveness post treatment but he also attended training for the Oregon Rangeland Monitoring Program (ORMP) promoted by the USFWS, managed by USDA Agricultural Research Service and funded by OWEB. ORMP gathers standardized detailed pre and post project implementation data to measure the impact of different management efforts on rangelands and presents summary statistics in an online dashboard format. Data collection standards parallel national standards for BLM's data gathering processes (Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) Strategy) making it valuable for comparing similar work on much of Oregon's federal rangelands. ODA is working with USFWS to forward ORMP as a standardized monitor tool for rangeland management activities statewide.



A photo of some of the devastation of native plant community in the Flat Fire in Deschutes County 2025. High fuel loads including Juniper encroachment into shrub/grassland and Invasive Annual Grass presence create uniform fuels and high fuel loads. Pre fire photo is just across the road and generally representative of the pre-fire conditions.

ODA Rangeland Health staff attended the 2025 Natural Resource Professional Rangeland Ecology and Management Field Course, a two-day intensive field course focusing on the ecological function of rangelands and their management in context of IAGs, Juniper Encroachment, Fire and Sage Grouse. The course is put on by the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Station (Burns OR) staff and uses the Threat-based Land Management framework for planning pre and post fire management of rangelands.

FUTURE GOALS

With a full year of partner engagement, ODA staff looks forward to developing the 20-year goals and 10-year action plans in 2026 through coordination of multiple regional partners. A critical need for this work to be effective is the creation of an interdisciplinary and interjurisdictional Oregon Rangelands Advisory Board that will maintain focus on healthy rangelands across the state through time. The first task of this group would be to produce a 20-year plan with 10-year objectives (20/10 plan) for healthy rangelands in Oregon. The 20/10 plan will be informed by spatial analysis using existing and emerging datasets that will assist in prioritizing key geographies and habitats based on current ecological state, probability of successful maintenance, improvement, and/or revegetation, available funding mechanisms (e.g. RCPP) and opportunity to capitalize on existing partnerships and momentum.

These plans will guide rangeland work into the future in a way that empowers landowners, addresses gaps in understanding and ensures outcomes that create resiliency across the rangelands of Oregon while maintaining productivity for range-based agriculture and protecting or enhancing wildlife habitats.

Northwest Region

By Beth Myers-Shenai

The Northwest region encompasses an incredibly diverse landscape that includes the Cascade and Coast Range Mountains, large and small river valleys, and miles of coastline. There are also a great number and diversity of natural resource management organizations working both alone and in partnership to manage projects including Federal, State, Counties, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Watershed Councils, special regional districts, cities and non-profit organizations.

EDRR PROJECTS:

GARDEN YELLOW LOOSESTRIFE (*LYSIMACHIA VULGARIS*), MID WILLAMETTE RIVER & WASHINGTON COUNTY

Cost center: Lottery.

ODA once again assisted with an intensive survey led by Willamette Riverkeeper as part of a Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) project funded by an Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB) grant. A new survey area directly downstream was added this year through the Newburg Pool section of the river from Rogers Landing to the I-5 bridge at Wilsonville, and fortunately no plants were found. All sections of the river in the NW region upstream of the new survey area were also re-surveyed and all plants found treated.

A new population of garden yellow loosestrife was found and positively identified in Gales Creek in Washington County thanks to the keen eyes of Tualatin SWCD contractors who were surveying for garlic mustard at the time. All plants found were treated, and more extensive survey up and downstream including ODA staff is planned for 2026 to determine the extent of the infestation.

GARLIC MUSTARD (*ALLIARIA PETIOLATA*), CLATSOP COUNTY, HOOD RIVER COUNTY

Cost Center: USFS State & Private

The Clatsop County populations of garlic mustard in the area of Fishhawk Lake were monitored and treated by Columbia SWCD. Plant numbers continue to decrease.

ODA once again participated in an ongoing collaboration with Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District and Mount Hood National Forest to survey and treat garlic mustard in forested land along the perimeter of two organic orchards in Parkdale that are adjacent to MHNH. HRSWCD contracted hand-pulling crews removed plants from within organic production areas of the orchard. Densities of plants have dropped dramatically, with all areas now able to be covered in a couple of days by staff and contractors, and gallons of bagged plants reaching an all-time low of 250, down from 2,500 gallons in the early phase of the project in 2015.



Stopping garlic mustard in Hood River County is a team effort! (From L to R top): Julianne Baranowski, USFS; Jordan Donaghy, ODA; Cheryl Rice, Hood River SWCD; Mitch Lex, ODA; Crystal Durbeq, USFS; Claire Addis, USFS; Christina Mead, USFS; (L to R kneeling): Beth Myers-Shenai, ODA; Kris Schadel, Hood River SWCD

GIANT HOGWEED (*HERACLEUM MANTEGAZZIANUM*), CLACKAMAS COUNTY, MULTNOMAH COUNTY, & WASHINGTON COUNTY

Cost Center: State & Private.

ODA staff were not needed for monitoring or treatments. No new NW Region sites were reported to ODA in 2025. East Multnomah SWCD, Tualatin SWCD, Clackamas SWCD and City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) managed sites in their jurisdictions.

GOATSRUE (*GALEGA OFFICINALIS*), CLACKAMAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON COUNTY

Cost center: State & Private.

No new goatsrue sites were reported in 2025, and ODA staff were not needed to assist with monitoring or treatments. Tualatin SWCD took the lead on survey and treatment of populations in the Tigard/Tualatin area and other sites in the region were managed by East Multnomah SWCD, Clackamas SWCD, City of Portland BES, and Metro Regional Government.

GORSE (*ULEX EUROPAEUS*), CLATSOP COUNTY

Cost Center: Lottery.

ODA staff teamed up with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) staff to extensively survey previously known populations in Fort Stevens State Park and documented just under three gross acres of mature and juvenile plants, mostly in one forested area with two small outlier patches in the dunes. All plants were treated, and ODA will continue to offer assistance to OPRD if needed and monitor progress annually.



Tate Pyle and John Koch with OPRD are keeping a small gorse resurgence in check at Ft. Stevens State Park in Hammond, OR with the help of ODA staff and historical distribution data.



A few missed sections plants were found in post-treatment monitoring of gorse at Ft. Stevens State Park. Untreated branches of a single bush may survive, showing how imperative it is to follow up!

MATGRASS, (*NARDUS STRICTA*), CLATSOP COUNTY

Cost center: State & Private.

ODA monitored this North Coast Land Conservancy owned site in June before their crews had completed work, and in October after they had finished. In June approximately 65 plants were found, including one plant that was flowering. All but two small plants had been removed by the second monitoring. Unfortunately, a small new patch of about a dozen plants was discovered along a game trail on the second visit including on large plant that had gone to seed. ODA is planning on working alongside NCLC's survey and treatment crews in 2026.

MOUSE-EAR HAWKWEED (*PILOSELLA PILOSELLA*), YAMHILL COUNTY, CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Cost center: State & Private.

ODA assisted Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District with treatment at recently found site of mouse-ear hawkweed north of Milo McIver State Park. It is on private property in an area where a timber harvest had recently occurred. Densities were down from the previous season when the SWCD had done treatments on their own, but the low-growing habit of this hawkweed hides easily in surrounding grasses, making detection a challenge. Additional seasons of survey and treatment will likely be needed. There was also meadow hawkweed present at the site, both within the same area as the mouse-ear hawkweed and other spots on the property that is being targeted by the SWCD's contractors.

Following the collaborative intensive survey the previous year, all known locations of mouse-ear hawkweed at Milo McIver were surveyed and treated by Clackamas SWCD contractors and staff.



Jacob Argueta with Yamhill SWCD maps a spot of mouse-ear hawkweed after he treats it.



A mouse-ear hawkweed rosette with stolons forming daughter plants. This aggressive vegetative reproduction is one of the traits that helps it outcompete other plants.



A pair of treated plants. Note how small they are compared to the surrounding vegetation, requiring slow and careful surveying for effective control in the area.

OBLONG SPURGE (*EUPHORBIA OBLONGATA*), WASHINGTON COUNTY, CLACKAMAS COUNTY, YAMHILL COUNTY, MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Cost Center: None in 2025..

Most known sites were managed directly by Tualatin SWCD, Clackamas SWCD, West Multnomah SWCD and City of Portland BES. This will still be a priority for ODA monitoring and/or assistance in 2026, especially if there are non-responsive property owners where the weed has been found.

ORANGE HAWKWEED (*HIERACIUM AURANTIACUM*), CLATSOP COUNTY, CLACKAMAS COUNTY, HOOD RIVER COUNTY, & MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Cost Center: State & Private and Mt. Hood National Forest.

ODA treated populations in the Greater Lolo Pass area of Mt. Hood (Clackamas and Hood River Counties) in cooperation with USFS, Clackamas SWCD and City of Portland Water Bureau. ODA monitored and treated all known locations in Clatsop County. Limited regrowth was found at two previously treated sites, and no plants were found at the three sites in the county outside the city limits of Astoria near the Astoria Golf Club. One known site in Astoria was treated for the first time after getting permission from the property owner, and one new residential site that was reported on iNaturalist was surveyed and treated.

Brochures were distributed to homeowners around the neighborhood to raise awareness of its presence.

Clackamas SWCD also managed multiple sites elsewhere in that county, including one in the Mt. Hood Wilderness. Sites were also managed by Portland BES in their jurisdiction.

YELLOW FLOATINGHEART (*NYMPHOIDES PELTATA*), WASHINGTON COUNTY

Cost Center: None Needed

No ODA staff were needed assist with monitoring or treatments. The only site in this region has been intensively treated and monitored for years by Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District. This site will be a priority for ODA monitoring and/or assistance in the near future to confirm its status.

COOPERATIVE PROJECTS

OREGON DEPT. OF FORESTRY, TILLAMOOK DISTRICT

Cost Center: Lottery

ODA received a request from Oregon Dept. of Forestry for technical assistance and training in treating all known knotweed on their property in the upper Miami River watershed and spent two days assisting their staff with backpack spraying and demonstrating best practices along 1.25 miles of river starting with the uppermost population.

ODA Gross acres treated: 71

Net acres treated: 1.5

US FOREST SERVICE PROJECTS

MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST (MHNH)

Cost Center: USFS Mt. Hood National Forest & Mt. Hood Burned Area Rehab

DIFFUSE Knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*): B-RATED

FALSE Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*): B-RATED

GARLIC MUSTARD (*Alliaria petiolata*): B (T)-RATED (PRIVATE)

Meadow Hawkweed (*Pilosella caespitosum*): B(T)-RATED

Meadow Knapweed (*Centaurea pratensis*): B-RATED

ORANGE HAWKWEED (*Pilosella aurantiacum*): A-RATED

**SPOTTED KNAPWEED (*CENTAUREA STOEBE*):
B-RATED**

**SULFUR CINQUEFOIL (*POTENTILLA RECTA*):
B-RATED**

**YELLOW TOADFLAX: (*LINARIA VULGARIS*):
B-RATED**

Mt. Hood National Forest encompasses a varied landscape that includes wet, densely vegetated western slopes, dry open forest eastern slopes, lush river valleys, wilderness meadows and part of the Columbia River Gorge. Invasive plant populations on Mt. Hood National Forest are generally small, localized infestations apart from meadow and orange hawkweeds in the Lolo Pass area and spotted knapweed on the Hood River and Barlow Ranger Districts. Recent surveys have prioritized survey and treatment in vulnerable burned areas to prevent the spread from ongoing forest rehab activities and to keep vector areas like roadsides, trailheads & quarries clear of priority noxious weeds.

CLACKAMAS RANGER DISTRICT

Spotted knapweed: Roads 6350, 6350-160, 6350-180, 6350-210, 6350-213, 6350-230, 6350-240, 6355, 6370-215, 4220, 4600, 4600-324, 4600-380, 4680-140, Squirrel Quarry, Happy Quarry

Diffuse knapweed: Cache Quarry, Road 4200

False brome: Road 63

Work on this district is done cooperatively with Clackamas SWCD. ODA staff focuses primarily on the uppermost sites in the Clackamas River watershed except for false brome sites in the vicinity of the Collawash River, which have been treated by Clackamas SWCD contractors for the past several years. Due to a temporary ODA staff shortage in the summer of 2025, Clackamas SWCD took on additional areas of work in the Collawash drainage, including a large ventenata grass site at Happy quarry, and along the northern sections of Rd 46 where there are large areas of scattered false brome and sulfur cinquefoil.

All ODA Burn Area Rehab work was done in the upper regions of the Clackamas Ranger District. The priority in 2025 was to survey and treat all previously found locations of priority weeds along roads to prevent movement by people, wildlife and equipment into vulnerable burned areas, and to assure all quarries were clear of noxious weeds or under treatment so they could be utilized for staging or materiel harvesting if needed for future fire suppression activities.

ODA gross acres treated: 880

Net Acres treated: 0.8

Road Miles surveyed: 0.8



Although at first glance it appeared to be Bigfoot, it was indeed ODA's Mitch Lex patrolling a key burned area in Clackamas RD for spotted knapweed.



In 2024 this newly-found patch of spotted knapweed was solidly covering the end of this road spur within a burned area; in 2025 it was already down to a few scattered plants.



In August, Clackamas SWCD hosted a Clackamas RD Field Day for partners working on the forest to do treatments together.



After the work was done, it was time to enjoy the beauty of the region (followed by a tamale feed!)

HOOD RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

False brome: Roads 1612, 1800

Spotted knapweed: Roads 1300, 1310, 1310-640, 1310-641, 1310-642, 1330, 1340, 1350, 1600, 1610, 1610-630, 1611, 1612, 1612-640, 1612-641, 1620, 1630, 1650, 2820, 2820-620, 2820-630, 2820-660, 2820-685, 2821, 2840, 2840-640, Hwy 35, 3500-134, 3500-140, 3500-145, 3500-150, 3555, 3550

Meadow hawkweed: Roads 1800, 1800-011, 1811,

Despite being short one staff member, ODA was able to survey and treat a large portion of both main roads and spurs in the Hood River Ranger District in the 2025 season with the help of other USFS staff. The fire closures in the Whatum Lake & Mt. Defiance areas had been reopened, and a priority was placed on covering those areas. Additional roads in the Lost Lake area were surveyed and treated for the first time in many years. The southernmost six miles of Highway 35 were also treated for the first time in many years.

On the Hood River side of the Lolo Pass hawkweed project, ODA, USFS, and Clackamas SWCD staff and contractors teamed up to once again survey and treat the entirety of the Hood River County side of the BPA powerline corridor and spur roads. All known sites of orange and meadow hawkweed as well as spotted knapweed vector sites have been treated within it.

ODA was also able to again join in a multi-agency effort to assist Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District with garlic mustard and false brome survey and treatment on private land adjacent to USFS land near the Parkdale Ranger Station. A few scattered seedlings of both plants were found and treated in known sites in natural areas surrounding organic orchards. For the first time in 2025, ODA participated in a large delimitation survey and outlier treatment effort for false brome in Tollbridge County Park and properties to the north. A large, dense

infestation was discovered on the private property to the north that appears to have been present for at least a decade. After the survey, contractors funded by Hood River SWCD treated core areas of the mapped infestation with Poast, a grass-selected herbicide, in an effort to protect forbs as much as possible from this first large-scale spray effort. The infestation continued through adjacent private properties to the extent of where permissions had been secured.

ODA Gross Acres Treated: 4,784

Net Acres Treated: 5.41

Road Miles Surveyed: 155



Crystal Durbeq with the USFS Region 6 takes a break from the office to help ODA out with spotted knapweed treatment in the vicinity of Lost Lake.



ODA's Rob Banks, master builder of ODA's UTV spray systems, helps with knapweed treatments on Rd 16 of Hood River RD.



For Rob, break time means berry time (in this case thimbleberries)!



A multi-agency survey crew converges on Tollgate County Park and areas north to grid out and delimit a large recently discovered false brome population.

ZIG ZAG RANGER DISTRICT

Orange Hawkweed: Horseshoe Ridge (decommissioned Rd. 1825-380), 1800, 1828

Meadow Hawkweed: Roads 1800, 1828, 1828-118, 1828-125

Spotted knapweed: Roads 1800, 1828, Hwy 26, 3500-150,

ODA and Clackamas SWCD staff were able to hike in and comprehensively treat the small population of orange hawkweed along remote decommissioned road 1825-380. Clackamas SWCD once again provided contractors to treat the Burnt Lake Trail orange hawkweed in Mt. Hood Wilderness. Clackamas SWCD contractors also completed powerline corridor treatments in the Lolo Pass area, while ODA provided comprehensive project coordination for all partners. ODA staff treated all meadow and orange hawkweed on Rd. 1828 and spurs.

Spotted knapweed is increasingly becoming a concern on Hwy 26 between Welches and the District boundary (and beyond), but due to dangerous traffic conditions treatment has not been possible, except in some select areas that are more protected from traffic. All safe areas were mapped and treated in 2025, including a large bank of plants in Government Camp that could be accessed by hose from a surface street at the top of the bank. Coordination with ODOT and USFS for safety measures is a priority for 2026. Knapweed sites south of Trillium Lake were survey and treated by Clackamas SWCD.

ODA Gross Acres Treated: 784

Net Acres Treated: 17.25

Miles Surveyed: 16

US BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

TILLAMOOK BLM

Cost Center: BLM NW Oregon Knotweed

BOHEMIAN KNOTWEED (*FALLOPIA X BOHEMICA*): B-RATED

FALSE BROME (*BRACHYPODIUM SYLVATICUM*): B-RATED

POLICEMAN'S HELMET (*IMPATIENS GLADULIFERA*): B-RATED

In early fall, ODA staff assisted the Tillamook BLM Botanist in coordinating and supervising a complex treatment of an extensive knotweed infestation in the Little North Fork Wilson River gorge by a BLM contracted 10-person backpack crew. The infestation is in a remote, ruggedly steep area, has mapped populations of the sensitive plant *Filipendula occidentalis* (queen-of-the-forest), and is spread across multiple ownerships including BLM, Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Tillamook County and a private landowner. BLM re-surveyed for the sensitive plant in 2025 and none were found within previously untreated areas of knotweed, so for the first time all knotweed plants in the watershed were able to be treated. ODA arranged permission to treat with the other two agencies and a private landowner and accompanied the crew throughout to ensure the treatment method was effective, and sensitive plant areas were avoided. The entirety of the two-mile infested reach was successfully treated over 1 ½ days. ODA also found and treated a small patch false brome on private land at the mouth of the watershed, the first known in this part of Tillamook County. The planned treatment of another large infestation of knotweed on BLM owned land on the Trask River had to be cancelled due to inclement weather.

ODA Gross Treatment Acres: 1

Net Treatment Acres: 0.04



Evidence of the previous year's treatment of knotweed in the Little North Fork Wilson River. Very little regrowth was found in the treated areas along the 2-mile stretch of infestation.



BLM contract crews spray a previously excluded area of knotweed after an updated survey for sensitive plant queen-of-the-forest was completed.



Queen-of-the-forest, a sensitive plant with limited distribution in the region was found in a number of places in the project reach that hadn't been impacted by knotweed.

Central West Region

By Grant Jackson, Integrated Weed Management Specialist, Central West Region

The Central-West region is made up of the following counties: Benton, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, and Polk. Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Noxious Weed Program collaborates with soil and water conservation districts, federal, state, county partners, and others to tackle invasive weed problems in this region and others throughout the state. This report is a summary of noxious weed control work accomplished in the Central West region and in other regions with local and federal partners, as well as ODA early detection, rapid response (EDRR) work done in 2025.

EDRR AND SPECIAL PROJECTS: CONTROL OF A-RATED SPECIES

Cost Center: Lottery, U.S. Army Corps

OBLONG SPURGE (*EUPHORBIA OBLONGATA*), BENTON AND MARION COUNTIES

ODA Central West specialist Grant Jackson continued efforts to control oblong spurge in collaboration with

Benton Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in the Corvallis area, conducting follow-up activities such as surveying and treating several historic locations and one new site. While an ongoing and multiple year effort, this work has been highly valuable in containing and controlling oblong spurge in Benton County. Multiple sites have seen reductions or non-detections within the last several years, and collaborative efforts are having tangible impacts.

Other work involving oblong spurge was conducted in Marion County, including follow-up, survey, and treatments of existing sites. Most existing sites have shown incremental improvements, with only a few plants found and controlled. The Oregon State Penitentiary and a local residence were examples. Oblong spurge control at the Oregon National Guard campus adjacent to Geer Park in Salem was also surveyed and treated for any plants, and follow-up efforts will continue in 2026.

Unfortunately, three new locations of oblong spurge were confirmed in the Keizer and South Salem area after reports from the public, and although they were treated in 2025, follow-up (including survey of nearby areas) will need to be conducted at these sites in subsequent years.



*A patch of *Euphorbia oblongata*, or oblong spurge in the backyard of a Corvallis resident that responded to a Benton SWCD outreach program facilitated in part by Oregon Weed Board grant awards.*

GIANT HOGWEED (*HERACLEUM MANTEGAZZIANUM*), POLK COUNTY

Giant hogweed reports were generally quiet in 2025, except for a report that came in through the *Oregon Invasive Species Hotline* from a Polk County resident. ODA Regional Staff were able to coordinate with Polk SWCD staff member Beth Thiel, and the plant was manually removed from the resident's yard.

Giant hogweed control efforts with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) were also quiet this year, as any plants found at historic sites were minimally present and if found, manually controlled.

PATERSON'S CURSE (*ECHIU M PLANTAGINEUM*), LANE COUNTY

The one known location of Paterson's curse in the six-county area comprising the Central West region was found to have just a couple plants this year. This location at Dexter Reservoir in Lowell, OR (Army Corps property) was manually treated. ODA staff will follow-up again in 2026. The neighbors in this area are quite vigilant about new Paterson's curse plants and are quick to report them. It is encouraging to have neighborhood residents engaged in noxious weed control efforts.

YELLOW FLOATINGHEART (*NYMPHOIDES PELTATA*), MARION, LINN, AND LANE COUNTIES.

This year's primary focus on yellow floating heart (YFH) was at certain locations on the Willamette River, collaborating with both Benton SWCD and Willamette Riverkeeper. Through an Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB) grant, Benton SWCD contractors were able to treat almost half an acre of YFH with follow-up EDRR-related containment and maintenance treatments in several locations, while Willamette Riverkeeper and contractors addressed several YFH locations on the upper Willamette in Lane County. Together, Benton SWCD and Willamette Riverkeepers surveys covered upwards of 100 river miles and over 14,000 acres.

ODA staff assisted Willamette Riverkeeper on several yellow floating heart surveys and treatments via canoe and Zodiac rubberized boat outings along various stretches of the river, helping to facilitate important EDRR efforts to survey and treat aquatic invasive weeds. ODA staff also attended a 'Paddle and Pull' event in collaboration with Benton SWCD and Willamette Riverkeeper, which is an important outreach event for the region that is very popular with the public.



Central West Integrated Weed Management Specialist Grant Jackson pictured here during a Willamette River Paddle and Pull Event in July. These events offer a great way for the public to learn about and help control aquatic invasive weeds, and are a good example of important outreach efforts conducted under the auspices of Oregon State Weed Board grant program.

GARDEN YELLOW LOOSESTRIFE (*LYSIMACHIA VULGARIS*), WILLAMETTE RIVER, MARION COUNTY

As was the case with yellow floating heart, garden yellow loosestrife (GYL), is another high priority EDRR invasive species on the Willamette River. As a result, ODA staff devoted several days to survey and treat various patches of GYL along several stretches of river. Patches of GYL are most concentrated in stretches of river around Salem and Keizer in Marion County, and in Yamhill County ODA expertise with captaining the Zodiac boat was highly effective in helping to transport spray equipment and other gear that was required for the operation. ODA NW Regional Specialist Beth Meyers-Shenai was also involved in Yamhill County's survey and treatment for GYL.



Regional specialist Grant Jackson busy on the shores of the Willamette River near Keizer treating garden yellow loosestrife in coordination with Willamette Riverkeeper.

ORANGE HAWKWEED (*HIERACIUM AURANTIACUM*), LINCOLN COUNTY

ODA regional staff did follow-up visits to both known locations of orange hawkweed in Lincoln County, in Toledo and Depoe Bay. No plants were found in Toledo, and the Depoe Bay location had only two plants grow back—these were manually removed before going to seed and properly disposed of.

PROJECTS WITH REGIONAL COOPERATORS, PARTNERS, AND COLLEAGUES

Cost Center: Lottery

POLK SWCD

Regional collaboration continued with Polk County SWCD on a ludwigia control project at Davenport Pond, where 2024 and 2025 ludwigia treatments have been highly successful. 2024 treatments were approximately 85% effective. This project is part of a larger and more regional effort to eliminate ludwigia

from Willamette River tributaries. Davenport Pond is particularly significant in this plan, as it lies adjacent to Basket Slough National Wildlife Refuge and had been a potential ludwigia source.



Davenport Pond has shown marked improvement from years past, showing a nearly 85% reduction in ludwigia cover and providing another example of collaboration with regional partners, in this case with Polk SWCD.

LANE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

Other ludwigia related projects included coordination with Lane County Public works to treat a patch of ludwigia in one of their storm retention ponds that was acting as a potential source of downstream infestations. This collaborative effort represents a welcome expansion of the weed control network in Lane County.

BENTON SWCD

In addition to teaming with Benton SWCD on A-listed species such as yellow floating heart and oblong spurge, ODA staff responded to a report of garlic mustard in a nature conservation area south of Corvallis called Harkens Lake, which is managed by the Greenbelt Land Trust. ODA staff were able to survey and treat an area of garlic mustard of around 4.5 acres in size. ODA will continue to work with Benton SWCD to contain and heavily decrease the garlic mustard population at this site. As a result of quick response, this location has a good chance of being very well controlled within the next couple years.



Garlic mustard was reported in a natural area south of Corvallis in July 2025. ODA Noxious Weeds Program staff teamed with regional partners to survey and treat the site, with mitigation efforts planned into 2026.

NORTH SANTIAM WATERSHED COUNCIL

2025 saw an expansion of regional efforts when ODA staff helped survey close to ten river miles of North Santiam River shoreline from Lyons to Stayton with North Santiam WC. Scattered patches of ludwigia were surveyed and, when possible, treated, but the stretch of river that was surveyed was remarkably free of most other noxious weeds. This survey was supported in part through an Oregon State Weed Board grant.



ODA regional staff accompanied staff from North Santiam WC and Marion County SWCD on a nearly 10-mile survey of the North Santiam River, surveying for aquatic weeds like ludwigia and knotweed.

PROJECTS WITH OTHER ODA STAFF

- Assisted SW Regional Specialist Carri Pirosko in Umpqua NF with treatment of yellow floating heart, facilitating the use of the program's inflatable catamaran and pneumatic sprayer. This was year three of Jackson's involvement with this project, and it has seen a decrease in YFH each year
- Assisted NW Region Specialist Beth Myers-Shenai with Clackamas Ranger District roadside spraying of road 46 for spotted knapweed, utilizing UTV spray rig
- Assisted Central Region Specialist Dan Son with Deschutes River Zodiac survey for yellow flag iris with U.S. Forest staff



ODA Regional specialists Grant Jackson and Beth Meyers-Shenai treated almost 10 miles of Forest Road 46 for spotted knapweed in the Clackamas Ranger District.



ODA Noxious weed program staff often collaborate on projects. Pictured here are Grant Jackson of Central West region, Dan Son of Central region, and U.S. Forest Service staff surveying a stretch of the Deschutes River for yellow flag Iris in June of 2025.

OUTREACH EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Cost Center: Lottery

- OSU PSEP Vegetation Management noxious weeds presentation to non-crop vegetation management professionals, January 2025
- ODOT Salem Region presentation to ODOT highway crew workers, March 2025
- Answered invasive weed questions from fairgoers for a day at the State Fair, August 2025
- Participated in a Paddle and Pull event with Benton SWCD on the Willamette River which was aimed at educating public about invasive aquatic weeds, July 2025
- Participated as a guest speaker at Small Woodland Owners (SWOA) event organized by OSU Extension of Linn Benton Counties, October 2025
- Helped represent ODA Noxious Weeds Program at a Legislative Water Caucus event held at Willamette Mission State Park in July of 2025
- Fielded several dozen Oregon Invasive Species Hotline reports from people in the central and southern portions of the Willamette Valley
- Presented at Fall Oregon State Weed Board meeting in Baker City, October 2025
- Attended multiple CWMA and other partner meetings throughout the year



ODA Noxious Weed Regional specialists are often engaged in outreach and education activity. Central West specialist Jackson represented ODA in an OSU Extension and Oregon Small Woodland Owners Association (OSWOA) sponsored pesticide educational event in October of 2025, focusing on control techniques of invasive weeds common to small, privately owned woodlands.

FEDERAL PROJECTS

WILLAMETTE NATIONAL FOREST

Cost Center: U.S. Forest Service, Willamette National Forest (WNF)

Weed control work in WNF was focused primarily on continuing efforts to mitigate roadside populations of false brome and spotted knapweed on forest service roads, selected sections of highways, and in selected burn scars.

DETROIT RANGER DISTRICT

- Surveyed and treated several miles of forest road 10 (Blowout Rd.) and associated forest roads, spurs, and rights-of-way for false brome
- Conducted shoulder spraying at various points along Rt. 22 aimed at controlling sporadic patches of spotted knapweed that were safely accessible

MCKENZIE RANGER DISTRICT

- Sprayed six spotted knapweed roadside locations along highways 20 & 22, including Potato Hill Sno Park, (where a small <100 sq. ft. patch of rush skeleton weed was found and subsequently treated). These treatments are aimed at controlling patches of spotted knapweed and preventing them from migrating into the Valley and are conducted in areas with safe access. Though there is more work to be done, these efforts have seen a tangible reduction in spotted knapweed patches on main corridors going over the Cascades.
- Sprayed for spotted knapweed on forest road 1501, which is a priority burn scar area, sprayed Little Nash Cinder Pit, Ray Benson Sno Park, and various other points in the area, including the periphery of the ODOT yard at Santiam Junction.

SWEET HOME RANGER DISTRICT

- Covered approximately 4.5 miles of roadside on forest road 2022, surveying and spraying for false brome.

MIDDLE FORK RANGER DISTRICT

- Seasonal Mitch Lex was involved in conducting roadside surveys and treatment for species such as spotted knapweed and meadow knapweed along several miles of Hills Creek Rd.



ODA regional specialists are instrumental in providing noxious weed control along forest service roadsides, especially in areas that have experienced recent fires, as noxious weeds such as spotted knapweed are often the first plants to colonize these areas.

UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)

Cost Center: U.S. Army Corps South Valley Projects

After an almost five-year hiatus, 2025 marked the resumption of ODA Noxious Weeds Program's partnership with Army Corps in providing survey and control of invasive weeds in certain areas of Army Corps properties in the South Valley near Eugene and Springfield. ODA staff were active in weed control efforts at the following locations with control efforts focused primarily on species such as meadow knapweed, sulphur cinquefoil, and Paterson's curse.

FERN RIDGE RESERVOIR:

Surveyed and treated meadow areas for meadow knapweed to the east of the reservoir in the Green Oaks area, as well as meadow areas to the north of the reservoir near Richardson Park. Meadow knapweed populations were staggered and low in frequency. Treatments took place in the fall.

DEXTER RESERVOIR:

Followed up on previous year's Paterson's curse treatments, finding only two plants that had grown from seedbank. ODA staff manually removed the two plants and properly disposed of them. One more follow-up in late summer revealed no new plants at this site. Neighbors in the area have done a great job in reporting any new plants.

LOOKOUT POINT RESERVOIR

Hand-pulled five sulphur cinquefoil plants that were found over an approximately 5-acre survey area. This area was relatively free from priority invasive weeds.

COTTAGE GROVE LAKE

Surveyed approximately 10 acres of meadow area on the east side of Cottage Grove Lake, finding and treating approximately one acre of meadow knapweed. This location had the heaviest density of meadow knapweed of all the Army Corps sites treated in 2025.

HILLS CREEK FIRE CAMP, OAKRIDGE, OR

This Army Corps location was surveyed for meadow knapweed and treated in the fall of 2025. Very few plants were discovered.



ODA is again partnering with U.S. Army Corps on noxious weed control efforts in natural areas of some of their reservoirs, helping protect natural areas critical to endangered wildlife such as the Fender's Blue butterfly from species such as meadow knapweed, which can quickly form monocultures and crowd out important native plants.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) WEST

Cost Center: BLM West

Completed knotweed and Himalayan blackberry treatments at five different BLM riparian properties in Lane Co., including three locations along the McKenzie River, and one on a tributary of the McKenzie. The other knotweed location that was treated is located on BLM land approximately five miles west of Triangle Lake.



Knotweed continues to be an issue in riparian areas of Lane County, including BLM lands in the Willamette River basin and McKenzie River sub-basin. Targeted efforts to control knotweed patches are being carried out to control and contain existing populations of knotweed on BLM lands.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RECOGNITION

- Regional Specialist Grant Jackson passed the aquatic pesticide application category exam, gaining aquatic pesticide application endorsement.
- In conjunction with co-worker Beth Myers-Shenai, the Central West region received a Polk SWCD award recognition for outstanding partner in the control of invasive weeds.
- Completed two risk assessments (roundleaf/ Oriental bittersweet and sessilefruit arrowhead) on newly discovered and potentially noxious weeds found in Oregon.



ODA Regional Noxious Weeds staff Beth Meyers-Shenai and Grant Jackson received a Partner of the Year recognition award from Polk SWCD.

PARTNER PROFILE: BENTON SWCD

By Cierra Dawson, Benton SWCD

Controlling oblong spurge in Benton County would not be possible without the time, expertise, and overall partnership with the ODA Noxious Weeds Program. At Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, we are successfully treating dozens of confirmed oblong spurge sites, an ODA A-listed noxious weed species, thanks to our regional Integrated Weed Management Specialist Grant Jackson. Furthermore, as the Coordinator of the Benton County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA), I am also able to conduct effective outreach activities related to noxious weeds thanks to ODA's robust noxious weeds greenhouse.

A story that illustrates the benefit of our partnership took place in May 2025. I presented a public Weed Watchers Workshop that highlighted eight ODA-listed noxious weeds including oblong spurge. As part of this workshop, I worked with ODA's Biological Control Technician, Jordan Donaghy, to secure and provide live specimens of the weed species that I was presenting. This hands-on aspect of the event enhanced

participants' understanding by allowing them to hear information about the species and see their attributes in real life. A week after the workshop, I received an online report for a previously undetected population of oblong spurge in Corvallis via the Oregon Invasives Hotline. The person who reported the species was a member of the public who had attended the Weed Watchers Workshop and had gained enough visual information about the plant to recognize it and know how to report it.

While this story highlights a singular instance, it underscores the significance of interagency collaboration and early detection, rapid response.



ODA Regional Specialist Grant Jackson busy treating oblong spurge in Benton Co., Collaborative efforts to control high priority noxious weeds such as oblong spurge and others wouldn't be possible without a high degree of professional cooperation and sharing of resources, which often leads to tangible improvements of the landscape.



Developing and maintaining solid partnerships with regional players such as Benton SWCD is a proven method of yielding results in the ongoing battle against invasive weeds. In this case, ODA Biological Control Technician Jordan Donaghy's keen stewardship of the ODA greenhouse noxious weed collection helped educate area residents about an A-rated weed, oblong spurge, greatly assisting with efforts to curtail its spread.

CONCLUSION

2025 was another well-rounded and productive year for weed control activities in the Central West region. Regional accomplishments included EDRR follow-up work on invasive weeds such as Paterson's Curse (Lane Co.), and ongoing control efforts directed towards A-rated weed projects like those with Benton SWCD and Willamette Riverkeeper, which focus on weeds such as oblong spurge, garden yellow loosestrife, and yellow floating heart. In addition, new oblong spurge sites were discovered and treated in Marion County in Keizer and South Salem.

During the months of June and July, weed control work in the Willamette National Forest and on U.S. Army Corps land in Lane County took priority, with roadside and natural area management of weeds such as false brome, spotted knapweed, and meadow knapweed.

The remainder of field season was characterized by a great deal of effort focused on assisting area partners with survey and treatment on the Willamette River in a collective effort to control and eradicate A-listed weeds such as garden yellow loosestrife and yellow floating heart.

In terms of weeds and geography, the Central-West Region has a tremendous amount of diversity. In addition to some of the best agricultural land on the planet, the Willamette Valley contains some of the state's most beautiful ecological areas. There are coastal habitats, riparian habitats, oak savannahs, and other types of natural systems for which there are critical weed control projects making a difference.

Southwest Region

By Carri Pirosko



SW Regional Noxious Weed Specialist put a lot of miles on her inflatable kayak this season partnering with the Rogue Aquatic Invasives Network working on high priority aquatic noxious weeds.

EDRR AND PARTNER PROJECT ASSISTANCE

PARTNER ASSISTANCE IN SW OREGON

Cost Center: Lottery

ODA Noxious Weed Specialists assisted partners across the SW Region with priority B, T- and B-listed noxious weeds. Time is allocated towards species that are limited in distribution, close to valued habitats, part of an OSWB grant project, and/or clearly warrant an Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) approach.

B,T- listed species this season included: common bugloss (*Anchusa officinalis*), dyer's woad (*Isatis tinctoria*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), giant reed (*Arundo donax*), gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*), pine echium (*Echium pininana*), tansy ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), and water primrose (*Ludwigia hexapetala*).



ODA staff partnered with Jackson SWCD in tackling some *Arundo donax* (B, T-listed) patches in Ashland. This patch required some horsepower (truck not seen in this photo, attached to rope) to facilitate a cut-stump treatment, chainsaw followed by backpack herbicide spray of plant canes.



ODF foresters noticed a plant "out of place" and submitted an online Invasive Species Hotline Report. Jackson/Josephine CWMA partners quickly followed-up on the report and verified that it was gorse (B, T-listed), noxious weed not typically found inland. Gorse plants were removed within days of the report; the site will be monitored moving forward.

B- listed species this season included: Armenian (Himalayan) blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), (biddy biddy) (*Acaena novae-zelandiae*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica* or newly named as *Reynoutria japonica*), jubata grass (*Cortaderia jubata*), medusahead rye (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*), parrot feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*), poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*), Spanish heath (*Erica Lusitanica*), spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*), and yellow bush lupine (*Lupinus arboreus*).



Scotch broom (B-listed) gall mites were widespread and observed to be killing pockets of Scotch broom throughout several watersheds in SW Oregon.



English ivy (B- listed) completely engulfs tree trunks, climbs up through the canopy and eventually kills the tree. Girdling stems at the base of the trunk can help prevent tree loss.

OBLONG SPURGE (*EUPHORBIA OBLONGATA*), JOSEPHINE COUNTY

Cost Center: Lottery and BLM A-listed oblong spurge

Oblong spurge is a weedy, escaped ornamental species of *Euphorbia* found in limited distribution in Oregon. Prior to a detection last season in Josephine County, oblong spurge was only known to occur in the NW part of the state. In California, oblong spurge is primarily a weed of waste areas and rangeland. Impacts can include reductions in native plant diversity, invasion of riparian areas, reductions of desirable wildlife forage and overall degradation of the land base. Significant impacts to the livestock industry could result from the toxic content of the sap, which irritates soft tissues of the mouth, throat and internal organs of cattle and horses. Affected animals have difficulty eating and may not gain weight at the desired rate. Hay products may also be rendered less valuable if contaminated with oblong spurge in addition to seed crops, which may be devalued when contaminated by spurge seeds. This species can form dense stands in more arid climates and could be expected to be a troublesome weed to control should it spread and establish in Oregon.

Oblong spurge was found in 2022 at a wildlife education and rehabilitation park in Merlin, outside of Grants Pass. Plants were found in several locations at the facility but largely located inside one of the animal enclosures. Only one small patch of oblong spurge remains inside one animal enclosure and was treated by ODA weed staff along with scattered plants outside the visitor's center. Volunteers from the wildlife park continue to hand remove the sporadic oblong spurge plants as they emerge.



Oblong spurge (A-listed) eradication efforts continue at an animal rehabilitation center outside of Grants Pass. Image Background: Gilbert, orphaned in Montana before coming to Oregon, serves as an animal ambassador at the center, helping teach the public about grizzly conservation.

DENSE-FLOWERED CORDGRASS (*SPARTINA DENSIFLORA*), COOS COUNTY

Cost Center: Lottery and BLM

A-listed cordgrasses are a threat to saltwater marshes and estuaries in Oregon. They can alter hydrology, biogeochemistry and food webs of invaded areas, which can be detrimental to recreation, wildlife, and commercial resources. Estuarine native plant habitats and shell fisheries in both Washington and California have been dramatically impacted by the invasion of cordgrasses.

Both smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) and dense-flowered cordgrass (*Spartina densiflora*) have been previously detected in Coos Bay. Smooth cordgrass found east of Charleston Marina in 1995 was manually removed over the course of several years. No regrowth has been observed since 2007.

In 2025, the Coos Watershed Association detected new locations of *Spartina densiflora* which triggered expanded surveys. Unfortunately, even more populations of *Spartina densiflora* were detected across eastern portions of Coos Bay. Partners from Coos Watershed Association, South Slough Reserve, Portland State University, and BLM assisted Invasive

Noxious Weed Control Program staff with survey, treatment, and monitoring.

In 2024, a population of *Spartina densiflora* was detected at the USFWS Bandon Marsh, near the mouth of the Coquille River. In 2025, Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program staff and partners surveyed adjacent areas and determined the infestation to be rather isolated. The USFWS assisted Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program staff with treatments throughout the season.



Spartina densiflora (A-listed) was detected at USFWS Bandon Marsh which triggered a comprehensive survey at the mouth of the Coquille River. Fortunately, the population appears to be limited in scope. This image shows a single, isolated plant with the little seaside town of Bandon in the background.



New detections of *Spartina densiflora* (A-listed) in Coos Bay required all partners on deck this season. Coos Watershed Association, Portland State University, and South Slough Reserve continue to be key partners.

WOOLLY DISTAFF THISTLE (*CARTHAMUS LANATUS*), DOUGLAS, JOSEPHINE, CURRY COUNTIES

Woolly distaff thistle, *Carthamus lanatus*, was discovered in Oregon in 1987. While this A-listed noxious weed is known to infest vast acreages in

California, it is only found in three Oregon counties. It is important to continue to protect Oregon's range, pasture, and overall watershed health from further invasion by this non-native thistle. Elimination of seed production and seeds in the soil are both key in efforts to eradicate populations of this annual thistle. This long-standing project involves the control, survey, as well as monitoring of all known infestations of distaff thistle. The Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program continues to provide supervision and coordination for this project. Lone Rock Timber made valuable contributions this season to help with survey and treatment of populations of distaff thistle east of Glide.

Just under 2.23 net acres were treated over 5,500 gross acres surveyed in 2025.

The project has achieved a 98% decrease in net acres since the program began in 1987.



Contracted crews (OSWB funding) comb the hills of Douglas County looking for remaining woolly distaff thistle (A-listed) plants. Thousands of acres are surveyed each season across dozens of landownerships.

PATERSON'S CURSE (*ECHIMUM PLANTAGINEUM*), DOUGLAS COUNTY

Paterson's curse is an A-listed weed species that threatens oak woodlands, native prairies and dry upland slopes. Despite a beautiful appearance, this invasive weed is truly a curse in that it is toxic to livestock and has the potential to infest thousands of acres, as demonstrated in Australia. An infestation of Paterson's curse was found in two ownerships southeast of Dillard in Douglas County in 2004. This project is a collaboration between ODA, Roseburg Forest Products, Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe, and private landowners. This eradication project reached a new all-time low. Only 9 individual Paterson's curse plants were detected and treated this season. This project has achieved a 99% decrease in plants since first detected in 2004.



Paterson's curse (A-listed) used to cover these hillsides; the brochure image was taken near this location twenty-one years ago. Only nine Paterson's curse plants were detected across the entire project area this season.

YELLOW FLOATING HEART (*NYMPHOIDES PELTATA*), PRIVATE PONDS

Yellow floating heart, *Nymphoides peltata*, was introduced into the United States as an ornamental pond plant. Prior to being declared a noxious weed in Oregon, yellow floating heart was sold in the aquatic plant trade. Although it is an attractive plant for water gardens, if introduced into the wild, it can rapidly colonize lakes, ponds, and slow-moving streams, engulfing them in dense mats of vegetation.

ODA staff detected and treated one small patch of yellow floating heart seedlings this season at Little Acorn Woman Lake (previously reported as Little Squaw Lake) in Jackson County.

This season staff were able to access and conduct two treatments at both ponds located on the Umpqua National Forest in Douglas County. Once again, a failed dam at Willow Sump resulted in extremely low water levels allowing treatment of tiny seedlings up on fully exposed mudflats.

A private pond out of Kellogg (Douglas County) had no plants detected for two years in a row. A private pond in Rogue River (Jackson County) was treated in the early summer and required no further treatments. No new infested ponds were detected in 2025.



After 10 years of treatment, 2025 marks year two with no yellow floating heart (A-listed) found in this small stock pond in Douglas County. Eradication can be declared after five consecutive years with no plants detected.

See table below for location and status of yellow floating heart treatments in southwest Oregon, ponds listed from top to bottom in order detected, 2009–2020.

Table 5 - Yellowing floating heart Status in SW Oregon

County	Location, Land use	Years Treated	Population Status/ Treatment Method
Jackson (Rogue River-Siskiyou NF)	Little Acorn Woman Lake	11	99.9% reduction/ manual (USFS) & herbicide (private)
Douglas	Roseburg golf course, private	2	Eradicated (2020)
Douglas	Kellogg, private	10	100% reduction/ herbicide
Douglas	Elkton, private	10	99% reduction/ herbicide
Douglas (Umpqua NF)	Willow Sump, USFS	10	99% reduction/ herbicide
Douglas	Melrose, private	8	Only handful of plants/ herbicide first year, then switched to manual
Douglas (Umpqua NF)	Beaver Pond, USFS	7	75% reduction/ herbicide
Jackson	Rogue River, private	5	95% reduction/ herbicide

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL MONITORING AND RELEASES

Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program staff were able to assist with monitoring of knotweed and gorse agents, as well as site selection for an anticipated yellow starthistle agent. Scotch broom gall mites were observed to be spreading and significant damage noted across inland multiple project areas, namely in the Illinois Valley. Dyer's woad rust was detected by ODA staff in the Klamath Basin region, which could impact ongoing control efforts in Jackson and Josephine Counties.



New ODA Biocontrol Specialist, Ashley Toland joined us on the south coast to learn about gorse thrips. Thrip populations are being closely monitored along the coast.

REGIONAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Cost Center: BLM, USFS and Lottery

Noxious Weed Program staff attended 24 CWMA or other partner meetings, gave six formal presentations, engaged in four field tour/workshops, three trainings, helped organize three display booths and participated in a Statewide IPM Committee this season.

Douglas CWMA meetings (Roseburg, Douglas County)

Douglas County Noxious Weed Advisory Board meetings

Douglas County Noxious Weed Advisory Board blackberry workshop (Douglas County)

Fish Lake Aquatic Weed Meeting (Talent, Jackson County)

Gorse Action Group meetings and field tours (Coos and Curry Counties)

Gorse Blossom Festival Booth (Bandon, Coos County)

Gorse Cultural Team meetings (Coos and Curry Counties)

Glide Wildflower Show Noxious Weed Booth (Glide, Douglas County)

Jackson/Josephine CWMA meetings (Virtual, Grants Pass, and Central Point)

Oregon State University Pesticide Trainings (Virtual and Roseburg, Douglas County)

Oregon Department of Transportation Training (Roseburg, Douglas County)

Oregon Native Plant Conservation Symposium (Virtual)

Oregon State Weed Board meetings and Field Tour (Virtual and Ontario)

Rogue Aquatic Invasives Network partnership meetings (Jackson and Josephine Counties)
 Rogue Aquatic Invasives Network Rafting Outfitter Trainings (Rogue River Watershed)
 South Coast CWMA meetings (Coos and Curry Counties)
 RVCOG K-12 Salmon Watch Program, Train the Trainers (Jackson County)
 State Integrated Pest Management Committee meetings (Virtual)



Gorse Action Group partners at the Gorse Blossom Festival in Bandon, Oregon. The event is less about celebrating gorse and more about assisting landowners with the right tools to control gorse on their properties.



Jackson/Josphine CWMA partners pull dyer's woad (B, T- listed) during the Annual Rogue River Clean-Up and Weed Pull Event.

COLLABORATIVE WORKING GROUP

Cost Center: BLM and USFS

Noxious Weed Staff organized a meeting of the Alyssum collaborative working group in southern Oregon. Funds from the USFS and BLM helped

promote collaborations across southwest Oregon. The purpose of the yellowtuft *Alyssum* Working Group is to increase the effectiveness of land management agencies and the public responding to this A-listed noxious weed in the Illinois Valley. The primary goal is to eradicate yellowtuft *Alyssum* in Oregon. Full eradication will be reached when surveys confirm that no new *Alyssum* seed is produced from known sites and no new populations are detected for five years.

The yellowtuft *Alyssum* Working Group works together to:

- Promote awareness
- Coordinate survey and treatment
- Guide prevention measures
- Foster volunteer opportunities



The Cultural and Ecological Network and the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy are two non-profits that support eradication of yellowtuft alyssum (A-listed) in the Illinois Valley, Josephine County.

ROGUE RIVER-SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST

Cost Center: USFS, BLM and Lottery

YELLOWTUFT ALYSSUM (*ALYSSUM MURALE* & *CORSICUM*), ILLINOIS VALLEY, JOSEPHINE COUNTY

Funds from both the USFS Rogue River-Siskiyou NF and the Grants Pass/Medford/Cave Junction BLM Offices are instrumental in A-listed eradication efforts for *Alyssum*. *Alyssum murale* and *Alyssum corsicum* are perennial plants native to Eastern Europe. *Alyssum* species are unique in that they can hyper-accumulate metals extracted from the soil in leaf and shoot material.

In the 1990s, a private company leased land from a handful of private and county landowners and planted *Alyssum* with prospects of phyto-mining nickel from high mineral Serpentine soils. The Illinois Valley contains the largest concentration of Serpentine soils

in Oregon and supports a diverse and unique flora that is threatened by the spread of *Alyssum* species. In less than ten years, *Alyssum* escaped planted areas to such an extent that, in 2009, the Oregon State Weed Board listed both species as A-listed noxious weeds.

The Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program, Cultural Ecological & Enhancement Network (CEEN), BLM, USFS, the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, private landowners, and citizen volunteers have collaborated in pushing *Alyssum* closer to our eradication goals. This season, a helicopter survey resulted in the detection of *Alyssum* on the edges of several known infested areas; no new locations were detected. In addition to aerial surveys, ODA staff and partners visit all originally planted and escaped populations multiple times throughout the year. *Alyssum* populations are at such low levels that very limited herbicide is needed; plants are manually removed. At this stage of the project, particular attention is given to surveys and cooperation with landowners along infested waterways, namely the Illinois River.

This project has evolved from boom spraying thousands of acres of yellowtuft alyssum to less than 1 net acre. The gross acres requiring survey have expanded over the years.

2025 Status of Yellowtuft Alyssum Sites and Plant Counts:

- Originally planted upland: **7 sites** (1,385 plants pulled)
- Escaped from originally planted sites (off river): **9 sites** (1,009 plants pulled)
- Escaped from originally planted sites into river corridor: **38 sites** (874 plants pulled)



Helicopter surveys have been a big part of the yellowtuft alyssum (A-listed) project over the years. While no new sites have been detected in several years, outlier plants detected aerially on the edges of known sites greatly assist ground eradication efforts.

KNAPWEEDS: ROGUE RIVER-SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST

Preventing the spread of spotted knapweed along major rights-of-way continues to be a priority in the Rogue River Watershed. Soil disturbance from wildfire, logging, and road construction contribute toward spread of spotted knapweed. Invasive Noxious Weed Program staff continue to assist the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest in containing and reducing spotted knapweed infestations along two key corridors: Highways 140 and 230. This season, Invasive Noxious Weed Program staff put out 10 gallons of mix at spotted knapweed sites along Highway 140 and only 12 gallons of mix at spotted knapweed sites along Highway 230.

USFS STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY PROGRAM & BLM COOS BAY

Cost Center: USFS S&P, BLM and Lottery

Matgrass and biddy-biddy projects are a collaborative effort funded from both the State and Private Forestry Program and the BLM Coos Bay Office who are instrumental in these A-listed weed eradication efforts.

MATGRASS (*NARDUS STRICTA*), COOS AND CURRY COUNTIES

Matgrass, *Nardus stricta*, was confirmed at several locations along the south coast in 2015. Matgrass, an invasive grass native to Eastern Europe, has no natural predators in Oregon, allowing it to form dense carpets or “mats” that limit the ability of native plants to establish and associated native fauna to thrive. Botanically, Blacklock Point in the State Parks Floras Lake Management Unit is noted for a unique pygmy forest and is one of the few remaining habitats for the federally endangered western bog lily.

On the south coast, matgrass seeds have spread via muddy boot treads of hikers recreating along the popular coastal trails leading out to Blacklock Point, as well as through contaminated mowing equipment used to maintain State Park lawns at two State Natural Areas just south of Bandon in Coos County: Devil’s Kitchen and Bandon Wayside. A population of matgrass was detected in 2021 at the Bandon State Airport.

Reductions of matgrass populations continue to be realized at all locations on the south coast. Ten years of treatment have been completed along trails at Blacklock Point in Curry County; Imazapyr herbicide is continuing to be an effective tool. Treatments have been a collaborative effort between Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of Aviation, and ODA Noxious Weed Program staff. Only one matgrass plant was detected at Bandon Wayside and only four individual matgrass plants were found and treated at Devil’s Kitchen.

Noxious Weed Program staff treated matgrass at the Bandon State Airport in early summer.

BIDDY-BIDDY (*ACAENA NOVAE-ZELANDIAE*), COOS COUNTY

Biddy-biddy, *Acaena novae-zelandiae*, a native to New Zealand, likely spread to the United States in the wool of imported sheep. Plants thrive in well drained soils and compete with native plants on coastal bluffs and in lawns where they form dense mats. High traffic locations in coastal habitats where summer moisture occurs and frosts are infrequent are subject to invasion.

To date on the south coast, biddy-biddy is known to occur in pockets along the coastline in Coos and Curry counties. Populations at the Cape Blanco lighthouse have been reduced to a level that State Park staff can now oversee the treatment without the assistance of partners. Treatment of infested lawns at the USFS Ranger Station in Gold Beach are ongoing.

UMPQUA NATIONAL FOREST

Cost Center: USFS

YELLOW FLOATING HEART (*NYMPHOIDES PELTATA*)

Two yellow floating heart infested water bodies occur on the Umpqua National Forest. Willow sump was detected in 2011 and has been treated by Noxious Weed Program staff for ten years. Yellow floating heart was estimated to blanket 1.2 acres of this 2-acre pond when it was first detected. Percent cover has been reduced by 99% over the course of the project. Beaver pond was detected in 2017 and was treated for the first time in 2018. Yellow floating heart was estimated to blanket 0.75 acres of this 3-acre pond before treatments began. Due to wildfire road closures, progress at Beaver Pond has been hard fought, acres-controlled hover around an estimated 75% since treatments began.



Willow sump on the Umpqua NF has seen a 99% reduction in yellow floating heart.

ORANGE HAWKWEED (*PILOSELLA AURANTIACA*)

The only known population of A-listed orange hawkweed in SW Oregon is located at the Toketee Ranger District on the Umpqua NF. The USFS intensively surveys, treats, and monitors this population.

SPOTTED KNAPWEED (*CENTAUREA STOEBE*)

Knapweed control is a high priority on the Umpqua NF in eastern Douglas County. The USFS intensively surveys and monitors both knapweed species across the forest. Noxious Weed Program staff assist with herbicide treatments at larger sites, while the USFS manually removes smaller patches. This federal-state partnership has resulted in a steady decline of spotted knapweed on the Umpqua NF. This season knapweed sites across the forest were treated by Diamond Lake Ranger District.

BLM GRANTS PASS/MEDFORD DISTRICT

Cost Center: BLM

Noxious Weed Control Program staff collaborates regularly with the Grants Pass/Medford BLM District staff and seasonal crew. The Medford BLM District is also instrumental in funding Jackson and Josephine CWMA groups, resulting in valued B-listed weed control across the region. ODA staff worked collaboratively this season with the Grants Pass BLM District seasonal crew on priority A-listed Noxious Weed sites across the district.

BARBED GOATGRASS (*AEGILOPS TRIUNCIALIS*), JOSEPHINE COUNTY

Barbed goatgrass, *Aegilops triuncialis*, is an annual that invades rangeland, grasslands, and oak woodlands. When mature, it is unpalatable to livestock and can cause injury to grazing animals. Goatgrass infestations can reduce forage quality and quantity. Because livestock tend to avoid this weedy grass, dense stands form that push out natives and desirable forage.

While barbed goatgrass infests thousands of acres in California, limited populations are known to occur in Oregon. All populations occur in Josephine County.

Two populations are found off Highway 199. One site is just south of Selma in Gold Canyon and was sprayed once again this season. The Rough and Ready Creek area, south of Cave Junction was manually removed during three collaborative partner events; 1,388 plants were removed this season. Several sites downstream from the Rough and Ready infestation on the Illinois River were hand-pulled and bagged this season as well. Support from the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, the Medford-Grants Pass BLM Office, and the locally based Cultural & Ecological Enhancement Network lend to the ongoing success of this eradication project.

In 2021, the first populations of barbed goatgrass were found on the Rogue River. This site was just beyond Galice, off a popular hiking trail just across from Rainie Falls. ODA Weed staff removed just 7 remaining barbed goatgrass at Rainie Falls this season. In 2023, downstream of Rainie Falls, several very small populations of barbed goatgrass were detected by BLM staff. Only 22 barbed goatgrass plants were found at Bunker Creek and no plants were found at Horseshoe Bend North this season. Access to these patches has proven difficult but will continue to be prioritized as part of an early season BLM float on the lower Rogue.



Partners sweep across the Rough and Ready Creek floodplain looking for barbed goatgrass (A- listed). Plants are counted and bagged as they are found.

ROGUE AQUATIC INVASIVES NETWORK (RAIN): ROGUE RIVER CORRIDOR (JACKSON, JOSEPHINE AND CURRY COUNTIES)

ODA Noxious Weed Program staff was able to regularly engage with Rogue Aquatic Invasives Network (RAIN) partners focused on survey, mapping, and treatment of ludwigia (*Ludwigia hexapetala*) and parrotfeather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) on the Rogue River. Partners have prioritized work on the main stem of the river and upland source populations to protect the Wild and Scenic Section of the Rogue River. RAIN continued focused outreach efforts this season in cultivating rafting outfitters in EDRR efforts and partnered with staff from ODFW to broaden our message beyond weeds to include invertebrate invasives.



Rogue Aquatic Invasive Network (RAIN) trains rafting outfitting guides about aquatic invasive pests before conducting surveys along the recreation section of the Rogue River. Outfitters take clients regularly down the Wild and Scenic lower Rogue and keep an eye out for new patches of priority aquatic noxious weeds.

BLM COOS BAY

Cost Center: BLM and State and Private Forestry

BLM COOS AND STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

Funds from both the State and Private Forestry Program and the Coos BLM Office were instrumental in coastal work conducted on behalf of the Gorse Action Group and A-listed eradication efforts for matgrass and Cape ivy.

GORSE (*ULEX EUROPAEUS*) ACTION GROUP (GAG)

Dense populations of gorse create a fire hazard in populated coastal regions, destroy native coastal habitats, decrease land values, and degrade valued forage ground. The GAG is working to control and reduce the spread of gorse, minimize the impact of gorse to the coastal economy and natural resources, as well as provide a successful process to share with others facing gorse infestations. Gorse Action Group participants include federal and state agencies, local and county governments, non-profit organizations, private industry, as well as private landowners. In 2017, GAG partners signed a Declaration of Cooperation at the end of a Regional Solutions process. Noxious Weed Program staff were active partners this season, attending partner general and sub-committee meetings, both virtual and in-person trainings, and field tours.



Partners learn about strategies and methods used to reduce fuel loads created by gorse (B, T-listed) along the southern coastline. Hundreds of acres of gorse have been removed to date by the Gorse Action Group.

MATGRASS (*NARDUS STRICTA*)

Four populations of matgrass are currently under eradication on the south coast: Bandon State Airport, Cape Blanco Airport/ Blacklock Point/ Floras Lake Unit, and two State Park Recreation Areas in Bandon. Treatments continued across sites this season.

CAPE -IVY (*DELAIREA ODORATA*)

Cape ivy, *Delairea odorata*, listed as an A-listed noxious weed in 2015, is considered an invasive in California, Hawaii, and Australia. An extensive rhizome system makes it challenging to control and its vines form dense mats of vegetation that extend over trees and shrubs, killing understory plants and eventually trees vital to a functioning riparian system. Populations are known to occur between Gold Beach and Brookings in Curry County. No new sites were detected in 2025; the total number of Cape ivy sites in the state remains steady at twenty. ODA Noxious Weed Specialist collaborates with the Curry SWCD in survey, control, as well as monitoring of Cape-ivy populations.



Cape ivy (A-listed) populations continue to decline in Curry County on the south coast.

North and South Central Region

By Dan Son

EDRR AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

HOARY ALYSSUM (*BERTEROA INCANA*), DESCHUTES COUNTY

Cost center: Lottery and USFS State and Private

Hoary alyssum can be found along roadsides, fallow fields, irrigated pastures, and dry sagebrush habitats in Deschutes County. This very adaptable annual or short-lived perennial was observed in flower from June through September providing high visibility during treatments and a testament to its prolific nature.

During the 2025 field season, ODA regional staff followed up with additional monitoring and survey on a new property, south of the main infestation, that reported the presence of hoary alyssum in late 2024. A handful of plants isolated to a single property are under control and well on their way toward eradication. Having the cooperation of Deschutes County Vegetation Manager has provided much needed assistance on this A-listed species. Thanks to outreach and education and community involvement, Deschutes County was instrumental in locating two additional sites containing hoary alyssum in 2025. Currently 13 properties contain hoary alyssum in Deschutes County, all sites were monitored for their 2024 treatment effectiveness and subsequent treatments ensued. ODA staff and partners treated 1.2 net acres of hoary alyssum over 700 gross acres, while surveying more than 2,000 total acres.



One of the two new hoary alyssum sites compliments of continued community involvement and outreach in Deschutes County.



Close-up of the abundance of seeds produced on a hoary alyssum stem. Persistence and cooperation will be vital in controlling this highly invasive mustard in pastures and hay fields in Deschutes County.

Proof is in the numbers. Beginning in 2022, little was known of the hoary alyssum populations in Central Oregon, but with new staff came an opportunity to forge new relationships. Cooperation and persistence between ODA and county partners has resulted in a greater understanding of the hoary alyssum situation in Deschutes County. The table below provides an illustration into the results of outreach, monitoring, and fortitude.

Table 6 -Data specific to hoary alyssum populations in Deschutes County

Year	# of Properties	Gross Acres	Net Acres Treated
2022	1	5	0
2023	8	133	3.5
2024	9	1,073	3.7
2025	13	700	1.2

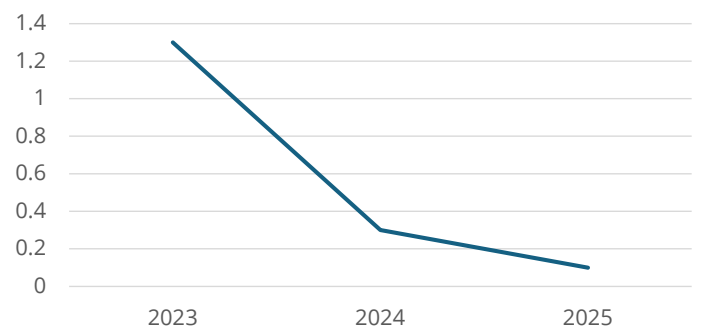
FLOWERING RUSH (*BUTOMUS UMBELLATUS*), KLAMATH COUNTY

Cost center: Lottery and USFS State and Private

Flowering rush, an A-rated aquatic perennial plant with a high propensity to displace native vegetation, alter nutrient cycling, and negatively impact fish and wildlife habitat, has been persistent in a private pond in southern Klamath County since at least 2018. Initially discovered by a partner from the Bureau of Land Management while perusing nursery plants for a pollinator project, this flowering rush project has had varied outcomes. This site in Klamath County is the only known site in Oregon outside of the Flowering rush populations of the Columbia River Basin.

In 2025, treatment continued for the third consecutive year. Beginning in July, ODA Regional Staff monitored the 1-acre pond in Bonanza, OR. Ninety four flowering stems were clipped and bagged, and plans were made for a fall treatment. Plants continue to persist around pond edges and some re-growth occurred inside the pond where water is now holding. 0.1 net acres of plants were treated across the 1-acre pond.

Figure 1 - Flowering rush net acres treated 2023-2025





Butomus umbellatus beautifully blooming, July 2025, Bonanza, OR.



Flowering rush, Bonanza, OR; 2023-2025.

PLUMELESS THISTLE (*CARDUUS ACANTHOIDES*), KLAMATH COUNTY

Cost center: Lottery and USFS State and Private

Plumeless thistle is an A-rated noxious weed that invades rangeland and pastures. It crowds out desirable forage and in thick infestations may exclude livestock grazing. Klamath County is one of three counties known to have populations of plumeless thistle in Oregon, with the other two being Grant and Wallowa.

The Klamath County plumeless thistle sites did not produce any observable plants in 2025. Klamath County Public Works continues to take the lead on this project providing surveys, treatment, and monitoring, moving plumeless thistle populations closer to eradication in Klamath County.

MATGRASS (*NARDUS STRICTA*), Klamath County

Cost center: Lottery and USFS State and Private

A-rated matgrass is a small perennial bunchgrass native to eastern Europe, and can quickly outcompete desirable species. Typically unpalatable to grazing animals, the livestock in Fort Klamath tend to spit out smaller clumps of matgrass when forage density is low, while evidence may suggest they graze down more robust plants when mixed with high density desirable forage. The matgrass plants near Fort Klamath begin to emerge shortly after snow melt, flower between June-August, and range in size from ½" – 8" in diameter.

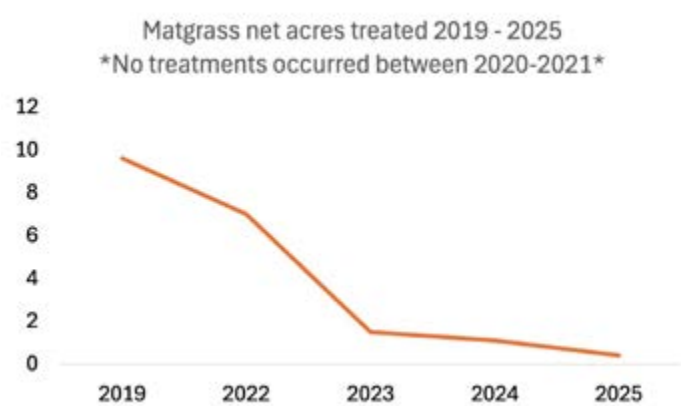


Monitoring for the inconspicuous matgrass plants began at the end of May. Nestled beneath snowcapped peaks, ODA regional staff continue to meticulously survey pasture ground for signs of this persistent perennial bunchgrass.

2025 marked the fourth year in a row where coordinated matgrass treatments have occurred on the only known site in Central Oregon. The matgrass population across the 400-acre ranch are very sporadic and small in stature, resulting in an already challenging scenario to spot plants. Contributing to

challenging site parameters, late spring moisture resulted in increased vegetative growth and made the inconspicuous matgrass plants nearly invisible beneath the varied pasture grasses. After spring monitoring, ODA regional staff spent two days in October scouring the ranch in search of 0.4 net acres of matgrass clumps to treat.

Figure 2 - Matgrass net acres treated 2019 – 2025



A good representation of the small matgrass plants found at the Fort Klamath site.

Over the time that ODA has been involved with the project, matgrass populations have remained confined to the property they originated in since plants first started being treated in 1976.

Nearly a half century of ODA involvement on this project has exhausted ample resources, nevertheless it has been a worthwhile endeavor and one that will continue.

YELLOW FLOATING HEART (NYMPHOIDES YMPHOIDES PELTATA ELTATA), Deschutes County

Cost center: Lottery

Before being listed as an A-rated noxious weed in Oregon, yellow floating heart (YFH) was sold and distributed within the aquatic plant trade. Unfortunately, during that time and up to the present day, it has managed to establish itself in private ponds within Deschutes County. YFH is well adapted to ponds, shallow lakes, and slow-moving rivers. It reproduces by seed, vegetatively from rhizomes, stolons, and separated leaf material. Dense mats of leaf material negatively impact fish and wildlife habitat, recreational access, and water quality. Dissolved oxygen, light penetration, species diversity, and fish productivity all decrease in infested waters. Should it enter irrigation canals, water flow could be impeded creating sediment build-up, and other pest related concerns. Once established in the wild, the persistent and reproductive nature of yellow floating heart makes control and management strategies long lived and costly.

ODA continues to take the lead on the yellow floating heart populations in Deschutes County, working closely with private landowners for access and treatment planning. ODA staff had the opportunity to engage with hundreds of community members in the central region during various outreach events throughout the 2025 season. One opportunity came at the request of the Oregon Landscape Contractors Association (OLCA) to provide a presentation on integrative pest management strategies of high priority species in the central region. Live plant specimens accompanied the PowerPoint presentation providing a vital tool used to educate the public on what plants look like in 3-D. Yellow floating heart was one of the common specimens that toured Central Oregon during the 2025 outreach season. Thanks to the support and tender loving care of ODA's Jordan Donaghy, plants were delivered happy and healthy for regional staff to showcase at events.



Travelling through Deschutes County at peak bloom, NW Regional Specialist Beth Myers-Shenai eagle eyed the regions 6th YFH pond. Thanks Beth!

June and July are exceptionally busy, as continual monitoring provides for precise timing of treatments that coincide with the majority of plants floating and prior to seed onset.

Monitoring and treatment continued for another year on the five ponds previously detected, while plans are underway for the newly added site. Consistent efforts over the last four years are exhibiting signs that the seedbank is being reduced as the emergence of floating plants is decreasing. Nonetheless, regular monitoring and treatment will continue until no plants are observed and the site remains that way for at least five years or more.



Before and after photos highlighting effective YFH treatments.

Table 7 - Yellow floating heart in Central Oregon.

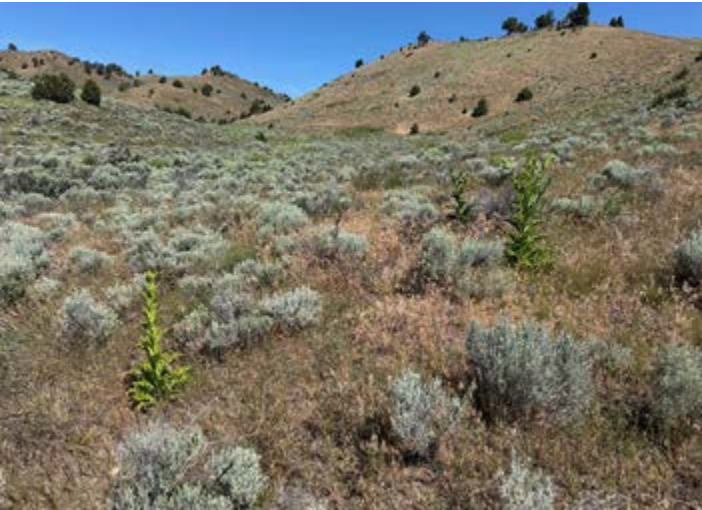
Year	Gross Acres	# of Sites
2022	2.0	3
2023	2.0	3
2024	2.95	5
2025	3.05	6

TAURIAN THISTLE (*ONOPORDUM NOPORDUM TAURICUMTAURICUM*), KLAMATH COUNTY

Cost center: Lottery and USFS State and Private

Taurian thistle has the same ability to spread and form dense thickets as its close relative, Scotch thistle. Dense stands can crowd out desirable species especially in riparian areas and produce impenetrable stands for grazing animals. After occupying a site for many years, even Taurian thistle cannot germinate, leaving an area of bare ground susceptible to new invasions.

In Oregon, A-rated taurian thistle is known to exist only in Klamath county despite being first detected in 2007. Suspected to have been introduced on contaminated out-of-state earth moving equipment, the population spread to two other sites in 2012. Klamath County Weed Control continues to take the lead on this A-listed project and prevent it from being spread far and wide. In 2025, Klamath County Weed Control covered 50 gross acres while treating less than 0.15 net acres.



Few taurian thistle plants remain at the original site in Klamath County. (Photo credit: Todd Pfeiffer)

AFRICAN RUE (*PEGANUM HARMALA*), Crook County

Cost center: Lottery and USFS State and Private

Once upon a time in 1967, a photo of African rue appeared with its location labeled as Crook County. That was about all that was known of that population until 1998 when it was first treated by Crook County Weed Control. The population still exists today and is one of only two known locations in the state. African rue is a tenacious, deep-rooted perennial with extensive carbohydrate reserves. It has at least four poisonous alkaloids which are toxic to people, livestock, and wildlife. Early spring germination, an extensive root system, extreme drought tolerance, and long-lived seed bank make this A-listed noxious weed a persistent problem.

Funded by OSWB grants, Crooked River Weed Management Area and Crook County Weed Control continue to battle the African rue in Crook County. Surveys conducted in May exemplified the resiliency of this plant. Yearning to better understand African rue and gain insights from others battling this tenacious plant, ODA staff connected with various partners in New Mexico. New Mexico Department of Agriculture lists African rue as a Class B species, meaning it is limited to portions of the state, and where infestations are severe, management should be designed to contain the infestation and stop any further spread. Dialogue with New Mexico Department of Agriculture, state extension agents, and county weed supervisors all resonated the same message, “stay on top of African rue and don’t give up.” Similar messaging could be said about many weeds but having populations as small as African rue’s where eradication still seems likely is another story.

In June, ODA staff covered 12 gross acres and treated 35 African rue plants ranging in size from 2”-24” in diameter. During this time of the year, actively growing African rue plants are lime green in color and lend a striking resemblance to rabbitbrush species in the area. In addition to the challenge of identifying plants, big sagebrush and juniper trees do a good job obscuring target weeds. More broad scale efforts occurred in August with cooperation from Crook County Weed Control and Crooked River Weed Management Area staff. Approximately 210 gross acres were covered while treating 65 African rue plants.

Although plants remain contained within their historical locations, numbers have increased, and the necessity to expand partner efforts on this project realized.



African rue can be difficult to spot amongst the big sagebrush and tumble mustard in Crook County.



One more Saturday night, sharing the love of African rue with Ian and Justy Grinter. Pictured is Ian Grinter, Prineville BLM Botanist, kneeling beside African rue in Crook County.

ORANGE HAWKWEED (*PILOSELLA ILOSELLA* *AAURANTIIACUMURANTIIACUM*), Crook, Deschutes, Klamath Counties

Cost center: USFS Deschutes National Forest and USFS State and Private

Orange hawkweed is a fast-growing perennial forb that is rhizomatous and stoloniferous. Thriving in a range of soil conditions, though preferring well-drained, coarse textured soils that are moderately low in organic matter, orange hawkweed can create dense mats of vegetation which have the potential to eliminate or restrict desirable vegetation from growing. Currently, limited populations exist in Crook and Klamath counties, while the populations in Deschutes County appear to be more abundant.

Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB) grants have provided Crooked River Weed Management Area and Crook County Weed Control the funding necessary to employ Early Detection and Rapid Response measures on orange hawkweed and other A-listed species in Crook County. Consistent engagement coupled with outreach and education have resulted in the extirpation of orange hawkweed from Crook County.

Klamath County Weed Control remains vigilant in their efforts to control orange hawkweed. In 2009, trading among plant enthusiasts and escaping cultivation has given rise to the dispersed populations of orange hawkweed in Klamath county. Klamath County Weed Control continues to monitor and treat on these sites with only a few remaining. Klamath County Weed Control and ODA spent a day touring the north end of the county where historical populations of orange hawkweed once existed. After covering approximately 40 square miles, one small patch of less than 1,000 sq. ft. of orange hawkweed was found in a residential lawn.

Active programs for the treatment and delineation of orange hawkweed populations continue to be ongoing for ODA, Bend Parks and Recreation District, City of Bend, Deschutes NF, and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The populations that exist for each of these land managers are within the Deschutes River Watershed and portions of USFWS designated Oregon Spotted Frog habitat. Ongoing efforts to control invasive species within such vital ecosystems as that of the Oregon Spotted Frog will provide one critical component to protecting the niche habitat required for its existence.

RAVENNAGRASS (*SACCHARUM ACCHARUM* *RAVENNAEAVENNAE*), Wasco County

Cost center: USFS State and Private

A native to the Mediterranean region of Africa and Eurasia, ravennagrass has been sold for more than 90 years as a cold hardy ornamental grass that is large in stature. Inhabiting wetland edges and other areas with moisture and micro-sites of bare soil, sand, or rock, ravennagrass has the potential to outcompete riparian vegetation and alter stream morphology. Thus, the potential for threatening salmonid spawning habitat is real.

In 2021, ODA positively identified ravennagrass along I-84 East in The Dalles. This has since led to coordinated survey and treatment efforts by Wasco SWCD and The City of The Dalles. With the financial assistance from OSWB and ODA General fund grants, Wasco SWCD has taken the lead on survey and treatment of ravennagrass populations within the City of The Dalles and along the Columbia River. The populations of ravennagrass that have been treated are declining, but there is still more work to be done to delineate the extent of their spread.



Night and day difference. With consistent efforts by Wasco SWCD, the ravennagrass plant that kicked off this control project is currently non-existent.

SOUTH CENTRAL BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FUNDED PROJECTS

KLAMATH FALLS RESOURCE AREA BLM NOXIOUS WEED TREATMENT PROJECTS

Cost Center: BLM and USFS State and Private

In 2025 within the Klamath Falls Resource Area (KFRA) Bryant Mountain, Buck Butte, Bump Head Reservoir, Gerber Reservoir, Grizzly Mountain, Hamaker Mountain, Harpold, Hayden Mountain, Keno Access, Malone, Willow Valley Reservoir, Windy Ridge, Spencer creek, and Campbell Reservoir were the areas focused on for treatment and survey. Noxious weed species in these areas included Canada thistle, diffuse knapweed, dyer's woad, leafy spurge, Mediterranean sage, musk thistle, scotch thistle, and yellow starthistle.

By and large the projects ODA is responsible for in these areas are at a maintenance level and a continued presence is crucial to avoiding a flare up or the introduction of new invaders. Having said that, Buck

Butte was one of the outliers to that maintenance theme. ODA, in cooperation with BLM KFRA, and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) focused on localized populations of yellow starthistle, scotch thistle, and leafy spurge. Treatments occurred in areas prioritized by BLM where invasive annual grass treatments, hand cut juniper thinning, native sagebrush restoration, and monitoring have taken place over the last few years.



Pictured left to right Kerry Johnston (KFRA BLM), Denae Nemanic (BOR), Dan Son (ODA), Rob Banks (ODA)

vegetation, and its low palatability makes dyer's woad a poor source of nutrition for grazing animals.

Funded by the OSWB grant program and contributions from multiple private, county, and federal partners the on-going coordinated efforts for this comprehensive landscape scale dyer's woad treatment, survey, prevention, and monitoring project is achieving great results. This project continues to provide efforts across 175 miles of roads on Grizzly Mountain and more specifically within the boundaries of the Oregon Gulch Fire of 2014. The extensive road system within this highly recreated area, and along the path of a wildlife migratory corridor, provides great opportunities for noxious weed dispersal, and therefore the focus for containment and control.



Justin Kostick (Green Diamond Resource Company) and Chris Wilson (Wilson Herbicide LLC) open roads for dyers woad treatments to proceed within the Grizzly Mountain area.



Kerry Johnston (KFRA BLM) getting down in the weeds for her recently planted sagebrush.

Dyer's woad is an aggressive dry-land invader that forms dense colonies in waste areas, gravel pits, roadsides, pastures, field edges, rangelands, and wooded areas. Its emergence in early spring, rapid growth, prolific seed production, and deep taproot, makes dyer's woad a highly competitive species capable of displacing native vegetation. Forage availability is reduced by the suppression of native



Before and after results from the coordinated efforts on dyers woad populations in southern OR, brought to you in part by Klamath CWMA partners: BLM, Green Diamond Resource Company, Klamath County Weed Control, Klamath County Soil and Water Conservation District, Lake County CWMA, ODA, and Wilson Herbicide.

NORTH AND SOUTH CENTRAL FOREST SERVICE FUNDED PROJECTS

Cost Center: USFS

DESCHUTES AND OCHOCO NATIONAL FORESTS

The Oregon Department of Agriculture has a long-standing partnership with the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests to complete noxious weed control activities, including biological, mechanical, and chemical treatments. Herbicide treatments in 2025 were performed along roadsides, campgrounds, recreation areas, open forest, rangeland, and riparian areas.

The noxious weed species found within these habitats included diffuse knapweed, falsebrome, medusahead rye, perennial peavine, ribbongrass, spotted knapweed, St. johnswort, and yellow flag iris.

Although certain projects were hampered due to the Federal Government shutdown, priority work was still realized. Surveys for orange hawkweed took place at the end of June from the upper reaches of the Deschutes Watershed beginning at Wickiup Reservoir and continuing down river to Burgess Road. ODA and Bend/Fort Rock RD personnel did not observe any orange hawkweed during the survey event. Conversely, pockets of varying densities of orange hawkweed persist on public and private lands just above Pringle Falls down through the City of Bend. Efforts on reducing these populations continue at varying levels of intensity.

In continuation from last season's efforts, ODA regional staff and Deschutes County conducted treatments on yellow flag iris along the Deschutes River beginning at Century Drive down to and including Island Loop Way. Subsequent spot treatments were conducted on plants around Sunriver not treated in 2024. Thousands of individual private landowners throughout the Upper Deschutes River make this project extremely time consuming and complex to coordinate and implement.



Mitch Lex (ODA) steps out of the shadows as he treats some robust yellow flag iris plants.

The most notable and highest profile project within the Deschutes National Forest continues to be the treatment of ribbongrass and yellow flag iris on the Metolius River. This cooperative project among ODA, USFS, and Friends of the Metolius has been on-going since 2013. Treating these long-lived populations of ribbongrass and yellow flag iris will certainly aid in removing these riparian invaders from the Metolius River. This season ODA regional staff, USFS, and Friends of the Metolius spent two days covering 193 gross acres over 9 river miles treating 0.13 net acres of mixed ribbongrass and yellow flag iris. Compare this to the 2021 treatment season where the same area was covered and approximately 1 net acre was treated. Persistence and strong coordination remains a recipe for consistent reductions in noxious weed densities.



The 2025 crew assembled to protect the natural resources of the Metolius River from further invasion of ribbongrass.



This is what's being protected.

CROOKED RIVER NATIONAL GRASSLAND

Treatment efforts on behalf of ODA did not take place in 2025 due to the Federal Government shutdown.

BIOCONTROL PROJECTS

Cost center: BLM and APHIS

During the 2025 season, ODA regional staff and various partners from KFRA BLM, Crooked River Weed Management Area, Green Diamond Resource Company, Klamath County Weed Control, LDCMWA, USFS Deschutes/Ochoco NF, USFS Mt. Hood NF, Wasco SWCD, and Wheeler SWCD assisted ODA Biological Control Technician, Jordan Donaghy, expand upon and plan for future releases of biocontrol agents throughout the Central Oregon region. Jordan kept the wheels turning for ODA's Biological Control Program after the resignation of Joel Price shortly after January 2025. Noxious weed species and biological control agents prioritized during the 2025 season included: *Aceria malherbae* (Field bindweed bud/leaf gall mite), *Aulacidea acroptilonica* (Russian knapweed bud gall midge), *Cyphocleonus achates* (Spotted knapweed root weevil), *Larinus minutus* and *Larinus obtusus* (Spotted knapweed seed head weevils), *Mecinus janthiniformis* (Dalmatian toadflax stem boring weevil), *Mogulones crucifer* (Houndstongue root weevil), and *Puccinia thlaspeos* (Dyers woad rust fungus).



Members from ODA and USFS Deschutes/Ochoco NF partner together to collect and re-distribute *Cyphocleonus achates*.



ODA's Jordan Donaghy proudly displays the fruits of her labor, *Cyphocleonus achates*.

A potentially game changing discovery was realized during pre-season monitoring when ODA's Rob Banks noticed chlorotic and deformed dyer's woad plants within the Grizzly Mountain project area. Subsequent investigation confirmed the initial presence of the native rust fungus, *Puccinia thlaspeos*, on populations of *Isatis tinctoria* (dyer's woad) in southern portions of Klamath and Jackson counties. *Puccinia thlaspeos* is a systemic and autoecious rust fungus, meaning it affects the entire host plant body rather than a single part and completes its life cycle on a single host

species. Although a host plant may be asymptomatic for 3 to 9 months, alterations in plant hormones such as auxin-like and cytokinin-like compounds are occurring. Resulting symptoms of infection may include chlorosis, leaf distortion, stunted growth, and plant sterilization. The detection of this native rust fungus and its integration with additional control methods provides tremendous opportunity regarding the control and containment strategies for *Isatis tinctoria* in southern Oregon.



Resulting symptoms of infection from rust fungus *Puccinia thlaspeos* on dyers woad plants in southern Oregon.



Close up of dyers woad rust pustules on infected dyers woad plants.

Congratulations to Ashley Toland on becoming the new Biological Control Entomologist for the ODA Noxious Weed Control Program. Looking forward to working with Ashley and regional partners, and the implementation of biocontrol activities throughout the central region!

REGIONAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Cost center: BLM, USFS, LOTTERY

2025 marked a stellar year when it came to education and outreach activities. Things kicked off in April down in Rancho Cordova, CA where ODA regional staff participated in a weeklong training to become certified as a Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Driver Coach. ODA is now able to train users of recreational off-highway vehicles based on standards set forth by the Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association.



ODA regional staff demonstrate skills learned from Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association training.

Moving right into outreach season from May through August, ODA regional staff partnered at the Central Oregon Agriculture and Home and Garden Shows, Lapine Rhubarb Festival, Upper Deschutes Watershed Council River Cleanup (Deschutes County), Festival of the Land (Jefferson County), and the Crook County Fair (Crook County).



Live noxious weed specimens were a key component in providing plant identification and education to participants at the outreach and education events in the central region.

Additional 2025 regional meetings and outreach efforts:

- Calibration Clinics w/ Bend Parks and Recreation Department, OPRD Cove Palisades, Lower Deschutes CWMA (presentation)
- Central OR Agriculture Show, Deschutes County
- Central OR Home and Garden Show, Deschutes County
- Crook County Fair, Prineville, OR
- Crooked River Weed Management Area Meetings, Crook County
- Cross Borders Dyers woad Meeting, Klamath Falls, OR
- Deschutes Noxious Weed Advisory Board Meetings, Bend, OR
- Festival of the Land, OPRD Cove Palisades, Jefferson County
- Flat Fire IAG Meeting, Bend, OR
- High Desert Museum Planning Meeting, Bend, OR
- IMAGINE 2025 Virtual Workshop
- Jefferson County Noxious Weed Advisory Board Meetings, Madras, OR
- Jefferson County SWCD Cropland/Weed Management Days, Madras, OR (presentation)
- Jefferson County Weed Advisory Committee Meetings, Madras, OR
- Klamath County Weed Board Meeting, Klamath Falls, OR
- Klamath CWMA Meetings, Klamath Falls, OR
- Klamath Irrigation District Annual Meeting (Virtual)
- Klamath SWCD Board Meeting (Virtual)
- Lake Billy Chinook AIS Meeting, Jefferson County
- LaPine Rhubarb Festival, LaPine, OR
- ODA Native Plant Symposium (Virtual)
- ODFW Drone Demo Workshop, Brothers, OR
- ODOT Vegetation Management Training, Klamath and Prineville, OR (presentation)
- Oregon Landscape Contractors Association, Bend, OR (presentation)
- OSHA Hazard Communication Program Training, Klamath Falls, OR
- OSWB Fall Meeting, Baker City, OR
- OSWB Spring Meeting (Virtual)
- Palmer amaranth Workshop, OSU Extension, Ontario, OR

- Recreational Off Highway Vehicle Association Driver Coach Training, Rancho Cordova, CA
- Upper Deschutes Watershed Council River Cleanup, Bend, OR (presentation)
- Wheeler SWCD Board Meeting, Spray, OR

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS /PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

LOWER DESCHUTES CWMA, SHERMAN AND WASCO COUNTIES



LOWER DESCHUTES
COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA

Lower Deschutes Cooperative Weed Management Area logo

ODA Regional Staff participated alongside partners from the Lower Deschutes Cooperative Weed Management Area (LDCWMA) on one of their float trips down the Deschutes River in May. The remoteness and inaccessibility to areas along the Lower Deschutes River create an opportunity for an exercise in logistical creativity. Whitewater rafting provides one of those opportunities fundamental in completing goals of the project, the management of noxious weed species within recreational, riparian, and upland areas of the Lower Deschutes River corridor.



Just another day in the life of noxious weed control by LDCWMA partners ODA, ODFW, and Wasco SWCD.

The CWMA has been the hub of noxious weed control efforts on the lower 43 river miles of the Lower Deschutes River since 2007. The LDCWMA was the brainchild of Jeremy Thompson, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the late Brian Stradley,

Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District. Together they recognized the need for more coordinated noxious weed control efforts and thus partnered with the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, now known as the Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation. An OSWB grant provided the financial means to kick things off and so it began. After nearly two decades there have been many iterations of the LDCWMA, from the hiring of two seasonals' managed by Rod Asher former Sherman County Weed District Supervisor, to the realization of a dedicated Program Coordinator operating as a Sherman County employee in 2017, to the present, where the Program Coordinator and all activities associated with the LDCWMA are run out of Wasco SWCD.

Constants remain within this dynamic program dedicated to conserving the ecosystem within the Lower Deschutes River corridor. Participating members and persistent funding provide the backbone for the tireless and vigilant efforts in the detection of new noxious weed invaders while containing and controlling the spread of more perennial ones. The Lower Deschutes CWMA is forged from partners and funding made possible by BLM, ODA, ODFW, OPRD, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Sherman SWCD, Wasco SWCD, Sherman County Weed District, private landowners, and members of the Deschutes River community.

Northeast Region

By Shanda Hyllested and Mark Porter

NORTHEAST REGION WEED CONTROL PROJECTS

2025 was a transitional year for the Northeast region with a vacancy of the Integrated Weed Management Regional Specialist for a large portion of the year. Mark Porter moved to a Rangeland Health Specialist position with ODA in December of 2024 and Shanda Hyllested was hired to fill the Northeast Oregon Integrated Weed Management Specialist position in October of 2025. The northeast region relied heavily on partners and seasonal sprayers during the vacancy and provided support through OSWB grants and technical advice from other ODA staff.

PALMER AMARANTH, (*AMARANTHUS PALMERI*) A-LISTED; UNION, AND MALHEUR COUNTIES

Cost Center: Lottery

Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*) was added to the Oregon Noxious Weed List as an "A" rated species in 2024. It poses a significant threat to Oregon's Agricultural production because it is known to be very prolific and has developed resistance to multiple modes of herbicide. Malheur County contains two populations that are very active and host several

net acres of Palmer Amaranth. One site is located near Nyssa, Oregon and the other is located west of Ontario. ODA staff, Malheur County Weed Control, OSU Extension, and other partners extensively manage these sites to prevent further spread and crop contamination.

A single Palmer Amaranth plant was found on a Union County roadside by Tri-County CWMA staff in the summer of 2025. The plant was reported and confirmed as a male plant with no viable seeds by OSU Extension Weed Scientist Joel Felix. ODA staff, Union County staff, and OSU extension staff worked to survey the surrounding area, and no other plants were found. The single plant was likely related to roadside travel from outside of the county.



A single Palmer amaranth plant found in Union County September of 2025.



Joel Felix with a Palmer amaranth plant in Malheur County.

**HOARY ALYSSUM, (*BERTEROA INCANA*)
A-LISTED; BAKER AND WALLOWA COUNTY**

Cost Center: USFS, Oregon State Weed Board grant, State and Private.

The largest known site of hoary alyssum in the State of Oregon is located west of Haines in Baker County with a project area spanning over 1,000 gross acres. ODA staff worked with partners to treat all plants found within the project area in the spring and fall of 2025. Project partners include Tri-County CWMA, Baker County Weed Department, ODA, and private landowners. A total combined acres of 143.6 net acres were treated by all project partners in 2025 largely funded by an OSWB grant.

A second population of hoary alyssum in Baker County was discovered in 2024 by Wallowa Whitman National Forest staff. The site is many miles from any known population and was found while doing routine weed treatments near Long Creek Reservoir, south of Unity, Oregon. When discovered, the plants had yet to form viable seed, and the site was treated immediately. The hoary alyssum was scattered along a road roughly .5 acres in size. Other than the likelihood that the site is vehicle related, it is not apparent where the seed came from. In 2025, the site was closely monitored by Wallowa Whitman National Forest Staff and only a few plants were found. All plants were removed, and the area was treated with residual herbicides.

A small site of hoary alyssum continues to persist in Wallowa County. The initial project area discovered in the early 2000's, was nearly 100 acres in size and encompassed two properties. ODA staff continue consistent monitoring and treatment efforts to prevent any new seed production at this site. The eastern property had no plants in 2025 and only 1 plant in the last 5 years. The western property had persistent scattered plants (19 in total) in some historic "hot spots". All plants were cut, bagged and destroyed off site and then the areas were broadcast sprayed with residual herbicide to prevent any additional alyssum seeds from germinating.



Small white flowers of Hoary alyssum hiding underneath a pickup in a residential lawn near Haines, Oregon.



ODA Staff assisting with survey and treatments of hoary alyssum near Haines, Oregon.

**TURKISH THISTLE, (*CARDUUS CINEREUS*)
A-LISTED; WALLOWA COUNTY**

Cost Center: Lottery, Wallowa Whitman National Forest, USFS State and Private

Turkish thistle is only known to exist outside of its native range in a limited area of Hells Canyon National Recreation Area including land in Oregon and Idaho. Both states are working to control the plant with the primary focus of management being containment rather than eradication due to the very rugged and remote locations and increasing infestation sizes. EDRR on smaller sites is still being implemented. Turkish thistle treatments were completed in the Spring of 2025 in coordination with USFS staff, contractors, ODA, Tri-County CWMA, and Wallowa Resources. Treatments were completed during a week-long excursion on the Snake River and during day trips to the Imnaha Canyon. In total, five net acres were treated on the Wallowa Whitman using backpack sprayers within a 31 gross acre area. An additional three net acres of Turkish thistle were treated by private contractors hired through Wallowa Resources on adjacent private lands in 2025.

Directly adjacent to the Turkish thistle project area, the Wallowa Whitman National Forest was able to aerially treat approximately 200 net acres of yellow starthistle in 2025. These treatments were intended to provide a containment buffer for yellow starthistle; however, it will likely aid in containment of Turkish thistle as well. The yellow starthistle aerial treatments were a notable event, as this was the first aerial application of herbicides on USFS land in Oregon or Washington since the injunction of the mid 1980's.

ODA uses lottery dollars and funds from a cooperative agreement with the Wallowa Whitman National Forest (WWNF) to implement and design treatments in Oregon. ODA works to contain the infestation with the WWNF, Wallowa Resources, and private landowners, treating all known outlying sites on the northwest end of the infestation in Imnaha where there are roads and active livestock grazing to spread the plant.



A contracted helicopter lifts off to spray yellow starthistle and Turkish thistle in Hells Canyon. This is the first aerial treatment of weeds on USFS lands since the spray injunction of the mid 1980's.



The new site is nestled between hayfields and the roadside.

WELTED THISTLE, (*CARDUUS CRISPUS*) A-LISTED; WALLOWA COUNTY

Cost Center: Lottery, USFS State and Private

ODA partners with Wallowa County to eradicate the only welted thistle site in the Western US. The project area encompasses seven properties over a total of 240 acres. Despite there being no known seed production since the site was discovered in 2016, the plant continues to germinate at historic sites from the seedbank requiring vigilance from landowners, Wallowa County and ODA. One new site was found in 2025 within a third of a mile of known sites. It was less than tenth of an acre in size and has likely been active for 3 or 4 years. All plants were pulled, bagged and destroyed off site prior to seed maturity and the site was broadcast sprayed with residual herbicides in November. This discovery will require further surveys in new areas in 2026. A total of four net acres was treated by the Wallowa County Vegetation Department in 2025 along with an additional 0.13 net acres treated by ODA



Fall rosettes had begun to grow when the site was treated with residual herbicides in early November.



Plants from new site were pulled, bagged and burnt off site.

PLUMELESS THISTLE (*CARDUUS ACANTHOIDES*) A-LISTED; WALLOWA COUNTY

Cost Center: Lottery, USFS State and Private, Oregon State Weed Board Grant

While plumeless thistle is more widespread across the west than either of its aforementioned cousins, it is still at very low levels in Oregon and Northeast Oregon, and merits its A-list standing. And like its cousins, it is an aggressive competitor, spreads quickly and has long seed viability. Grant County has the largest area of infestation (40,000 gross acres mostly near Fox). Grant County Weed Control has been diligently monitoring the whole area and treating plants before they can seed for over ten years. Originally, the site hosted 50 net acres of plumeless thistle upon discovery in 2005. Consistent efforts from Grant SWCD supported by OSWB funding and active landowner participation has reduced the infestation to only 10 net acres in 2025.

In Wallowa County, the 16 historic sites were visited by ODA, Wallowa County and Wallowa Resources. ODA found one plant at the historic Red Hill site (Image 8) but no plants at the other four sites visited. Wallowa County Vegetation Department assisted by treating 0.4 net acres of Plumeless thistle at the Wallowa Valley sites.

Morrow County completed an aerial broadcast treatment of their historic Plumeless site in 2024 and no plants were found in the area in 2025. A new site found 1/4 mile from original project site and treated by ODA and Morrow County staff.



One plumeless thistle plant was found at the historic Red Hill site this. It was hidden amongst the rocks where marmots had been digging.

FLOWERING RUSH, (*BUTOMUS UMBELLATUS*) A-LISTED; MORROW AND UMATILLA COUNTY

Cost Center: Lottery funded.

No flowering rush work was completed by ODA in the Columbia River this year. The plants predicted impact has become dampened by the rapid increase of native macrophytes in the radically altered ecosystem of the dammed river. Coordinated efforts have crumbled in recent years though it is likely that singular efforts by the Army Corps of Engineers and USFWS continue. It is recommended that the plant be down listed to a B&T or a B in 2026.

ORANGE HAWKWEED, (*PILOSELLA AURANTIACUM*) A-LISTED; WALLOWA COUNTY

Cost Center: Lottery, Wallowa Whitman National Forest and USFS State & Private

Orange hawkweed is rare in Northeast Oregon with only four known sites, all of which are in Wallowa County. Three sites are on the WWNF, with one in the town of Wallowa. Very few plants have been found at the WWNF sites since 2018 but this year all three sites had a handful of plants. Flowers were plucked and destroyed off site and the area was sprayed

with residual herbicides. The Wallowa site is in a yard and had no plants between 2021 and 2024, but one plant was found this year. Sustained intensive control efforts are moving these sites towards eradication, but the process is slow. ODA staff and Wallowa County Vegetation department treated approximately 0.1 net acres over approximately 160 gross acres.



Weed warriors from the WWNF and ODA plucked all orange hawkweed flowers found at historic sites and broadcast sprayed the areas with residual herbicide.

SQUARROSE KNAPWEED, (*CENTAUREA VIRGATA*) A-LISTED; GRANT COUNTY

Cost Center: Lottery, OSWB Grant and Grant County match funds

Grant Weed Control manages the only known squarrose knapweed site in Northeast Oregon. ODA's Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program first treated an estimated 200 net acres spread across 800 gross acres in 1988. The number of acres has declined over the life of the project to 15 acres in 2004, just over 3.4 acres in 2019, 1.6 acres in 2020 and 1.25 acres in 2021. In 2025 only 0.5 acres were broadcast sprayed, the lowest acres treated since the start of the project.

Grant County: 0.5 net acres over 3,200 gross acres.

RAVENNA GRASS, (*SACCHARUM RAVENNAE*) A-LISTED; UMATILLA, MORROW, UNION, AND MALHEUR COUNTIES

Cost Center: Lottery and OSWB Grants

Ravenna grass is a large bunchgrass with showy plumes that is escaping ornamental plantings in Eastern Oregon. Ravenna grass is cold tolerant, spreads rapidly by seed and invades a broad range of natural environments.

Ornamental plants have been documented in Ontario, Milton-Freewater, Pendleton, Boardman, and La Grande. It appears that the plants are being purchased online or at nurseries in Washington and Idaho.

These sites are small enough to be controlled by the respective county or municipality, but treatments have been inconsistent, and the number of sites continues to increase. The education effort is challenging and time consuming. Union, Morrow, and Malheur Counties mapped ornamental and escaped sites, did outreach mailings to landowners, and treated plants where possible. These counties are working with homeowners to replace the ornamental Ravenna grass with noninvasive plants as an incentive for control.

TANSY RAGWORT (*SENECIO JACOBAEA*) B(T)-LISTED, UMATILLA AND UNION COUNTIES

Cost Center: Lottery and USFS State & Private

Managing Tansy Ragwort in Northeast Oregon is a legacy project that was managed in house by ODA for around 30 years. Early on, ODA staff actively treated all major sites and worked with partners to manage outliers but eventually the management was funded with OSWB dollars. Over 1,000 small tansy infestations were detected over the years; the number of active locations was reduced to less than ten by 2016. Local weed managers in Union, Umatilla and Wallowa County are checking historic sites. Very few of them have tansy present.

Four large areas of active infestation can still be found and are being managed by the Umatilla and Union County Weed Departments with the support of OSWB funding. The largest sites are in Umatilla County at Bear Creek and Saddle Mountain (585 gross acres total). While inventory areas expand each year, only a few plants are found annually, and the population continues to decline. In 2025 there was a total of 3.5 net acres treated between the two sites by project partners and ODA staff. The other two sites are in Union County north of Elgin, Oregon. One is a historic site on private land and Umatilla National Forest land near Looking Glass Creek. The second Union County site is a relatively new discovery located on commercial timber land that was first reported in 2020. In 2025, less than five net acres were treated within the two Union County project areas by Union County Weed Control Contractors, ODA, and Tri-County CWMA.



Spray day with Umatilla County, Baker County, and Tri-County CWMA staff treating Tansy ragwort in Umatilla County.

COMMON BUGLOSS (*ANCHUSA OFFICINALIS*) B(T)- LISTED, BAKER, UNION, WALLOWA, & UMATILLA COUNTIES

Cost Center: USFS State & Private, Umatilla and Wallowa Whitman National Forests

Common bugloss can be found in limited populations within the northeast region in Baker, Union, Umatilla, and Wallowa Counties. The largest infestation of common bugloss is located near Imnaha, Oregon. Consistent treatment efforts by the Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership in Wallowa County for over a decade (funded by OSWB) have kept the infestation largely contained in the Upper Imnaha Canyon. There are three additional small sites of common bugloss in Wallowa County- one near Wallowa Lake, and two in the Wallowa Valley. The Wallowa County Vegetation Department manages these sites with assistance from ODA staff and OSWB funds. These sites are especially important because they are high in the Grande Ronde Watershed where there is almost no bugloss at all.

The second largest population of common bugloss is in Umatilla County along the North Fork of the Walla Walla River. Historic treatments at this site were funded by OSWB grant dollars for several years before 2017. Since then, this area has been identified as a containment zone with no treatments occurring due to a lack of capacity at the local level. Umatilla County also contains an outlying site of common bugloss in Meacham Creek that is treated cooperatively by staff from the Umatilla NF, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Umatilla County, and ODA's Invasive Noxious Weed Program. As a part of this EDRR effort, Invasive Noxious Weed Program Staff also worked with Umatilla NF staff to locate, verify, and treat the only known population of shiny geranium on the east side of the state.

There are two additional small infestations of common bugloss each containing only a few plants located in Union and Baker Counties. County staff treat and monitor each of these sites using OSWB and/or County Levy funds.

MEADOW HAWKWEED (*PILOSELLA CAESPITOSUM*) B(T)-LISTED; UNION, WALLOWA, MORROW & UMATILLA COUNTIES

Cost Center: Wallowa Whitman and Umatilla National Forests, State and Private, OSWB grant funds.

The management of meadow hawkweed is the largest and most concerted weed management project in Northeast Oregon. Meadow hawkweed is a very aggressive plant that spreads quickly by seeds and stolons and if left unchecked, easily dominates much of the region's grasslands. The plant spreads readily on logging equipment, roadsides, and through riparian areas. It has spread widely in Wallowa, Union and has been found in a few sites in Umatilla County, one site

in Morrow County, and one site in Grant County. All outlying sites are treated with an EDRR mindset. Sites within historic infestations are treated as needed, but at least every third year. This works to maintain populations at very low levels due to intensive management that has included targeted surveys, effective public outreach, precise mapping and effective monitoring, Hawkweed's conspicuous bud and flower make it relatively easy to spot and the plant is very sensitive to residual herbicides.



Picture of meadow hawkweed flower in the Cricket Flats Area of Elgin, Oregon.



The distinct Meadow hawkweed at bud stage prior to flowering.

COMMON CRUPINA (*CRUPINA VULGARIS*) B(T)-LISTED, BAKER, UNION, WALLOWA, & UMATILLA COUNTIES

Common crupina is a winter annual that flowers in June and July. It has been known to invade a variety of habitats including rangelands, forests, and disturbed non-crop lands. In Oregon, it is most commonly found on southern slopes in steep canyon grasslands. Common crupina spreads via seed production and can form solid monocultures that reduce the quantity and quality of forage available for wildlife and livestock. It is unpalatable to most grazing animals, allowing the weed to thrive and spread. It is adapted to a wide range of soils and climates and can grow up

to three feet tall depending on growing conditions. Common crupina has limited distribution in Baker, Umatilla, Union, and Wallowa Counties. The extent of the populations in Wallowa and Umatilla counties is unknown due to the rugged terrain where it is found. Crupina is treated with a containment approach in those two counties. Union and Baker Counties have very little common crupina and an EDRR treatment approach is used. In 2025 Tri-County CWMA treated 1,225 net acres within a 2,000-acre project area in Baker County. Union County has the smallest infestation of the northeastern counties that was discovered in 2024 and approximately one net acre was treated within the five gross acre project area by Union County staff, partners, and contractors in 2025.



Aerial treatments of common crupina in Baker County fall of 2025.

DYER'S WOAD (*ISATIS TINCTORIA*) B(T)-LISTED, BAKER COUNTY

Dyer's woad is a rapidly growing biennial typically germinating from seed in early spring shortly after snow melt. Plants have blueish-green leaves with a prominent cream-colored mid-rib. Bright yellow flowers get pollinated and produce green fruits which turn deep blue to black as they near seed set. Dyer's Woad is very limited in the northeast region and any plants found are associated with road travel and quickly eradicated. In 2025, a few plants were found in Baker County Oregon by ODA and Baker County staff. Plants were bagged and removed from the site prior to seed production.



Dyer's woad plants found near Sumpter, Oregon.



Baker County Staff with bagged Dyer's Woad plants.

RUSH SKELETONWEED (*CHONDRILLA JUNCEA*) B(T)-LISTED, BAKER, GRANT, MALHEUR, MORROW, UNION, WALLOWA, & UMATILLA COUNTIES

Rush skeletonweed is widespread in Morrow, Umatilla, and Malheur counties and along the eastern portions of Wallowa and Baker Counties. It does have very limited distribution in Union and Grant Counties where EDRR efforts are being implemented to prevent establishment and spread of the species. In 2025, a total of 16.8 net acres were treated in Union County by staff and contractors. Grant County has approximately one net acre of rush skeletonweed that is treated and monitored annually by Grant SWCD staff.

PROTECTING RARE AND ENDANGERED NATIVE PLANTS IN THE SNAKE RIVER ECOREGION NEAR VALE, OREGON.

Cost Center: BLM Vale – Rush skeletonweed.

ODA works with the Vale BLM to protect five species of endangered plants from the impacts of rush skeletonweed infestations in the country north of Highway 20 from Farewell Bend and Ontario west to Vale. This project also helps to protect the high value crops grown in the area because of the project's proximity to farmlands. Historically, the project was an Early Detection and Rapid Response project, but the advance of skeletonweed into and surrounding the area has required the change of focus to mitigating damage to these sensitive plants. There is ongoing work internationally and in the western US to find classical biocontrol solutions for this problem.

Net acres treated in 2025: 64.6 acres

NORTHEAST OREGON BIOLOGICAL CONTROL ACTIVITES

Northeast Oregon regional staff work on many diverse projects. This year, biological control was a small part

of our work. ODA staff along with Baker County Weed Control made four releases of *Cyphocleonus achates* in Baker County in 2025. Three of the releases were near Sumpter, and one additional one was near Halfway.



*Baker County Weed Control staff releasing *Cyphocleonus achates* near Sumpter, Oregon.*

NORTHEAST REGION PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Northeast Oregon is home to some wonderful weed warriors and has incredible collaborative efforts across the region. In this section we would like to honor our wonderful partners by sharing some success stories shared by partners about their projects and programs in the 2025 field season.

MORROW COUNTY WEED DEPARTMENT

By Corey Sweeney, Morrow County Weed Program Manager

Morrow County's greatest accomplishment this year was only witnessing one plumeless thistle plant in the County during this year's field work for locating and treating the Eightmile site. This is down from 20 plants in 2024, and 16 plants observed in 2023. Most of the success was due in large part to the accomplishments of the last two years for timing and treating of the plant but nevertheless it is a major accomplishment

to have only found one plant in the entire county this year.

Another accomplishment for this year was the hiring of a second person in the Weed Department for the first time in the County's history. This allowed the Weed District to do more outreach this year with landowners and help with A-listed noxious weeds in the county.

The county accomplished control efforts of A-listed Scotch Thistle infestations involving private property owners by embarking on a two day project using UTV's. One landowner has seen three years of consecutive code enforcement violations and for the first time, the county has been able to assist landowners with overwhelming noxious weed issues with the hiring of additional staff.

With the addition of an additional staff member, the Weed District also acquired an additional pickup for the department and a new UTV with a new spray apparatus.

For the first time ever, the Weed District has also expanded to cover vegetation control methods such as brushing and mowing. The Department has seen significant growth this year and should continue the trend in the future.

WALLOWA WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST

By Allyssa Wilson, Wallowa Whitman National Forest

This year, the WWNF focused on priority projects including treating Turkish thistle in the Hells Canyon NRA. Turkish thistle treatments were completed in the Spring of 2025 in coordination with USFS staff, contractors, and our partners—ODA, Tri-County CWMA, and Wallowa Resources. Treatments were completed during a week-long excursion on the Snake River and during day trips to the Imnaha Canyon. All-in-all, five net acres were treated, with a project area total of at least 31 acres.

The North Zone of the forest completed 308 net acres of treatment between USFS staff, contractors, and our partners at ODA, Tri-County CWMA, and Wallowa Resources. Priority treatments included treating sites along the Snake River, hawkweed treatments, and major roadsides and recreation areas throughout the Forest.

TRI-COUNTY COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA (CWMA)

Tri-County CWMA was awarded three OSWB grants in 2025. The following action items were completed for each of those projects:

BAKER COUNTY COMMON CRUPINA CONTROL 2025:

In 2025 (2025-38-042) Tri-County hired a licensed ground contractor to treat small crupina populations around historic treatment borders. The contractor also completed ground surveys to inventory the original historic polygons that were established in 2019. An aerial treatment of 1,183 acres was completed in the fall of 2025.

Tri-County: 12 net acres treated Spring 2025

Work Horse Inc.: 29.86 net acres treated in May 2025

Leading Edge Aviation: 1,183 in October 2025

HAINES HOARY ALYSSUM PROJECT PHASE V

Phase V- 2025-38-042- Tri-County sprayed 37 net acres, Baker County sprayed 17.5 net acres, a contractor did a broadcast treatment of 66.7 net acres, and 22.4 net acres were sprayed by ODA for a total of 143.6 net acres. Treatments occurred in June and July of 2025, and fall treatments occurred in October of 2025

Northern Union County Meadow Hawkweed Control 2025

Tri-County CWMA has had great success with landowner participation in 2025, with 47 landowners. With the expanded treatment area, net treatment acres of meadow hawkweed was 37.5 acres. This is a decrease from previous years and shows the effective suppression of meadow hawkweed.

BAKER COUNTY WEED DISTRICT

Baker County Weed District was awarded two Oregon State Weed Board grants through the County designated funds in 2025. With awarded funding, our district was able to assist Baker County landowners with the treatment of their noxious weeds. Baker County is driven by industry, and with these grants impacting three of our top commodities- Agriculture, Recreation, and Wildlife- ODA support has impacted our area in a very large way.

In the Powder River Perennial Pepperweed grant, staff and contractors were able to successfully treat 270 net acres alone. This grant also assisted landowners with herbicide, using labor as in-kind match, where approximately 112 net acres were treated. For the Southern Baker County Noxious Weed Control 2025 project, Baker County staff and contractors treated approximately 95 net acres treated for Leafy Spurge with roughly 9 acres of herbicide being provided to landowners for spot treatments. Additionally, roughly 18,500 gross acres, were prioritized for Digital Aerial Survey Mapping (DASM) of the Pedro Mountain area in Southern Baker County. This initiative was part of a larger project coordination effort between Tri-County CWMA, Malheur County Weed Control, and

Baker County Weed District to identify and locate Leafy Spurge from the Burnt River Canyon (in Durkee, OR) and Brogan, OR. This project was essential in identifying noxious weed populations within the Durkee Fire boundary of 2024.

Southeast Region

By Bonnie Rasmussen and Rob Banks

BLM-BURNS DISTRICT

Cost Center: BLM

DISTRICT EDUCATION AWARENESS AND EDRR

This project is designed to provide noxious weed identification and control training for area programs and district staff as needed. It also provides EDRR ability for survey and treatment in critical areas as new infestations of high priority weeds are discovered and require immediate response. Through this project plan, ODA continued to provide monitoring and treatment of the new knapweed site at the South Steens Campground as well as monitoring various historic sites. Staff assisted with a spring training for resource staff from Harney County and BLM employees. The program included a slide presentation and live plant samples.

.01 net acres treated 10 estimated gross acres of survey.

STEENS MOUNTAIN PROJECT AREA

The Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area consist of 428,156 acres of public land. Within its boundaries can be found glacier carved gorges, quaking aspen groves, wilderness, wild rivers, and a rich diversity of plant and animal species. The 52-mile Steens Mountain Backcountry Byway provides access to four campgrounds. Steens Mountain is essentially free of listed noxious weeds. As a popular recreation area and home to multiple inholdings, an extensive weed control plan is important. Spotted knapweed was accidentally introduced to multiple stream crossings and along trails. This ODA project includes the monitoring, survey and treatment of all noxious weed infestations detected along Mud & Ankle Creek on Steens Mountain. When access is available through BLM helicopter, ODA assists with survey and treatment of spotted knapweed above Wildhorse Canyon and several sites in its vicinity. Treatment includes the use of herbicides, applied via horseback and or ATV/RTV units, as well as biological control agent releases if necessary. This is a very high priority area and project for the Burns District.

In 2024, ODA and BLM staff accomplished a breakthrough for treatment of the Indian Ruins site when a UTV route directly to the site was found. ODA crew made a trip to all sites in the Steens project area

completing monitoring and treatment at Ankle Creek, Big Indian Crossing and multiple locations on the access roads. A second trip was implemented with a multi-agency crew including ODA and Harney County to the Indian Ruins site performing treatments on the spotted knapweed with UTV units and backpacks. Plants were attacked in the sage brush, the boulders and searched out of the aspen stand.

3.43 net acres treated 10,000 estimated gross acres of survey.



Spotted knapweed plant in project area.



Rob Banks completing treatment near Ankle Creek.



Dan Son performing survey in project area.



Harney County assisting ODA staff with treatment of spotted knapweed.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

ODA staff actively monitored during regular duties *Urophora cardui*, *Mecinus janthiniformis*, *Larinus minutus*, *Jaapiella ivannikovi*, *Bangasternus fausti*, *Sphenoptera jugoslavica*, *Urophora quadrifasciata* and *Aulacidea acroptilonica* on the Burns District.

P-HILL/FRENCHGLEN MILLER HOMESTEAD PROJECT AREA

The P-Hill project is located southwest of the town of Frenchglen along both sides of Highway 205 up to the intersection with the Rock Creek Road and breaking over to the downward side of P-Hill, stretching almost to Frenchglen. The project area also includes an often- disturbed refuse area, a gravel pit area, rangeland and the Highway 205 corridor. The project targets are primarily Mediterranean sage and Scotch thistle. Over the past 24 years, plant numbers have fluctuated due to weather, drought and fire events.

ODA subcontracted with Harney County in 2025 to complete the project. Treatment took place in early June with crews utilizing UTV and ATV equipment for three days. ODA monitored in late September. This project is a portion of the heavy focus through OSWB grants to Harney County CWMA to address all know sites in the Catlow Valley and Frenchglen area. Seven net acres treated 2,500 estimated gross acres of survey. Also included in this project is the Jack Mountain historical knapweed site monitoring.



Mediterranean sage seedlings in P Hill project area.

Page Springs Campground was also monitored by ODA staff while working in the area. The campground is located at the base of Steens Mountain, three miles from Frenchglen. It is a very popular campground and important location to monitor to minimize invasive introductions. It continues to be challenging to work in the campground during treatment season because of its popularity with campers. Crews were able to do the loop through the camping area and did not apply any herbicides. 150 estimated gross acres of survey.

STINKINGWATER CREEK PROJECT

Stinkingwater creek is east of Burns and flows from the Stinkingwater mountains to the middle fork of the Malheur River. Purple loosestrife was discovered near the head of the drainage on the Lamb Ranch and adjacent BLM lands, stretching to the Malheur River. This project includes the monitoring, survey and treatment of primarily purple loosestrife—in some instances Canada thistle, perennial pepperweed, whitetop, and dalmatian toadflax are addressed.

It includes monitoring biological agents *Mecinus janthanus* and *Galerucella*.

ODA subcontracted with Harney County to cover the BLM portion of this project in conjunction with work being completed by them through an OSWB grant.

.26 net acres treated and an estimated 450 gross acres of survey.



Purple loosestrife in Stinkingwater creek project area.

RUSH SKELETONWEED EDRR

Rush skeletonweed is a high priority, new invader to the Burns District. This project assists with education/outreach, survey and treatment of infestations detected in coordination with several partners including Harney County, BLM and private landowners. Efforts focused on the area east of Princeton and north of highway 78 (Beaver Tables). Additionally, the area north of Highway 20, approximately 10 miles NE of Buchanan, OR (House Butte) will be monitored. ODA staff coordinated with the team and did not find any rush skeletonweed during survey efforts.



Survey work in the project area.

BLM-LAKEVIEW DISTRICT

Cost Center: BLM

DISTRICT EDRR AND EDUCATION

ODA staff assists with the Cross Borders Dyer's woad project and addresses EDRR species in Lake District. The Cross Borders Dyer's woad project has brought together multiple agencies to work together to control

Dyer's woad in Oregon, California and Nevada along the Lakeview BLM District Resource Area. Dyer's woad is invading valuable Sage Grouse habitat within the South Warner Resource Area. This project allows the Lakeview RA to build containment lines and control the infestations as they start moving into crucial habitat. This project teams up with other partners that are working on building strong surveys and controlling small-isolated infestations while containing the larger ones.

ODA staff continued to assist with EDRR work on spotted knapweed and yellow starthistle. These two species are slowly creeping into the Lakeview Resource Area. Most of the spotted knapweed is located at the north end of the Lakeview Resource Area around the town of Christmas Valley.

Yellow starthistle appeared following fire activity near Paisley. Its spread along old fire lines and in past fire staging areas has been halted.

ADEL DYER'S WOAD TREATMENT

In mid-June, ODA staff coordinated with the BLM and CWMA crews to survey and treat all known dyer's woad infestations in Lake County. Work was completed in the southern portion of the district between Adel and the California border utilizing RTV units and backpacks. Plants along the roadways have continued to decrease.

.55 net acres treated in 25,000 estimated gross acres of survey.

WARNER WETLANDS

The Warner Wetlands is a 52,000-acre BLM managed property near Plush that includes a 40-mile chain of lakes separated by bow-shaped dunes. Each spring and fall, thousands of birds visit the wetlands during their annual migrations. ODA has been assisting the BLM in managing noxious weeds in the Warner Wetlands since the late 1990s.

ODA performs spot spray treatments in the surrounding areas with emphasis on assisting and facilitating containment of existing infestations of perennial pepperweed, hoary cress, Russian knapweed and Canada thistle. In addition, ODA provides EDRR services for key vector areas of the Warner Wetlands and adjacent ACEC while assisting with treatment in threatened and endangered plant zones.

ODA crew spent two weeks working in the Warner Wetlands project area. Focus was in the Mugwamp, Swamp, Flagstaff and Campbells Lake areas. This season saw high water in the project area that impacted access and treatment.

37.34 net acres treated 7000 estimated gross acres of survey.

BLM-VALE DISTRICT

Cost Center: BLM

SWEDE BASIN RUSH SKELETONWEED

The remote area between Harper area and Cow Valley has a significant infestation of rush skeletonweed establishing post fire. ODA staff treated all known plants in the fall. A more thorough and larger survey is planned for the 2026 season.



Rush skeletonweed site.

THREE FORKS PROJECT AREA

One of the most remote locations in Oregon, the Three Forks area has camping, fishing, swimming, and boating opportunities in the canyonland confluence of the North Fork Owyhee, Middle Fork Owyhee, and main Owyhee Rivers. It is accessed by traveling 43 miles of dirt road east from Highway 95 on the Three Forks Road. The project area includes the Three Forks Road, Grassy Reservoir, Owyhee Canyon Overlook, Three Forks Campground and the Three Forks Hot Springs access with dispersed camping spots. Crews treated Scotch thistle, Leafy spurge, perennial pepperweed and whitetop in June.

Net acres treated: .33 Gross acres surveyed: 7,500

PASCAL RESERVOIR PROJECT AREA

The Pascal project is a pasture seeding area of over 12,000 acres that is located between Rome and Arock, Oregon. Over 20 years ago while reseeding post fire, yellow starthistle was introduced into the area.

The infestation was initially addressed by a private contractor and then turned over to ODA. The first season of survey revealed a much larger problem, with many plants scattered over vast and rough terrain. ODA performs survey, monitoring and treatment of yellow starthistle sites. Project goals are to stop the spread of it into Jordan Creek and downstream into the Wild and Scenic Owyhee River corridor.

ODA staff performed a survey of past polygons and points and found no yellow starthistle in the project area. Populations of Scotch thistle were treated in the project area. Staff continues to coordinate with Jordan Valley Cooperative Weed Management Area to ensure known plants on adjacent private lands to the north and southeast are monitored.

Net acres treated: 9 Estimated gross acres of survey: 3,500



Scotch thistle above canyon Pascal seeding project area.

EDRR, ROADSIDE SURVEY AND MONITORING

EDRR survey work was completed on the road networks. ODA staff continues to monitor the Agency valley and Beulah Reservoir yellow starthistle site. Malheur County has the project lead, but ODA has new responsibilities in the area assisting with the edge of the rush skeletonweed populations pushing west. Owyhee Springs, ION road network, north of McBride Road to state line, Rome area, Cow Creek leafy spurge site, Dimwitty diffuse knapweed site, Indian Fort Creek Road and Skull Creek roads were monitored and treated for invasives as well. ODA again assisted Vale District with the eradication of a tree of heaven site near the Oasis Boat Dock. ODA also located and treated a new site of purple loosestrife in the lower succor creek drainage.

LESLIE GULCH AREA

Leslie gulch is located east of the Owyhee Reservoir in Malheur County. At the end of the Leslie Gulch Road

is access to the Owyhee Lake and a boat launch ramp. Nearby is Slocum Creek - Leslie Gulch Campground, operated by the BLM. This very remote part of Oregon includes towering cliffs and honeycombed rock formations. The Leslie Gulch ACEC is 11,000 acres

compromised of very steep terrain and unique soils that host threatened and endangered plant species, including two that are only found in the Leslie Gulch Drainage. It is also home to diverse wildlife including Bighorn Sheep. The ODA crew monitors for all species, but primarily focuses on rush skeletonweed, spotted knapweed, whitetop and some Scotch thistle populations. Extensive treatment and surveys were completed in Succor Creek, Dago Canyon and Leslie Gulch Area. The overall plant count seems to be reducing even as the survey area has increased.

Net acres treated: 39.74. Estimated gross acres of survey: 5,576.

SUCCOR CREEK, SAGE AND KETTLE CREEKS

Succor Creek State Park and Natural Area lie in a deep, rocky canyon in the corner of Oregon against Idaho and is a remote haven for rockhounds and wildlife watchers. The park is about 15 miles of dirt road from Oregon 201 junction east of Adrian. There is dispersed camping and day-use areas along both sides of the road, and both sides of the creek at the park.

Herbicide treatment of rush skeletonweed, Russian knapweed, puncturevine, Scotch thistle, purple loosestrife and spotted knapweed were completed. ODA has been utilizing the Harney County SWAT crew during the fall work to multiply the coverage. The Sage Creek and Kettle Creek project areas were monitored, targeting yellow starthistle and rush skeletonweed--no plants were found. The powerline road north of Succor creek still has an expanding amount of rush skeletonweed but after an intense focus should see reduction.

Net acres treated: 10.33. Estimated gross acres of survey: 16,238.

BASQUE STATION

Basque Station is a remote ODOT facility on Highway 95 between Burns Junction and Mcdermitt, Nevada. This project is to address monitoring and treatment of diffuse knapweed that has escaped from the Highway 95 corridor to surrounding rangeland. There were no plants found this season in the area covered. This project will be expanded in 2026.

POLE CREEK RUSH SKELETONWEED

The Pole Creek drainage project area has experienced severe weather events and fires over the last four years. It was part of a violent cloud burst and flood event that took place mid-summer of 2023 near the location of historic Jonesboro along the Malheur

River. Jonesboro is located 11 miles east of Juntura. ODA utilized the Harney County crew to complete treatment on Pole Creek. The terrain is very challenging, and a lot of the creek must be covered with backpack treatments. Treatment took place mid-August and there were 2.5 net acres treated.

LOTTERY FUND PROJECTS

HOARY ALYSSUM (*BETEROA INCANA*)

A single site of hoary alyssum was found by Mark Porter (ODA) in Harney County in 2023. The project area is north of Burns along Highway 395. This is a coordinated project with Harney County and ODA. There were a handful of plants treated at the site in 2025. No plants have been allowed to go to seed.

AFRICAN RUE (*PEGANUM HARMALA*)

In early September 2008, a contractor for the Bureau of Indian Affairs noted a possible infestation of African rue on tribal allotments located in the Harney Basin southeast of Burns. ODA verified the plant as African rue. The initial response plan was to treat outlier sites, roadsides, barnyards, and pivots for containment and to prevent further spread. In 2008, ODA spent several weeks doing the initial site delimitation, which revealed a project area of 2,700 gross acres and 19 landowners including Department of State Lands, private, and tribal lands. An African Rue Cooperative Weed Management Plan was completed in 2009. This project is now largely funded by an Oregon State Weed Board Grant to Harney County and is monitored by ODA staff.



Survey and treatment of project area 2025.

In 2025, the project consisted of continued survey and treatment of the project area. A 6-member crew ran the project area during in July, treating 2.5 net acres. During the second pass in August, a total of 0.2 net acres were treated. This was a reduction in net acres from previous season.

The herbicide treatments and survey were completed at the same time. The treatments were all spot spray treatments with no boom treatments being done again this year. 2.5 net acres were treated, and survey was 1,750 gross acres. The reduction in gross acres was strategic and done using past treatment point data to eliminate about 1,000 gross acres.

HART MOUNTAIN

ODA staff made a monitoring pass through Hart Mountain to the Hot Springs campground area. This is the first since the fire in 2024. Post fire recovery is looking promising, but the Mediterranean sage site at the campground has spread along the road. Plants were manually removed.



Hart Mountain hot springs campground.

REGIONAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Numerous presentations were given at meetings and trainings throughout the year as well as consultations to ranchers, land managers and public entities in the Southeastern region. Weed Board, SWCD and CWMA meetings are attended in Lake County, Malheur County, and Harney County. Staff participates in the Lake County All Lands Restoration Initiative FIP review team. When possible, they also participate in the Tri-corner Community Collaborative meetings in Lake County.

EDRR SOUTHEASTERN OREGON

SPOTTED KNAPWEED (*CENTAUREA STOEBE*)

Monitoring took place in Poison Creek drainage. This area has been managed by Harney County through an OSWB grants and Title 2 funds. The site continues to exist in the Riley Valley. Originally spread from Highway 20 and a material site, plants persist in a few known areas. Harney County oversees the site but ODA monitors to ensure work gets done. The recent

spotted knapweed site found at the Roaring Springs Ranch was monitored and treated.

PALMER AMARANTH (*AMARANTHUS PALMERI*)

Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri* S. Watson) belongs to genus *Amaranthus*, which plants are commonly referred to as pigweeds. Palmer amaranth was first documented in Oregon during 2023 by Dr Joel Felix, Associate Professor, Weed Ecology & Management (Oregon State University, Malheur Experiment Station) who has been working with Dr. Albert Adjesiwor (University of Idaho), and Clarke Alder, (Amalgamated Sugar) tracking the weed in Idaho and Oregon. There are five total sites in Oregon in total—three are in Malheur County and they are the only ones with active plants. In the fall of 2024, the Oregon State Weed Board hosted a tour of the Skyline site west of Ontario. Mark Porter (ODA) presented the Board with a risk assessment recommending a listing. The plant was listed as a Class A species focusing ODA staff on its management.



A large male plant in the bean field.

NYSSA SITES

The first location of palmer amaranth is on Alberta Avenue and had no plant growth in 2024-25. The second site is located on Columbia Avenue and Arcadia Boulevard on the outskirts of Nyssa. This site consists of plants on the road shoulder, adjacent ditch, yard areas and field edge. The site is complicated by an irrigation ditch that borders the fields. The water has been a vector spreading the infestation. Roadside treatments were not effective on the palmer amaranth. The educated guess for its introduction is from grain and/or onion trucks traveling the route to storage-processing facilities located on Arcadia Boulevard.



Rob Banks removing plants from ditch



Plants adjacent to processing facility.



Mature plants alive after roadside application.

NYSSA TREATMENT



Joel Felix hosted an informational meeting and then led a tour to the two active sites. The Initial survey in June 2025 found a dense plant population of varying phenology along the road edge, in irrigation ditches and bordering the beanfield. Plants were hand pulled, bagged and removed to a Malheur County managed landfill. Multi-agency crews performed manual treatments every 2-3 weeks with the final being October 7th. No plants were allowed to go to seed.

SKYLINE FARMS ONTARIO SITE



The first plants at this location were identified on August 30, 2023. The field was wheat stubble prior to post harvest tillage and likely had been harvested a few weeks earlier. It was determined that a possible vector was equipment brought from the Midwest by the previous land manager. ODA became involved early Summer of 2025. The infested site area consists of 4 crop pivots and a network of roads. The management of the land changed in 2024 and unfortunately farming practices appear to have spread seed from the edges of the fields into crops. The crops this season included onions and dry beans. The map to the left shows 2025 control areas and tracks in pink and orange. The green dots note single plant locations.

TREATMENT



A very large female plant in the bean field.



Harney County crew walking the fields and hand pulling plants.

The first phase of hand removal from the Skyline site began June 12th with a tour by Joel Felix and a multi-agency crew getting started by pulling and bagging plants filling up a pickup. Following this treatment the area was surveyed, revealing significant spread of plants in the onion and bean fields and road edges. Harney County Strategic Weed Attack Team was contracted to assist with survey, pulling and bagging of all plants. That crew returned two more times in August and September to bag and remove plants. ODA crew worked and monitored in between those crew visits. Malheur County Road Department provided a dump truck and transportation of plants to the landfill near Vale. Froerer Farms, the land manager, provided a backhoe for removal and loading of bags into the truck. Serious consideration was made for where and how to dispose of plants.



Palmer plants before removal.



All plants were pulled and removed to the landfill.

In mid-September, plants had to be removed from the bean field adjacent to the badly infested onion field. Froerer Farms provided a crew as well as ODA staff and Harney County. The field was a challenge to work

in, ranging from a muddy sump where irrigation water had pooled and the dry rocky hillsides where the plants still were growing under much drier conditions. Plants ranged in phenology and size. The field was surveyed and all plants were removed before harvest took place.



Palmer plant after water had been turned off growing under dry conditions in the bean field.

LESSONS LEARNED AND CONCERNS

Management of Palmer amaranth sites are a huge time and labor commitment. Growers estimate hand removal in the \$500-\$1500 an acre range. This season with Amanda Zander (Malheur County Weed Supervisor) out of commission for the season, oversight and implementation fell to Bonnie Rasmussen (ODA). Without the Harney County SWAT Crew (Figure 2) and engaged partners, it would not have happened. Plants germinate continuously once warm weather begins. Needing both a male and female plant to produce viable seed is the only trait that can delay rapid population growth. Mowing them or leaving root behind when hand pulling only invigorates growth (Figure 1). Collection, storage and disposal of plant material is an important component. Hundreds of bags of plants were collected and staged before disposal. This created an odorous decomposing mess that was not well received. It also raises the

question of what happens with plants being hand pulled in the neighboring state. There is a huge risk of contamination from equipment and crops being moved between Oregon and Idaho. This species appears to be establishing in Idaho and ISDA to date has not listed it.

MOVING FORWARD

Palmer amaranth information will continue to be included in all grower meetings for 2026. An army of agriculture folks will be keeping focused on finding any new introductions. At the active Nyssa site, the Malheur County Road Department will be switching up herbicide choice and timing of treatments to better target Palmer amaranth on the road shoulders. The irrigation ditches will be closely monitored by crews, and homeowners will be engaged to help keep an eye out for plants. The farmer will be closely monitoring fields adjacent to the known infestation sites and facilities in the area.

At the Skyline Farms site, the land manager has rotated crops to something that this plant is more easily managed in and is on board for a coordinated strategic attack of the site in 2026. Their acknowledgment of the impact this plant could have to yields and crop management was testimony to its danger to agriculture in Oregon.

The Oregon State Weed Board has funded a grant request from Malheur County to manage the Palmer amaranth sites in their county. ODA and OSU staff will continue to be a partner in the management of them as well and continued survey for new sites. The ODA Plant Division manager and Noxious Weed Program Manager are working directly with ISDA to try and mitigate concerns of contamination and spread of Palmer amaranth and the newly OSWB listed plant waterhemp (*Amaranthus tuberculatus*).

TANSY RAGWORT (*JACOBEA VULGARIS*)

Both the historic Yellow Jacket Lake and Kiger Creek tansy site were clean in 2026. There is no other known Tansy in SE Oregon currently.

ORANGE HAWKWEED (*HIERACIUM AURANTIACUM*)

Management of the known orange hawkweed sites in Hines city limits has been turned over to Harney County. No plants were found in 2025.

MEDITERRANEAN SAGE (*SALVIA AETHIOPIS*)

Mediterranean sage continues to be on the move in Southeastern Oregon. Harney County is working diligently with its partners to address all known sites. One of the biggest sites on private land was turned over to the County to manage through an OSWB grant. It's located south of Frenchglen in the Catlow Valley. ODA monitors and assists in this project as needed.

YELLOW JACKET RESERVOIR AREA

ODA staff returned to this area to monitor post fire and found the release of noxious weeds at the past locations. A survey was completed and passed onto Harney County for treatment. Spotted knapweed adjacent to the 31 road was treated by ODA.



Yellow jacket campground burned in 2024 in the Falls fire.



Post fire release of yellow toadflax.



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