

NOXIOUS WEED Board MEETING
February 13th, 2025, Video Meeting / In-person
Deschutes County Board Hearing – Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEMEBERS Present:

Beth Johnson

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE and GUESTS Present:

Kevin Moriarty

Ben Hanna

Dan Son

Lauren Street

Lorena Brown

Claire McClafferty

Teresa Stovall

Nicole Swarts

Thad (High Desert Museum)

Minutes

Minutes for October 10th, November 14th, December 12th, 2024, and January 9th were discussed but not approved. No quorum present.

Kevin Moriarty – Reviewed the January 9th minutes. Joe Mauti will be appointed as the Interim Chair-person. The County wants to attend educational events with the Noxious Weed trailer. The Mussel display was mentioned. Jacob Derkson will be working on finding photos of noxious weeds for prints. The 2025 Weed List will be reviewed.

Kevin Moriarty - New Noxious Weed Board committee members will be approved and appointed next Wednesday at the Board of County Commissioners meeting. New terms need to be appointed. Joe, Jacob, Beth and Todd – Kevin will reach out about new terms. If anyone is interested in the Noxious Weed Board Committee, the application is open and two spots are available.

Review 2025 Noxious Weed List

Ben Hanna – We need to keep an eye on Scotch Thistle. It’s nearly everywhere in the County. It’s an A rated Noxious Weed right now, but we might have to list it as a B rated species if we don’t get a handle on it.

Dan Son – From an enforcement standpoint, what is being done?

Kevin Moriarty – A rated species are the only ones we would go after. B rated species the County usually puts in the cost share program. If property owners are completely unresponsive, that’s when it goes down the enforcement route. The County is not out seeking violations and does not have the capacity to do so.

Dan Son – If I'm out and see some of these key species, should I send a location and property address? A letter could be sent to the property owner from the County.

Kevin Moriarty – Agreed that this would be good, and we could create a map to track where the noxious weeds are.

Ben Hanna – There is White Top in Terrebonne along the irrigation district. Courtesy letters could be sent to the irrigation districts stating the weed species that are present.

Beth Johnson – There's a lot of Scotch Thistle in Sisters near the Best Western. There's not any on the National Forest yet. The Ventenata grass might be one that we look at dropping to a B rated noxious weed. There's a lot in Jefferson County and not quite as much in Deschutes. Crook County also has a lot of Ventenata grass. Currently found in Deschutes County.

Kevin Moriarty – We could make a watch list to keep an eye on some of these species. Once we have a quorum present, we will be able to vote on these things.

Ben Hanna – Wild Carrot, we need to keep an eye on this species. There are locations close to Jefferson County/Deschutes County line that have some Wild Carrot.

Dan Son – recommend Ribbon grass leave on B list.

Outreach Material:

There will be a Central Oregon Agricultural Show in late March on Friday and Saturday (27th?). County Natural Resources staff will be looking in the SWAG items in the next few weeks to bring to these events. Outreach with single flyers for other species (Hawk Weed). The High Desert Museum has a free day, and the Noxious Weed Wagon could park outside (February 22nd). The Noxious Weed Wagon needs chairs.

Central Oregon Agricultural Show – March 28th & 29th

Home & Garden Show

Rhubarb Festival (La Pine) – June 21st

Deschutes County Fair – July 30th – August 3rd

Upper Deschutes Watershed Council Deschutes River Cleanup – June 28th

Roundtable:

Ben Hanna – Met with the Forest Service and ODOT. The Forest Service has some State funding coming through this year. Met with ODOT about their regularly scheduled treatments. Getting the trucks ready to go for the season.

Dan Son – Working on project plans, updating them. ODA staff did grant reviews and made recommendations. The grant awards will be announced next week.

High Desert Museum – They will be finalizing the Noxious Weed Management plan soon so that it can go into the budget.

Lorena Brown – Funding is uncertain at this point. Everything is on pause right now. Moving forward with agreements right now just in case funds are unfrozen. Staff may look different going into the season and they don't have a truck to spray weeds.

Teresa Stovall – City of Bend did get a lot of complaints about noxious weeds during the weed season.

Meeting Schedule Next meeting is March 13th, 2025. In person, Deschutes County Road Department – 61150 SE 27th Street, Bend, OR 97702 – Virtual option will be available.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Deschutes County encourages persons with disabilities to participate in all programs and activities. This event/location is accessible to people with disabilities. If you need accommodations to make participation possible, please call Kelli Candella (541) 322-7104 or send email to Kelli.Candella@deschutes.org