Kittitas County
2015 Preliminary Budget Narrative

Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>2013 Actual</th>
<th>2014 Budget</th>
<th>2015 Preliminary</th>
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WEED BOARD MISSION
It is the mission of the Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board to protect and preserve the agricultural lands and natural resources of the county from the degrading effects of exotic and invasive noxious weeds. The Board believes that the prevention of noxious weed infestations is the best approach both economically and environmentally. To realize this goal a comprehensive prevention and early intervention program will be advocated. By promoting communication with landowners, a cooperative and coordinated effort in the management of noxious weeds can be achieved by enhancing public awareness through educational efforts. In the event that voluntary compliance is not achieved the Board shall enforce control pursuant to RCW 17.04 and RCW 17.10.

WEED BOARD 2015 GOALS
The County Weed Board believes that weed control and prevention is best accomplished through education and public awareness. As in 2014, Weed Board staff will speak to agricultural producers, landowner groups, private and public agencies, and other groups. Noxious weed exhibits, tours, pamphlets, and news releases will also be used to create public awareness. During the growing season the Weed Inspectors will be at the forefront. Their task will be to educate the public to identify noxious weeds and to help landowners with pesticide and management decisions. The Weed Board will also continue to offer free use of backpack sprayers to the public.

The following class “A” noxious weeds have been found in Kittitas County and are designated for eradication by Chapter 16-750 WAC. These weeds are extremely limited in both quantity and distribution. Every known site is designated for treatment and eradication.

- Buffalogrub
- Velvetchief
- Wild Four O’clock
The following noxious weeds have been found in Kittitas County and are designated for control by Chapter 16-750 WAC. Usually these weeds are limited to specific areas and/or small populations. It is reasonable to assume that many infestations can be treated in 2015.

- Bugloss, Annual
- Bugloss, Common
- Butterfly Bush
- Common Catsear
- Dalmatian Toadflax
- Eurasian Watermilfoil
- Hawkweed, Orange
- Hawkweed, Yellow
- Hoary Alyssum
- Houndstongue
- Knotweed, Japanese
- Kochia
- Longspine Sandbur
- Oxeye Daisy
- Perennial Pepperweed
- Poison Hemlock
- Puncturevine
- Purple Loosestrife
- Rush Skeletonweed
- Saltcedar
- Scotch Broom
- Spotted Knapweed
- Sulfur Cinquefoil
- Tansy Ragwort
- Thistle, Musk
- Thistle, Scotch
- Wild Carrot
- Yellow Starthistle

The following class “B” and class “C” weeds are limited geographically in Kittitas County and/or exist in small populations. Because of this, control of these weeds will have a high priority with the Weed Board. It is a realistic task to monitor and control most populations of these weeds annually.

- Babysbreath
- Dodder
- Jointed Goatgrass
- Hairy Whitetop
- Hoary Alyssum
- Hoary Cress
- Knapweed, Meadow
- Knapweed, Russian
- Spiny Cocklebur
- Yellow Toadflax

The following class “C” weeds will be controlled in irrigated areas, areas adjacent to cropland, and along all rights-of-ways. In other areas, biological and preventive measures will be employed if possible.

- Absinth Wormwood
- Bull Thistle
- Canada Thistle
- Myrtle Spurge
- Perennial Sowthistle
- Scentless Mayweed
- St. Johnswort
- White Cockle

Public awareness, voluntary compliance, and prevention strategies will be sought with the following class “C” weeds however control will be required along rights-of-ways. As biological agents become available they will be employed.

- Common Groundsel
- Common Tansy
- Field Bindweed
- Yellow Flag Iris
The Weed Board will monitor the following non-designated weeds as potential threats in an effort to prevent noxious weed problems while still in their infancy.

- Chicory
- Common Mullein
- Common Teasel
- Corn Flower
- Curly-leaf Pondweed
- English Ivy
- Marestail
- Russian Thistle
- Western Salsify
- Western Water Hemlock

In the event a major, previously unknown infestation of weeds is discovered, the location, weed-type, and degree of infestation will be entered into the database. Control will begin when possible, based on the resources of the Weed Board and the landowner.

Since noxious weeds do not recognize boundaries, the weed board will encourage cooperation and the same level of control from all Kittitas County Weed Districts, the cities, federal and state landowners, and neighboring counties.

Although voluntary compliance by landowners is the primary objective of the Weed Board, enforcement protocol may be employed in cases of non-cooperation or expediency to destroy noxious weeds.

Because the Weed Board does not assess in any of the cities except for Ellensburg, weed control in those cities will be very limited. Control measures will be employed on very small populations of noxious weeds where eradication is feasible, and along rights-of-ways that are a source of seed to other areas of the county. In the case of larger infestations the Weed Board will exhibit a presence in the form of public awareness and education. In the City of Ellensburg, the Weed Board will work with private landowners, agencies, and City of Ellensburg Public Works and Parks Departments to control noxious weed populations.

WEED BOARD 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Public Awareness and Education

The Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board believes that prevention and education is the key to a successful noxious weed management program. The public needs to be aware of the detrimental effects of noxious weeds and must be able to identify new invaders so that control can take place when infestations are still small.

To help create public awareness of noxious weeds, the Weed Board uses portable displays, which were used at the Kittitas County Timothy Growers annual meeting, in the lobby of the Kittitas County Courthouse, at the WSU pesticide certification seminar, and at the Kittitas County Fair. We also took advantage of the local media and noxious weed related articles have appeared in local papers during the weed season. During the year the Weed Board staff gave technical advice to numerous landowners in person, over the telephone, and by mail. Thousands of informational pamphlets were distributed to people with concerns about noxious weed identification and control.
Agencies and Large Landowners
Weed Board representatives met with the regional heads of most state and federal landowners in Kittitas County. The meetings resulted in better communications between the Weed Board and agencies, allowing more efficient noxious weed control. The Weed Board Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator attended several meetings with private and public landowners, regulating agencies, resource managers, and environmental groups. These meetings have proven to be a valuable forum for the Weed Board to get noxious weed issues on the table and before some of the largest landowners in the county. These meetings resulted in major control efforts by Suncadia, Puget Sound Energy, Bonneville Power Administration, Western Pacific Timber, Plum Creek Timber, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Parks Commission, Washington State Department of Transportation, US Forest Service, and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

Work of Weed Inspectors
The Weed Board, through the work of the inspectors, sent out approximately 1000 notices to landowners within its jurisdiction and contacted over 3,000 landowners by telephone and in person. Nearly 90% of those contacted by the Weed Board have responded and controlled the noxious weeds on their property. The Weed Board provided technical information and brochures to hundreds of landowners who telephoned or stopped by the Weed Board office with questions, problems, and concerns. Seasonal Weed Inspectors are an integral part of the overall county weed program. The Weed Board Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator, and Lead Inspector have worked closely with the Inspectors this season in order to properly train and educate them about noxious weeds in Kittitas County.

Biological Control
The Weed Board collects, purchases, and releases biological control agents on noxious weeds throughout Kittitas County and maintains a database of release sites. The Weed Board made several releases of insects for control of noxious weeds this year in Kittitas County for musk thistle, knapweed, poison hemlock, Canada thistle and Dalmatian toadflax. Musk thistle seed head weevils have been distributed throughout northern Kittitas County and are having a significant impact on musk thistle seed production. They have also been observed on populations of Canada thistle. After several years of releasing bio-control agents, the county is seeing significant increases in insect populations throughout the county.

NOXIOUS WEEDS FOUND IN KITTITAS COUNTY
- **Dyers Woad**
  Dyers woad was first discovered in Washington in 1986 when it was found growing along the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks between Easton and Cle Elum in Kittitas County. The site was treated the following several years and no plants have been found 1992. Dyers Woad is considered eradicated from Kittitas County.
- **Velvetleaf**
  No velvetleaf plants have been observed since 2006. At this point velvetleaf is considered eradicated from Kittitas County but the Weed Board will continue to monitor the sites for several years as velvetleaf seeds can remain viable for up to fifteen years.
• **Bighead Knapweed**
Bighead knapweed considered eradicated from Kittitas County until an ornamental planting was discovered in 2012 and that site was immediately eradicated and no new infestations have been documented.

• **Wild Four O’clock**
A single wild four o’clock plant was discovered in the Yakima Canyon area of Kittitas County in 2010 and a subsequent search of an adjacent hay field produced approximately three acres of this Class A Noxious Weed in 2011. Control work began one week after the discovery and the significantly smaller population was treated again in 2012. In 2014 only a few plants were observed and treated.

• **Hoary Alyssum**
Hoary Alyssum was discovered at three sites in Kittitas County in 2012. All sites were promptly treated by Weed Board personnel. All three sites were treated again in 2013 and 2014 with much reduced populations each year.

• **Purple Loosestrife**
The Weed Board has worked closely with Grant County Public Utility District and Ginkgo State Park in controlling purple loosestrife infestations along the Columbia River. This work began in 2001 and continues today. An infestation near the Auvil Fruit orchard was large enough to warrant the use of biological control agents, which were collected and released by the Weed Board. The Yakima River system was surveyed as part of an annual program. Only a few small purple loosestrife sites remain on the Yakima River and all known sites were treated.

• **Tansy Ragwort**
The Weed Board has worked closely with the Cle Elum Ranger District on a handful of tansy ragwort sites over the past several years. All known sites were surveyed and most were treated. The only known tansy ragwort sites that weren’t chemically treated are located in the Little Naches area of the Naches Ranger District where they will not allow the Weed Board to spray. Those sites were all hand-pulled but continue to grow due to the perennial nature of the species.

• **Annual Bugloss**
All known annual bugloss infestations were treated and checked multiple times in an effort to prevent seed production.

• **Scotch Broom**
Scotch broom in Kittitas County is located primarily in the Upper County. Most known infestations were controlled including several found in Roslyn. Many sites are scheduled for treatment in the fall.

• **Oxeye Daisy**
The Weed Board is aggressively targeting oxeye daisy infestations throughout the County. Most significant populations exist in Upper County and many of the larger sites were treated. Unfortunately we have observed a steady influx of oxeye daisy into the lower county via irrigation canals.

• **Orange Hawkweed**
The most severe infestations of orange hawkweed are found near Hyak on Snoqualmie Pass, which were treated with the help of WSDA Grant funds. Other infestations growing in lawns in the Roslyn/Cle Elum area have been significantly reduced.
• **Diffuse and Spotted Knapweed**
Diffuse knapweed and spotted knapweed are two of the most widespread noxious weeds in Kittitas County. The Weed Board is working to prevent further spread of these weeds through education, prevention and employment of biological control agents. Key to the success of this program is getting the rights-of-ways sprayed. The Weed Board worked with various rights-of-way owners in order to control infestations along roadways.

• **Meadow Knapweed**
The Weed Board first organized meadow knapweed control efforts with the U.S. Forest Service and private landowners in the Liberty area in 2001. In 2003 several major infestations were discovered in the Teanaway area and control efforts began that same year. The Weed Board continues to release bio-control agents on meadow knapweed infestations throughout the county and treat satellite infestations as new sites are discovered each year.

• **Russian Knapweed**
The Weed Board is working with DOT to control Russian knapweed infestations located along Interstate 90, west of Vantage, and with State Parks to control Russian knapweed infestations south of Vantage. Smaller infestations in other areas of the county were treated by Weed Board staff and private landowners. Unfortunately, Russian knapweed continues to spread on US Army lands in Kittitas County.

• **Kochia**
The Weed Board aggressively pursued control of Kochia, primarily along roadsides and railways. Kittitas County is one of the few counties that require Kochia to be controlled which is quite obvious when traveling through neighboring counties.

• **Perennial Pepperweed**
Small satellite infestations of perennial pepperweed are found throughout the County and are being actively treated by the Weed Board.

• **Puncturevine**
Many known puncturevine infestations within the Weed Board’s jurisdiction were treated with pre-emergent herbicides in the spring and all new sites were treated in the summer.

• **Longspine Sandbur**
Longspine sandbur continues to show up in isolated patches along the Columbia River. The Weed Board actively surveyed for the plant and targeting longspine sandbur found while conducting purple loosestrife control along the Columbia River.

• **Musk Thistle**
In Kittitas County musk thistle infests approximately 1000 acres and is spread out over 32,000 acres in 12 drainages. Most of it is found in the mountains northeast of Ellensburg. From there, it has spread south and west into the Fairview area and into Weed Districts #3 and #4. Much of the musk thistle in these areas was treated in the summer or fall. The Weed Board recognizes the enormity of the problem and in the best interest of the county has helped landowners in these areas treat musk thistle with Weed Board equipment and staff. Musk thistle seed head weevil populations appear to have declined over the past few years and as a result, some remote sites have experienced a musk thistle population increase.
• **Scotch Thistle**
  All known Scotch thistle infestations under Weed Board jurisdiction were treated and rechecked several times during the season in an effort to prevent seed production.

• **Dalmatian Toadflax**
  Much of the Dalmatian toadflax near Vantage and in the Upper County west of Bullfrog was treated and the Weed Board undertook an aggressive toadflax-spraying program in areas under its jurisdiction and informed DOT, State Parks, and Burlington Northern of serious infestations in need of treatment. Bio-control agents for Dalmatian toadflax were released on some of the more severe infestations.

• **Sulfur Cinquefoil**
  Sulfur cinquefoil that occurs in the Teanaway area was mapped and landowners were notified of its presence.

• **Houndstongue**
  Houndstongue found west of Ellensburg was sprayed early in the season and hand pulled later in the season. Two severe infestations in Yakima County, near the Kittitas County line, were discovered in 2004 and an intercounty cooperative was established with the Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board in order to prevent further spread into Kittitas County.

• **Poison Hemlock**
  All known poison hemlock infestations found in the Thorp, Fairview, Cle Elum, and Brick Mill areas were treated.

• **Salt Cedar**
  The only known Salt Cedar plants now known to exist in Kittitas County are intentionally planted ornamental plants, mostly within the city of Ellensburg. The Weed Board continues to map known infestations but will not pursue intentional plantings as they are permitted by the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board.

• **Canada Thistle**
  Canada thistle, one of the most wide-spread noxious weeds in Kittitas County, is a high priority in the irrigated areas of the county and many infestations were controlled. Most Counties do not require control of Canada thistle but because of the concern to farmers, the plant receives much attention in Kittitas County, requiring a great amount of our time and effort during July and August.

• **Japanese Knotweed**
  Several Japanese knotweed infestations were treated and a few new sites were discovered. All sites were targeted for fall treatment by Weed Board personnel because this weed is very difficult to control and very destructive once established. The Weed Board feels confident that we can eradicate all known Japanese knotweed sites within the next five years.

• **Hairy Whitetop and Hoary Cress**
  The Weed Board stepped up efforts to control these rapidly spreading noxious weeds, requiring control along rights-of-ways and pastures.

• **St. Johnswort**
  Several infestations found in the Upper County and along forest roads were controlled and the Weed Board stepped up control efforts on Dept. of Transportation rights-of-ways.
• **Wild Carrot**
Wild Carrot appears to be spreading at an alarming rate, primarily in pastures and fields. The Weed Board has significantly stepped up control efforts and is conducting several test plots to determine effective control methods to pass on to landowners.

• **Yellow Toadflax**
Yellow toadflax is proving to be a very difficult weed to control. The Weed Board contacted several landowners offering to control this weed and found a handful of new sites due to the fact the Inspectors were working in the Weed Districts later in the season when this plant’s flowers become visible.

• **Scentless Mayweed**
Scentless mayweed has become more of a concern with farmers and ranchers in Weed Districts #3 and #4 so control efforts have been increased, resulting in significant reductions in populations.

• **Field Bindweed, Common Tansy, and Absinth Wormwood**
Field bindweed, common tansy, and absinth wormwood seem to have filled their niche and have not caused any serious economic or environmental damage in Kittitas County. Therefore, not much effort went into their control except when found in significant populations. When found along rights-of-ways they were sprayed in the normal course of roadside spray programs.

• **Phragmites**
All known phragmites occurring in Kittitas County has been shown to be native genotypes, therefore not requiring concern. Samples from any new site are promptly sent to WSDA for genetic analysis.

• **Yellow Flag Iris**
Yellow Flag Iris was added to the class “C” list in 2004. The Weed Board continues to survey and map the extent of the plant to determine an appropriate course of action. At this point, requiring control of Yellow Flag Iris would require cutting efforts toward other noxious weeds. Control of Yellow Flag Iris was only sought from State Agencies.

• **Russian Thistle, Marestail, and Cornflower**
Russian thistle, marestail, and cornflower are on the Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board’s monitor list and have been observed spreading along several roads in the county. Although not on the Washington State weed list, these weeds have been added to the Kittitas County Weed Districts’ weed lists, allowing control before these weeds have a chance to significantly spread.

• **Other Monitored Noxious Weeds**
Though not on the Washington State noxious weed list, these weeds are being closely monitored as a potential weed problem in the future. Several of these weeds have demonstrated all the qualities of a noxious weed and many have been placed on weed lists in other states.

- Chicory
- Common Mullein
- Common Teasel
- English Ivy
- Western Salsify
- Western Water Hemlock
STATUTORILY REQUIRED SERVICES
RCW 17.10 requires that each activated county noxious weed control board shall employ or otherwise provide a weed coordinator whose duties are fixed by the board but which shall include inspecting land to determine the presence of noxious weeds, offering technical assistance and education, and developing a program to achieve compliance with the weed law. Weed board employment practices shall comply with county personnel policies and the weed coordinator shall obtain a pest consultant license, pesticide operator license, and the necessary endorsements on the license as required by law. Each activated county noxious weed control board shall meet with a quorum at least quarterly.

SUPPORTING SERVICES
The Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board provides many services that are not required by law but have a benefit to the residents and landowners of Kittitas County. These services include weed identification training and on-site assessments of plant populations, loaning of herbicide back pack sprayers, providing educational seminars to organizations, agencies, and homeowners associations, and providing pesticide recommendations for vegetation control. The County Weed Board offers a cost share program in which the Weed Board will, with landowner permission, control all Class A Noxious Weeds, many Class B Noxious Weeds, and almost any noxious weed that was previously non-existent in Kittitas County at no expense to the landowner. The Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board contracts with the five County Weed Districts to inspect those lands for the presence of noxious weeds, offer technical assistance and education to landowners in those Weed Districts, and achieve compliance with Washington State weed law. The Weed Board has many cooperative agreements and partnerships with state and federal agencies, cooperative weed management areas, and neighboring county weed boards for the purpose of preventing the introduction of and controlling noxious weeds in Kittitas County.

REQUIRED TRAINING
All employees of the Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board are required to possess a WSDA Public Operator Pesticide License with endorsements in Laws and Safety, Rights of Ways, Turf and Ornamentals, and Agricultural Weeds. Employees are required to attend training seminars in order to earn credits toward renewal of their pesticide license.
2015 BUDGET ISSUES
Expenditures
Additional employee hours and salaries will require expenditure increases in a few expenditure categories.

2015 Expenditures Adjustments:

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Revenues
Additional operating costs will be passed on through annual contracts with Weed Districts as contract rates, which are calculated at actual cost. This allows all five Weed Districts to afford the same level of service throughout the County. An increase in contract hours, primarily with BPA and City of Ellensburg, will show as an increase in 2015 Weed Board revenues.

2015 Revenue Adjustments:

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The 2015 Budget of the Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board shows revenues and expenditures balanced at $375,000.
Please use one form for each request

Kittitas County
Asset Request
Budget Year 2015

Fund Department Noxious Weed

Budget Account Number 123 53563

Amount $ 2000

This form is to be used for any piece of furniture, office equipment, machinery, software or computers, etc that has a value that exceeds $500.00. The amounts on this form justify the amounts indicated in your budget under the 535 minor 564 capital accounts.

Type of Equipment: Personal Computer
New or Replacement: New

Justification for Request: Old computer is beyond rotation schedule

Auditor’s notes: 535 Minor □
564 Capital □
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Report Format: 562
Transaction status: 1
Rounding to Whole Dollars
**KITTITAS COUNTY FY 2**

JMP - PRELIMINARY DEPT EXPENSE

January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014

Rounding to Whole Dollars

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**Report Final Totals**

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