

2011 Noxious Weed Control Strategy / Work Plan Snohomish County Noxious Weed Control Board

Approach

In the past most weeds had equal status. Actions taken for Class A, Class B Designates, Class B Non-designates and Class C weeds were fairly equal. Property owners were contacted, letters sent, and follow-up became difficult due the number of properties involved. There have been a few near enforcements, but primarily the program has been voluntary, and for the most part, relied on good will and education.

Exceptions to this are when the control efforts were funded by grants or contracts for control of specific noxious and invasive weeds. Over the years we have become more involved in control work. The Board has taken on controlling Spartina, knotweed, purple loosestrife, and giant hogweed. Roadside control work has always been part the program and for the past 5 years mitigation site weed control has been added to the Board's on the ground control efforts. All of these programs have been successful and a series of successes are in the wings. Except for administration these programs have been funded primarily by grants and contracts.

2011 Strategy

- 1) Prioritize noxious weeds by possibility of success in removing known sites of Class A and Class B noxious weeds from the County. The current list of noxious weeds would be ranked by Class and population. Class A weeds taking priority over Class B weeds. All below listed weeds have populations of which known populations could be eradicated.
 - a. Class A List
 - i. Giant hogweed
 - ii. Spartina – all
 - iii. All new discoveries and complaints
 - b. Class B Designates
 - i. Common Reed
 - ii. Common fennel
 - iii. Policeman's helmet
 - iv. Diffuse knapweed
 - v. Meadow knapweed
 - vi. Spotted knapweed
 - vii. Parrotfeather
 - viii. Perennial pepperweed
 - ix. All new discoveries and complaints
 - c. Class B Non-designates
 - i. Gorse

- 2) Attempt to broaden on the ground control work for specific species with emphasis on the Priority List to enhance eradication efforts:
 - a. Offer services to municipalities
 - b. Expand work with the County for roadside and mitigation work
 - c. Expand effort when populations are close to eradication by giving owners assistance in eradicating last known populations

- 3) Continue to pursue grant and contract funding to work on controlling wide spread problems beyond the Boards capacity to fund internally:
 - a. Spartina
 - b. Knotweed
 - c. Roadside
 - d. Mitigation
 - e. Purple loosestrife

- 4) Increase survey for new invaders and sites previously unknown for noxious weeds on the Priority List:
 - a. Map locations, contact owners, start control projects if necessary
 - b. Share survey information with the State Noxious Weed Control Board, HWS, Invasive Species Council and others

- 5) Increase productivity by using the technology that has been accumulated:
 - a. Laptop and GPS in survey/owner contact/enforcement vehicle
 - b. Gain higher proficiency in the use of ArcView 9.3
 - c. Utilize fully the 3Trimble GPS units
 - d. Work to integrate the technology into our record keeping system

- 6) Keep Education as a top priority by putting resources toward presentation to groups and events such as the Flower and Garden Show in Seattle, garden clubs, local fairs and festivals, and the Evergreen State Fair. Education also includes recommendations for herbicide use and other control advice.

- 7) Maintain contacts with upland weed property owners with noxious weeds. Monitor and make owner contacts as budget and time allow.
 - a. Tansy ragwort
 - b. Poison hemlock
 - c. Knotweed
 - d. Thistles

Approved 4/14/2011