

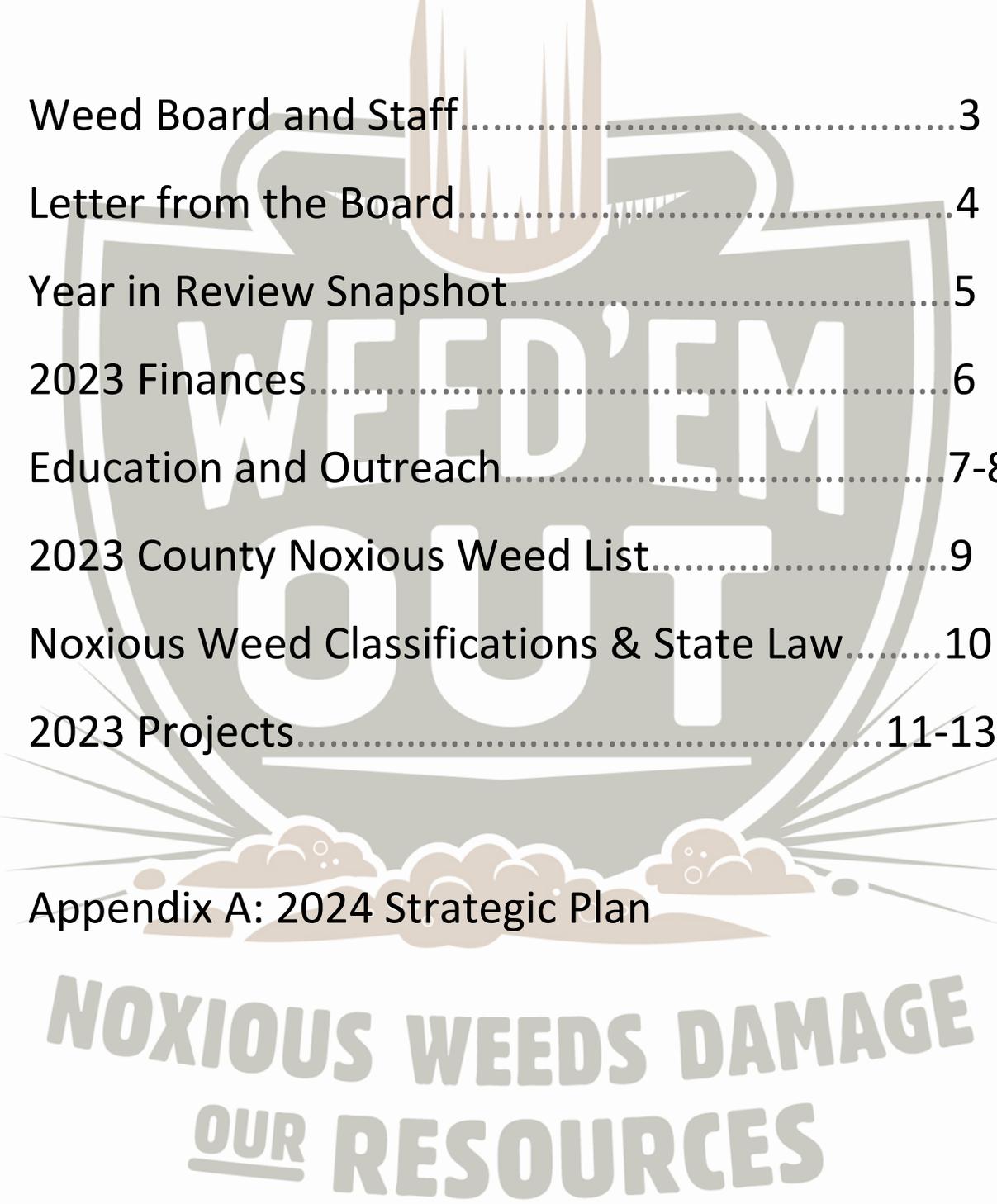
# Pend Oreille County Weed Board



Common Bugloss, *Anchusa officinalis*, Class B Designate Weed. Photo by MARY MALONE, Pend Oreille Conservation District. This perennial weed has a deep fleshy tap root making it difficult to control and the seed has a soil life of 50 years.

## 2023 Annual Report

# Table of Contents:



Weed Board and Staff.....	3
Letter from the Board.....	4
Year in Review Snapshot.....	5
2023 Finances.....	6
Education and Outreach.....	7-8
2023 County Noxious Weed List.....	9
Noxious Weed Classifications & State Law.....	10
2023 Projects.....	11-13
Appendix A: 2024 Strategic Plan	

# Weed Board and Staff

**2023 Updates:** The Weed Board added a full-time lead field inspector in 2023 and had one seasonal field inspector. The goal to have licensed, seasonal staff continues to be a struggle, so the goal for 2024 is to combine the education/outreach position with a field assistant for another year-round employee. Dyana James, our long-time data & finance specialist retired at the end of 2023, so we added Paula Martin to the team as our new finance & office assistant in December. We also added one new board member, Tom Pulford, for District 1.

### Weed Board Members:

- Tom Pulford, District 1
- Wes Bailey, Chair, District 2
- David Hoisington, Vice-chair, District 3
- Pamela Thomure, District 4
- VACANT, Dist. 5, Board Member



Pictured from left: Wes Bailey, David Hoisington, Pam Thomure & Tom Pulford

### Weed Board Staff:

- Loretta Nichols, Coordinator
- Mary Malone, Manager of Program Operations, shifted to Pend Oreille Conservation District January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024
- Tommy Crossman, Lead Field Inspector
- Dyana James, Data & Finance Specialist, Retired December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- Paula Martin, Finance & Office Assistant



Pictured from left: Dyana James, Loretta Nichols & Mary Malone



Pictured from left: Tommy Crossman & Paula Martin

Greetings.

Noxious weeds pose a serious threat to Washington’s agricultural, natural, and human resources. In 1969, our state legislature enacted RCW 17.10 establishing a set of laws to address the problem and establishing State and County Noxious Weed Control Boards. The weed laws spell out the responsibility of all property owners, private and public, to control and eradicate noxious weeds. They also create the government infrastructure (Noxious Weed Control Boards) needed to educate citizens and ensure the laws are respected. The purpose of the Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Board is to administer the county’s noxious weed program, which includes determining the presence of noxious weeds, offering technical assistance and education, and developing a program to achieve compliance with the weed laws.

Originally, our weed laws focused on terrestrial weeds. However, aquatic weeds now pose just as serious a hazard to the county’s natural resources. Over the last several years, significant time and resources have been expended by the POC Noxious Weed Board in overseeing and administering grants and agreements for the removal of aquatic noxious weeds from the Pend Oreille River, i.e. flowering Rush, yellow flag iris and purple Loosestrife. Combating aquatic noxious weeds is very challenging and expensive. The current infestation of flowering rush in the Pend Oreille River and continued reintroduction from upstream sources contributes to this problem. The Weed Board will continue to review data, examine funding sources, and control options annually to assess the effectiveness of the current treatment protocols. The Weed Board and its staff is committed to continuing measures to reach various community members through outreach and educational resources to help prevent further spread of flowering rush in the Pend Oreille River system and will continue to work with agencies upstream to reduce new introductions of invasive noxious weeds.

Attached is the Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Control Board 2023 Annual Report. The work described in this report represents just a small portion of the work done by a small but dedicated group of individuals. There is much more that needs to be done. Community involvement is a vital key to our success. To that end, we encourage you to read this report, educate yourselves on noxious weeds, and help us to better serve the needs of Pend Oreille County.

We welcome and encourage your feedback and support.

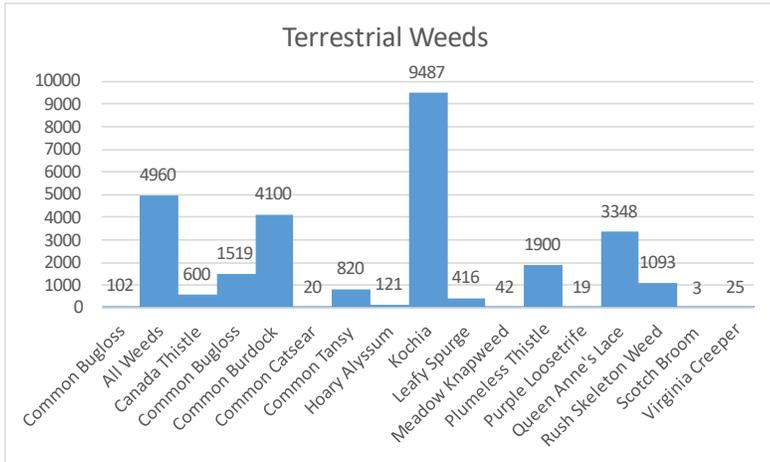
Sincerely,

Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Board

# Year in Review Snapshot:

TOTAL NUMBER OF WEEDS TREATED IN 2023 (Terrestrial):  
28,575

Primary Weeds Treated:



**Majority of weeds treated by staff using a backpack sprayer**

\*All Weeds include infestations of various weeds treated at same time on SCL, PUD & USFS properties: Canada Thistle, St. Johns Wort, Common Tansy, Common Mullein, Common Bugloss & Sulfur cinquefoil.

\*\*Through various contracted projects, some non-mandatory noxious weeds are sprayed by Weed Board staff.

## AQUATIC WEEDS

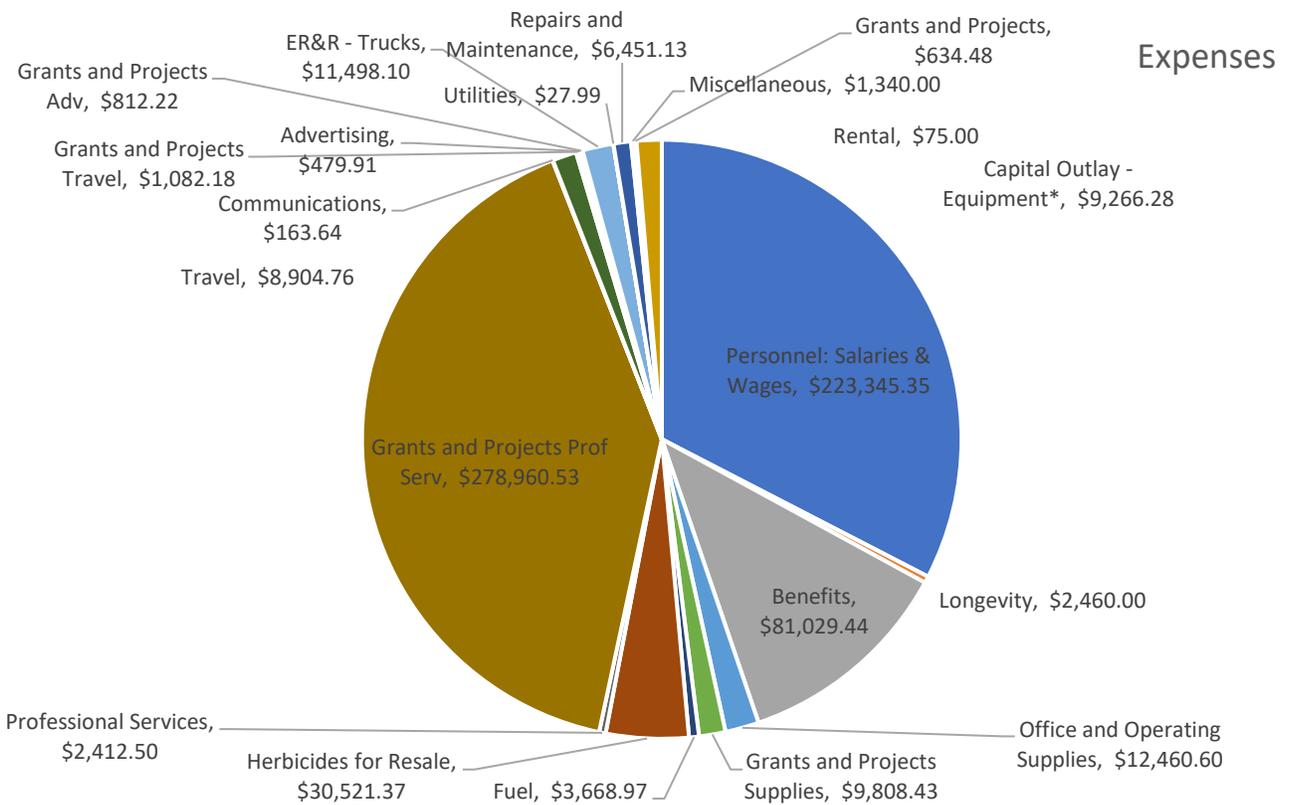
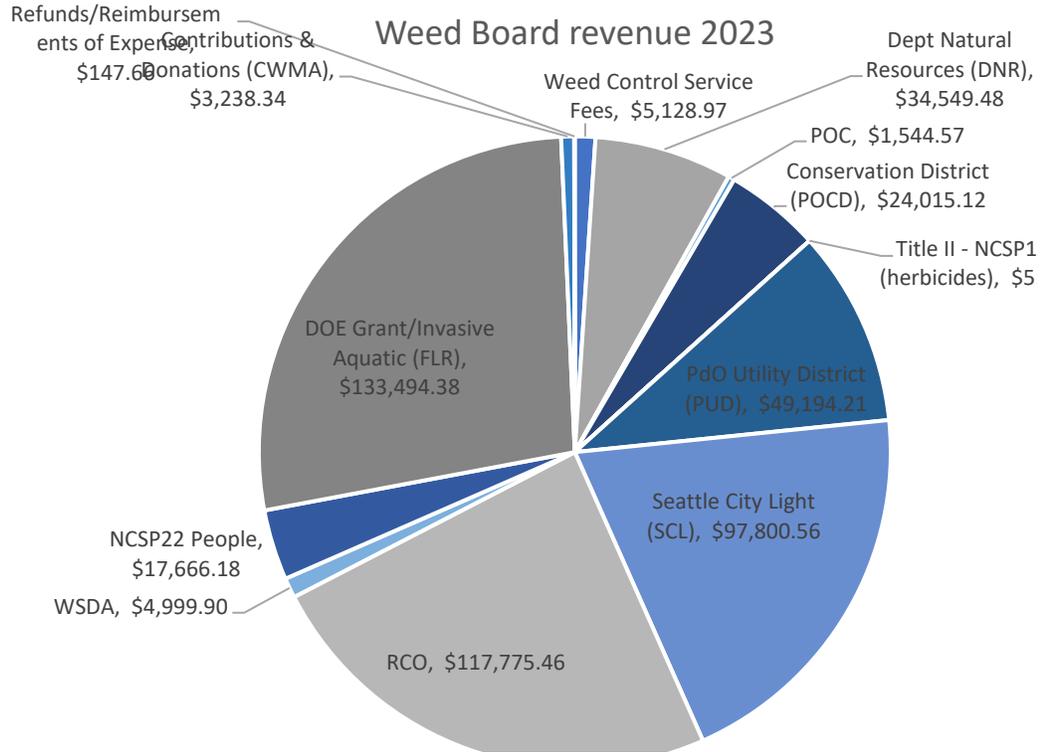
Flowering Rush in the Pend Oreille River is one of the Weed Board's biggest challenges as it is a Class A weed, deemed for eradication. Using contractors for diver assisted suction harvesting, 83,851 pounds of FLR was removed from the river in 2023, while the herbicide contractor sprayed up to 30 acres of FLR & yellow flag Iris.

In addition, Weed Board staff treated .597 acres of FLR, .003 acres of purple loosestrife, and .682 acres of yellow flag iris. We also released additional biocontrol this year to help control the purple loosestrife population at Fan Lake.



Photos by MARY MALONE, POC Weed Board

# FY23 Finances:



## Education & Outreach

**Neighborhood Cost Share: The 2023 NCS Workshop was held both virtually and in person on March 11**

**Attendees: 80 in person, 29 virtual  
418 educational handouts were distributed at this event!**

**Aquatic Workshop: The 2023 Aquatic Workshop was held virtually and in person at the Camas Center on July 14**

**Attendees: 58 in person, 13 virtual  
131 educational handouts were distributed!**



*Aquatic Workshop Outdoor Session with Scott Jungblom from PUD*

The NCS Workshop and the Aquatic Workshop are the two largest events hosted by the POC Weed Board each year. The NCS workshop launches the cost-share program for landowners, providing up to 50% cost-share to help them manage weeds more effectively (see the 2023 projects section at the end of this report for more information). In addition, the Weed Board partners with the Pend Oreille County Public Utility District for its aquatic cost-share program. This year, the Pend Oreille Conservation District partnered with the Weed Board and PUD for the Aquatic Workshop to talk about water quality, salmonid recovery, bank stabilization and more.

**The Weed Board was also able to host and attend a number of additional events this year, thanks in part to a grant from WSDA, and partnerships with the Pacific Northwest Invasive Plant Council and the Newport Community Garden Committee, among others.**

**April 21, 2023, Calibration Workshop:** Weed Board staff hosted our first annual Calibration Workshop, an outdoor event in the parking lot of our shop to discuss the importance of calibrating equipment, tank mix procedure, importance of water testing, proper application, spray nozzles, spray pattern, cleaning equipment, and more, with a live demo of backpack sprayer calibration. Despite the rainy weather, we had nearly 20 people attend this event.



**April 28, 2023, Garden Invasives Class:**

Weed Board staff held a one-hour class at the Newport



Community Garden, located behind the library. The garden was implemented by a committee made up of partners from the Library, Friends of the Library, Conservation District and WSU Extension as an educational space for the community. While only about a dozen people attended this talk, it was a great conversation with a lot of question and answers. Thirty handouts were distributed to attendees.

## Education & Outreach (Cont.)



**May 20, 2023, Renaissance Fair:** The Weed Board tabled for the first time at the local Renaissance Fair at Newport City Park this year. Staff interacted with approximately 50 people. While the Weed Board didn't specifically "fit in" at this event, many of the people we interacted with had not heard of the Weed Board previously and were curious about what we do. So we were getting the word out to previously unreached people. There were 76 educational materials distributed to attendees (Toxic plant books, Garden Wise books, brochures, etc.)

**June 24, 2023, Forest and Rangeland Owners Field Day:** This event, hosted by the Kalispel Tribe of Indians in partnership with WSU, DNR and others, was a full day of topics related to improving forest health, decreasing risk from fire, improving habitat, decreasing noxious/ invasive weeds and more. Weed Board staff tabled for the day, interacting with approximately 70 people, most of whom are performing some sort of work related to improving their forest and/or rangeland. Staff also did two talks throughout the day on the most common weeds landowners are likely to find in their forest or rangeland (with live weeds to show them) and answered questions regarding control methods. There were 86 educational materials distributed to attendees (Toxic plant books, brochures, weed ID cards, etc.)



**August 11, 2023, EDRR Training:** This event, in partnership with the Pacific Northwest Invasive Plant Council, was a 3-hour training where participants learned how to identify invasive plants, how to record basic data and how to report findings on EDDMapS, a national early detection reporting system used by most federal, state and county agencies. Staff and partners brought several different species of aquatic and terrestrial weeds for participants to get a hands-on look at some of the problem weeds in Pend Oreille County. Approximately 20 people attended this training, with 30 educational handouts distributed.

**August 17-20, 2023, County Fair:** The Weed Board puts together a themed display each year, manning a booth at the County Fair. This year's display won an award! 252 handouts were distributed to fairgoers this year, a bit slower than previous years likely due to area wildfires and smoke.



# 2023 Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed List

\*Noxious weeds designated for mandatory control currently found growing in Pend Oreille County\*  
 (See next page for Class descriptions and Washington weed law information)

## CLASS A NOXIOUS WEEDS



**Bighead Knapweed**  
*Centaurea Macrocephala*



**Clary Sage**  
*Salvia Sclarea*



**Flowering Rush**  
*Butomus Umbellatus*



**Vochin Knapweed**  
*Centaurea Nigrescens*

## CLASS B NOXIOUS WEEDS

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| ANNUAL BUGLOSS                        | <i>Lycopsis arvensis</i>  |
| BLACK KNAPWEED                        | <i>Centaurea nigra</i>  |
| BUTTERFLY BUSH                        | <i>Buddleja davidii</i>   |
| COMMON BUGLOSS                        | <i>Anchusa officianalis</i>                                     |
| COMMON REED                           | <i>Phragmites australis</i>                                     |
| EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL                 | <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>                                    |
| KNOTWEEDS, giant, Japanese & Bohemian | <i>Fallopia sachalinense, F. cuspidatum &amp; F. x bohémica</i> |
| HERB ROBERT                           | <i>Geranium robertianum</i>                                     |
| KOCHIA                                | <i>Bassia scoparia</i>  |
| LEAFY SPURGE                          | <i>Euphorbia virgata</i>  |
| LOOSESTRIFE, garden                   | <i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>                                      |
| LOOSESTRIFE, purple & wand            | <i>Lythrum salicaria, L. virgatum</i>                           |
| MEADOW KNAPWEED                       | <i>Centaurea × gerstlaueri</i>                                  |
| MUSK THISTLE                          | <i>Carduus nutans</i>   |
| MYRTLE SPURGE                         | <i>Euphorbia myrsinities</i>                                    |
| PERENNIAL PEPPERWEED                  | <i>Lepidium latifolium</i>                                      |
| PLUMELESS THISTLE                     | <i>Carduus acanthoides</i>                                      |
| POLICEMAN'S HELMET                    | <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>                                   |
| RUSH SKELETONWEED                     | <i>Chondrilla juncea</i>  |
| SALT CEDAR                            | <i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>                                      |
| SCOTCH BROOM                          | <i>Cytisus scoparius</i>  |
| SCOTCH THISTLE                        | <i>Onopordum acanthium</i>                                      |
| SPURGE LAUREL                         | <i>Daphne laureola</i>  |
| TANSY RAGWORT                         | <i>Senecio jacobaea</i>   |
| VIPER'S BUGLOSS                       | <i>Echium vulgare</i>   |
| YELLOW STAR THISTLE                   | <i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>                                   |



Photo by MARY MALONE, POC Weed Board

*Eurasian Milfoil is Class B Noxious Weed designated for mandatory control only in lakes in the County, not in the Pend Oreille River pictured here.*

## CLASS C NOXIOUS WEEDS

- |                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| BABYSBREATH                     | <i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>      |
| BUFFALOBUR                      | <i>Solanum rostratum</i>          |
| COMMON CATSEAR                  | <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>       |
| ENGLISH IVY (4 cultivars)       | <i>Hedera helix, H. hibernica</i> |
| WILD CARROT (QUEEN ANNE'S LACE) | <i>Daucus carota</i>              |
| YELLOW FLAG IRIS                | <i>Iris pseudacorus</i>           |

# Washington State Weed Classifications and Law:

**Class A Weeds:** Non-native species whose distribution in Washington is still limited. Preventing new infestations and eradicating existing infestations are the highest priority. Eradication of all Class A plants is required by law.

**Class B Weeds:** Non-native species presently limited to portions of the state. Species are designated for required control in regions where they are not yet widespread. Preventing new infestations in these areas is high priority. In regions where a Class B species is already abundant, control is decided at the local level, with containment as the primary goal.

**Class C Weeds:** Noxious weeds that are typically widespread in WA or are of special interest to the state's agricultural industry. The Class C status allows county weed boards to provide education or technical consultation.



Photo by MARY MALONE, POC Weed Board

---

**According to state law, it is the responsibility of landowners and managers to control weeds on their property, and the Weed Board's responsibility to ensure that weeds are controlled at least to minimum standards.**

---

## RCW [17.10.140](#)

### **Owner's duty to control spread of noxious weeds.**

- (1) Except as is provided under subsection (2) of this section, every owner must perform or cause to be performed those acts as may be necessary to:
  - (a) Eradicate all class A noxious weeds;
  - (b) Control and prevent the spread of all class B noxious weeds designated for control in that region within and from the owner's property; and
  - (c) Control and prevent the spread of all class B and class C noxious weeds listed on the county weed list as locally mandated control priorities within and from the owner's property.
- (2) Every owner of forestlands classified under RCW [17.10.240](#)(2), or meeting the definition of forestlands contained in RCW [17.10.240](#), must perform or cause to be performed those acts as may be necessary to ...

## RCW [17.10.090](#)

### **State noxious weed list—Selection of weeds for control by county board.**

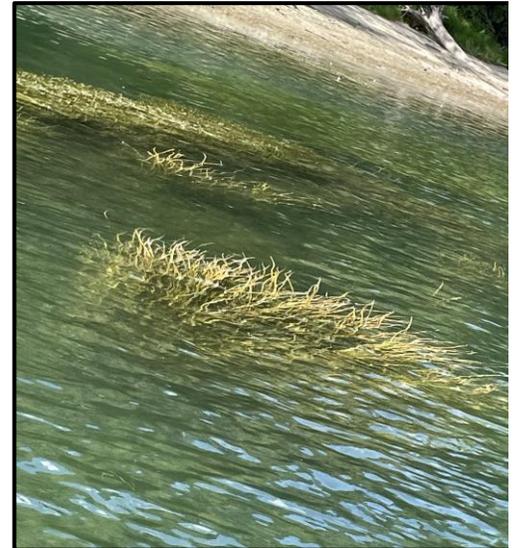
- (1) Each county noxious weed control board shall, within ninety days of the adoption of the state noxious weed list from the state noxious weed control board and following a hearing, select those weeds from the class C list and those weeds from the class B list not designated for control in the noxious weed control region in which the county lies that it finds necessary to be controlled in the county.
- (2) The weeds thus selected and all class A weeds and those class B weeds that have been designated for control in the noxious weed control region in which the county lies shall be classified within that county as noxious weeds, and those weeds comprise the county noxious weed list.
- (3) Nothing in this chapter limits a county noxious weed control board, or other branch of county or city government, from conducting education, outreach, or other assistance regarding plant species not included on the state noxious weed list if the county or city determines that the plant species causes localized risk or concern.

## 2023 Projects:

The total project cost for both the Box and Boundary reservoirs was \$311,540.76 with a total of 83,851 pounds of flowering rush removed.

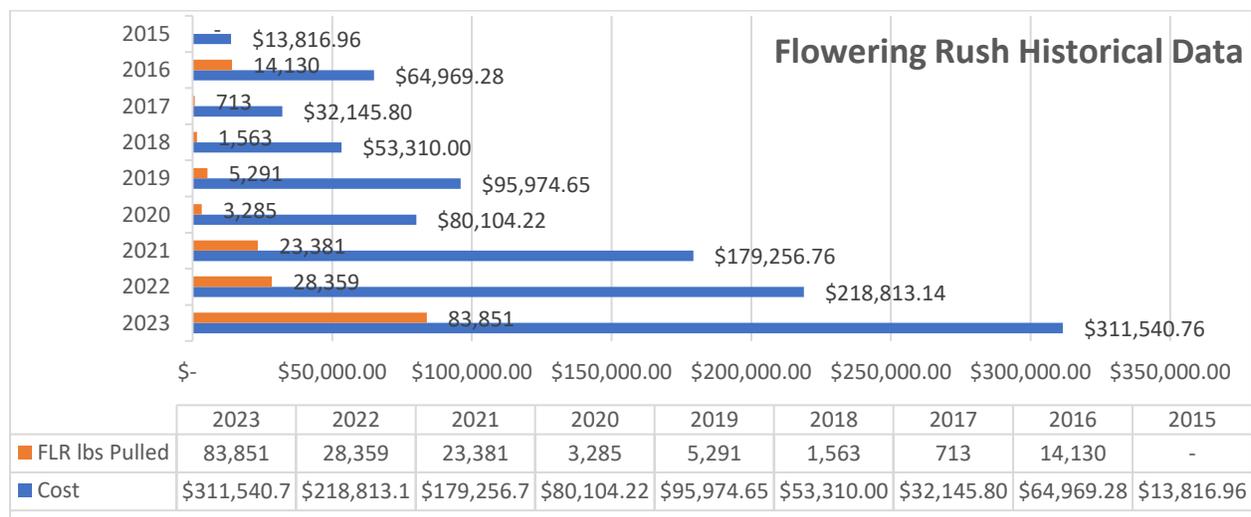
Department of Ecology, Seattle City Light, Pend Oreille PUD and Recreation Conservation Office all provided funding to the Weed Board in 2023 used primarily in the Box Canyon area of the Pend Oreille River (from the Washington state line, north to Box Canyon Dam). The focus was primarily flowering rush, as it is a Class A noxious weed as noted earlier in this report. Other aquatic weeds targeted included yellow flag iris and purple loosestrife.

This project has been a challenge as the ideal goal of this project is to eradicate flowering rush. Three main objectives of this project are to travel the shoreline by boat collecting GPS data points, while at the same time treating the shoreline for flowering rush infestations with imazapyr herbicide, applied by backpack sprayer; and to hire contractors to collect GPS data and apply DASH (diver assisted suction harvesting) treatment to the in-water flowering rush, and an aquatic herbicide applicator to assist with shoreline infestations. Aquatic invasive species are expensive and difficult to control, and the flowering rush is proven to be more challenging as it is difficult to control in water sites with herbicide, manual removal is also difficult due to the root rhizomes. A total of 82,687 pounds of flowering rush was removed from the Box Canyon reservoir in 2023. It is a priority to survey and control flowering rush at high use boat launches yearly to prevent the spread of this invasive plant that will have a negative impact on fish and wildlife habitats and recreational activities on the Pend Oreille River system.



Flowering rush in the Pend Oreille River.  
Photo by MARY MALONE,  
POC Weed Board

The bar chart below shows by year flowering rush expenses and pounds of plant material removed from the Pend Oreille River.



## 2023 Projects, Continued:

**Seattle City Light** provided funding for the Boundary Reservoir project area, located north (downstream) of Box Canyon Dam. Treatment included 1,164 pounds of flowering rush removed using DASH. Also treated were infestations of yellow flag iris and purple loosestrife. A full survey was done by Weed Board staff north (downstream) of the Boundary Dam to the Canadian border, and no flowering rush was found.

The Weed Board field staff additionally treated and surveyed for a number of terrestrial invasive weeds under both the PUD and SCL agreements, including Canada thistle, common burdock, common cocklebur, sulfur cinquefoil, spotted knapweed, common tansy, common mullein, reed canarygrass, leafy spurge, daphne spurge laurel, plumeless thistle, hawkweed complex, bighead knapweed, vochin knapweed, Scotch broom and Queen Anne's lace (wild carrot).

**Neighborhood Cooperative Cost Share:** The Pend Oreille County Weed Board was able to give assistance to County residents through the Neighborhood Cooperative Cost-Share program that has been available from the Weed Board since 2003. This program is available to County residents to assist in their noxious weed control management program or prevention program.

During the 2023 program, we received 76 applications to purchase product and other services through the Weed Board. Of those, we cost-shared with 68 participants on herbicide products. Through the program, more than \$32,000 in herbicide and related product (adjuvants, dye, etc.) was purchased by the Weed Board, and we provided \$17,000 in cost share for our landowners with the potential to treat 2,127 acres. Some of the participants rented spray equipment from the Weed Board, including the 100-gallon slip in spray tanks and 4-gallon backpacks.

The Annual Neighborhood Cost Share workshop in March was held both virtually and in person (see pg. 7). The workshop was great at educating landowners of the various types of noxious weeds that grow in Pend Oreille County along with control option and prevention of unwanted noxious weeds, as well as the importance of native plants for a healthy ecosystem.



*Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol.  
Photo by Loretta Nichols  
POC Weed Board*

### Additional Highlights:

On an annual basis, the Weed Board also enters into an agreement with PUD to give additional assistance for residents along the Pend Oreille River, within the Box Canyon area and only for non-herbicide control for both nuisance and noxious aquatic plant projects. There were 8 applicants approved for reimbursement in 2023. Total reimbursement for the projects was \$4,601.38 for treatment performed, which consisted of handheld equipment such as cutters and rakes, as well as contracted services for DASH. As part of this program, the Weed Board, in partnership with PUD, hosts the annual Aquatic Workshop each July, which helps educate waterfront landowners on aquatic weeds, identification, control methods and more (see pg. 7).



**US Forest Service** grant the Weed Board was able to purchase a Polaris ATV, trailer and a 15 Gallon tank sprayer with a boom.

The ATV will allow us to inspect and treat areas we had limited or no access to in the past with high maneuverability. The ATV is equipped with a Dual Speed 3500 LB Winch.

By using Sourcewell.com, we were able to save \$760 versus the lowest cost from a local Dealer.

---

**Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Board**  
227B S Garden Avenue, Newport WA, 99156  
509-447-2402 noxweedinfo@pendoreille.org

[www.pendoreille.org/weedboard](http://www.pendoreille.org/weedboard)



# Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Board: 2024 Strategic Plan

**Mission Statement:** To preserve the Pend Oreille County ecosystem for everyone's benefit and use by protecting our agricultural lands, waterways and all other natural resources against invasive species and noxious weeds.

Overall Goal	GOAL #1	GOAL #2	GOAL #3	GOAL #4	GOAL #5	GOAL #6
	<p><b>Develop and maintain aggressive control programs for Category I weeds</b></p>	<p><b>Reduce the damage of Category II weeds to below the threshold of injury</b></p>	<p><b>Implement Integrated Weed Management principles to mitigate aquatic noxious weed infestations with a focus on Class A weeds</b></p>	<p><b>Educate community about noxious/invasive weeds, problems they cause, laws involved, &amp; management methods &amp; opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>Continue long-range planning, promote Integrated Weed Management (IWM) planning, including prevention strategies and programs</b></p>	<p><b>Secure adequate funding for the Weed Board &amp; its programs, as well as additional opportunities for staff training &amp; networking opportunities</b></p>
Outcome Measure	<p>Prevent the spread of any known Class A or B weeds designated for control in Pend Oreille County pursuant to RCW 17.10.140 &amp; 154</p>	<p>Every person who seeks assistance will be served to our fullest capacity. Control on all properties where the landowner desires it pursuant to RCW 17.10.154</p>	<p>Continue effort with other stakeholders to prevent the spread of any known Class A or B aquatic weeds designated for control in Pend Oreille County pursuant to RCW 17.10.140 &amp; 154</p>	<p>Landowners will better understand their duties pursuant to 17.10.140, as well as how to identify, report &amp; control noxious/invasive weeds</p>	<p>Through community education, prevent introduction or spread of invasive/ noxious weeds; continued introduction of biocontrols</p>	<p>County current expense and supplement at least 20% of the budget through grants and agreements when possible</p>
Objectives/Tasks	<p>Locate &amp; monitor all known Category I weed infestations; manage sites to prevent spread</p>	<p>Continue to develop, encourage, and implement the Neighborhood Cost-Share Program</p>	<p>Assist lake &amp; river groups when possible in designing, funding and implementing aquatic weed management projects</p>	<p>Continue to host annual workshops and implement at least one smaller event (I.E. calibration workshop). Look for additional local event tabling opportunities</p>	<p>Develop an Integrated Weed Management Plan that includes prevention strategies with other agencies, entities and landowners</p>	<p>Maintain or increase current funding through federal and state agencies and local entities</p>
	<p>Follow through on legal procedures throughout enforcement process</p>	<p>Continue to develop and implement the biological control of our IWM program</p>	<p>Continue the flowering rush project</p>	<p>Work with other agencies and groups on invasive species identification education</p>	<p>To promote the benefit of developing and following an IWM Plan that includes prevention strategies with contractors and businesses that</p>	<p>Seek additional grant funding for 2024 training opportunities</p>
	<p>Eradication of Class A noxious weeds</p>	<p>Work closely with landowners on prevention, control and eradication pursuant to RCW 17.10.154</p>		<p>Develop an education and outreach plan by end of 2025</p>		