

Pend Oreille County Weed Board



Photo by MARY MALONE, POCWB Education and Outreach

2022 Annual Report

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**NOXIOUS WEEDS DAMAGE
OUR RESOURCES**

Weed Board Members:

VACANT, Dist. 1, Board Member

Wes Bailey, Dist. 2, Board Chair

David Hoisington, Dist. 3, Vice Chair

Pam Thomure, Dist. 4, Board Secretary

VACANT, Dist. 5, Board Member



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

Weed Board Staff:

Loretta Nichols, Interim Coordinator

Mary Malone, Education & Outreach

Dyana James, Data & Finance Specialist



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

Letter from the Board:



227 B South Garden Ave.
Newport WA, 99156
Phone: 509-447-2402
Email: noxweedinfo@pendoreille.org
www.pendoreilleco.org/weedboard

Greetings,

Noxious weeds, both terrestrial and aquatic, pose a serious threat to Washington's agricultural, natural, and human resources. To that end, our state legislature enacted RCW 17.10, establishing a State Noxious Weed Control Board and individual County Noxious Weed Control Boards. The purpose of the County Noxious Weed Board is to oversee the counties 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.

The Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Board continues to be committed to these goals and to work within existing resources to better enhance the natural resources in Pend Oreille County. 2022 was a difficult year, from the late runoff in the Pend Oreille River, to a turn over in staff and the introduction of new contractors to the aquatic work. Nonetheless, we have emerged with new focus, vision, and a renewed commitment to developing and working with our community partners to better enhance weed control services and education.

Attached is the Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Control Board 2022 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. Since the programs and services we offer are solely funded through grants from both public and private agencies, 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 this beautiful place we call home, Pend Oreille County.

We welcome and encourage your feedback and support.

Sincerely,

Wes Bailey, Chair

5/10/23

David Hoisington, Vice Chair

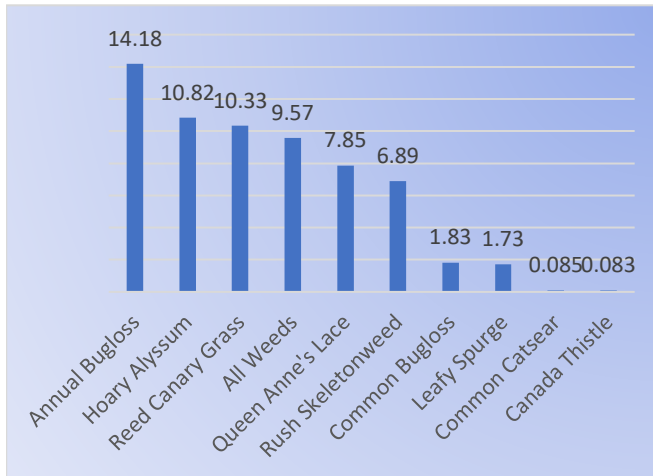
Pamela Thomure, Secretary

5/10/2023

Year in Review Snapshot:

TOTAL ACRES **TREATED** IN 2022 (Land Weeds): 63.36

Primary Weeds Treated:



Majority of acreage treated by staff using a backpack sprayer

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

** Reed Canary is part of a landowner/NRCS project, not a mandatory control weed

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 and some shoreline herbicide control, more than 14 tons of FLR was removed from the river in 2022.

In addition, these noxious weeds were treated along the shoreline:

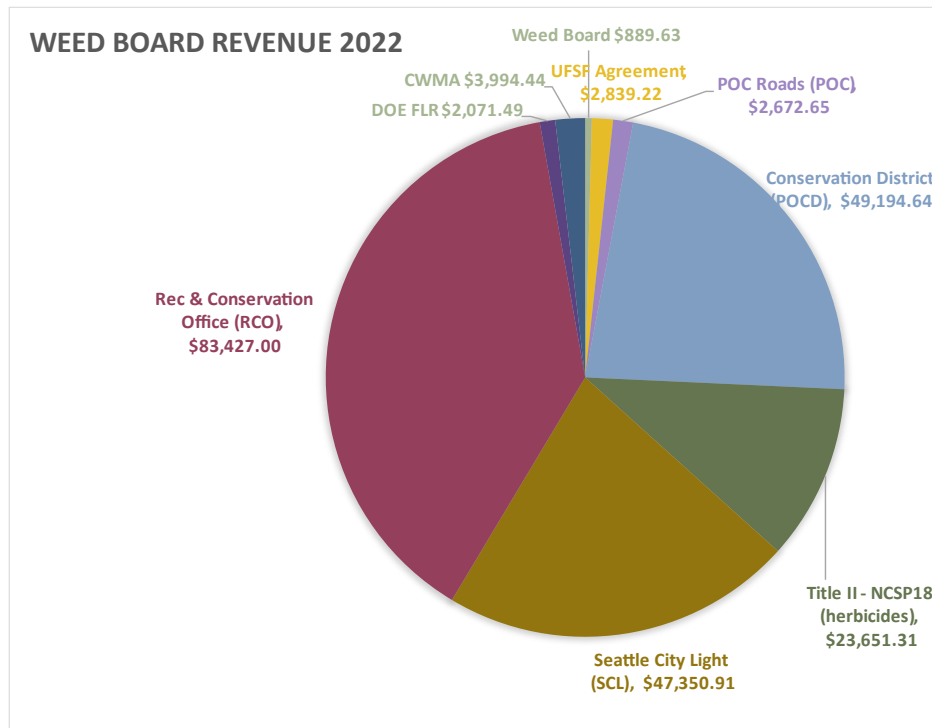
- Purple Loosestrife: 0.033 acres
- Yellow Flag Iris: 0.16



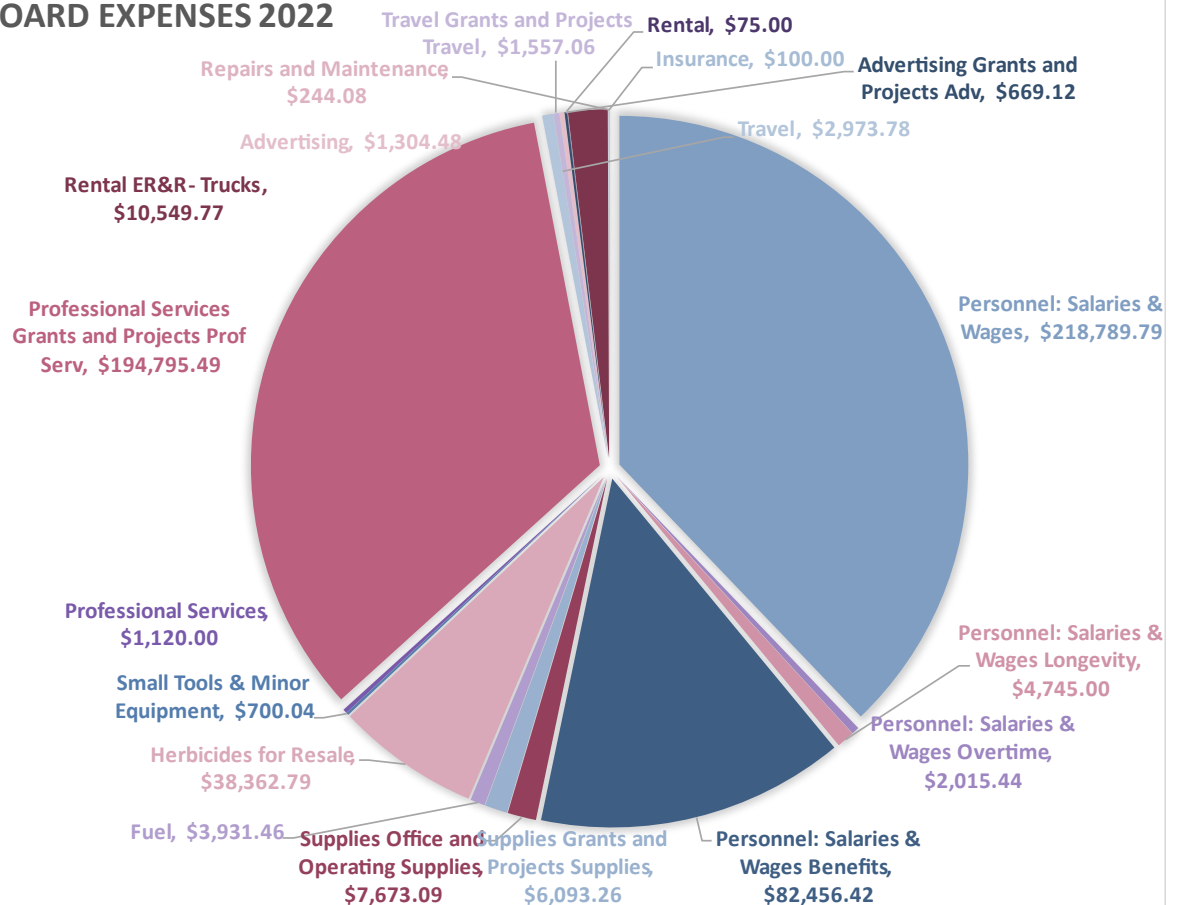
Meadow Knapweed

Photos by MARY MALONE, POC Weed Board

FY21 Finances:



WEED BOARD EXPENSES 2022



Education & Outreach

Neighborhood Cost Share: The 2022 NCS Workshop was held both virtually and in person on March 12.

Attendees: 72 in person, 35 virtual

Survey Results (82 total responses – not all questions matched for the in-person and virtual surveys):

- 69% of the in-person respondents heard about the event from our postcard via direct mail
- 65% of the total respondents had never attended this workshop before
- 33% had participated in NCS in previous years
- 44% have lived in the County for more than 10 years; 6% have lived in the County less than 1 year
- 88% were private landowners; 77% were ages 51-75
- Weed Identification, toxic weeds & forestry were among topics they would like to hear about at future events

Aquatic Workshop: The 2022 Aquatic Workshop was held virtually and in person at the Kalispel Casino on July 16

Attendees: 43 in person, 13 virtual

Survey Results (36 total responses):

- 44% of total respondents noted they own land and reside in the County; 42% noted they own land but do not reside in the County
- 58% of respondents were ages 51-75
- Length of program and topics were rated good overall
- For future workshops, topics of interest with highest numbers include aquatic weed ID, spray equipment and herbicide/pesticide and aquatic weed removal tools
- 50% had never attended the workshop before
- 60% of in-person respondents would be willing to pay \$5-12 for this event in the future



Advertisements

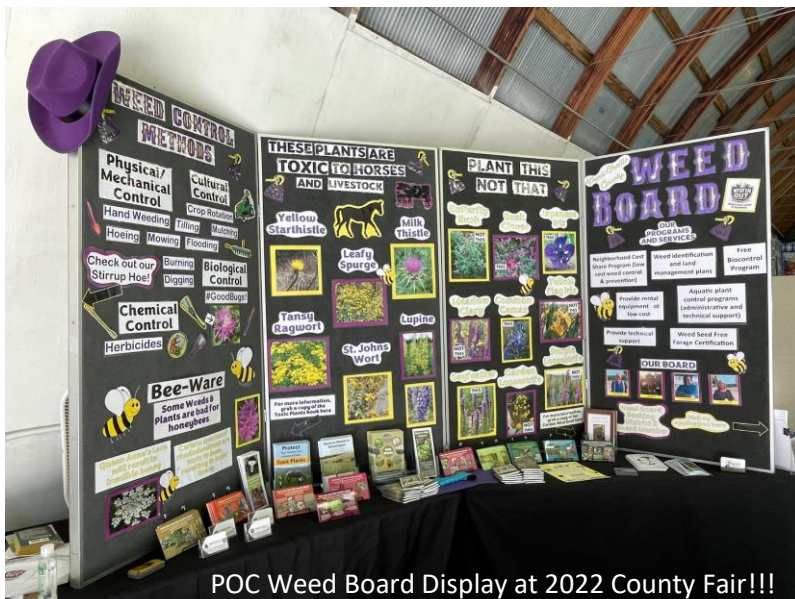
- Annual Ad
- County Fair Ad

Newspaper/Newsletter Articles

- NCS press release & brief follow up
- Aquatic Workshop press release
- Aquatic Work on River press release
- Invasive Species Training Workshop PR

Other

- Postcards/direct mail
- Handouts at events
- Collaboration with Conservation District



POC Weed Board Display at 2022 County Fair!!!

Weed Board staff also attended the annual Washington State Lake Protection Association Conference in October & the Washington State Weed Conference in November. They also helped out and or attended a number of other events throughout the year (Soil Health Stewards events, Community Garden events, etc.)



Loretta at a mushroom growing class hosted by the Newport Community Garden Committee in December

2022 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)

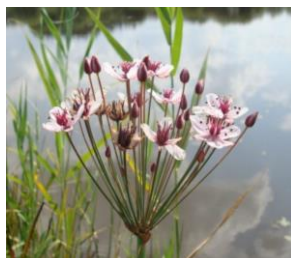
CLASS A NOXIOUS WEEDS



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 & 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 myrsinites</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 ramossissima</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 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 ...

(Refer to Washington State Revised Code for additional information)

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.

2022 Projects:

The total project cost for both the Box and Boundary reservoirs was \$218,813.14, with a total of 14.18 tons of flowering rush removed.

Department of Ecology, Department of Natural Resources, Pend Oreille Public Utility District and Recreation Conservation Office all provided funding to the Weed Board in 2022 used primarily in the Box Canyon area of the Pend Oreille River (from the Washington state line, north to Box Canyon Dam). The largest of this grant funding was provided by DOE through the Water Quality Aquatic Invasive Plant Program. 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.

The ideal goal of this project is to eradicate flowering rush through three objectives – to travel the shoreline by boat collecting GPS data points, while at the same time treating the shoreline for flowering rush infestations with glyphosate or 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. A total of 13.83 tons of flowering rush was removed from the Box Canyon reservoir in 2022.

Seattle City Light provided funding for the Boundary Reservoir project area, located north (downstream) of Box Canyon Dam. Treatment included 692 pounds of flowering rush, in addition to infestations of yellow flag iris, burdock, birds-foot trefoil, spotted knapweed, Canada thistle, Scotch broom, Queen Anne's lace, Siberian peashrub, oxeye daisy, hawkweed and St. Johnswort and common mullein.



Flowering rush in the Pend Oreille River (August 2021).

Photo by MARY MALONE, POC Weed Board

2022 Projects, Cont.:

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 2022 program, we received 53 applications to purchase product and other services through the Weed Board. Through the program, a total of \$38,362.79 of herbicide and related product (adjuvants, dye, etc.) were purchased by the Weed Board, and we provided \$23,668.31 in total cost share for our landowners. Some of the participants rented spray equipment from the Weed Board 100-gallon slip in spray tank and 4-gallon backpacks.

The Annual Neighborhood Cost Share workshop in March was held both virtually and in person. 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.



Loretta doing a biocontrol release.

*Photo by Mary Malone
POC Weed Board*

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 two applicants approved for reimbursement in 2022 with over 10 participants in the program. Total reimbursement for the two projects was \$1,163.36 for treatment performed, which consisted of handheld equipment such as cutters and rakes to collect plant material and bottom barriers. As part of this program, the Weed Board, in partnership with PUD, hosts the annual Aquatic Workshop each July, which help educate waterfront landowners on aquatic weeds, identification, control methods and more.

Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Board

227B S Garden Avenue, Newport WA, 99156
509-447-2402 noxweedinfo@pendoreille.org

www.pendoreille.org/weedboard



Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Board: 2023 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	<u>GOAL #1</u>	<u>GOAL #2</u>	<u>GOAL #3</u>	<u>GOAL #4</u>	<u>GOAL #5</u>	<u>GOAL #6</u>
	Develop and maintain aggressive control programs for Category I weeds	Reduce the damage of Category II weeds to below the threshold of injury	Implement Integrated Weed Management principles to mitigate aquatic noxious weed infestations with a focus on Class A weeds	Educate community about noxious/ invasive weeds, problems they cause, laws involved, & management methods & opportunities	Continue long-range planning, promote Integrated Weed Management (IWM) planning, including prevention strategies and programs	Secure adequate funding for the Weed Board & its programs, as well as additional opportunities for staff training & networking opportunities
	Prevent the spread of any known Class A or B weeds designated for control in Pend Oreille County pursuant to RCW 17.10.140 & 154	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	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 & 154	Landowners will better understand their duties pursuant to 17.10.140, as well as how to identify, report & control noxious/ invasive weeds	Through community education, prevent introduction or spread of invasive/ noxious weeds; continued introduction of biocontrols	County current expense and supplement at least 20% of the budget through grants and agreements when possible
	Locate & monitor all known Category I weed infestations; manage sites to prevent spread	Continue to develop, encourage, and implement the Neighborhood Cost-Share Program	Assist lake & river groups when possible in designing, funding and implementing aquatic weed management projects	Continue to host annual workshops and implement at least one smaller event (I.E. calibration workshop). Look for additional local event tabling opportunities	Develop an Integrated Weed Management Plan that includes prevention strategies with other agencies, entities and landowners	Maintain or increase current funding through federal and state agencies and local entities
Objectives/Tasks	Follow through on legal procedures throughout enforcement process	Continue to develop and implement the biological control of our IWM program	Continue the flowering rush project	Work with other agencies and groups on invasive species identification education	To promote the benefit of developing and following an IWM Plan that includes prevention strategies with contractors and businesses that	Seek additional grant funding for 2024 training opportunities
	Eradication of Class A noxious weeds	Work closely with landowners on prevention, control and eradication pursuant to RCW 17.10.154		Develop an education and outreach plan by end of 2025		