



1995 3rd St

Baker County Weed District
Baker City, OR 97814 **Office (541) 523-0618**
<https://www.bakercountyor.gov/weeds>

Baker County Weed District Advisory
Board Meeting Minutes
September 24th, 2024
Baker County Courtroom
1995 3rd St, Baker City, OR 97814

Members present: Vice-Chairman Bruce, Kent Justus, Shella Delcurto (zoom)
Others present: Jackie Owens (UPBR CWMA), Michelle Kaseberg (Public), Ted Benson (BLM), Shanda Hyllested (Tri-County CWMA), Lanny Fujishin (Idaho Power), Erin (Idaho Power) Tyler Gressley (Baker County Weed District), and Gussie Cook (Baker County Weed District).

Meeting was vocally and zoom recorded

1:15 pm Vice-Chair Hummel called the meeting to Order

- ☐ Vice Chair Hummel led the Pledge of Allegiance
- ☐ No minutes were reviewed as a quorum was not held. Minutes for June, August, and September meetings will be reviewed at the October 24th meeting.

Area/Agency Reports

- ☐ Vice Chair Hummel discussed concerns of fellow board members regarding time being spent on area reports. It is felt that the format of this section could be used for innovative treatment (testing plots), pinpointed weed infestations/areas of concern, etc. Kent Justus commented that a rule does not need to necessarily be made, but that maintaining a focused scope of area reports could be beneficial. Vice Chair Hummel stated that the individuals who raised questions to area reports do want to maintain agency reports. They feel it is beneficial for the board to hear what is going on with each agency in Baker County. More discussion on this matter will be held at the next meeting October 24th due to low board member attendance.

☐

Agency Reports

- ☐ Tri-County CWMA- Shanda Hyllested reported that her program currently has 4,000 aerial acres to treat this fall. 1300 acres of the aerial application is BLM land. In addition, Tri-County has 4 ground crew applications planned. Tri-County has been treating Hoary Alyssum in Haines throughout the summer. Another spray week is planned for October 21st – 25th where crews from ODA, Tri-County CWMA, and Baker County Weed District will be conducting field treatments.

Tri-County is applying for an OWEB Open Solicitation grant, due October 28th, for landowners who were affected by the Durkee, Badlands Complex, Town Gulch, and Coyote wildfires. If landowners are interested in being included on this grant application, they need to get in contact with Tri-County CWMA before October 28th. Shanda has attended several of the fire meetings and was surprised by the lack of interest in noxious weed treatments for fire recovery. If landowners are not on this list, they will miss out on possible funding from this grant. She encouraged the board and meeting attendees to discuss these opportunities with their peers. In addition, October 15th is the deadline for OWEB FIP grants in sage-grouse

In the World of Invasive Species, Our Successes are Invisible and our Failures are Obvious. Dr. Rich Old
www.bakercounty.org/Weeds/Weeds.html



1995 3rd St

Baker County Weed District
Baker City, OR 97814 **Office (541) 523-0618**
<https://www.bakercountyor.gov/weeds>

habitat. If there is anyone interested in applying for a grant, or renewing a grant, they need to contact either Baker County Weed District, Tri-County CWMA, or Powder Basin Watershed Council as soon as possible. Another grant, Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) Education and Outreach grant, is due October 15th. Tri County CWMA is working with Baker County and Union County to receive a wrap for the noxious weed trailer and the billboard signs this board has been showing interest in for the right of ways in Baker County. This is a unique grant as not many are solely dedicated to outreach or education.

Tri-County will be holding their next board meeting October 24th, 2024 at 10:00 AM. Tri-County will be inviting agencies to present their treatments and work done within Baker County. This meeting is open to the public and Tri-County plans to publicize this meeting through newspapers and flyers.

Lastly, the LIT Coordinator position is still vacant. The LIT needs an individual who is verse in natural resources/wildlife management while also being proficient in grant/office work. Shanda encourages the group to encourage those who are possibly interested in this position to apply. Vice Chair Hummel asked if there have been applicants for the position. Shanda reported that there's been 4 applicants over this hiring process.

- ② Idaho Power- Lanny Fujishin- Idaho Power was involved in the Coyote fire. Of approximately 11,000 acres of Oregon land owned by Idaho Power, approximately 7500 acres were burned. Idaho Power is planning their post fire treatment plan with 2500 acres aerial imazapic treatment in the lower elevations, and an additional 275 acres of Pseudomonas application. Pseudomonas is a cold weather bacterium that is sprayed on and replicates over winter. Lanny reported that in research this bacterium has impeded the growth of invasive grasses. Idaho Power is gearing up for fall treatments on broadleaves. This product is licensed for the State of Oregon. Discussion ensued on the product's history and the current application requirements.
- ② BLM-Ted Benson- Ted recognized both Baker County and Tri-County for attending all three fire recovery meetings that have been taking place in Durkee and Richland the last few weeks. BLM plans to turn to Baker County and Tri-County for broadleaf assistance post fire recovery this next spring. BLM has been out on fire sites inventorying and seeing the devastation the fires have left. BLM plans to include Rush Skeletonweed in the treatments for this fall with the aerial application of imazapic that will be taking place in the Coyote fire. Ted Benson discussed future funding possibilities for both Baker County and Tri-County CWMA. Discussion regarding fire meetings and landowner interest in noxious weed treatments post fire ensued. Tri-County discussed NRCS's funding for noxious weed treatments and how the grant will help.

Kent Justus asked BLM representative about noxious weed treatments in Mormon Basin and how the Durkee Fire affected it. Ted Benson discussed that BLM was able to treat 300 acres of the Morman Basin area, and that they were able to map/inventory weed species within it. He is interested to see how this area will recover post fire and what treatments will be needed.

- ② ODA- Mark Porter- Over the last few weeks, I have been helping with a couple of IAG treatments. In the first, we sprayed Rejuvra from a drone over a private land site of McFarland's 4 o'clock (Federally listed as endangered). We think that Rejuvra may reduce IAG competition and allow more reproduction from seed. Wallowa Resources led the charge, but the team was made up of USFS, USFWS, WR, ODA plant protection and weeds, and the private

In the World of Invasive Species, Our Successes are Invisible and our Failures are Obvious. Dr. Rich Old
www.bakercounty.org/Weeds/Weeds.html



1995 3rd St

Baker County Weed District
Baker City, OR 97814 Office (541) 523-0618
<https://www.bakercountyor.gov/weeds>

landowner. There is no jeopardy for damaging Endangered plants on private land. We are happy to be able to experiment with this and pave the way for the use of Rejuvra on Federal lands. Hopefully it will have no negative and just positive impacts. This is the first treatment with Rejuvra from a drone that I (or Envu) know off.

The second treatments were done in conjunction with the Union Station of the Eastern Oregon Ag Research center and use Plateau and Rejuvra over CTUIR First Foods. Again, we are testing the target plants to see how they respond to Rejuvra, and they will also track other native plant community responses. Envu funded part of both treatments.

We will have two (maybe three) ODA staffers in the Haines area in October to help with Hoary Alyssum treatments this fall. Kudos to Tri-Co for their coverage of known sites this summer and efforts to curtail the plant being bailed in hay! I am disturbed by the amount of perennial pepperweed that we are finding and how much of it is getting bailed into hay. This is a real problem that I hope to help change. One doesn't have to look far to see what this plant can do when let go. I have similar thoughts about the Common Tansy spreading in ditches and hay in the area.

ODA Noxious weed department will be hosting Oregon Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium will happen this December 10-12 in Corvallis OR. Applicator credits will be available, registration will open soon and the sooner you register the cheaper it is! The agenda is packed with good stuff. That's all for now!

Public Comment:

Baker County Weed District Update:

Baker County Weed District field work on roads; putting down as much residual as we can. According to the spray records, updated to August 12th, 2024, Baker County Weed District had treated 264 acres of right of way since beginning of July. This number is increasing, and we will update the spray record spreadsheet. Baker County assisted another County with their Tansy Ragwort project in August. It was a great experience for both Gussie and Tyler. That County supervisor plans to come help in Baker County this fall for treatments. In addition, the Hughes field was sprayed by Wapiti Mnt Spray Service in late August for Puncturevine, Kochia, Mustards, and Russian Thistle. We are planning fall grass treatments with Tri-County CWMA. Baker County plans to have roughly 1100 acres treated aerially through the Medical Spring, Keating Powder River, and Lawrence Sardine grants. Baker County plans to assist Tri-County CWMA with their fall treatments of Hoary Alyssum in October.

Baker County has been focusing on education and outreach this summer as well. Lately we have attended all the fire recovery meetings which has allowed us to connect with the community and build relationships.

In June Gussie presented at the BTI Summer Academy to Natural Resource students. She presented on noxious weeds, what this job entails, and how to get involved in the industry. She also took the students to the Hughes field where they were able to learn how to identify weeds in real life. In August, Baker County Weed District attended Baker County and Halfway Fairs. We set up a booth with education/outreach materials and talked about weed treatments with the public. Several individuals were pleased to see our booth at these events. Baker County Weed District held a Scotch Thistle contest where citizens could bring in the biggest Scotch Thistle to win herbicide. They had to cut off seed heads before submitting to their thistle to the booth. This was an idea suggested by Shanda Hyllested and Brian Clapp, which was received well by the public. Next year Baker County Weed District may look into doing a softer weed species for this contest. Baker County Weed District is also communicating with the public when out spraying roads.

Lastly, office work has been of importance to the department. Hoary Alyssum Final Report was submitted and approved by the state. We are catching up on invoicing other agencies or grants, and

In the World of Invasive Species, Our Successes are Invisible and our Failures are Obvious. Dr. Rich Old
www.bakercounty.org/Weeds/Weeds.html



1995 3rd St

Baker County Weed District
Baker City, OR 97814 **Office (541) 523-0618**
<https://www.bakercountyor.gov/weeds>

planning future treatments.

Old Business:

New Business: 33.05 minutes

- Board Member Applications: Vice Chair Hummel discussed how the Weed Board received two applications from individuals' interest in being apart of the Weed Board; Jackie Owens of Upper Burnt River and Chuck Buchanan of Lower Burnt River. Due to not having a quorum, this matter was pushed to the next board meeting.
- Weed Levy Updates- K. Justus discussed Upper Burnt River as one community that had declined the Weed Levy. J. Owens discussed conversation of this topic within the Upper Burnt River community and the lack of knowledge of what these funds provided. Discussion ensued.

Vice Chair Hummel announced the PAC is fully formed and is accepting donations. The PAC is working on opportunities to outreach/educate the members of Baker County on the Weed Levy. Handouts were available for PAC distribution. Vice Chair Hummel discussed how the Cost Share and Giveaway would be beneficial to landowners who were affected by the wildfires this year. M. Kaseberg advised that the PAC send a letter to the Hells Canyon Journal as well. Discussion of contributions and use of funds from the last levy were discussed. G. Cook shared Commissioner Witham's thoughts on hosting a luncheon styled BBQ to possibly increase public engagement to the October meeting. Discussion ensued.

Next meeting – Tri-County CWMA will be holding their quarterly meeting October 24th, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The board members who were present voted in favor of moving the Baker County Weed Board meeting October 24th, 2024 at 1:00 PM. This will follow Tri-County's meeting. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

2:15 pm meeting adjourned.