



1995 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Baker County Courtroom

1995 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Baker City, OR 97814

Members present: Chair Craig Ward, Vice-Chairman Bruce Hummel, Dave Clemens, Jon Woolard, Shella DelCurto, Marty Harriman, and John Wirth.

Others present: Jackie Owens (UPBR CWMA), Michelle Kaseberg (Public), Scott Schaefer (USFS), Ted Benson (BLM), Will Price (OSU), Commissioner Whitham (Baker County), Dana Hill (Public), Shanda Hyllested (Tri-County CWMA), Lanny Fujishin (Idaho Power), and Gussie Cook (BCWD).

Meeting was vocally and zoom recorded

1:00 pm Chairman Ward called the meeting to Order

- ☑ Chairman Ward led the Pledge of Allegiance
- ☑ May 28th minutes were reviewed. Shella Delcurto moved to approve, Jon Woolard seconded, passed unanimously.

**Area/Agency Reports**

- ☑ B. Hummel- Discussed his grass treatments from last fall. In working with Grant County Weeds Supervisor, Hummel found that Rejuvra may take an additional year, two years, before seeing a true effect. This is due to precipitation. Looks forward to seeing if Rejuvra is “the miracle herbicide”.
- ☑ D. Clemens- Reported seeing Rush Skeletonweed on Eagle Creek Rd. There are two historical sites on this road that Clemens mentioned. He mentioned Poison Hemlock showing up more than normal. Additional broadleaf species were discussed like Scotch Thistle. Cheatgrass is also of concern. Dave mentioned some concerns that were mentioned on the Snake River Road.
- ☑ M. Harriman- Season slowed down this year as she is spraying some Knapweed, Skeletonweed, and Scotch Thistles.
- ☑ John Wirth- Like Marty Harriman, working on Scotch thistle, Russian thistle, and Knapweed.
- ☑ J. Woolard- Things are starting to dry out. Working on stacking hay, Whitetop infested fields have been baled and products from this field may be traveling county wide. Shared his experience of using Opensight on a historical Whitetop section on his property. He was excited to see only two plants this year.
- ☑ S. Delcurto- Has seen a large portion of Hemlock in the area. State Highway is getting some areas, but not all areas. Saw the Railroad treatments, looks good, but is concerned about the State ROW's.
- ☑ C. Ward- Battling Scotch Thistle and Russian Thistle along all ROW's. Puncturevine started early this year. Ward discussed noxious weed populations around the city. Discussion ensued.

Agency Reports

*In the World of Invasive Species, Our Successes are Invisible and our Failures are Obvious. Dr. Rich Old*  
[www.bakercounty.org/Weeds/Weeds.html](http://www.bakercounty.org/Weeds/Weeds.html)



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- ② OSU- Will Price—Taylor Grazing applications need to be turned in June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The funds are for non-irrigated range/pastureland improvement. He’s had a few applications come in. In addition, Grasshopper funding has come in and currently OSU has collected three applications. He thinks he will receive more within the next several months due to increasing grasshopper populations.
- ② Idaho Power- Lanny Fujishin- Crew has been out treating Scotch Thistle. Discussed future treatments for Puncturevine and Jointed Goatgrass. They had some equipment malfunctions this spring, so they will be playing catch up.
- ② BLM-Ted Benson- Busy month of treating Scotch Thistles at known recreation sites. Also has been in the field doing 300 acres in the Mormon Basin area. Benson discussed his trip with Wallowa Resources where Mark Porter found the Leafy Surge biocontrol agent. Partners were excited to find this thriving on the river. In addition, a Yellow Starthistle biocontrol is in the works for Baker County. Benson mentioned a grad student being in Baker collecting information and surveying plots.
- ② Scott Schaefer – Looked at his treatment of Whitetop with Telar and Escort, found some burnt grass, but feels positive about this treatment. Discussed Albert’s work on the 39 road. Discussion on a “No Spray” area and the Mediterranean Sage area ensued. Goose Creek was treated this year and Scott is seeing improvement. Discussion of Forest Service treatments ensued. Shaeffer is happy with his E-2 treatments on Russian Thistle. Title II funding is working along. Tri-County is working to find out how to get the funding drawn down. Commissioner Witham discussed the Fizz Springs site where Whitetop is being found and is surrounded by Forest Service.
- ② Union County Weed Control- Brian Clapp- Discussed his conversation with Elmer Hill. Discussed his Cost Share efforts and herbicide handout. Hemlock and Scotch Thistle is big this year. This is the year for Hemlock statewide. Highnoon and Escort is what Brian plans to use for Poison Hemlock. He discussed price comparison to other products, and that he plans to focus more on Hemlock treatments next year. GrazonNext. Got ahold of the ODOT regional vegetation employee. Brian plans to give this contact to Gussie. Discussion ensued.
- ② Tri-County CWMA- Shanda Hyllested- Finished up all the FIP Spring projects and restoration work. Had contractors in Unity finishing up Cost Share work where they also were able to hit the Mediterranean Sage on Pine Creek in Unity. Contractors were in Halfway/Oxbow area working on Common Crupina, and Tri-County plans to have a helicopter this fall. They are short staffed this spring, so they have been having contractors work extra. There is no FIP coordinator. Discussion ensued on funding sources that have been applied to by Emmy Tyrrell. Taylor Grazing funds is available through Tri-County where they have been able to help new landowners in Baker County. Hoary Alyssum in Haines commenced this week. Baker County, Tri- County, and ODA sprayers will be out there all week working on treatments and inventories. Fall work will incorporate grass and seed work. Shanda is disappointed with the treatments last fall and discussed the research and effects of last year’s weather patterns. Rejuvra treatments should look good, but Imazapic treatments do not.



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**Public Comment:**

Dave Clemens discussed Oxeye Daisy and what needs to be on the radar for weed control. Schott Schaeffer discussed the expansion of Oxeye Daisy in the forest. John Wirth discussed a yellow flower taking over grassy areas within the forest. Discussion ensued.

Jackie Owens is just present on zoom to observe.

**Baker County Weed District Update:**

Baker County Weed District field work including ATVs for cemetery and parks work on Whitetop, Scotch Thistles, and other noxious weeds. Baker County has also been out working on grants with Medical Springs—having a Spray Day/ Herbicide Day.

Baker County Right of Ways commenced last Friday as trucks and pumps are finally ready for spraying. We worked out on Beaver Creek and Beaver Creek Loop to get familiar with ROW treatments. Treatments in Durkee also occurred this week. Hughes fieldwork should commence soon.

Tyler is a licensed apprentice and can now spray 5 minutes away from me. We will work towards a full license, but we are currently prioritizing field work with Hoary Alyssum this week.

In other news, Baker County staff is working on reports and office work as well. We met with the Hells Canyon Journal for an interview which should be posted soon. In addition, BTI asked us to present to their natural resources summer students about Noxious Weeds and a career within Noxious Weeds. This will take place later this week.

**Old Business:**

Commissioner Witham discussed the Powder River TMVL DEQ ruling that was based on recreational use. A group of partners will need to come together to develop a TMVL plan for bacteria levels. Baker County would like to test for more than e-coli. This would include temperature, humidity, and anything that may affect this stream in the future. Baker County is waiting on contacts of partners from DEQ; however, a list of partners includes Oregon Department of Ag, Fish and Wildlife Services, Transportation, US Forest Service, US BLM, US Bureau of Reclamation, Baker County, Union County, Baker Valley Irrigation District, Powder Valley Irrigation District, Lower Powder Irrigation District, Burnt River Irrigation District, and the City of Baker. No DNA was tested for; however, Baker County would like to test for this. Discussion of site testing and future testing ensued.

S. Delcurto asked if we could talk with the Road Department discussing Halfway blading and how going over the edge to build the road has caused an increase in weed issues. Shanda Hyllested also discussed bare ground width and how it has affected many roadways. It seems like the bare grounded area is getting wider. Discussion ensued. Brian Clapp discussed the issue/processes of bare ground on the road shoulders and how it also affects Union County.

**New Business:**

- Weed Levy Updates- G. Cook discussed the Giveaway and how it is complete. Also discussed the Cost Share applications being due June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. A letter was sent to the commissioners discussing the weed levy and why the public may have voted it down. Further discussion of

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this letter ensued. S. Delcurto mentioned that many have shared that they believe the roadways are the Weed Departments responsibility. She believes a better effort towards informing the public about how these tax dollars are spent needs to occur in the future. G. Cook mentioned several different outreach events that would be an option for outreach. B. Clapp from Union County discussed his conversation with Mr. Hill of Baker County. Mr. Hills felt that Baker County needed to get the truck out in front of the public and on the roads. B. Clapp also discussed the tri-fold pamphlet to hand out to the public. In addition, he mentioned that verbiage is important and being clear on the Weed Levy tax amount is important. Discussion ensued. Advertisement strategies were discussed regarding handouts, attending public events, and having conversation with the public.

C. Ward introduced Commissioner Elect Kaseberg to the meeting as she had information to share regarding the PAC's and Levies. M. Kaseberg discussed the rules of forming PAC's and the best ways to succeeds. B. Clapp shared that Union and Wallowa Counties both stated that the county supervisors cannot be involved in the levy. C. Witham also stated that the Clerks office advised that the County Supervisor not be involved. Discussion ensued. M. Kaseberg discussed the voting results by precinct and how to best negotiate this next Levy run. C. Ward and B. Hummel both volunteered to take initiative on this matter. B. Clapp advised the group to begin processes as soon as possible. S. Delcurto asked if they could call a special meeting in the summer to discuss this as well. Discussion ensued.

S. Hyllested discussed that Tri-County plans to move their fall quarterly meeting in Baker County. They hope to allow partners to present their efforts of weed treatments in Baker County and what they have been doing in the past. The meeting will take place October 24, 2024 at 10:00 AM in the Courthouse.

Discussion on public events and the County having a presence at these events took place.

B. Hummel discusses that there are no successful Weed Departments that spray the roads. Historically, the Weed Department focused on the roads which allowed for clearer roadsides. Lately, this has changed as the Weed Department has branched out to grants as well. Discussion ensued on the difference between vegetation management and noxious weed management.

Next meeting – September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the Baker County Commission Chambers

2:56 pm meeting adjourned.