



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
May 28th, 2024

Baker County OSU Extension Office
2600 East St, Baker City, OR 97814

Members present: Chair Craig Ward, Vice-Chairman Bruce Hummel, Jon Woolard, Shella DelCurto, Marty Harriman, Kent Justice, Wade Simpson.
Others present: Scott Schaefer (USFS), John Rademaker (BLM), Will Price (OSU), Commissioner Whitham (Baker County), Dana Hill (Public), Shanda Hyllsted (Tri-County CWMA), Baker City Herald, Tyler Gressley (BCWD), and Gussie Cook (BCWD).

Meeting was vocally and zoom recorded

1:05 pm Chairman Ward called the meeting to Order

- ☑ Chairman Ward led the Pledge of Allegiance
- ☑ April 30th minutes were reviewed. Shella Delcurto moved to approve, Jon Woolard seconded, passed unanimously.

Area/Agency Reports

- ☑ J. Woolard reported Whitetop taking over and crawling down the Powder River outside from Sumpter. He mentioned the department looking into grant funding for this issue.
- ☑ K. Justice— Seeing interesting results with the MHR test plots he's been conducting. Is doing 5 oz Rejuvra treatments for his MHR. Is also spending time treating Thistles and Whitetop.
- ☑ J. Wirth- Reported lots of weeds growing this year and the Richland area is seeing a huge infestation.
- ☑ W. Simpson- Discussed treatment of 60 acres of Whitetop this spring and how he's seen an influx of population. Attributes this to the high traffic and movement of livestock (horses) through the Old Auburn area. Discussed his troubles with other land stewards and how he can help combat weeds when others lack motivation. Discussion ensued. C. Witham discussed the process of filing a complaint with the Sheriff's office. Discussion ensued.
- ☑ M. Harriman—Reported wind has been a problem for spraying this year, but is trying to keep up with Scotch Thistle, Mullin, and Spotted Knapweed. The city has a huge influx of these weed species as well.
- ☑ Shella DelCurto – Reported the whole state is having noxious weed issues. Lots of Hemlock, Whitetop, and Scotch Thistle throughout Oregon that seems to not be treated. Halfway is still battling their weeds.
 - ODOT does not have a truck solely designated for Halfway, so they spray there when they can. Most focus for ODOT seems to be on the freeway.
- ☑ B. Hummel—Thistles, like other weeds, are flourishing this year. Discussed his findings on the Escort, Telar, and Syl-Tac treatment sites. Took two weeks for the plants to kill over, but he is

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excited to see how it works.

- ☑ Craig Ward— Discussed his time spraying. Spending time on the UPRR ROW that borders his property and had Robert Hamman spray his fields. Also reported mopping up the pipeline area that was dug out on Linley Lane.

Agency Reports

- ☑ BLM- John Rademaker—Ted Benson is in the field more this year. Today he was out spraying with an in-house crew on Mormon Basin. Rademaker also discussed the paperwork for agreements with Tri-County CWMA and Baker County. Hoping these funds come by the end of June.
- ☑ OSU- Will Price—Taylor Grazing applications need to be turned in June 30th, 2024. The funds are for non-irrigated range/pastureland betterment and are open to all landowners with property meeting the criteria. In addition, Grasshopper funding has come in and the information/application can be found online. He already had Grasshopper reports coming in, and ODA will make the trip to see these sites on Thursday (5/30).
- ☑ Tri-County CWMA- Shanda Hyllested—All contractors are wrapping up in Baker County for the FIP area. She had 1 contractor heading to Unity on 5/28/2024. BLM funding is pending as paperwork is being worked on. The Hoary Alyssum project area in the Haines region of Baker County is planned to begin at the end of June. This project will be worked on by contractors, Tri-County CWMA, and fellow agencies like ODA and Baker County.
- ☑ Scott Schaefer – Title II funding announcement is hoping to be released at the end of the week. This is for Baker and Tri-County as they both have agreements for these funds. USFS crew is out spraying. They worked on Whitetop affecting the backside of Dually Mnt. In addition, Schaefer discussed the grass damage he’s observed from his fall treatment mix of Escort, Telar, and MSO. Discussion ensued. Albert, in the Halfway area, was spraying Whitetop and Thistles around the slash burning sites. In addition, the crew has been treating Med Sage with Escort and Milestone.
- ☑ ODA- Mark Porter- On Thursday of this week the OSWB meets to adjust our state weed list. Suggestions are as follows, yellow highlights will be significant for Baker Co:
 1. **Adding (T) designations to the following B-list species**
 - a. Common crupina (*Crupina vulgaris*)
 - b. Common viper’s bugloss (*Echium vulgare*)
 - c. Dyer’s Woad (*Isatis tinctoria*)
 - d. Pine echium (*Echium pininana*)
 - e.
 2. **Removal of (T) designation from the following species**
 - a. Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*; *C. maculosa*)

These proposed modifications more accurately reflect the state and regional management priorities for these species, particularly those species with newly proposed (T) designations. The proposed removal of the (T) designation for Spotted knapweed is an acknowledgement of the unfortunate reality that this species has proliferated to an extent that recommending priority management of it may prohibit the management of other species that are equally/more important at the local and regional scales and/or species that present a more realistic opportunity for containment or eradication.



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Biocontrols:

The Noxious Weed Program has historically included an (*) asterisk next to species that have viable biocontrol agents either established or available to be released. During the review of the (T) designations, staff also reviewed those designations and have made the following modifications:

1. Deleted (*) from the following species
 - a. Cape-ivy (*Delairea odorata*)
 - b. King-devil hawkweed (*Hieracium piloselloides*)
 - c. Mouse-ear hawkweed (*Hieracium pilosella*)
 - d. Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*)
 - e. Common crupina (T) (*Crupina vulgaris*)
 - f. Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)
 - g. Giant reed (T) (*Arundo donax*)
 - h. St. Johnswort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
 - i. Bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)
 - j. Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*)
 - k. Milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*)
 - l. Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*)
 - m. Slender-flowered thistle (*Carduus tenuiflorus*)

Further, it is expected that the board will be asked to list Palmers Amaranth and Water Hemp to the State's A-list. Palmer's Amaranth has been found in Malheur County near Ontario and Nyssa and Waterhemp is likely present in Wallowa County. Both plants are pigweeds that have developed a HIGH degree of resistance to many herbicide families.

In other updates:

1. Last week the WWNF treated yellow starthistle with a helicopter in Imnaha. This is a first in decades and hopefully marks the beginning of their capacity to use helicopters as a regular tool in weed management.
2. Turkish, Welled and Plumeless thistle inventory and treatments are underway in Wallowa County.
3. ODA is looking forward to working with Baker County and Tri-County in managing hoary alyssum this year. That effort should begin in a few weeks!
4. ODA is working with University of Idaho to bring Yellow starthistle root crown weevils to Oregon in 2025. We plan to introduce them at 3 sites where we have collected several years of pre-release monitoring data. One of those sites is just outside of Keating on BLM land- the others are in Umatilla County.

I was sorry to hear that the **Weed Levy** didn't pass. While this presents obvious challenges, I feel like it will also provide an opportunity for the commissioners and board to show unflagging support for the program and should help folks in Baker County to better appreciate what has been a foundational part of their weed management for years. I want to be helpful in any way that I can.

Baker County Weed District Update:

Baker County Weed District sent out a bid to all known contractors in the Baker, Union, Wallowa, and Umatilla Counties for the UPRR ROW project. We received 2 bids back with one denial to bid. Baker County hired Blue Mountain Applicators for the \$8,000 contract. Currently, BMA has treated from Huntington, OR to the train tunnel near the Lookout Mountain exit. It is very exciting to see the weeds being treated along the railroad right of way. Watch for it the next time you head to Boise on I-84.

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We've been busy getting up to speed on all aspects of this program while fixing maintenance issues on our equipment. Both work trucks have been in and out of the shops since April.

We've been busy working on our Giveaway program. To date we have helped the following communities and their landowners...

Halfway/Richland- 86 landowners participated

Baker/Haines- 107 landowners have Participated

Sumpter- 11 landowners participated

Hereford/Unity- 16 landowners participated

Baker County Weed District plans to be in Huntington, OR on May 31st from 10-12pm for their Giveaway Day. Baker County in partnership with Union County held a Spray Day/Giveaway Day per Baker County's Medical Springs grant on May 16th. Mailings were created and sent out in early May to landowners to help notify and invite them to the event. Bruce Hummel helped with notifying landowners and securing the firehouse for the day. Landowners in the area are looking to treat Whitetop, Scotch Thistles, Knapweeds, and other various noxious weeds. Contractors have also been at work assisting these landowners in the last few weeks.

Baker County Weed District hired a seasonal starting May 1st. Tyler Gressley will be graduating from High School soon and will begin working full-time soon after. She took her first round of tests on Tuesday in LaGrande and will continue to work towards licensing these next few weeks.

Baker County's Weed Levy did not pass the May ballot. This has caused our department to re-evaluate our 2024-25 fiscal year budget. We will be making cuts where we can. In addition, the Giveaway dates in July and September will not occur and landowners will be notified. Baker County will complete the Giveaway dates in May, Huntington's day on Friday, but will not look to reorder herbicide for that program. The Cost Share is still in effect until June 30th. Baker County plans to allow landowners this timeframe for submissions; however, will no longer accept applications on July 1st. Baker County's Weed board has decided to put the levy back on the November ballot. They will be forming a PAC and plan to attend outreach events in the summer months. They see the importance of a PAC and want to help promote the work and programs this department can offer.

Old Business:

- ☑ **Weed List Approval-** J. Woolard moved to accept the newly revised 2024 Noxious Weed List for Baker County. S. Delcurto seconded the motion; Motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

- **Weed Levy Updates-** G. Cook discussed the future of the Weed Levy and the boards options. After discussion with the Clerk's Office, it was found that there are no guidelines for time between levy applications. This means that the levy can be put back on the ballot for November. G. Cook also noted that if the board wanted to way until May, then that is also an

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option. It was discussed that a PAC was encouraged, and that if chosen to re-up the levy for November, then these decisions needed to be made immediately to get the ball rolling. G. Cook discussed that the board would need to call the Secretary of State office, or visit their website, to find out more information about registering a PAC, and find all the guidelines and rules. C. Witham informed the board that the County Council has offered assistance with writing the description. Discussion on public feedback regarding the description verbiage, and positioning of the levy of the ballot ensued. C. Ward discussed the conversation between the Weed Department and board Chair and Vice-Chair. He discussed the positivity in the conversation with how the department was already planning for the future. C. Ward also discussed how important advertising and educating the public about the levy is, and that in the future that will need to be the focus of the PAC. Discussion ensued. G. Cook reported that due to the Weed Levy failure, program cuts for the Giveaway and Cost Share had to occur, cuts of unnecessary funding lines occurred, and increases in services will be added to the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget. K. Justus discussed his thoughts on the additional request for funds from the County and how he felt mixed on this matter. Roadside spraying was also a huge discussion when it comes to the Weed Levy; however, the Weed Levy does not fund roadside spraying. The Road Department contracts with the Weed Department to spray roads. C. Witham discussed the changes in the working relationship between the two departments this year and how positive those partnerships have become.

- J. Woolard moved to put the Weed Levy on the November 2024 ballot for the same increased rate of \$130,000 per year, meaning \$0.06 for each \$1,000 assessed on property assessments, for four years. This is to include new verbiage. J. Wirth seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on PAC and who would head this committee was had and will ensue the next meeting.

Next meeting – June 25th, 2024, at the Baker County Commission Chambers

2:56 pm meeting adjourned.