



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
April 30th, 2024

Baker County Commissioner Chambers
1995 3rd St, Baker City, OR 97814

Members present: Jon Woolard, Vice-Chairman Bruce Hummel, Shella DelCurto, Marty Harriman, Kent Justice, Dave Clemens.

Others present: Scott Schaefer (USFS), Ted Benson (BLM), Lanny Fujishin (IDP), Barry Murphy (Baker City Manager), Will Price (OSU), Commissioner Whitham (Baker County), Jennifer Boisvert (PBWSC CCAA), Dana Hill (Public), Curtis Martin & Company (Public), Tyler Gressley (BCWD), and Gussie Cook (BCWD).

Meeting was vocally and zoom recorded

1:05 pm Vice-chairman Hummel called the meeting to Order

- Vice-Chairman Hummel led the Pledge of Allegiance
- Vice-Chairman Hummel asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- Review of the minutes from March 26, 2024 meeting took place.
 - Committee member Jon Woolard moved to accept the minutes of March 26, 2024 as written.
 - Committee member Shella Delcurto seconded the motion.
 - All in favor; no opposed; motion carried.
 - This also included activities and goals planned for 2023-2024.
- **Area/Agency Reports**
- D Clemens: This has been a banner worthy year for Scotch Thistle rosettes. Richland area has Whitetop flowering and Thistle dormant seeds must have germinated from the moisture timing weve had. He comments that it is still early in the season.
- K Justice—Discussed the Rejuvra and Plateau test plots he’s been orcastrating on his property. Has changed his ratio to 5 oz of rejuvra and 5 oz of Plateau this spring for Medusahead Rye. He is eager to see what happens with these test plots.
- B Hummel—Discussed his experience with fall treatments of AIG’s. A treatment of Rejuvra and Telar was conducted on his plot of AIG’s in the fall. He noticed that this mixture was a setback for some of his good grasses in the area, and asked Kent Justice his thoughts. Discussion continued. Kent Justice stated that the proof will be in the pudding for finding a post-emergent treatment of MHR.

In the World of Invasive Species, Our Successes are Invisible and our Failures are Obvious. Dr. Rich Old
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- S DelCurto – Scotch Thistle is running rampant and in advanced stages. Delcurto noted that Scotch Thistle rosettes are growing in areas she has had great success in her treatments. Kent Justice asked her about Rush Skeletonweed growth in Halfway. Delcurto noted that Rush Skeletonweed is also growing in North Pine, as well as knapweed. She has been spraying all the rosettes when she finds them. Discussion ensued.
- M Harriman – Halfway’s Scotch Thistles are more advanced this year at this time. Harriman also noted that the knapweed rosettes are establishing as well. She noted that downtown halfway has a couple of “monster Scotch Thistle” plots.
- Jon Woolard—Noted that he’s seen similar things as the fellow board members. He picked up some equipment from Nutrien and has spent a good portion of his time in La Grande. He noted the difference he’s seen in comparison to farmland noxious weed treatments in Baker and Union Counties. He would like to see a future push towards fence line and ag field treatments in Baker County. Commissioner Whitham asked if Jon visited the Planning Department after the last meeting. Jon Woolard visited the Planning Department to discuss movement of soil and how that would affect the Weed Department/Board. They informed him about their processes of notice to Department heads to discuss any issues. Jon would like to see more discussion brought forth to the board when the Department receives notices of projects where large amounts of fill dirt is being moved within the County.
- C Ward—Not present but had Bruce Hummel report for him. Ward has been spraying Whitetop, Bur buttercup, and Scotch Thistle rosettes. He noted the same growth patterns that of other board members noted for Scotch Thistles. Ward didn’t like the weather Baker County was having (snow). Hummel noted he was glad to hear everyone was having an abundance of Scotch Thistle and that it wasn’t just North County. Discussion ensued.
- M Porter (ODA)—Dodging weather when it comes to field work. Porter was able to attend the OWEB meeting last week in Baker, and wants to give kudos to all that presented and spoke at the meeting. He noted that Corteva, who is the manufacturer for Milestone, is pushing to enter the AIG’s industry with Milestone. They will be publishing research in the future. He mentioned a topic of Rejuvra “root pruning” on shallow rooted perennials. Rejuvra should not affect perennials at all, but studies have shown some impacts. Discussion ensued. Porter also mentioned that Oregon almost got the Yellow Starthistle Crown Weavel Biocontrol agent from University of Idaho. It is new to the Continental US in the last few years. UI is working to clean up a disease the weavels have, makes all the biocontrol’s female, and we will expect to receive them next year. He hopes to put them out on Cook and Motherlode Road in Keating area.
- L. Fujishin—Noted that he’s seen similar Scotch Thistle rosettes. He commented that they look like “Artichoke Fields”. Idaho Power employees had a few spray days around the area. Whitetop is starting to bud and flower in the area. Fujishin

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sprayed some IAG and revegetation sites with 8 oz Roundup. He discussed his observations and thoughts on his treatments.

- T Benson – April has been filled with paperwork for Biocontrol’s and the “Good Neighbor Authority” application for Baker County. Additional application information was discussed. Ted Benson also noted he was able to spray around the compound.
- S Schaefer – Spraying around the compound of the Forest Service. Excited to see how his fall treatments look this spring. His crew was on the 39 Road in Halfway earlier in the month. The also visited the Mediterranean Sage site. Discussion ensued. Additional crew work occurred around Phillips Reservoir. Scott Schaefer treated 1 oz Telar, 1 Escort, with MSO at full bloom for Whitetop. He is excited to see how this treatment worked, but so far it looks good. Title II money was approved and will enter the budget system. This project is for roadside treatments on the Forest Service. Schaefer mentioned that Tri-County CWMA contracted the project out and that the contractor who received the bid was also interested in Baker County’s portion as well if put out to bid. Discussion on fall Whitetop treatment ensued. Mark Porter also mentioned Grant County uses 1oz Telar, 1 oz Escort, and Syl-Tac for Perennial Pepperweed treatments in the spring.
- W Price – Not much occurring on the weed area. Wanted to updated the committee about the ODA Grasshopper grant monies of \$100,000 that they are working to make available as a Cost Share opportunity to landowners for treatments. Discussion ensued. OSU Extension, with the support from BLM, was able to put together a herbicide applicators test training in early April. They had a total of 14 participants who ranged all over Northeast Oregon. He approximated 5 individuals from Baker County.
- J Boisvert—She wanted to give kudos to those who presented and spoke at the OWEB meeting in April. She stated that the FIP was funded by OWEB and appreciates everyone who attended and presented. Bruce Hummel commented that Jennifer did a fantastic job at organizing and creating a PowerPoint for presenting with two landowners and herself. They had a total of 30 minutes to present all together. Discussion ensued. Curtis Martin was also able to attend and says OWEB has a very enlightening and substantial staff. Mr. Martin was able to comment on the increased focus of climate change that OWEB has set forth, and what that means for a landowner. Discussion ensued.
- **Public Comment Period:**
- Barry Murphy-- Baker City is putting more efforts into noxious weed treatments at the airport.

Baker County Weed District Update:
UPRR ROW:

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Baker County Weed District has an agreement with UPRR for right of way treatments to occur throughout the County. Baker County Weed District put it out to bid with several local contractors in Northeast Oregon. The department had 2 bids submitted and 1 denial to bid. This contract was awarded to Blue Mountain Applicators.

Baker County Weed District hired a seasonal, who was present at the meeting, Tyler Gressley. She will come on full time shortly and looks forward to working outdoors for the summer. Bruce Hummel welcomed her to the program.

Baker County Weed District is catching up on all aspects for field season. Equipment maintenance, herbicide orders, grant information track down, and landowner meetings have all been ongoing.

Roadsides will be getting going here shortly. Rod came back late April and will help train up our department on roadside spraying.

The Hoary Alyssum III grant will receive its final report in June without the funds used for the sign; however, after talking with ODA/OSWB we will look to apply for outreach fund in August through the Invasive Noxious Weed Council. This will allow us more time to prep for the signs and apply for the necessary funds needed for the sign project execution.

Baker County Weed District was able to spray the Fairgrounds and Rodeo grounds on April 28th with good weather.

Tri-County CWMA

Tri-County is sending out contractors starting May 6th to work on OWEB FIP grant projects in Baker County including Love Reservoir, Virtue Flats, Pleasant Valley, 5-Mile, Keating, and Unity.

A contractor will start on the Upper Burnt River project mid-May to which they have a list of landowners participating in the herbicide treatment cost share and more continue to sign up.

They have been working on landowner letters for the state weed board grants.

Tri-County anticipates the Hoary Alyssum project to commence mid-May and plans to collaborate with ODA and Baker County for treatments.

They have been starting field season with their first spring trip to Cache Creek with the Forest Service, and plan to be down on the Snake River at Pittsburgh Landing next week.

Tri-County is still working to fill the Noxious Weed Specialist position. Shanda's planned return date is May 20th.

Bruce commented that Shanda is still participating from the far and was able to present at the OWEB meeting.

- **Old Business:**

Shella Delcurto and Marty Harriman will continue to plan and organize the signs. Gussie will apply for funds for several signs in August. This will alleviate the stress of hurrying for last minute planning. Kathy Thompson was going to reach out to Durkee community members for some funding input. Shella Delcurto will also apply for some funds with a local organization for signs in their area. The local Pine Eagle FFA Chapter is



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in favor of helping install the signs in their area. She will reach out to the Baker FFA Chapter to see if they will help for this area.

2023/2024 Noxious Weed List Review and Update: Gussie sent out two different lists, one dating back farther than the last approved list. Discussion was heard on each individual weed species. Mark Porter was able to discuss with the board the importance of a list and each listings meaning. Whitetop is of abundance in Oregon and is no longer on the State weed list as an A listed weed; however, Baker County board members would like to see our community make the effort to take care of their Whitetop. Discussion ensued. An enforcement letter was being pursued in the past and was discussed as an option to pursue in the future. The Baker County Weed board compared lists and has made alterations to list for approval. The Baker County Weed list will have the changes as follows:

1. Common Vipers Bugloss is added to the EDRR list.
2. All A listed weeds have no T's on them.
3. Whitetop is to remain on the A list with the understanding that landowners must have a plan or are controlling this weed species.
4. The excerpt below Whitetop is removed from the text.
5. Leave Common Tansy on B list.
6. Take the T off Horseweed (Mare's Tail).
7. Leave Oxeye Daisy on the B list.
8. Take the T off Reed Canary Grass.
9. Keep Sweetbriar Rose on the B list.

Gussie will make these revisions and label this new list as revised. We will bring this to the next meeting for adoption.

- **New Business:**

- Barry Murphy gave his update earlier in the meeting
- Weed Levy Updates: Gussie has been helping the board members with creating advertisement pieces for the Weed Levy that is coming up for election on May 21st. Board members receive these by email, or mail, and can distribute them/print them themselves if they would like. A quote was gathered from Elkhorn Media Group for a radio advertisement. The individuals of the board discussed if they individually would like to fund an advertisement. It was recommended that KCMB and NewsTalk to be the selection of stations. Discussion ensued. Bruce Hummel discussed his thoughts that he and Craig Ward had on this matter. Bruce encouraged board members to write letters to the newspaper, hang flyers up if they have the means to, and help funding of a radio ad if able to. Craig Ward pledged \$100 to the radio ad fund for encouragement towards weed



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control and encouraged other members to do the same. Bruce Hummel matched this amount. The funds collected are not eligible for a write-off and are deemed as funding from citizens promoting the weed levy. Discussion ensued. Dave Clemens sent a letter to the Herald encouraging support to the weed levy. Bruce shared his experience with a fundraiser in Arizona. Discussion ensued.

- Give-A-Away: Gussie overviewed how the Weed Levy ties into the Give-A-Away and the changes of this year. Baker County will be providing landowners with product concentrate instead of "Custom Blending". Delcurto discussed how this would affect landowners with small acreages. Discussion ensued. Gussie assured the board that she is working with chemical reps on finding small amounts of concentrate products for the County Give-A-Away program. In addition, the department has plans to keep track of herbicide handouts, provide supplemental instructions, and keep track of acreages per individuals. Dave Clemens commented that we will try to model the Union County Give-A-Away program.
 - Baker County will send out a notice of schedule to board members, news outlets, and community members. This will help advertise the program.
 - Gussie has planned to break up days and allocating time May, July, and September. This will be based off supplies/money available in a broken-up time. In addition, she will maintain going site to site allowing communities one on one time. This will aid in Baker County's goal to make relationships with landowners while educating/outreaching to the communities.

Shella Delcurto wants to make sure the County updated the website for the Give-A-Away schedule and the Cost Share application.

Discussion of new board members occurred and will be expected at the next meeting. Bruce Hummel will help Gussie with the process of how interested individuals can apply and be selected.

Next meeting – May 28th, 2024

3:00 pm meeting adjourned.