



Jefferson County Road Noxious Weed Management Report - 2015

Prepared by the Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board

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1. Introduction

The Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board (JCNWCB) has partnered with the Jefferson County Public Works (Roads Division) since 2012 to provide services for weed control along County right-of-way on county roads. Noxious weeds pose a threat to the health of the environment and population of Jefferson County for various reasons, making it vital to control or mitigate the spread of these weeds efficiently and continuously. All right-of-way serve as vectors facilitating the spread of noxious weeds.

Public Works maintains approximately 400 miles of county roads, which have infestations of state and county listed noxious weeds such as wild chervil, tansy ragwort, spotted and meadow knapweed, poison hemlock, and others that are required for control by WAC 16-750, or by county designation.

As part of this agreement, the JCNWCB provides annual reports to the County Public Works detailing the completed work and distribution of the contribution made by Public Works.

2. Completed work on County roads

During 2015 the JCNWCB completed noxious weed surveys and control treatments using various management strategies.

2.1 Surveys

JCNWCB staff completed a total of 130 hours surveying Jefferson County to assess the locations, infestation sizes, and growth stages of noxious weeds populations. Wild chervil (class B), tansy ragwort (class B), spotted knapweed (class B), Scotch broom (class B), Himalayan blackberry (class C), teasel (class C), and reed canary grass (class C), were commonly found, as well as many other species that are present on the County Noxious Weed list.

Populations and locations of wild chervil on the County right-of-way were mapped and scheduled for treatment in June. Post-treatment surveys were conducted by JCNWCB staff for to determine effectiveness.

2.2 Letters

After determining locations requiring chemical treatment, a total of 92 letters were mailed to landowners of property adjacent to right-of-way scheduled to be treated prior to treatment, allowing ample time for response.

Letters informed landowners of the infestations of wild chervil, its harmful effects on the environment and local agriculture, and outlined the planned work. In the event that adjacent landowners objected to the application of herbicide in the ROW, the option for landowner control was offered as an alternative. Two landowners (organic farmers) chose this option.

2.3 Treatments

The JCNWCB spent a total of 309 hours removing noxious weeds from the County rights-of-way during 2015. Of this 49 hours were contracted out to third party contractors (9 hours to Northwest Weed Management, 40 hours to the Washington Conservation Corps).

2.3.1 *Manual Treatment*

Approximately 130 out of the 309 hours were devoted to early detection and rapid response of various species including tansy ragwort, sulfur cinquefoil, herb Robert, Scotch broom, teasel, and poison hemlock. No exact locations were recorded for this activity, since it was completed with Noxious Weed Board funds and not the contribution from Public Works. However, in the future, the JCNWCB will record and share all noxious weed removal data with all interested parties.

Wild Chervil Project

In June, staff from the JCNWCB visited wild chervil infestations prior to chemical treatment and manually removed seeds and flowers from plants as a preventative measure to prevent seeding which can continue for some time after herbicide application.

Additionally, all other wild chervil infestations that were not chemically treated were removed manually. These need to be carefully monitored, as root fragments quickly form new plants.

2.3.2 Herbicide Treatment

Herbicide applications took place on June 18th and June 26th totaling at 25 applications made on Center Road, West Valley Road, Eaglemount Road, and Larson Lake Road. Figure 1 displays an overview of the herbicide application locations.

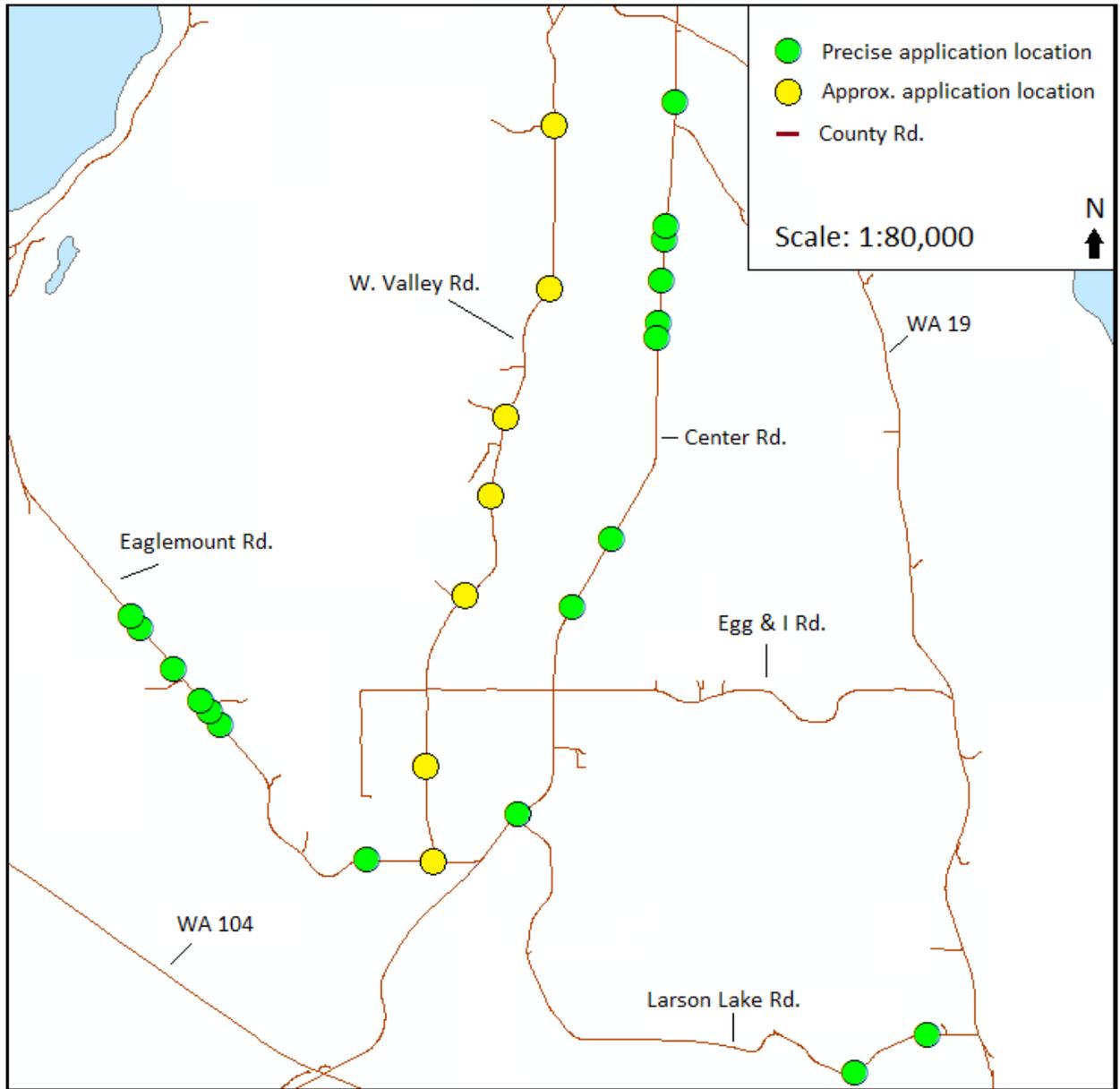


Figure 1: Overview map of herbicide applications in Jefferson County

Notification signs were posted at both ends of each treated area for 45 days to inform the public of the chemical treatment. Backpack sprayers containing a mixture of 1.5% Aquaneat (herbicide), 0.5% Liberate (surfactant), 0.39% Blaze on Blue (dye), and 97.61% water were used for the application.

Table 1 provides an overview of the herbicide amounts. Please contact the JCNWCB coordinator for spray records and/or MSDS labels.

Table 1: Total amounts of herbicides, adjuvant (surfactant), and marker dye applied

Date	Lead Applicator(s)	Aquaneat Herbicide (oz)	Liberate Surfactant (oz)	Blaze on Blue Marker Dye (oz)	Area Treated (sq ft)
06/18	Jill Silver/Owen French	58.5	19	7.6	15,624
06/18	Joost Besijn/Evan Sivesind	74.103	24.172	12.169	39,912
06/26	Joost Besijn	11.523	11.523	N/A	19,650

2.4 Staff

Letters and surveys were conducted by part time staff at the JCNWCB. For herbicidal treatments, JCNWCB contracted the WCC regional crew and Northwest Weed Management supervised by JCNWCB chair, Jill Silver, and coordinator, Joost Besijn. All lead applicators are trained and licensed pesticide applicators through the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA).

3. Future projects

The JCNWCB will, within our capacity, continue to survey and control noxious weeds on the Jefferson County rights-of-way (ROW). The program will also work to update the current map of all known infestations in 2016 in east and west Jefferson County.

Table 2 provides an overview of the estimated resources the JCNWCB will dedicate in 2016.

Table 2: Overview of JCNWCB resources dedicated to managing noxious weeds on Jefferson County ROW.

Expenses		Year			
		2015		2016 (estimate)	
		Amount	Cost	Amount	Cost
Surveying		130 hrs	\$2,275.00	200 hrs	\$4,000.00
Report writing		10 hrs	\$245.00	20 hrs	\$490.00
Removal	Weed Board	260 hrs	\$4,787.50	200 hrs	\$4,000.00
	Contractor (WCC)	40 hrs	\$830.00	120 hrs	\$2,490.00
	Contractor (NWWM)	9 hrs	\$512.00		
Other	Meetings	0		10 hrs	\$245.00
	Outreach	30 hrs	\$630.00	10 hrs	\$245.00
	Articles	0		4 (2x PTL + 2x PDN)	\$600.00
Postage		92 letters	\$45.08	150 letters	\$73.50
Equipment	Information print-outs	120 copies	\$6.00	120 copies	\$6.00
	Vehicles + Spray equipment	?		1 new backpack	\$69.99
	Herbicide + Adjuvant	3 gal	\$119.50	3 gal	\$119.50
Mileage		635 miles	\$365.13	1000 miles	\$460.00
Total			\$9,279.50		\$11,470.00
					-\$11,470.00
Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board			+	\$7,470.00	
Jefferson County Road Department			+	\$4,000.00	
					\$0

3.1 Future challenges

One of the main tasks of the Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board is to facilitate communication between all parties involved in noxious weed management, including the road department and the JCNWB itself. This is vital to ensure effective weed control and to avoid counterproductive management strategies.

The County Road department's mowing practices are necessary to achieve several objectives such as maintaining visibility and to prevent damage to the roadway. When timed right, mowing can be an effective management tool to prevent the spread of certain noxious weed species. Alternatively, when mistimed or applied to the wrong species, mowing can greatly contribute to the spread of certain noxious weeds by spreading propagules.

Therefore, it is vital to clearly communicate and plan management strategies so that the desired effects can be achieved for all parties involved.