



# WeedWise

A conservation program of the *Clackamas SWCD*



## **WeedWise Program**

*Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District*

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**Policeman's helmet:** A target for control along the Sandy River



**Garlic mustard:** A regional target for control and containment

## WeedWise Approach

To improve the management of invasive weeds in Clackamas County, the WeedWise program has developed three initiatives designed to maximize the impacts of our efforts.

### Service & Assistance

Our Service and Assistance initiative is focused on helping local landowners to improve management on their property.

We work with county residents to answer questions about invasive weeds. We also help residents develop weed control strategies for use on their property.

### Assessment & Prioritization

Managing invasive weeds across an area as large as Clackamas County is a major undertaking.

The WeedWise program works to maximize our impact by carrying out landscape level evaluations of weed distributions. We evaluate invasive weed risk and the benefit from active management.

The WeedWise program uses this information to develop a list of priority weeds to target for our weed control efforts.

### Invasive Weed Management

Implementation of on-the-ground invasive weed control effort is a primary focus of the WeedWise program.

Our management practices focus on cooperation with many local and regional partners, but our most important partners are our private landowners.

The WeedWise program routinely works with private landowners to access and treat priority invasive weeds. Since invasive weeds ignore property boundaries, our efforts would be severely compromised without the willing participation of our private landowners.

**Many thanks to all of our cooperating landowners!**

## Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA)

The WeedWise program administers and coordinates both the 4-County CWMA, that serves the Portland Metropolitan Region, and the Columbia Gorge CWMA that serves the Columbia River Gorge and surrounding areas. Both focus on improving the management of invasive weeds between nearly fifty partnering organizations.



## Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP)

The WeedWise program formalized an agreement with eleven public and non-profit organizations to form a new partnership to support invasive species control efforts in the Clackamas River Basin. This new partnership has secured funding to support weed control activities. We will continue to expand our current work in the coming year.

## WeedWise Highlights

The WeedWise program initiatives focus on the active management of priority invasive weeds as well as providing assistance to Clackamas County residents.

In the past year the WeedWise program has:

- » Maintained the *Clackamas Weed List* with **217** weeds and **90** priority weeds;
  - » Provided assistance to **2,888** residents;
  - » Maintained permissions with **1,862** landowners for **109,338** acres of property;
  - » Surveyed **230** properties totaling **3,809** acres;
  - » Carried out **287** weed treatments on **283** infested acres;
  - » Sent targeted mailings to **2,101** households;
  - » Partnered with **54** public and non-profit organizations
  - » Administered **2** Cooperative Weed Management Areas
  - » Tracked **42,902** separate weed observations.
- Over the last year the WeedWise program has also been working on a number of large scale projects including:
- » Our county-wide *Rapid Response* weed control effort that targets all high priority Oregon class A noxious weeds in Clackamas County;
  - » The development of the **Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership** (CRISP) to support weed control efforts in the Clackamas River Basin;
  - » The continuation of our *Weed Smackdown* in conjunction with the **Sandy River Basin Watershed Council** to survey and control priority weeds in the Sandy River Basin;
  - » Coordinating and sponsoring the expansion of the *Backyard Habitat Certification Program* to target invasive weeds in the urban areas of Clackamas County.



**Goatsrue:** A new priority weed discovered on the Clackamas River



**Japanese knotweed:** A primary target for weed control efforts



**Before** (left) **and After** (right): The WeedWise program recently assisted a resident with a large milk thistle infestation in a horse pasture. The results above were realized after only one year of active management.

## About WeedWise

Since 2009, the WeedWise program has been working hard to improve the management of invasive weeds in Clackamas County.

We provide assistance and technical information to local landowners, and implement prioritized landscape-level management practices to target invasive weeds across Clackamas County.

Our team of dedicated professionals are working hard to protect working lands and natural areas, as well as the livability of our communities from the threat of invasive weeds.

If you are working to control invasive weeds on property that you own or manage please contact the WeedWise program for assistance today!



## Why Should We Care?

*Invasive weeds have a negative impact and are known to:*

- » *Displace local plants*
- » *Harm crops and agricultural production*
- » *Threaten fish and wildlife*
- » *Be toxic or harmful to humans and livestock*
- » *Damage our property and infrastructure*
- » *Reduce forage for livestock and wildlife*
- » *Decrease the value of our property*
- » *Increase erosion*
- » *Decrease water quality and quantity*
- » *Limit land use*



**The WeedWise Program Staff** (left to right): Samuel Leininger, Jeff Lesh, Sarah Hamilton, Lindsey Karr