



## **Olympic Peninsula Cooperative Noxious Weed Control 2013 Project Report**

A Title II Participating Agreement between:  
USDAFS Olympic National Forest  
and  
Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board

Report compiled by  
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Susan F. Baker  
Robert Simmons

**A copy of this report will be posted to the Mason County WSU Extension website at:**

**<http://county.wsu.edu/mason/nrs/noxious/Pages/default.aspx>**

**2013 Report**

## **Acknowledgements**

We'd like to acknowledge the support and cooperation from the following people and organizations. Thanks for your continued efforts in reducing the impacts of invasive plants and noxious weeds on the resources of Mason County!

### **Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board Assistants**

Connor Cordray  
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### **WSU Mason County Extension**

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### **Olympic National Forest**

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### **Washington Conservation Corps**

Darrell Borden and WCC crew  
Amber Palmeri-Miles and PSC crew

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Project Goal:

Invasive species pose an environmental and economic threat to both Mason County's terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. With over 127,000 acres of Olympic National Forest land located within the county, this project seeks to strengthen the collaboration between the Olympic National Forest, the Mason County Noxious Weed Control program and other community stakeholders. The ultimate goal of this collaboration is the efficient, effective and coordinated control of invasive plant species across jurisdictional boundaries.

### Project Overview:

Since 2005, Title II funding has supported Mason County and the Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board's (MCNWCB) efforts to develop a Noxious Weed Control program which is responsive to the needs of the Mason County public and collaborative with other agencies and groups. The Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board has been an active participant in the protection of National Forest lands from the threat of invasive plant species. MCNWCB staff has worked to locate and treat noxious and invasive plant infestations on Olympic National Forest lands and on neighboring properties. These efforts strive to control infestations which have the potential to degrade National Forest natural resources. The program continues to deliver education and technical assistance regarding the impacts and control of noxious weeds to residents of, and visitors to, Mason County.

Title II funding has provided employment to several local residents and training opportunities to county staff, partners and volunteers.

### 2013 Project Goals:

- Control invasive plants within special project areas.
- Control invasive plants on roads scheduled for decommissioning.
- Control invasive plants in areas planned for future forest management activities.
- Survey for and treat invasive species in rock sources within the Olympic National Forest.
- Control invasive plants in campgrounds, at trailheads and other heavily-used sites.
- Revisit previously controlled sites and perform necessary follow-up control work.
- Identify and treat new populations utilizing Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR).
- Conduct surveys of and provide technical expertise to privately owned rock sources in Mason County.
- Build new relationships with other agencies and non-profits in Mason County.

### 2013 Resources:

- Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board Coordinator ( 20 hours/week, 6.5 months)
- MCNWCB Field Assistants (1 @ 40 hours/week for 6 months; 1 @ 32 hours/week for 3 weeks)
- WCC crew - 1 week
- PSC crew – 3.5 months working throughout Mason County

### 2013 Accomplishments:

- Treated, either manually or with herbicide, approximately **161** weed-infested acres and repeated treatments on **14** acres.
- Completed and submitted **102** paper accomplishment forms for the Forest Activity Tracking System (FACTS) database and **21** monitoring reports. In addition, site specific notes and recommendations were included for many locations.
- Participated in **4** public events, resulting in nearly **1,100** contacts with Mason County residents or visitors.
- Executed agreements with the Washington State Department of Transportation, Washington State Department of Natural Resources and Green Diamond Resource Company for the purpose of survey for and control of invasive species.
- Completed annual project report.

### Observations:

On federal lands, the Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board continues to contribute to the implementation of the Olympic National Forest's Integrated Weed Management Program as adopted in the 2008 Final Environmental Impact Statement.

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

### **Project Goal**

Invasive species pose an environmental and economic threat to both Mason County's terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. With over 127,000 acres of Olympic National Forest land located within the county, this project seeks to strengthen the collaboration between the Olympic National Forest, the Mason County Noxious Weed Control program and other community stakeholders. The ultimate goal of this collaboration is the efficient, effective and coordinated control of invasive plant species across jurisdictional boundaries within Mason County.

Public education and awareness continue to be key elements of Mason County's Noxious Weed Control program which seeks to protect the resources of Mason County from the harmful effects of invasive plants through an integrated approach that emphasizes prevention, early detection, and rapid response or treatment (EDRR).

### **Project Overview**

Since 2005, Title II funding has afforded Mason County and the Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board (MCNWCB) the opportunity to develop a Noxious Weed Control program which is responsive to the needs of the Mason County public and collaborative with other agencies and groups. Title II of the Secure Rural Schools Act was designed, in part, to promote cooperation and collaboration between federal and local governments. This Title II funding has been instrumental in the development of the Mason County Noxious Weed program and the treatment of noxious weeds on or adjacent to National Forest lands. Funding from these agreements has provided for public education and outreach at multiple county events, surveying and monitoring of noxious weed infestations adjacent to Forest Service lands, and has initiated the process of seeking landowner compliance with RCW 17.10.

Title II funding continues to provide employment to several local residents and training opportunities to county staff, partners, and volunteers.

Extensive invasive plant survey work took place on National Forest lands in the mid 1990's. This work became the foundation of the *Olympic National Forest Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision Beyond Prevention: Site-Specific Invasive Plant Treatment Project* (March 17, 2008). This analysis incorporated the best available science related to invasive plant management on National Forest system lands and is tiered to the *Pacific Northwest Invasive Plant Program Final Environmental Impact Statement* (R6 2005 FEIS). County Weed Boards, a forest service crew and a WCC crew are now actively involved with treatments prescribed by Olympic National Forest personnel, with control priorities based on a matrix of criteria which includes ecological impact, new infestations of aggressive species,

treatment in areas of high public use and infestation potential (e.g. parking lots, campgrounds, trailheads, horse camps, gravel pits), and containment/control of existing large infestations of species with focus on boundaries of infestation. For known sites, the emphasis is on controlling high priority noxious weeds (Appendix E) in areas with high potential to spread, such as rock sources or campgrounds, or in particularly fragile, sensitive environments such as Botanical Areas.

On non-Forest Service lands, which may include other federal lands, state, county and private lands, the emphasis continues to be in areas where uncontrolled noxious weed populations are spreading and hindering coordinated control activities. The Mason County Weed Board provides a link to private landowners whose weeds threaten federal lands. Program goals include public education, monitoring infested sites, surveying for new noxious weed infestations, seeking both private and public landowner compliance with RCW 17.10 and WAC 16-750 and assisting other public agencies with their efforts to control noxious weeds.

Work has been accomplished by various individuals and crews. This has included the Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board coordinator and assistants, all working part-time through funding available through this agreement. In addition, the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) crews under the direction of Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board personnel have been instrumental in achieving program goals.

## Mason County Noxious Weed Control program

### 2013 Snapshot

Number of known weed species (2013 Weed List)	55
Number of regulated species	27
Most common regulated weeds	Tansy ragwort, knapweeds, hawkweeds, giant hogweed
Least common regulated weeds	Blueweed, perennial sowthistle
Most common treated weeds	Tansy ragwort, Giant hogweed, Bohemian knotweed, Scotch Broom
Educational Events	4
Public contacts at educational events	1,100
County funding for Noxious Weed program (General fund)	\$22,096.00



Tansy ragwort



Giant hogweed



Bohemian knotweed



Scotch broom

