

Why are we not doing more about scotch broom and what are my 2\$ going for?

Scotch broom is not a designated noxious weed for control here in Kitsap County. The State Weed Laws RCW 17.10 and WAC 16-750 state that "the goal of the Weed Board is to work to slow the spread of designated noxious weeds in our County. Unfortunately for many of the Western Washington Counties Scotch broom is so wide spread that it is not seen as good use of resources to mandate its control. We do however advocate for citizens to work on their Scotch broom and to that effort we have worked with Home Owners Associations to put together community Scotch broom pulls in many neighborhoods in Kitsap County. If you would like some information on how to set up a community pull please contact me.

To address the allergy issue, unfortunately many of us are allergic to Scotch broom. I also find it difficult and frustrating that there is not more action on the control of this menace not only in our back yards but also along the road ways. I have been working with the County Roads crews and also the State Department of Transportation to address some of the larger problem areas. Unfortunately the county weed control program has only been in existence since 2005 and the Scotch broom has had about a 20-30 year jump on me. The best motto that I have with the Scotch broom is "One a day keeps millions a way" if we all did just one a day not only on our properties but also in public areas we could make a difference.

To address your final question on how do you benefit from the \$2 that you pay for the Noxious Weeds assessment, I will use the Scotch broom problem as my example of what we are trying to prevent. Our goal as a program is to stop the spread of many weeds before they become as wide spread as the Scotch broom. Your fees go towards trainings that are held throughout the County to inform citizens about the impacts of invasive weeds in hopes of empowering individuals to make a difference one site at a time. Unfortunately the minimal funding that we receive is not sufficient for us to do our job as adequately as I would like. I would like to have funds to address all of the noxious weed issues in the County, but unfortunately we are relegated to addressing the few challenges that our Board feels are the highest priorities.

I invite you to attend one of our County Noxious Weed Control Board meetings to voice your concerns about what the noxious weed priorities should be. I also challenge you to become more involved and active in our program to help stop the spread of invasive weeds.