

# Crooked River Weed Management Area



**2014 Annual Report**

## Introduction

Crooked River Weed Management Area (CRWMA) is a non-profit organization with the primary function to educate and assist landowners with noxious weed identification and control. We provide landowners with maps of weed locations on their property and funds to treat weeds and restore productive lands with both native and non-native seed mixes. When possible, the CRWMA also works with landowners on biological control agents. Our watershed encompasses 2.9 million acres of private, county, state, and federal lands.

The 2014 was a busy year for CRWMA, including projects focused on some of the most noxious weeds in the county.

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### Scotch Thistle in the Lower Crooked River

The CRWMA focused on the Scotch Thistle issue in the Powell Butte Area. Scotch thistle is an "A" listed weed for Crook County and is an easily controlled noxious weed. It can be controlled by herbicide or even a shovel. With some commitment from landowners, their infestations can be controlled within just a few years.

Eric Tucker with Crooked River

Watershed Council contracted the management of the project. Landowners were contacted and provided technical assistance on the treatment and removal of this noxious weed. Cost-Share dollars were used to provide landowners with chemical to treat their infestations. The Crook County Weed Master assisted in the outreach aspect and following up with landowners.

Two signs were also printed and will be installed for the next year. The program was hugely successful. To continue the success, we have applied for an Oregon Weed Board Grant for the 2014 season. The funding would expand to assist all landowners within the Crook County with Scotch thistle issues.

**Mission Statement:**

The Crooked River Weed Management Area will create public and private partnerships to manage noxious weed populations in the watershed through education, prevention, inventory, control, and restoration.

**Treatment of Eurasian milfoil on the Werner Pond**

The conclusion of the 2013 Tri County grant included the treatment of Eurasian milfoil within the Werner Pond located in Jefferson County. With the assistance of Mike Crumrine with ODA and landowners, we were able to treat the infestation of Eurasian milfoil.

The pond covered almost a 2 acre area. Landowners assisted with diverting the incoming water around the pond and built retention wall to prevent any outgoing water. Treating the standing water allowed for a high success rate and prevented chemicals from reaching the Metolius River. Crooked River Watershed Council prepared the water quality testing by taking before and after water sampling.

Landowners were able to learn the treatment methods so that they can continue to treat the Eurasian milfoil in the future. The project was a huge success by all standards.



## Central Oregon's Top Eight Noxious Weeds

Deschutes County Road Department, Jefferson County Public Works, and Crooked River Weed Management Area coordinated efforts to educate and treat the top noxious weeds of the area.

The grant was written to include focus on top noxious weeds in the area including



Mediterranean sage, perennial pepperweed, yellowstar thistle, African rue, white top, and musk thistle. Despite the differences in the structures of partnering entities, the goals remain the same to control and manage the noxious weeds. The coordinated efforts are extremely important as invasive species know no boundaries.

In April, landowners with known infestation sites were contacted and notified of the grant support

available this year. Landowners then did checks on property to determine need for treatment.

CRWMA also provided landowners with GPS units or an actual site visit to determine level of infestation and best treatment options. Road department staff was reminded to be aware and notify of any sightings for the particular species while driving about the county. Deschutes Road

Department also monitored the success of the biocontrol on dalmation toadflax and yellow toadflax release sites.

Biocontrol was monitored in June and considered to be a continued success and therefore no future releases are scheduled. The sites with yellow starthistle infestations are still capable of restoring natural due to the amount of native plants. African rue continues to be controlled annually along the roads and it has been determine to not seed the areas at this time. Coordination with BLM is necessary to maintain the level of successful so far. We continue to treat the message, with one site requiring future attention. The soil health is a concern and presents the restoration issue. All other species and treatment sites are considered healthy and capable of restoring native plants with continued spot treatments.

