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States' Noxious Weed Statutes and Regulations:

Washington



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States' Noxious Weed Statutes: Washington

Revised Code of Washington

Title 17 Weeds, Rodents, and Pests

Chapter 17.10 Noxious Weeds—Control Boards

RCW 17.10.007. Purpose—Construction

The purpose of this chapter is to limit economic loss and adverse effects to Washington's agricultural, natural, and human resources due to the presence and spread of noxious weeds on all terrestrial and aquatic areas in the state. The intent of the legislature is that this chapter be liberally construed, and that the jurisdiction, powers, and duties granted to the county noxious weed control boards by this chapter are limited only by specific provisions of this chapter or other state and federal law.

RCW 17.10.010 Definitions

The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

- (1) "Agent" means any occupant or any other person acting for the owner and working or in charge of the land.
- (2) "Agricultural purposes" are those that are intended to provide for the growth and harvest of food and fiber.
- (3) "Aquatic noxious weed" means an aquatic plant species that is listed on the state weed list under RCW 17.10.080.
- (4) "Assessment" means a special assessment levied by a county legislative authority pursuant to RCW 17.10.240.
- (5) "Centerline miles" means the length of any given road right-of-way corridor in miles, along the center line of the overall roadway alignment.



(6) As pertains to the duty of an owner, the words "control," "contain," "eradicate," and the term "prevent the spread of noxious weeds" means conforming to the standards of noxious weed control or prevention in this chapter or as adopted by rule in chapter 16-750 WAC by the state noxious weed control board and an activated county noxious weed control board.

(7) "Director" means the director of the department of agriculture or the director's appointed representative.

(8) "Noxious weed" means a plant that when established is highly destructive, competitive, or difficult to control by cultural or chemical practices.

(9) "Owner" means the person in actual control of property including, but not limited to, deeded parcels, public rights-of-way, and undefined lots, or his or her agent, whether the control is based on legal or equitable title or on any other interest entitling the holder to possession and, for purposes of liability, pursuant to RCW 17.10.170 or 17.10.210, means the possessor of legal or equitable title or the possessor of an easement: PROVIDED, That when the possessor of an easement has the right to control or limit the growth of vegetation within the boundaries of an easement, only the possessor of the easement is deemed, for the purpose of this chapter, an "owner" of the property within the boundaries of the easement.

(10) "Parcel" means real property having a parcel number or deeded real property, undefined lot, a lot having a legal description, or right-of-way owned or held by the state, county, or city.

(11) "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation, firm, the state or any department, agency, or subdivision thereof, or any other entity.

(12) "Screenings" means a mixture of mill or elevator run mixture or a combination of varying amounts of materials obtained in the process of cleaning either grain or seeds, or both, such as light or broken grain or seed, weed seeds, hulls, chaff, joints, straw, elevator dust, floor sweepings, sand, and dirt.

(13) "State noxious weed list" means a list of noxious weeds adopted by the state noxious weed control board. The list is divided into three classes:

(a) Class A consists of those noxious weeds not native to the state that are of limited distribution or are unrecorded in the state and that pose a serious threat to the state;

(b) Class B consists of those noxious weeds not native to the state that are of limited distribution or are unrecorded in a region of the state and that pose a serious threat to that region;

(c) Class C consists of any other nonnative to Washington state noxious weeds.

(14) "Weed district" means a weed district as defined in chapters 17.04 and 17.06 RCW.



RCW 17.10.020
County noxious weed control boards—Created—Jurisdiction—Inactive status

(1) In each county of the state there is created a noxious weed control board, bearing the name of the county within which it is located. The jurisdictional boundaries of each board are the boundaries of the county within which it is located.

(2) Each noxious weed control board is inactive until activated pursuant to the provisions of RCW 17.10.040.

RCW 17.10.030
State noxious weed control board—Members—Terms—Elections—Meetings—Reimbursement for travel expenses.

An inactive county noxious weed control board may be activated by any one of the following methods:

(1) Either within sixty days after a petition is filed by one hundred registered voters within the county or, on its own motion, the county legislative authority shall hold a hearing to determine whether there is a need, due to a damaging infestation of noxious weeds, to activate the county noxious weed control board. If such a need is found to exist, then the county legislative authority shall, in the manner provided by RCW 17.10.050, appoint five persons to the county's noxious weed control board.

(2) If the county's noxious weed control board is not activated within one year following a hearing by the county legislative authority to determine the need for activation, then upon the filing with the state noxious weed control board of a petition comprised either of the signatures of at least two hundred registered voters within the county, or of the signatures of a majority of an adjacent county's noxious weed control board, the state board shall, within six months of the date of the filing, hold a hearing in the county to determine the need for activation. If a need for activation is found to exist, then the state board shall order the county legislative authority to activate the county's noxious weed control board and to appoint members to the board in the manner provided by RCW 17.10.050.

(3) The director, upon request of the state noxious weed control board, shall order a county legislative authority to activate the noxious weed control board immediately if an infestation of a class A noxious weed or class B noxious weed designated for control on the state noxious weed list is confirmed in that county. The county legislative authority may, as an alternative to activating the noxious weed board, combat the class A noxious weed or class B noxious weed with county resources and personnel operating with the authorities and responsibilities imposed by this chapter on a county noxious weed control board. No county may continue without a noxious weed control board for a second consecutive year if the class A noxious weed or class B noxious weed has not been eradicated.



RCW 17.10.050

Activated county noxious weed control board—Members—Election— Terms—Meetings—Quorum—Expenses—Officers—Vacancy

(1) Each activated county noxious weed control board consists of five voting members appointed by the county legislative authority. In appointing the voting members, the county legislative authority shall divide the county into five geographical areas that best represent the county's interests, and appoint a voting member from each geographical area. At least four of the voting members shall be engaged in the primary production of agricultural products. There is one nonvoting member on the board who is the chair of the county extension office or an extension agent appointed by the chair of the county extension office. Each voting member of the board serves a term of four years, except that the county legislative authority shall, when a board is first activated under this chapter, designate two voting members to serve terms of two years. The board members shall not receive a salary but shall be compensated for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

(2) The voting members of the board serve until their replacements are appointed. New members of the board shall be appointed at least thirty days prior to the expiration of any board member's term of office. Notice of expiration of a term of office shall be published at least twice in a weekly or daily newspaper of general circulation in the section [geographical area] with last publication occurring at least ten days prior to the nomination. All persons interested in appointment to the board and residing in the geographical area with a pending nomination shall make a written application that includes the signatures of at least ten registered voters residing in the geographical area supporting the nomination to the county noxious weed control board. After nominations close, the county noxious weed control board shall, after a hearing, send the applications to the county legislative authority recommending the names of the most qualified candidates, and post the names of those nominees in the county courthouse and publish in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the county. The county legislative authority, within ten days of receiving the list of nominees, shall appoint one of those nominees to the county noxious weed control board to represent that geographical area during that term of office.

(3) Within thirty days after all the members have been appointed, the board shall conduct its first meeting. A majority of the voting members of the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business and is necessary for any action taken by the board. The board shall elect from its members a chair and other officers as may be necessary.

(4) In case of a vacancy occurring in any voting position on a county noxious weed control board, the county legislative authority of the county in which the board is located shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.



RCW 17.10.060
Activated county noxious weed control board—Weed coordinator—
Authority—Rules and regulations

(1) Each activated county noxious weed control board must employ or otherwise provide a weed coordinator whose duties are fixed by the board but which shall include inspecting land to determine the presence of noxious weeds, offering technical assistance and education, and developing a program to achieve compliance with the weed law. The weed coordinator may be employed full time, part time, or seasonally by the county noxious weed control board. County weed board employment practices shall comply with county personnel policies. Within sixty days from initial employment, the weed coordinator must obtain licensure consistent with Washington state department of agriculture pesticide license rules, and the necessary endorsements on the licenses as required by law. Each board may purchase, rent, or lease equipment, facilities, or products and may hire additional persons as it deems necessary for the administration of the county's noxious weed control program.

(2) Each activated county noxious weed control board has the power to adopt rules and regulations, subject to notice and hearing as provided in chapter 42.30 RCW, as are necessary for an effective county weed control or eradication program.

(3) Each activated county noxious weed control board shall meet with a quorum at least quarterly.

RCW 17.10.070
State noxious weed control board—Powers—Report

(1) In addition to the powers conferred on the state noxious weed control board under other provisions of this chapter, it has the power to:

(a) Employ a state noxious weed control board executive secretary and educational specialist, and additional persons as it deems necessary, to disseminate information relating to noxious weeds to county noxious weed control boards and weed districts, to coordinate the educational and weed control efforts of the various county and regional noxious weed control boards and weed districts, and to assist the board in carrying out its responsibilities;

(b) Adopt, amend, or repeal rules, pursuant to the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, as may be necessary to carry out the duties and authorities assigned to the board by this chapter.

(2) The state noxious weed control board must provide a written report before January 1st of each odd-numbered year to the county noxious weed control boards and the weed districts showing the expenditure of state funds on noxious weed control; specifically how the funds were spent; the status of the state, county, and district programs; and recommendations for the continued best use of state funds for noxious weed control. The report must include recommendations as to the long-term needs regarding weed control.



RCW 17.10.074 Director—Powers

(1) In addition to the powers conferred on the director under other provisions of this chapter, the director, with the advice of the state noxious weed control board, has power to:

- (a) Require the county legislative authority or the noxious weed control board of any county or any weed district to report to it concerning the presence, absence, or estimated amount of noxious weeds and measures, if any, taken or planned for the control thereof;
- (b) Employ staff as may be necessary in the administration of this chapter;
- (c) Adopt, amend, or repeal rules, pursuant to the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, as may be necessary to carry out this chapter;
- (d) Do such things as may be necessary and incidental to the administration of its functions pursuant to this chapter including but not limited to surveying for and detecting noxious weed infestations.

(2) In addition to the powers conferred on the director under the provisions of this chapter, the director, with the advice of the state noxious weed control board, must:

- (a) Upon receipt of a complaint signed by a majority of the members of an adjacent county noxious weed control board or weed district, or by one hundred registered voters that are land owners within the county, require the county legislative authority or noxious weed control board of the county or weed district that is the subject of the complaint to respond to the complaint within forty-five days with a plan for the control of the noxious weeds cited in the complaint;
- (b) If the complaint in (a) of this subsection involves a class A or class B noxious weed, order the county legislative authority, noxious weed control board, or weed district to take immediate action to eradicate or control the noxious weed infestation. If the county or the weed district does not take action to control the noxious weed infestation in accordance with the order, the director may control it or cause it to be controlled. The county or weed district is liable for payment of the expense of the control work including necessary costs and expenses for attorneys' fees incurred by the director in securing payment from the county or weed district. The director may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction to collect the expenses of the control work, costs, and attorneys' fees;
- (c) In counties without an activated noxious weed control board, enter upon any property as provided for in RCW 17.10.160, issue or cause to be issued notices and citations and take the necessary action to control noxious weeds as provided in RCW 17.10.170, hold hearings on any charge or cost of control action taken as provided for in RCW 17.10.180, issue a notice of civil infraction as provided for in RCW 17.10.230, 17.10.310, and 17.10.350, and place a lien on any property pursuant to RCW 17.10.280, 17.10.290, and 17.10.300 with the same authorities and responsibilities imposed by these sections on county noxious weed control boards;
- (d) Adopt a list of noxious weed seeds and toxic weeds which shall be controlled in designated articles, products, or feed stuffs as provided for in RCW 17.10.235.



(3) The moneys appropriated for noxious weed control to the department shall be used for administration of the state noxious weed control board, the administration of the director's powers under this chapter, the purchase of materials for controlling, containing, or eradicating noxious weeds, the purchase or collection of biological control agents for controlling noxious weeds, and the contracting for services to carry out the purposes of this chapter. In a county with an activated noxious weed control board, the director shall make every effort to contract with that board for the needed services.

(4) If the director determines the need to reallocate funds previously designated for county use, the director shall convene a meeting of the state noxious weed control board to seek its advice concerning any reallocation.

RCW 17.10.080

State noxious weed list—Hearing—Adoption—Guidelines for placing plants on the list—Dissemination

(1) The state noxious weed control board shall each year or more often, following a hearing, adopt a state noxious weed list.

(2) The state noxious weed control board shall adopt guidelines by rule for placing plants on the state noxious weed list. These guidelines must include criteria for reconsideration of proposed new species that were not adopted by the state noxious weed control board, including the need for the board to be presented with additional data from scientific sources regarding any invasive and noxious qualities of the species and from existing positive economic benefits before taking any action.

(3) Any person may request during a comment period established by the state noxious weed control board the inclusion, deletion, or designation change of any plant to the state noxious weed list.

(4) The state noxious weed control board shall send a copy of the list to each activated county noxious weed control board, to each weed district, and to the county legislative authority of each county with an inactive noxious weed control board.

(5) The record of rulemaking must include the written findings of the board for the inclusion of each plant on the list. The findings shall be made available upon request to any interested person.

RCW 17.10.090

State noxious weed list—Selection of weeds for control by county board

(1) Each county noxious weed control board shall, within ninety days of the adoption of the state noxious weed list from the state noxious weed control board and following a hearing, select those weeds from the class C list and those weeds from the class B list not designated for control in the noxious weed control region in which the county lies that it finds necessary to be controlled in the county.



(2) The weeds thus selected and all class A weeds and those class B weeds that have been designated for control in the noxious weed control region in which the county lies shall be classified within that county as noxious weeds, and those weeds comprise the county noxious weed list.

(3) Nothing in this chapter limits a county noxious weed control board, or other branch of county or city government, from conducting education, outreach, or other assistance regarding plant species not included on the state noxious weed list if the county or city determines that the plant species causes localized risk or concern.

RCW 17.10.100

Order to county board to include weed from state board's list in county's noxious weed list

Where any of the following occur, the state noxious weed control board must hold a hearing, then may order any county noxious weed control board or weed district to include a noxious weed from the state board's list in the county's noxious weed list:

(1) Where the state noxious weed control board receives a petition from at least one hundred registered voters within the county requesting that the weed be listed.

(2) Where the state noxious weed control board receives a request for inclusion from an adjacent county's noxious weed control board or weed district, which the adjacent board or district has included that weed in its county or district list, and the adjacent board or weed district documents that its noxious weed control program is being hampered by the failure to include the weed on the county's noxious weed list.

RCW 17.10.110

Regional noxious weed control board—Creation.

A regional noxious weed control board comprising the area of two or more counties may be created as follows:

Either the county legislative authority, or the noxious weed control board, or both, of two or more counties may, upon a determination that the purpose of this chapter will be served by the creation of a regional noxious weed control board, adopt a resolution providing for a limited merger of the functions of their respective counties noxious weed control boards. The resolution becomes effective only when a similar resolution is adopted by the other county or counties comprising the proposed regional board.



RCW 17.10.120
**Regional noxious weed control board—Members—Meetings—Quorum—
Officers—Effect on county boards**

In any case where a regional noxious weed control board is created, the county noxious weed control boards comprising the regional board shall still remain in existence and shall retain all powers and duties provided for the boards under this chapter.

The regional noxious weed control board is comprised of the voting members and the nonvoting members of the component counties noxious weed control boards or county legislative authorities who shall, respectively, be the voting and nonvoting members of the regional board: PROVIDED, That each county shall have an equal number of voting members. The board may appoint other nonvoting members as deemed necessary. A majority of the voting members of the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business and is necessary for any action taken by the board. The board shall elect a chair from its members and other officers as may be necessary. Members of the regional board serve without salary but shall be compensated for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

RCW 17.10.130
Regional noxious weed control board—Powers and duties

The powers and duties of a regional noxious weed control board are as follows:

(1) The regional board shall, within ninety days of the adoption of the state noxious weed list from the state noxious weed control board and following a hearing, select those weeds from the state list that it finds necessary to be controlled on a regional basis. The weeds thus selected shall also be contained in the county noxious weed list of each county in the region.

(2) The regional board shall take action as may be necessary to coordinate the noxious weed control programs of the region and adopt a regional plan for the control of noxious weeds.

RCW 17.10.134
Liability of county and regional noxious weed control boards

Obligations or liabilities incurred by any county or regional noxious weed control board or any claims against a county or regional noxious weed control board are governed by chapter 4.96 RCW or RCW 4.08.120: PROVIDED, that individual members or employees of a county noxious weed control board are personally immune from civil liability for damages arising from actions performed within the scope of their official duties or employment.



RCW 17.10.140

Owner's duty to control spread of noxious weeds

- (1) Except as is provided under subsection (2) of this section, every owner must perform or cause to be performed those acts as may be necessary to:
- (a) Eradicate all class A noxious weeds;
 - (b) Control and prevent the spread of all class B noxious weeds designated for control in that region within and from the owner's property; and
 - (c) Control and prevent the spread of all class B and class C noxious weeds listed on the county weed list as locally mandated control priorities within and from the owner's property.
- (2) Every owner of forestlands classified under RCW 17.10.240(2), or meeting the definition of forestlands contained in RCW 17.10.240, must perform or cause to be performed those acts as may be necessary to:
- (a) Eradicate all class A noxious weeds;
 - (b) Control and prevent the spread of all class B noxious weeds designated for control in that region within and from the owner's property; and
 - (c) Control and prevent the spread of all class B and class C noxious weeds listed on the county weed list as locally mandated control priorities within and from the owner's property only when encountered in any of the following enumerated circumstances:
 - (i) Within 1,000 feet of adjacent land uses;
 - (ii) Within 25 feet of all privately owned roads unless properly abandoned as defined under WAC 222-24-052 as that section existed as of January 1, 2020;
 - (iii) Within 200 feet of navigable rivers, gravel pits, log yards, and staging areas, except when not allowed under other state or federal laws or regulations; and
 - (iv) For a single five-year period within harvested areas following the harvesting of trees for products.

RCW 17.10.145

State agencies' duty to control spread of noxious weeds—Replacement of noxious weeds with native forage plants that are beneficial to pollinators.

- (1) All state agencies shall control noxious weeds on lands they own, lease, or otherwise control through integrated pest management practices. Agencies shall develop plans in cooperation with county noxious weed control boards to control noxious weeds in accordance with standards in this chapter. Agencies shall appoint a liaison whose duties include serving as a common point of contact for all weed boards and developing and implementing noxious weed control plans.
- (2) All state agencies' lands must comply with this chapter, regardless of noxious weed control efforts on adjacent lands.



(3) While conducting planned projects to ensure compliance with this chapter, all agencies must give preference, when deemed appropriate by the acting agency for the project and targeted resource management goals, to replacing noxious weeds with native forage plants that are pollen-rich or nectar-rich and beneficial for all pollinators, including honeybees.

RCW 17.10.154

Owners' agreements with county noxious weed control boards—Terms—Enforcement

It is recognized that the prevention, control, and eradication of noxious weeds presents a problem for immediate as well as for future action. It is further recognized that immediate prevention, control, and eradication is practicable on some lands and that prevention, control, and eradication on other lands should be extended over a period of time. Therefore, it is the intent of this chapter that county noxious weed control boards may use their discretion and, by agreement with the owners of land, may propose and accept plans for prevention, control, and eradication that may be extended over a period of years. The county noxious weed control board may make an agreement with the owner of any parcel of land by contract between the landowner and the respective county noxious weed control board, and the board shall enforce the terms of any agreement. The county noxious weed control board may make any terms that will best serve the interests of the owners of the parcel of land and the common welfare that comply with this chapter. Agreements made under this section must include at least a one thousand foot buffer for all adjacent agricultural land uses. Noxious weed control in this buffer must comply with RCW 17.10.140(1).

RCW 17.10.160

Right of entry—Warrant for noxious weed search—Civil liability—Penalty for preventing entry

Any authorized agent or employee of the county noxious weed control board or of the state noxious weed control board or of the department of agriculture where not otherwise proscribed by law may enter upon any property for the purpose of administering this chapter and any power exercisable pursuant thereto, including the taking of specimens of weeds, general inspection, and the performance of eradication or control work. Prior to carrying out the purpose for which the entry is made, the official making such entry or someone in his or her behalf, shall make a reasonable attempt to notify the owner of the property as to the purpose and need for the entry.

(1) When there is probable cause to believe that there is property within this state not otherwise exempt from process or execution upon which noxious weeds are standing or growing and the owner refuses permission to inspect the property, a judge of the superior court or district court in the county in which the property is located may, upon the request of the county noxious weed control board or its agent, issue a warrant directed to the board or agent authorizing the taking of specimens of weeds or other materials, general inspection, and the performance of eradication or control work.



(2) Application for issuance and execution and return of the warrant authorized by this section shall be in accordance with the applicable rules of the superior court or the district courts.

(3) Nothing in this section requires the application for and issuance of any warrant not otherwise required by law: PROVIDED, That civil liability for negligence shall lie in any case in which entry and any of the activities connected therewith are not undertaken with reasonable care.

(4) Any person who improperly prevents or threatens to prevent entry upon land as authorized in this section or any person who interferes with the carrying out of this chapter shall be upon conviction guilty of a misdemeanor.

RCW 17.10.170

Finding presence of noxious weeds—Notice for failure of owner to control—Control by county board—Liability of owner—Lien—Alternative

(1) Whenever the county noxious weed control board finds that noxious weeds are present on any parcel of land, and that the owner is not taking prompt and sufficient action to control the noxious weeds, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 17.10.140, it shall notify the owner that a violation of this chapter exists. The notice shall be in writing and sent by certified mail, and shall identify the noxious weeds found to be present, order prompt control action, and specify the time, of at least ten days from issuance of the notice, within which the prescribed action must be taken. Upon deposit of the certified letter of notice, the noxious weed control authority shall make an affidavit of mailing that is prima facie evidence that proper notice was given. If seed or other propagule dispersion is imminent, immediate control action may be taken forty-eight hours following the time that notification is reasonably expected to have been received by the owner or agent by certified mail or personal service, instead of ten days. If a landowner received a notice of violation from the county noxious weed control board in a prior growing season, removal or destruction of all above ground plant parts may be required at the most effective point in the growing season, as determined by the county weed board, which may be before or after propagule dispersion.

(2) The county noxious weed control board or its authorized agents may issue a notice of civil infraction as provided for in RCW 17.10.230, 17.10.310, and 17.10.350 to owners who do not take action to control noxious weeds in accordance with the notice.

(3) If the owner does not take action to control the noxious weeds in accordance with the notice, the county board may control them, or cause their being controlled, at the expense of the owner. The amount of the expense constitutes a lien against the property and may be enforced by proceedings on the lien except as provided for by RCW 79.44.060. The owner is liable for payment of the expense, and nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent collection of any judgment on account thereof by any means available pursuant to law, in substitution for enforcement of the lien. Necessary costs and expenses including reasonable attorneys' fees incurred by the county noxious weed control board in carrying out this section may be recovered at the same time as a part of the



action filed under this section. Funds received in payment for the expense of controlling noxious weeds shall be transferred to the county noxious weed control board to be expended as required to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(4) The county auditor shall record in his or her office any lien created under this chapter, and any lien shall bear interest at the rate of twelve percent per annum from the date on which the county noxious weed control board approves the amount expended in controlling the weeds.

(5) As an alternative to the enforcement of any lien created under subsection (3) of this section, the county legislative authority may by resolution or ordinance require that each lien created be collected by the treasurer in the same manner as a delinquent real property tax, if within thirty days from the date the owner is sent notice of the lien, including the amount thereof, the lien remains unpaid and an appeal has not been made pursuant to RCW 17.10.180. Liens treated as delinquent taxes bear interest at the rate of twelve percent per annum and the interest accrues as of the date notice of the lien is sent to the owner: PROVIDED, that any collections for the lien shall not be considered as tax.

RCW 17.10.180

Hearing on liability for expense of control—Notice—Review

Any owner, upon request pursuant to the rules and regulation of the county noxious weed control board, is entitled to a hearing before the board on any charge or cost for which the owner is alleged to be liable pursuant to RCW 17.10.170 or 17.10.210. The board shall send notice by certified mail within thirty days, to each owner at the owner's last known address, as to any charge or cost and as to his or her right of a hearing. The hearing shall be scheduled within forty-five days of notification. Any determination or final action by the board is subject to judicial review by a proceeding in the superior court in the county in which the property is located, and the court has original jurisdiction to determine any suit brought by the owner to recover damages allegedly suffered on account of control work negligently performed: PROVIDED, That no stay or injunction shall lie to delay any control work subsequent to notice given pursuant to RCW 17.10.160 or pursuant to an order under RCW 17.10.210.

RCW 17.10.190

Notice and information as to noxious weed control

Each activated county noxious weed control board must publish annually, and at other times as may be appropriate, in at least one newspaper of general circulation within its area, a general notice. The notice shall direct attention to the need for noxious weed control and give other information concerning noxious weed control requirements as may be appropriate, or indicate where such information may be secured. In addition to the general notice required, the county noxious weed control board may use any appropriate media for the dissemination of information to the public as may be calculated to bring the need for noxious weed control to the attention of owners. The board may consult with individual owners concerning their problems of noxious weed control and may



provide them with information and advice, including giving specific instructions and methods when and how certain named weeds are to be controlled. The methods may include some combination of physical, mechanical, cultural, chemical, and/or biological methods, including livestock. Publication of a notice as required by this section is not a condition precedent to the enforcement of this chapter.

RCW 17.10.201

Noxious weed control on federal and tribal lands—State and county cooperation

- (1) The state noxious weed control board shall:
 - (a) Work with the various federal and tribal land management agencies to coordinate state and federal noxious weed control;
 - (b) Encourage the various federal and tribal land management agencies to devote more time and resources to noxious weed control; and
 - (c) Assist the various federal and tribal land management agencies by seeking adequate funding for noxious weed control.

- (2) County noxious weed control boards and weed districts shall work with the various federal and tribal land management agencies in each county in order to:
 - (a) Identify new noxious weed infestations;
 - (b) Outline and plan necessary noxious weed control actions;
 - (c) Develop coordinated noxious weed control programs; and
 - (d) Notify local federal and tribal agency land managers of noxious weed infestations.

- (3) The department of agriculture, county noxious weed control boards, and weed districts are authorized to enter federal lands, with the approval of the appropriate federal agency, to survey for and control noxious weeds where control measures of a type and extent required under this chapter have not been taken.

- (4) The department of agriculture, county noxious weed control boards, and weed districts may bill the federal land management agency that manages the land for all costs of the noxious weed control performed on federal land. If not paid by the federal agency that manages the land, the cost of the noxious weed control on federal land may be paid from any funds available to the county noxious weed control board or weed district that performed the noxious weed control. Alternatively, the costs of noxious weed control on federal land may be paid from any funds specifically appropriated to the department of agriculture for that purpose.

- (5) The department of agriculture, county noxious weed control boards, and weed districts are authorized to enter into any reasonable agreement with the appropriate authorities for the control of noxious weeds on federal or tribal lands.

- (6) The department of agriculture, county noxious weed control boards, and weed districts shall consult with state agencies managing federal land concerning noxious weed infestation and control programs.



RCW 17.10.205

Control of noxious weeds in open areas

Open areas subject to the spread of noxious weeds, including but not limited to subdivisions, school grounds, playgrounds, parks, and rights-of-way shall be subject to regulation in the same manner and to the same extent as is provided for all terrestrial and aquatic lands of the state.

RCW 17.10.210

Quarantine of land—Order—Expense

(1) Whenever the director, the county noxious weed control board, or a weed district finds that a parcel of land is so seriously infested with class A or class B noxious weeds that control measures cannot be undertaken thereon without quarantining the land and restricting or denying access thereto or use thereof, the director, the county noxious weed control board, or weed district, with the approval of the director of the department of agriculture, may issue an order for the quarantine and restriction or denial of access or use. Upon issuance of the order, the director, the county noxious weed control board, or the weed district shall commence necessary control measures and may institute legal action for the collection of costs for control work, which may include attorneys' fees and the costs of other appropriate actions.

(2) An order of quarantine shall be served, by any method sufficient for the service of civil process, on all persons known to qualify as owners of the land within the meaning of this chapter.

(3) The director shall, with the advice of the state noxious weed control board, determine how the expense of control work undertaken pursuant to this section, and the cost of any quarantine in connection therewith, is apportioned.

RCW 17.10.230

Violations—Penalty

Any owner knowing of the existence of any noxious weeds on the owner's land who fails to control such weeds in accordance with this chapter and rules and regulations in force pursuant thereto; or any person who enters upon any land in violation of an order in force pursuant to RCW 17.10.210; or any person who interferes with the carrying out of the provisions of this chapter has committed a civil infraction.

RCW 17.10.235

Selling product, article, or feed containing noxious weed seeds or toxic weeds—Penalty—Rules—Inspections—Fees

(1) The director of agriculture shall adopt, with the advice of the state noxious weed control board, rules designating noxious weed seeds which shall be controlled in



products, screenings, or articles to prevent the spread of noxious weeds. The rules shall identify the products, screenings, and articles in which the seeds must be controlled and the maximum amount of the seed to be permitted in the product, screenings, or article to avoid a hazard of spreading the noxious weed by seed from the product, screenings, or article. The director shall also adopt, with the advice of the state board, rules designating toxic weeds which shall be controlled in feed stuffs and screenings to prevent injury to the animal that consumes the feed. The rules shall identify the feed stuffs and screenings in which the toxic weeds must be controlled and the maximum amount of the toxic weed to be permitted in the feed. Rules developed under this section shall identify ways that products, screenings, articles, or feed stuffs containing noxious weed seeds or toxic weeds can be made available for beneficial uses.

(2) Any person who knowingly or negligently sells or otherwise distributes a product, article, screenings, or feed stuff designated by rule containing noxious weed seeds or toxic weeds designated for control by rule and in an amount greater than the amount established by the director for the seed or weed by rule is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(3) The department of agriculture shall, upon request of the buyer, county weed board, or weed district, inspect products, screenings, articles, or feed stuffs designated by rule and charge fees, in accordance with chapter 22.09 RCW, to determine the presence of designated noxious weed seeds or toxic weeds.

RCW 17.10.240

Special assessments, appropriations for noxious weed control— Assessment rates

- (1) (a) The activated county noxious weed control board of each county shall annually submit a budget to the county legislative authority for the operating cost of the county's weed program for the ensuing fiscal year: PROVIDED, That if the board finds the budget approved by the legislative authority is insufficient for an effective county noxious weed control program, the board may submit a budget amendment to the county legislative authority after which the county legislative authority must hold a hearing as provided in chapter 36.40 RCW. Activities and programs to limit economic loss and adverse effects due to the presence and spread of noxious weeds on all terrestrial and aquatic areas in the state are declared to be of special benefit, including to lands owned or held by the state, and may be used as the basis upon which special assessments are imposed by the county legislative authority.
- (b) Representatives from the department of transportation government relations, real estate services, and maintenance operations offices, the Washington state association of county treasurers, the Washington state association of county assessors, and the state noxious weed control board shall meet to develop a system by which parcels owned or held by the department of transportation that have been declared to receive special benefit from the county noxious weed control board must be identified and all assessments may be effectively billed for payment according to the process in chapter 79.44 RCW. The state noxious weed control board shall update the appropriate legislative committees regarding progress



towards implementation of a system before January 1, 2022. By January 1, 2023, the state noxious weed control board shall report to the appropriate legislative committees in compliance with RCW 43.01.036 regarding the system developed, what steps are being taken to implement the system, and what, if any, further legislative action is needed.

(c) Funding for the budget is derived from any or all of the following:

(i) The county legislative authority may, in lieu of a tax, levy an assessment against the land for this purpose. Whenever there is included within the jurisdiction of any county noxious weed control board lands owned or held by the state, the county legislative authority shall determine the amount of the assessment for which the land would be liable if the land were in private ownership. Prior to the levying of an assessment the county noxious weed control board shall hold a public hearing at which it will gather information to serve as a basis for classification and then classify the lands into suitable classifications, including but not limited to dry lands, range lands, irrigated lands, nonuse lands, forestlands, or federal lands. The board shall develop and forward to the county legislative authority, as a proposed level of assessment for each class, an amount as seems just. The assessment rate shall be either uniform per acre in its respective class or a flat rate per parcel rate plus a uniform rate per acre or, for rights-of-way, a rate based on centerline miles: PROVIDED, That if no benefits are found to accrue to a class of land, a zero assessment may be levied. The assessment shall not be levied on lands owned or held by the state, unless the assessment is levied on other parcels or classes of parcels. The county legislative authority, upon receipt of the proposed levels of assessment from the board, after a hearing, shall accept or modify by resolution, or refer back to the board for its reconsideration all or any portion of the proposed levels of assessment. The amount of the assessment constitutes a lien against the property. The county legislative authority may by resolution or ordinance require that notice of the lien be sent to each owner of property for which the assessment has not been paid by the date it was due and that each lien created be collected by the treasurer in the same manner as delinquent real property tax, if within thirty days from the date the owner is sent notice of the lien, including the amount thereof, the lien remains unpaid and an appeal has not been made pursuant to RCW 17.10.180. Liens treated as delinquent taxes bear interest at the rate of twelve percent per annum and the interest accrues as of the date notice of the lien is sent to the owner: PROVIDED FURTHER, That any collections for the lien shall not be considered as tax; or

(ii) The county legislative authority may appropriate money from the county general fund necessary for the administration of the county noxious weed control program. In addition the county legislative authority may make emergency appropriations as it deems necessary for the implementation of this chapter. emergency appropriations as it deems necessary for the implementation of this chapter.

(2) Forestlands used solely for the planting, growing, or harvesting of trees and which are typified, except during a single period of five years following clear-cut logging, by



canopies so dense as to prohibit growth of an understory may be subject to an annual noxious weed assessment levied by a county legislative authority that does not exceed one-tenth of the weighted average per acre noxious weed assessment levied on all other lands in unincorporated areas within the county that are subject to the weed assessment. This assessment shall be computed in accordance with the formula in subsection (3) of this section.

(3) The calculation of the "weighted average per acre noxious weed assessment" is a ratio expressed as follows:

(a) The numerator is the total amount of funds estimated to be collected from the per acre assessment on all lands except (i) forestlands as identified in subsection (2) of this section, (ii) lands exempt from the noxious weed assessment, and (iii) lands located in an incorporated area.

(b) The denominator is the total acreage from which funds in (a) of this subsection are collected. For lands of less than one acre in size, the denominator calculation may be based on the following assumptions: (i) Unimproved lands are calculated as being one-half acre in size on the average, and (ii) improved lands are calculated as being one-third acre in size on the average. The county legislative authority may choose to calculate the denominator for lands of less than one acre in size using other assumptions about average parcel size based on local information.

(4) For those counties that levy a per parcel assessment to help fund noxious weed control programs, the per parcel assessment on forestlands as defined in subsection (2) of this section shall not exceed one-tenth of the per parcel assessment on nonforestlands.

RCW 17.10.250

Applications for noxious weed control funds

The legislative authority of any county with an activated noxious weed control board or the board of any weed district may apply to the director for noxious weed control funds when informed by the director that funds are available. Any applicant must employ adequate administrative personnel to supervise an effective weed control program as determined by the director with advice from the state noxious weed control board. The director with advice from the state noxious weed control board shall adopt rules on the distribution and use of noxious weed control account funds.

RCW 17.10.260

Administrative powers to be exercised in conformity with administrative procedure act—Use of weed control substances subject to other acts



The administrative powers granted under this chapter to the director of the department of agriculture and to the state noxious weed control board shall be exercised in conformity with the provisions of the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, as now or hereafter amended. The use of any substance to control noxious weeds shall be subject to the provisions of the water pollution control act, chapter 90.48 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, the Washington pesticide control act, chapter 15.58 RCW, and the Washington pesticide application act, chapter 17.21 RCW.

RCW 17.10.270

Noxious weed control boards—Authority to obtain insurance or surety bonds

Each noxious weed control board may obtain such insurance or surety bonds, or both with such limits as they may deem reasonable for the purpose of protecting their officials and employees against liability for personal or bodily injuries and property damage arising from their acts or omissions while performing or in good faith purporting to perform their official duties.

RCW 17.10.280

Lien for labor, material, equipment used in controlling noxious weeds

Every activated county noxious weed control board performing labor, furnishing material, or renting, leasing, or otherwise supplying equipment, to be used in the control of noxious weeds, or in causing control of noxious weeds, upon any property pursuant to the provisions of chapter 17.10 RCW has a lien upon such property for the labor performed, material furnished, or equipment supplied whether performed, furnished, or supplied with the consent of the owner, or his or her agent, of such property, or without the consent of said owner or agent.

RCW 17.10.290

Lien for labor, material, equipment used in controlling noxious weeds— Notice of lien

Every county noxious weed control board furnishing labor, materials, or supplies or renting, leasing, or otherwise supplying equipment to be used in the control of noxious weeds upon any property pursuant to RCW 17.10.160 and 17.10.170 or pursuant to an order under RCW 17.10.210 as now or hereafter amended, shall give to the owner or reputed owner or his or her agent a notice in writing, within ninety days from the date of the cessation of the performance of such labor, the furnishing of such materials, or the supplying of such equipment, which notice shall cover the labor, material, supplies, or equipment furnished or leased, as well as all subsequent labor, materials, supplies, or equipment furnished or leased, stating in substance and effect that such county noxious weed control board is furnishing or has furnished labor, materials and supplies or equipment for use thereon, with the name of the county noxious weed control board ordering the same, and that a lien may be claimed for all materials and supplies or equipment furnished by such county noxious weed control board for use thereon, which notice shall be given by



mailing the same by registered or certified mail in an envelope addressed to the owner at his or her place of residence or reputed residence.

RCW 17.10.300

Lien for labor, material, equipment used in controlling noxious weeds— Claim—Filing—Contents

No lien created by RCW 17.10.280 exists, and no action to enforce the same shall be maintained, unless within ninety days from the date of cessation of the performance of the labor, furnishing of materials, or the supplying of equipment, a claim for the lien is filed for record as provided in this section, in the office of the county auditor of the county in which the property, or some part of the property to be affected by the claim for a lien, is situated. The claim shall state, as nearly as may be, the time of the commencement and cessation of performing the labor, furnishing the material, or supplying the equipment, the name of the county noxious weed control board that performed the labor or caused the labor to be performed, furnished the material, or supplied the equipment, a description of the property to be charged with the lien sufficient for identification, the name of the owner, or reputed owner if known, or his or her agent, and if the owner is not known, that fact shall be mentioned, the amount for which the lien is claimed, and shall be signed by the county noxious weed control board, and be verified by the oath of the county noxious weed control board, to the effect that the affiant believes that claim to be just; and the claim of lien may be amended in case of action brought to foreclose the same, by order of the court, as pleadings may be, insofar as the interest of third parties shall not be affected by such an amendment.

RCW 17.10.310

Notice of infraction—Issuance

The county noxious weed control board may issue a notice of civil infraction if after investigation it has reasonable cause to believe an infraction has been committed. A civil infraction may be issued pursuant to RCW 7.80.005, 7.80.070 through 7.80.110, 7.80.120 (3) and (4), and 7.80.130 through 7.80.900.

RCW 17.10.350

Infraction—Penalty

(1) Any person found to have committed a civil infraction under this chapter shall be assessed a monetary penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars. The state noxious weed control board shall adopt a schedule of monetary penalties for each violation of this chapter classified as a civil infraction and submit the schedule to the appropriate court. If a monetary penalty is imposed by the court, the penalty is immediately due and payable. The court may, at its discretion, grant an extension of time, not to exceed thirty days, in which the penalty must be paid.

(2) Failure to pay any monetary penalties imposed under this chapter is punishable as a misdemeanor.



RCW 17.10.890

Deactivation of county noxious weed control board—Hearing

A county noxious weed control board may be deactivated only if there are neither any class A noxious weeds nor any class B noxious weeds in the county. Upon receiving documentation of the absence in the county of both class A noxious weeds and class B noxious weeds, the county legislative authority may initiate the following procedures:

- (1) The county legislative authority holds a hearing to determine whether there continues to be a need for an activated county noxious weed control board if:
 - (a) A petition is filed by one hundred registered voters within the county;
 - (b) A petition is filed by a county noxious weed control board as provided in RCW 17.10.240; or
 - (c) The county legislative authority passes a motion to hold such a hearing.
- (2) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, the hearing shall be held within sixty days of final action taken under subsection (1) of this section.
- (3) If, after a hearing, the county legislative authority determines that no need exists for a county noxious weed control board, due to the absence of class A or class B noxious weeds designated for control in the region, the county legislative authority shall deactivate the board.
- (4) The county legislative authority shall not convene a hearing as provided for in subsection (1) of this section more frequently than once a year.

RCW 17.10.900

Weed districts—Continuation—Dissolution—Transfer of assessment funds

Any weed district formed under chapter 17.04 or 17.06 RCW prior to the enactment of this chapter, continues to operate under the provisions of the chapter under which it was formed: PROVIDED, That if ten percent of the landowners subject to any such weed district, and the county noxious weed control board upon its own motion, petition the county legislative authority for a dissolution of the weed district, the county legislative authority shall provide for an election to be conducted in the same manner as required for the election of directors under the provisions of chapter 17.04 RCW, to determine by majority vote of those casting votes, if the weed district will continue to operate under the chapter it was formed. The land area of any dissolved weed district becomes subject to the provisions of this chapter. Any district assessment funds may be transferred after the dissolution election under contract to the county noxious weed control board to fund the noxious weed control program.



Chapter 17.04 Weed Districts

RCW 17.04.010

Districts authorized—Area and boundaries.

The boards of county commissioners of the respective counties may create a weed district or districts within their counties and enlarge any district, or reduce any district or create or combine or consolidate the districts, or divide or create new districts, from time to time, in the manner hereinafter provided, for the purpose of destroying, preventing and exterminating, or to prevent the introduction, propagation, cultivation or increase of, any particular weed, weeds or plants, or all weeds or plants, including Scotch broom, which are now or may hereafter be classed by the agricultural experiment station of Washington State University as noxious weeds, or plants detrimental to or destructive of crops, fruit, trees, shrubs, valuable plants, forage, or other agricultural plants or produce. Any such district shall include not less than one section of land, and the boundaries thereof shall be along an established road, railroad, scab, uncleared or grazing land, or property line, or established lines, or some natural boundary, and shall include only cultivated or farming lands and shall not include any scab, uncleared or grazing land, except such as shall lie wholly within cultivated or farming lands within the districts, or which lie adjacent to such cultivated or farming lands and which are infested, or which may reasonably be expected to become infested, with the particular weed or weeds to be destroyed, prevented and exterminated by such district: PROVIDED, That any quarter section of land, or lesser legal subdivision in single ownership, fifty percent of which is cultivated or farming land, shall be considered cultivated and farming land within the meaning of this chapter.

RCW 17.04.030

Petition—Time, place and notice of hearing.

Any one or more freeholders owning more than fifty percent of the acreage desired to be included within the proposed weed district may file a petition with the board of county commissioners praying that their land be included, either separately or with other lands included in the petition, in a weed district to be formed for the purpose of destroying, preventing or exterminating any one or all such weeds, or that such lands be included within a district already formed, or a new district or districts to be formed out of any district or districts then existing. Such petition shall state the boundaries of the proposed district, the approximate number of acres in the proposed district, the particular weed or weeds to be destroyed, prevented or exterminated, the general method or means to be used in such work, and shall contain a list of all known land owners within the proposed district, together with the addresses of such land owners. Upon the filing of such petition the board of county commissioners shall fix a time for a hearing thereon, and shall give at least thirty days' notice of the time and place of such hearing by posting copies of such notice in three conspicuous places within the proposed district, one copy of which shall be at the main entrance to the courthouse, and by mailing a copy of such notice to each of the land owners named in the petition at the address therein named, and if any of the land described in the petition be owned by the state, a copy thereof shall be mailed to the department of natural resources at Olympia.



RCW 17.04.050
Board to determine petition—Resolution to create district.

At the time and place fixed for such hearing the board of county commissioners shall determine whether such weed district shall be created and if such board determines that such district shall be created, it shall fix the boundaries thereof, but shall not modify the purposes of the petition with respect to the weed or weeds to be destroyed, prevented and exterminated as set forth in this petition, and shall not enlarge the boundaries of the proposed district, or enlarge or change the boundary or boundaries of any district or districts already formed without first giving notice to all land owners interested as provided in RCW 17.04.030. If the board shall determine that the weed district petitioned for shall be created it shall pass a resolution to that effect and shall assign a number to such weed district which shall be the lowest number not already taken or adopted by a weed district in such county, and thereafter such district shall be known as "Weed District No. . . . of County," inserting in the first blank the number of the district and in the second the name of the county in which the district is organized.

RCW 17.04.070
**Meetings—Qualifications of electors and directors—Elections—Officers—
Bonds—Terms of office—Vacancies—Rules and regulations.**

If the board of county commissioners establish such district it shall call a special meeting to be held within such district for the purpose of electing three directors for such district. No person shall be eligible to hold the office of director who is not a qualified elector of the state of Washington and a resident and landowner within such district. Such meeting shall be held not less than thirty nor more than ninety days from the date when such district is established by such board.

Notice of such meeting shall be given by the county auditor by publication once a week for three successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in such district, and by posting such notice for not less than ten days before the date fixed for such meeting in three public places within the boundaries of such district. The notices shall state the object of the meeting and the time and place when the same shall be held.

At the time and place fixed for the meeting the county commissioner in whose commissioner district such district is located shall act as chair and call the meeting to order. The chair shall appoint two persons to assist him or her in conducting the election, one of whom shall act as clerk. If such county commissioner be not present the electors of such district then present shall elect a chair of the meeting.

Every person who is a landowner within such district and a qualified elector of the state of Washington shall be entitled to vote at such meeting. Any person offering to vote may be challenged by any legally qualified elector of such district, and the chair of such meeting shall thereupon administer to the person challenged an oath in substance as follows: "You do swear (or affirm) that you are a citizen of the United States and a qualified elector of the state of Washington and an owner of land within the boundaries of weed



district No. . . . of county (giving number of district and name of county)." If the challenged person shall take such oath or make such affirmation, he or she shall be entitled to vote; otherwise his or her vote shall not be received. Any person making a false oath, or affirmation, or any person illegally voting at such meeting, shall be punished as provided in the general election laws of the state for illegal voting.

The vote shall be by secret ballot, on white paper of uniform size and quality, of such arrangement that when names are written thereon, the same may be folded so as not to disclose the names. The elector shall write the names of three persons that he or she desires as the first directors of such district and shall fold his or her ballot and hand the same to the chair of the meeting who shall deposit it in a ballot box provided for that purpose. The clerk shall thereupon write the name of such person on a list as having voted at such election. After all persons present and entitled to vote have voted, the chair shall declare the election closed, and shall, with the assistance of the clerk and the other person appointed as assistant, proceed to count the ballots. The person receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected as director for a term ending three years from the first Monday in March following his or her election; the person receiving the second greatest number of votes shall be elected for a term ending two years from the first Monday in March following his or her election, and the person receiving the third greatest number of votes shall be elected for a term ending one year from the first Monday of March following his or her election.

Annually thereafter, there shall be held a meeting of the electors of such district on the last Monday in February, except that the directors may, by giving the same notice as is required for the initial meeting, fix an earlier time for the annual meeting on any nonholiday during the months of December, January, or February. At such meeting one director shall be elected to succeed the director whose term will expire on the first Monday in March following. The directors shall call the annual meeting, and shall fix the time and place where the same shall be held and shall give the same notice thereof as provided for the initial meeting. The annual meeting shall be conducted in the same manner as is provided for the initial meeting, and the qualifications of electors at such annual meeting shall be the same as is required for the initial meeting. In conducting directors' elections, the chair may accept nominations from the floor but voting shall not be limited to those nominated.

All directors shall hold office for the term for which they are elected, and until their successors are elected and qualified. In case of a vacancy occurring in the office of any director, the county commissioners of the county in which such district is located shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. The board of directors shall elect one of its members chair and may appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the board, and who shall be paid such compensation as the board may determine. Each director shall furnish a bond in the sum of one thousand dollars, which may be a surety company bond or property bond approved by the board of county commissioners, which bond shall be filed with the county commissioners and shall be conditioned for the faithful discharge of his or her duties. The cost of such bond shall be paid by the district the same as other expenses of the district. At any annual meeting the method for destroying, preventing, and exterminating weeds of such district as set forth in the petition, and the rules and regulations adopted by such district, may be



changed by a majority vote of the qualified electors present at such meeting, or a special meeting may be called for that purpose, notice of which meeting and of such proposed changes to be voted on, shall be given to all landowners residing within the district by mailing a copy of such notice and of such proposed changes to the address of such landowner at least one week before the date fixed for such special meeting. The qualified electors of any weed district, at any annual meeting, may make other weeds that are not on the petition subject to control by the weed district by a two-thirds vote of the electors present: PROVIDED, That said weeds have been classified by the agricultural experiment station of Washington State University as noxious and: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the directors of the weed district give public notice in the manner required for initial meetings of the proposed new control of said weeds by the weed district.

RCW 17.04.150 Powers—Weed inspector.

The board of directors of such weed district shall have power:

- (1) To adopt rules and regulations, plans, methods, and means for the purpose of destroying, preventing, and exterminating the weed or weeds specified in the petition, and to supervise, carry out, and enforce such rules, regulations, plans, methods, and means.
- (2) To appoint a weed inspector and to require from him or her a bond in such sum as the directors may determine for the faithful discharge of his or her duties, and to pay the cost of such bond from the funds of such district; and to direct such weed inspector in the discharge of his or her duties; and to pay such weed inspector from the funds of such district such per diem or salary for the time employed in the discharge of his or her duties as the directors shall determine.

RCW 17.04.160 Contiguous lands.

Any city or town contiguous to or surrounded by a weed district formed under this chapter shall provide for the destruction, prevention and extermination of all weeds specified in the petition which are within the boundaries of such city or town, in the same manner and to the same extent as is provided for in such surrounding or contiguous weed district; and it shall be the duty of those in charge of school grounds, playgrounds, cemeteries, parks, or any lands of a public or quasi public nature when such lands shall be contiguous to, or within any weed district, to see that all weeds specified in the petition for the creation of such district are destroyed, prevented and exterminated in accordance with the rules and requirements of such district.

RCW 17.04.170 Indian reservation lands—United States lands.

Any lands owned by any individual wholly or partly within the United States government Indian reservation may be included within a weed district formed under this chapter, and shall be subject to the same rules, regulations and taxes as other lands within



the district; and the board of directors of any weed district are authorized to arrange with the officer or agent in charge of any United Stateslands, within or contiguous to any such district, for the destruction, prevention and extermination of weeds on such government lands.

RCW 17.04.180 **County and state lands.**

Whenever any lands belonging to the county are included within a weed district, the county legislative authority shall determine the amount of the assessment for which the lands would be liable if they were in private ownership, and the county legislative authority shall appropriate from the current expense fund of the county sufficient money to pay such amounts. Whenever any state lands are within any weed district, the county treasurer shall certify annually and forward to the appropriate state agency for payment a statement showing the amount of the assessment to which the lands would be liable if they were in private ownership, separately describing each lot or parcel and, if delinquent, with interest and penalties consistent with RCW **84.56.020**.

RCW 17.04.190 **Duties of weed inspector.**

It shall be the duty of the weed inspector to carry out the directions of the board of directors and to see that the rules and regulations adopted by the board are carried out. He or she shall personally deliver or mail to each resident landowner within such district and to any lessee or person in charge of any land within such district and residing in such district, a copy of the rules and regulations of such district; and he or she shall personally deliver a copy thereof to nonresident landowners or shall deposit a copy of the same in the United States post office in an envelope with postage prepaid thereon addressed to the last known address of such person as shown by the records of the county auditor; and in event no such address is available for mailing he or she shall post a copy of such rules and regulations in a conspicuous place upon such land. A record shall be kept by the weed inspector of such dates of mailing, posting, or delivering such rules and regulations. In case of any railroad such rules and regulations shall be delivered to the section foreman, or to any official of the railroad having offices within the state. Such rules and regulations must be delivered, posted, or mailed by the weed inspector as herein provided at least ten days before the time to start any annual operations necessary to comply with such rules and regulations: PROVIDED, That after such district shall have been in operation two years such rules and regulations shall be delivered to resident landowners only once every three years, unless such rules and regulations are changed.

RCW 17.04.200 **Violation of rules and regulations—Notice to destroy weeds—Destruction.**

(1) If the weed inspector, or the board of directors, shall find that the rules and regulations of the weed district are not being carried out on any one or more parcels



of land within such district, the weed inspector shall give forthwith a notice in writing, on a form to be prescribed by the directors, to the owners, tenants, mortgagees, and occupants, or to the accredited resident agent of any nonresident owner of such lands within the district whereon noxious weeds are standing, being or growing and in danger of going to seed, requiring him or her to cause the same to be cut down, otherwise destroyed or eradicated on such lands in the manner and within the time specified in the notice, such time, however, not to exceed seven days. It shall be the duty of the county auditor and county treasurer to make available to the weed inspector lists of owners, tenants, and mortgagees of lands within such district;

(2) If a resident agent of any nonresident owner of lands where noxious weeds are found standing, being, or growing cannot be found, the local weed inspector shall post said notice in the form provided by the directors in three conspicuous places on said land, and in addition to posting said notice the local weed inspector shall, at the same time mail a copy thereof by registered or certified mail with return receipt requested to the owner of such nonresident lands, if his or her post office address is known or can be ascertained by said inspector from the last tax list in the county treasurer's office, and it shall be the duty of the treasurer to furnish such lists upon request by the weed inspector. Proof of such serving, posting, and mailing of notice by the weed inspector shall be made by affidavit forthwith filed in the office of the county auditor and it shall be the duty of the county auditor to accept and file such affidavits;

(3) If the weeds are not cut down, otherwise destroyed, or eradicated within the time specified in said notice, the local weed inspector shall personally, or with such help as he or she may require, cause the same to be cut down or otherwise destroyed in the manner specified in said notice.

RCW 17.04.210

Statement of expense—Hearing.

The weed inspector shall keep an accurate account of expenses incurred by him or her in carrying out the provisions of this chapter with respect to each parcel of land entered upon, and the prosecuting attorney of the county or the attorney for the weed district shall cause to be served, mailed, or posted in the same manner as provided in this chapter for giving notice to destroy noxious weeds, a statement of such expenses, including description of the land, verified by oath of the weed inspector to the owner, lessee, mortgagee, occupant or agent, or person having charge of said land, and coupled with such statement shall be a notice subscribed by said prosecuting attorney or attorney for the weed district and naming a time and place when and where such matter will be brought before the board of directors of such district for hearing and determination, said statement or notice to be served, mailed, or posted, as the case may be, at least ten days before the time for such hearing.

RCW 17.04.220

Examination at hearing of expenses—Amount is tax on land—Effect of failure to serve notices.

At the time of such hearing as provided in RCW **17.04.210**, or at such time to which the same may be continued or adjourned, the board of directors shall proceed to



examine expenses incurred by the weed inspector in controlling weeds on the parcel of land in question, and shall hear such testimony of such other persons who may have legal interest in the proceedings, and shall enter an order upon its minutes as to what amount, if any, is properly chargeable against the lands for weed control. Cost of serving, mailing and posting shall be added to any amount so found to be due and shall be considered part of the cost of weed control on the land in question. The amount so charged by the directors shall be a tax on the land on which said work was done after the expiration of ten days from the date of entry of said order, unless an appeal be taken as in this chapter provided, in which event the same shall become a tax at the time the amount to be paid shall be determined by the court; and the county treasurer shall enter the same on the tax rolls against the land for the current year and collect it, together with penalty and interest, as other taxes are collected, and when so collected the same shall be paid into the fund for such weed district: PROVIDED, That a failure to serve, mail or post any of the notices or statements provided for in this chapter, shall not invalidate said tax, but in case of such failure the lien of such tax shall be subordinate and inferior to the interests of any mortgagee to whom notice has not been given in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

RCW 17.04.230

Appellate review—Notice—Cost bond.

Any interested party may appeal from the decision and order of the board of directors of such district to the superior court of the county in which such district is located, by serving written notice of appeal on the chair of the board of directors and by filing in the office of the clerk of the superior court a copy of said notice of appeal with proof of service attached, together with a good and sufficient cost bond in the sum of two hundred dollars, said cost bond to run to such district and in all respects to comply with the laws relating to cost bonds required of nonresident plaintiffs in the superior court.

Said notice must be served and filed within ten days from the date of the decision and order of such board of directors, and said bond must be filed within five days after the filing of such notice of appeal. Whenever notice of appeal and the cost bond as herein provided shall have been filed with the clerk of the superior court, the clerk shall notify the board of directors of such district thereof, and such board shall forthwith certify to said court all notices and records in said matters, together with proof of service, and a true copy of the order and decision pertaining thereto made by such board. If no appeal be perfected within ten days from the decision and order of such board, the same shall be deemed confirmed and the board shall certify the amount of such charges to the county treasurer who shall enter the same on the tax rolls against the land. When an appeal is perfected the matter shall be heard in the superior court de novo and the court's decision shall be conclusive on all persons served under this chapter: PROVIDED, That appellate review of the order or decision of the superior court in the manner provided by existing laws, and upon the conclusion of such review, the amount of charges and costs adjudged to be paid shall be certified by the clerk of the superior court to the county treasurer and said treasurer shall proceed to enter the same on his or her rolls against the lands affected.



RCW 17.04.240

Assessments—Classification of property—Tax levy—Special assessments.

(1) The directors shall annually determine the amount of money necessary to carry on the operations of the district and shall classify the property therein in proportion to the benefits to be derived from the operations of the district and in accordance with such classification shall prorate the cost so determined and shall levy assessments to be collected with the general taxes of the county. In the event that any bonded or warrant indebtedness pledging tax revenue of the district shall be outstanding on April 1, 1951, the directors may, for the sole purpose of retiring such indebtedness, continue to levy a tax upon all taxable property in the district until such bonded or warrant indebtedness shall have been retired.

(2) Activities and programs to limit economic loss and adverse effects due to the presence and spread of noxious weeds on all terrestrial and aquatic areas in the state are declared to be of special benefit, including to lands owned or held by the state, and may be used as the basis upon which special assessments are imposed by the county legislative authority, including upon lands owned or held by the state.

RCW 17.04.245

Assessment—Tax roll—Collection.

Such assessments as are made under the provisions of RCW 17.04.240, by the weed district commissioners, shall be spread by the county assessor on the general tax roll in a separate item.

Such assessments shall be collected and accounted for with the general taxes, with the terms and penalties thereto attached.

RCW 17.04.250

District treasurer—Duties—Fund.

The county treasurer shall be ex officio treasurer of such district and the county assessor and other county officers shall take notice of the formation of such district and of the tax levy and shall extend the tax on the tax roll against the property liable therefor the same as other taxes are extended, and such tax shall become a general tax against such property, and shall be collected and accounted for as other taxes, with the terms and penalties thereto attached. The moneys collected from such tax shall be paid into a fund to be known as "fund of weed district of

..... county"
(giving the number of district and name of county). All expenses in connection with the operation of such district, including the expenses of initial and annual meetings, shall be paid from such fund, upon vouchers approved by the board of directors of such district.



RCW 17.04.260
Limit of indebtedness.

No weed district shall contract any obligation in any year in excess of the total of the funds which will be available during the current year from the tax levy made in the preceding year and funds received in the current year from services rendered and from any other lawful source, and funds accumulated from previous years.

RCW 17.04.270
Districts organized under prior law—Reorganization.

Any weed district heretofore organized under any law of the state of Washington may become a weed district under the provisions of this chapter and entitled to exercise all the powers and subject to the limitations of a weed district organized under this chapter by the election of three directors for such weed district which shall be done in the same manner as is provided in this chapter for the election of the first directors of a district organized under this chapter.

RCW 17.04.280
Officials of district may enter lands—Penalty for prevention.

All weed district directors, all weed inspectors, and all official agents of all weed districts, in the performance of their official duties, have the right to enter and go upon any of the lands within their weed district at any reasonable time for any reason necessary to effectuate the purposes of the weed district. Any person who prevents or threatens to prevent any lawful agent of the weed district, after said agent identifies himself or herself and the purpose for which he or she is going upon the land, from entering or going upon the land within said weed district at a reasonable time and for a lawful purpose of the weed district, is guilty of a misdemeanor.



Chapter 17.06 Intercounty Weed Districts

RCW 17.06.010 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise, "principal board of county commissioners", "principal county treasurer", and "principal county auditor" mean respectively those in the county of that part of the proposed intercounty weed district in which the greatest amount of acreage is located.

RCW 17.06.020 Intercounty weed districts authorized.

An intercounty weed district, including all or any part of two counties or more, may be created for the purposes set forth in RCW 17.04.010 by the joint action of the boards of county commissioners of the counties in which any portion of the proposed district is located.

RCW 17.06.030 Petition for formation—Notice of hearing.

Any one or more freeholders owning more than fifty percent of the acreage desired to be included within the proposed intercounty weed district may file a petition with the principal board of county commissioners praying that their land be included, either separately or with other lands included in the petition, in a weed district to be formed for the purpose of destroying, preventing or exterminating any one or all such weeds, or that such lands be included within a district already formed, or a new district or districts to be formed out of any district or districts then existing. Such petition shall state the boundaries of the proposed district, the approximate number of acres in the proposed district, the particular weed or weeds to be destroyed, prevented or exterminated, the general method or means to be used in such work, and shall contain a list of all known landowners within the proposed district, together with the addresses of such landowners. Upon the filing of such petition the principal board of county commissioners shall notify the other boards of commissioners, shall arrange a time for a joint hearing on the petition, and shall give at least thirty days' notice of the time and place of such hearing by posting copies of such notice in three conspicuous places within the proposed district, and at the main entrance to the courthouse of each county, and by mailing a copy of such notice to each of the landowners named in the petition at the address named therein. If any of the land described in the petition be owned by the state a copy thereof shall be mailed to the department of natural resources at Olympia.

RCW 17.06.040 Hearing—Boundaries—Order of establishment.

At the time and place fixed for such hearing, with the chair of the principal board acting as chair, the respective boards shall determine by a majority vote of each of



the boards of county commissioners of the counties whether such intercounty weed district shall be created, and if they determine that such district shall be created, the respective boards shall fix the boundaries of the portion of the proposed district within their respective counties, but they shall not modify the purposes of the petition with respect to the weed or weeds to be destroyed, prevented, and exterminated as set forth in the petition, and they shall not enlarge the boundary of the proposed district, or enlarge or change the boundary or boundaries of any district or districts already formed without first giving notice, as provided in RCW 17.06.030, to all landowners interested. If the respective bodies shall determine that the weed district petitioned for shall be created each such board shall thereupon enter an order establishing and defining the boundary lines of the proposed district within its respective county. A number shall be assigned to such weed district which shall be the lowest number not already taken or adopted by an intercounty weed district in the state, and thereafter such district shall be known as "weed district No. . . .", inserting in the blank the number of the district.

If any county represented does not by a majority vote of its board of commissioners support the petition for an intercounty district, the petition shall be dismissed.

RCW 17.06.050

Meetings—Qualifications of electors and directors—Elections—Officers—Bonds—Terms—Rules.

If the respective boards of county commissioners establish such district the chair of the principal board shall call a special meeting of landowners to be held within such district for the purpose of electing three directors for such district. No person shall be eligible to hold the office of director who is not a qualified elector of the state of Washington and a resident and landowner within such district. Such meeting shall be held not less than thirty nor more than ninety days from the date when such district is established.

Notice of such meeting shall be given by the principal county auditor by publication once a week for three successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in such district, and by posting such notice for not less than ten days before the date fixed for such meeting in three public places within the boundaries of such district. The notices shall state the object of the meeting and the time and place when the same shall be held.

At the time and place fixed for the meeting the chair shall appoint two persons to assist him or her in conducting the election, one of whom shall act as clerk. If such chair be not present the electors of such district then present shall elect a chair of the meeting.

Every person who is a landowner within such district and a qualified elector of the state of Washington shall be entitled to vote at such meeting. Any person offering to vote may be challenged by any legally qualified elector of such district, and the chair of such meeting shall thereupon administer to the person challenged an oath in substance as follows: "You do swear (or affirm) that you are a citizen of the United States and a qualified elector of the state of Washington and an owner of land within the boundaries of weed district No. . . . (giving number of district)." If the challenged person shall take such oath or make such affirmation, he or she shall be entitled to vote; otherwise his or her vote shall not



be received. Any person making a false oath, or affirmation, or any person illegally voting at such meeting, shall be punished as provided in the general election laws of the state for illegal voting.

The vote shall be by secret ballot, on white paper of uniform size and quality, of such arrangement that when names are written thereon, the same may be folded so as not to disclose the names. The elector shall write the names of three persons that he or she desires as the first directors of such district and shall fold his or her ballot and hand the same to the chair of the meeting who shall deposit it in a ballot box provided for that purpose. The clerk shall thereupon write the name of such person on a list as having voted at such election. After all persons present and entitled to vote have voted, the chair shall declare the election closed, and shall, with the assistance of the clerk and the other person appointed as assistant, proceed to count the ballots. The person receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected as director for a term ending three years from the first Monday in March following his or her election; the person receiving the second greatest number of votes shall be elected for a term ending two years from the first Monday in March following his or her election, and the person receiving the third greatest number of votes shall be elected for a term ending one year from the first day of March following his or her election.

Annually thereafter, there shall be held a meeting of the electors of such district on the first Monday in February. At such meeting one director shall be elected to succeed the director whose term will expire on the first Monday in March following. The directors shall call the annual meeting, and shall fix the time when and place where the same shall be held and shall give the same notice thereof as provided for the initial meeting. The annual meeting shall be conducted in the same manner as is provided for the initial meeting, and the qualifications of electors at such annual meeting shall be the same as is required for the initial meeting.

All directors shall hold office for the term for which they are elected, and until their successors are elected and qualified. In case of a vacancy occurring in the office of any director, the remaining members of the board of directors shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. The board of directors shall elect one of its members chair and may appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the board, and who shall be paid such compensation as the board may determine. Each director shall furnish a bond in the sum of one thousand dollars, which may be a surety company bond or property bond approved by the principal board of county commissioners, which bond shall be filed with the same board and shall be conditioned for the faithful discharge of his or her duties. The cost of such bond shall be paid by the district the same as other expenses of the district.

At any annual meeting the method for destroying, preventing, and exterminating weeds of such district as set forth in the petition, and the rules and regulations adopted by such district, may be changed by a majority vote of the qualified electors present at such meeting, or a special meeting may be called for that purpose, notice of which meeting and of such proposed changes to be voted on, shall be given to all landowners residing within the district by mailing a copy of such notice and of such proposed changes to the



address of such landowner at least one week before the date fixed for such special meeting.

RCW 17.06.060
Directors powers and duties—Taxation—Treasurer—Costs.

The board of directors of an intercounty weed district shall have the same powers and duties as the board of directors of a weed district located entirely within one county, and all the provisions of chapter 17.04 RCW are hereby made applicable to intercounty weed districts: PROVIDED, That in the case of evaluation, assessment, collection, apportionment, and any other allied power or duty relating to taxes in connection with the district, the action shall be performed by the officer or board of the county for that area of the district which is located within his or her respective county, and all materials, information, and other data and all moneys collected shall be submitted to the proper officer of the county of that part of the district in which the greatest amount of acreage is located. Any power which may be or duty which shall be performed in connection therewith shall be performed by the officer or board receiving such as though only a district in a single county were concerned. All moneys collected from such area constituting a part of such district that should be paid to such district shall be delivered to the principal county treasurer who shall be ex officio treasurer of such district. All other materials, information, or data relating to the district shall be submitted to the district board of directors.

Any costs or expenses incurred under this section shall be borne proportionately by each county involved.

RCW 17.06.070
Actions of county officers—Costs.

Whenever any action is required or may be performed by any county officer or board for all purposes essential to the maintenance, operation, and administration of the district, such action shall be performed by the respective officer or board of the county of that part of the district in which the greatest amount of acreage of the district is located.

All costs incurred shall be borne proportionately by each county in that ratio which the amount of acreage of the district located in that part of each county forming a part of the district bears to the total amount of acreage located in the whole district.



Washington Administrative Code
Chapter 16-750
State Noxious Weed List and Schedule of Monetary Penalties

WAC 16-750-001 State noxious weed list—Purpose.

In accordance with RCW 17.10.080 a state noxious weed list of the names of those plants which the state noxious weed control board finds to be highly destructive, competitive, or difficult to control by cultural or chemical practices is adopted.

WAC 16-750-003 Definitions

(1) The definitions in this section shall apply throughout this chapter, unless the context plainly requires otherwise:

- (a) "Action" means the transaction of the official business of the Washington state noxious weed control board including but not limited to receipt of public testimony, deliberations, discussions, considerations, reviews, and final actions.
- (b) "Board" means the Washington state noxious weed control board, or a duly authorized representative.
- (c) "Director" means the director of the department of agriculture, or the director's appointed representative.
- (d) "Executive secretary" means the executive secretary of the Washington state noxious weed control board.
- (e) "Department" means the department of agriculture of this state.
- (f) "Final action" means a collective positive or negative decision, or an actual vote by a majority of board members when sitting as a body or entity, upon a motion, proposal, resolution, or order.
- (g) "Meeting" means meetings at which action is taken.
- (h) "Regular meetings" means recurring meetings held in accordance with a periodic schedule in compliance with applicable statute or rule.

(2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this chapter, chapter 17.10 RCW, and any rules adopted thereunder unless the context plainly requires otherwise:

- (a) "Control" of noxious weeds means to prevent all seed production and to prevent the dispersal of all propagative parts capable of forming new plants.
- (b) "Contain" means to confine a noxious weed and its propagules to an identified area of infestation.
- (c) "Eradicate" means to eliminate a noxious weed within an area of infestation.
- (d) "Prevent the spread of noxious weeds" means to contain noxious weeds.



(e) Class A noxious weeds are those noxious weeds not native to the state that are of limited distribution or are unrecorded in the state and that pose a serious threat to the state.

(f) Class B noxious weeds are those noxious weeds not native to the state that are of limited distribution or are unrecorded in a region of the state and that pose a serious threat to that region.

(g) "Class B designate" means those Class B noxious weeds whose populations in a region or area are such that all seed production can be prevented within a calendar year.

(h) Class C are any other noxious weeds.

(3) Any county noxious weed control board may enhance the clarity of any definition contained in subsection (2) of this section, making that definition more specific, but shall not change its general meaning.

WAC 16-750-004 Noxious weed region descriptions.

The state of Washington is divided into six regions for the purpose of designating Class B noxious weeds.

(1) Region 1 description. A region containing all lands lying within the boundaries of Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Mason, and Pacific counties.

(2) Region 2 description. A region containing all lands lying within the boundaries of San Juan, Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, Island, King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Thurston counties.

(3) Region 3 description. A region containing all lands lying within the boundaries of Lewis, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Clark, and Skamania counties.

(4) Region 4 description. A region containing all lands lying within the boundaries of Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan, Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille counties.

(5) Region 5 description. A region containing all lands lying within the boundaries of Klickitat, Yakima, Kittitas, Grant, Adams, Lincoln, Spokane, and Whitman counties.

(6) Region 6 description. A region containing all lands lying within the boundaries of Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, and Asotin counties.



WAC 16-750-005 State noxious weed list—Class A noxious weeds

Common Name	Scientific Name
Broom, French	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>
Broom, Spanish	<i>Spartium junceum</i>
Common crupina	<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>
Cordgrass, common	<i>Spartina anglica</i>
Cordgrass, dense-flowered	<i>Spartina densiflora</i>
Cordgrass, salt meadow	<i>Spartina patens</i>
Cordgrass, smooth	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>
Dyer's woad	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>
Eggleaf spurge	<i>Euphorbia oblongata</i>
False brome	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>
Floating primrose-willow	<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>
Flowering rush	<i>Butomus umbrellatus</i>
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Giant hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>
Goatsrue	<i>Galega officinalis</i>
Hydrilla	<i>Hydrilla verticillate</i>
Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>
Knapweed, bighead	<i>Centaurea macrocephala</i>
Knapweed, Vochin	<i>Centaurea nigrescens</i>
kudzu	<i>Pueraria montana var. lobata</i>
Meadow clary	<i>Salvia pratensis</i>
Oriental clematis	<i>Clematis orientalis</i>
Purple starthistle	<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>
Reed sweetgrass	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>
Ricefield bulrush	<i>Schoenoplectus mucronatus</i>
Sage, clary	<i>Salvia sclarea</i>
Sage, Mediterranean	<i>Salvia aethiopis</i>
Silverleaf nightshade	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>
Small-flowered jewelweed	<i>Impatiens parviflora</i>
South American spongeplant	<i>Limnobium laevigatum</i>
Syrian bean-caper	<i>Zygophyllum fabago</i>
Texas blueweed	<i>Helianthus ciliaris</i>
Thistle, Italian	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>
Thistle, milk	<i>Silybum marianum</i>
Thistle, slenderflower	<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>
Thistle, Turkish	<i>Carduus cinereus</i>
Variable-leaf milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i>
Wild four o'clock	<i>Mirabilis nyctaginea</i>



WAC 16-750-011 State noxious weed list—Class B noxious weeds

Name	Will be a “Class B designate” in all lands lying within:
1) Blueweed, <i>Echium vulgare</i>	a) Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 b) Region 5, except Spokane County
2) Brazilian elodea, <i>Egeria densa</i>	a) Region 1, except Grays Harbor County b) Region 2, except Kitsap County c) King County of region 2, except lakes Dolloff, Fenwick, Union, Washington, and Sammamish, and the Sammamish River d) Region 3, except for Wahkiakum County Regions 4, 5, and 6
3) Bugloss, annual, <i>Anchusa arvensis</i>	a) Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 b) Region 5, except Spokane County
4) Bugloss, common, <i>Lycopsis officinalis</i>	a) Regions 1, 2, 3, and 6 b) All of region 4 except those areas lying within the Entiat River Valley between the Columbia River confluence and Stormy Creek in Chelan County c) Region 5, except Spokane County
5) Butterfly bush, <i>Buddleja davidii</i>	a) Grays Harbor County of region 1 b) San Juan County of region 2 c) Cowlitz County of region 3
6) Camelthorn, <i>Alhagi maurorum</i>	a) Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6
7) Common fennel, <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> (except bulbing fennel, <i>F. vulgare</i> var. <i>azoricum</i>)	a) Region 1, except Jefferson County b) Region 2, except King and Skagit counties c) Region 3, except Clark County d) Regions 4, 5, and 6
8) Common reed, <i>Phragmites australis</i> (nonnative genotypes only)	a) Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4 b) Region 5, except Grant County c) Asotin, Columbia, and Garfield counties of region 6
9) Dalmation toadflax, <i>Linaria dalmatica</i> ssp. <i>Dalmatica</i>	a) Regions 1, 2, and 3 b) Adams, Kittitas, and Lincoln counties of region 5 c) Benton, Franklin, and Walla Walla counties of region 6
10) Eurasian watermilfoil, <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	a) Region 1, except Pacific County b) Island, Kitsap, and San Juan counties of region 2 c) Clark and Cowlitz counties of region 3 d) Chelan and Okanogan counties, and all lakes with public boat launches except Fan Lake in Pend Oreille County of region 4 e) Adams, Kittitas, Lincoln, and Whitman counties of region 5 f) Asotin, Columbia, and Garfield counties of region 6
11) European coltsfoot, <i>Tussilago farfara</i>	a) Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6
12) Fanwort, <i>Cabomba carliniana</i>	a) Regions 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 b) Region 3, except Cowlitz County
13) Gorse, <i>Ulex europaeus</i>	a) Region 1, except Grays Harbor and Pacific counties b) Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6



14) Grass-leaved arrowhead, <i>Sagittaria graminea</i>	a) Region 1 b) Region 2, except Snohomish County c) Regions 3, 4, 5, and 6
15) Hairy willow-herb, <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	a) Regions 1, 3, and 4 b) Region 2, except Thurston and Whatcom counties c) Region 5, except Klickitat County d) Region 6, except Benton and Franklin counties
16) Hawkweed oxtongue, <i>Picris hieracioides</i>	a) Regions 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 b) Region 3, except Skamania County
17) Hawkweed, orange, <i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	a) Region 1, 3, and 6 b) Region 2, except Whatcom County c) Region 4, except Pend Oreille and Stevens counties d) Region 5, except Kittitas and Spokane counties
18) Hawkweeds: all nonnative species and hybrids of the Meadow subgenus (<i>Pilosella</i>), including, but not limited to, mouseear (<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>), pale (<i>H. lactucella</i>), queen-devil (<i>H. glomeratum</i>), tall (<i>H. piloselloides</i>), whiplash (<i>H. flagellare</i>), yellow (<i>H. caespitosum</i>), and yellow-devil (<i>H. x floridundum</i>)	a) Region 1 b) Region 2, except Thurston County c) Region 3, except Cowlitz County d) Region 4, except Pend Oreille and Stevens counties e) Region 5, except Klickitat and Spokane counties f) Region 6
19) Hawkweeds: all nonnative species and hybrids of the Wall subgenus (<i>Hieracium</i>), including, but not limited to, common (<i>Hieracium lachenalii</i>), European (<i>H. sabaudum</i>), polar (<i>H. atratum</i>), smooth (<i>H. laevigatum</i>), spotted (<i>H. maculatum</i>), and wall (<i>H. murorum</i>)	a) Regions 1, 3, 5, and 6 b) Region 2, except King, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties c) Region 4, except Stevens County
20) Herb-Robert, <i>Geranium robertianum</i>	a) Regions 4, 5, and 6
21) Hoary alyssum, <i>Berteroa incana</i>	a) Regions 1, 2, 3, and 6 b) Region 4, except Pend Oreille and Ferry counties c) Region 5, except Klickitat County
22) Houndstongue, <i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	a) Regions 1, 2, and 3 b) Chelan and Douglas counties of region 4 c) Yakima, Grant, and Adams counties of region 5 d) Benton and Franklin counties of region 6
23) Indigobush, <i>Amorpha fruticose</i>	a) Regions 1, 2, and 4 b) Lewis County of region 3 c) Region 5, except Klickitat County
24) Knapweed, black, <i>Centaurea nigra</i>	a) Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6
25) Knapweed, brown, <i>Centaurea jacea</i>	a) Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6
26) Knapweed, diffuse, <i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	a) Region 1 b) Region 2 c) Region 3, except Cowlitz County d) Adams County of region 5
27) Knapweed, meadow, <i>Centaurea gerstlaurei</i>	a) Regions 1 and 4 b) Region 2, except Whatcom County c) Thurston County of region 2, except below the ordinary high-water mark of the Nisqually River d) Lewis and Wahkiakum counties of region 3 e) Region 5, except Kittitas and Klickitat counties



	f) Region 6, except Franklin and Walla Walla counties
28) Knapweed, Russian, <i>Rhaponticum repens</i>	a) Regions 1, 2, and 3 b) Ferry and Pend Oreille counties of region 4 c) Lincoln, Spokane, and Whitman counties of region 5 d) Adams County of region 5, except for the area west of Highway 17 and north of Highway 26 e) Asotin and Garfield counties of region 6
29) Knapweed, spotted, <i>Centaurea stoebe</i>	a) Region 1, except Grays Harbor b) Region 2, except Whatcom County c) Clark, Lewis, and Wahkiakum counties of region 3 d) Ferry County of region 4 e) Adams, Grant, and Yakima counties of region 5 f) Region 6, except Columbia and Walla Walla counties
30) Knotweed, Bohemian, <i>Fallopia x bohemica</i>	a) Island and San Juan counties of region 2 b) Skamania County of region 3 c) Region 4, 5, and 6
31) Knotweed, giant, <i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	a) Region 2, except King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties b) Region 3, except Cowlitz and Lewis counties c) Regions 4, 5, and 6
32) Knotweed, Himalayan, <i>Persicaria wallichii</i>	a) Region 1, except Pacific County b) Region 2, except King and Pierce counties c) Region 3, except Wahkiakum County d) Region 4, 5, and 6
33) Knotweed, Japanese, <i>Fallopia japonica</i>	a) Island, San Juan, and Whatcom counties of region 2 b) Skamania County of region 3 c) Region 4, except Okanogan County d) Region 5, except Spokane County e) Region 6
34) Kochia, <i>Bassia scoparia</i>	a) Regions 1, 2, and 3 b) Stevens and Pend Oreille counties of region 4 c) Adams County of region 5
35) Lesser celandine, <i>Ficaria verna</i>	a) Region 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 b) Region 2, except King and Whatcom counties
36) Loosestrife, garden, <i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>	a) Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6
37) Loosestrife, purple, <i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	a) Clallam, Jefferson, and Mason counties of region 1 b) Region 2, except Kitsap, Skagit, and Snohomish counties c) Clark, Lewis, and Skamania counties of region 3 d) Region 4, except Douglas County e) Region 5, except Grant and Spokane counties f) Region 6, except Asotin and Franklin counties
38) Loosestrife, wand, <i>Lythrum virgatum</i>	a) Clallam, Jefferson, and Mason counties of region 1 b) Region 2, except Kitsap, Skagit, and Snohomish counties c) Clark, Lewis, and Skamania counties of region 3



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) Region 4, except Douglas County e) Region 5, except Grant and Spokane counties f) Region 6, except Asotin and Franklin counties
39) Malta starthistle, <i>Centaurea melitensis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regions 1, 2, and 3 b) Region 4, except T36 R38 in the area contained within Hwy 395/Hwy 20, Pingston Creek Road, and Highland Loop Road in Stevens County c) Region 5, except Klickitat and Whitman counties
40) Parrotfeather, <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Region 1, except Pacific County b) Regions 2, 4, 5, and 6 c) Clark and Skamania counties of region 3
41) Perennial pepperweed, <i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regions 1, 2, and 4 b) Region 3, except Clark and Cowlitz counties c) Kittitas, Lincoln, and Spokane counties of region 5 d) Columbia and Garfield counties of region 6
42) Poison hemlock, <i>Conium maculatum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Clallum, Mason, and Pacific counties of region 1 b) Region 2, except King, Skagit, and Whatcom counties c) Clark and Skamania counties of region 3 d) Chelan, Douglas, and Pend Oreille counties of region 4 e) Grant, Kittitas, and Lincoln counties of region 5
43) Policeman's helmet, <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Region 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 b) Region 2, except Thurston and Whatcom counties
44) Puncturevine, <i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regions 1, 2, and 3 b) Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens counties of region 4 c) Region 5, except Grant, Klickitat, and Yakima counties
45) Ravenna grass, <i>Tripsidium ravennae</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Cowlitz County of region 3 b) region 4 c) region 5, except Yakima County d) region 6, except Benton County
46) Rush skeletonweed, <i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regions 1, 2, and 3 b) Region 4, except all areas of Stevens County south of Township 29 c) Kittitas and Yakima counties of region 5, and Adams County, except those areas lying east of Sage Road, the western border of Range 36 d) Asotin County of region 6
47) Saltcedar, <i>Tamarix ramosissima</i> (unless intentionally planted prior to 2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regions 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 b) Region 2, except King and Thurston counties
48) Scotch broom, <i>Cytisus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regions 4 and 6 b) Region 5, except Klickitat County
49) Shiny geranium, <i>Geranium lucidum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regions 1, 4, 5, and 6 b) Region 2, except Thurston County c) Region 3, except Clark County
50) Spurge flax, <i>Thymelaea passerine</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Region 4, except Okanogan County b) Regions 5 and 6
51) Spurge laurel, <i>Daphne laureola</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Region 1, except Clallum and Jefferson counties



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Region 2, except King, Kitsap, and Pierce counties c) Region 3 d) Regions 4, 5, and 6
52) Spurge, leafy, <i>Euphorbia virgata</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4 b) Region 5, except Spokane County c) Region 6, except Columbia County
53) Spurge, myrtle, <i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Region 1, except Clallum and Jefferson counties b) Region 2, except King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Whatcom counties c) Regions 3, 5, and 6 d) Region 4, except Okanogan County
54) Sulfur cinquefoil, <i>Potentilla recta</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Region 1 b) Region 2, except Pierce and Thurston counties c) Region 3, except Lewis and Skamania counties d) Adams, Grant, Lincoln, and Whitman counties of region 5 e) Region 6, except Asotin County
55) Tansy ragwort, <i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Island and San Juan counties of region 2 b) Clark and Wahkiakum counties of region 3 c) Regions 4, 5, and 6
56) Thistle, musk, <i>Carduus nutans</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) Island and San Juan counties of region 2 e) Clark and Wahkiakum counties of region 3 f) Regions 4, 5, and 6
57) Thistle, plumeless, <i>Carduus acanthoides</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 b) Region 4, except those areas north of State Highway 20 in Stephens County
58) Thistle, Scotch, <i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regions 1, 2, and 3 b) Region 4, except Douglas County c) Region 5, except Spokane and Whitman counties
59) Velvetleaf, <i>Abutilon theophrasti</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 b) Region 5, except for Yakima County
60) Water primrose, <i>Ludwigia hexapetala</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6
61) White bryony, <i>Bryonia alba</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4 b) Region 5, except Whitman County c) Benton and Garfield counties of region 6
62) Wild chervil, <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regions 1, 3, 4, and 6 b) Region 2, except Whatcom County c) Region 5, except Whitman County
63) Yellow archangel, <i>Lamiaeum galeobdolon</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Clallum County of region 1 b) Island, San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom counties of region 2 c) Cowlitz, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties of region 3 d) Regions 4, 5, and 6
64) Yellow floating heart, <i>Nymphoides peltate</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regions 1, 2, 3, and 6 b) Region 4, except Stephens County c) Region 5, except Spokane County
65) Yellow nutsedge, <i>Cyperus esculentus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regions 1 and 4 b) Region 2, except Skagit and Thurston counties c) Region 3, except Clark County d) Region 5, except Klickitat and Yakima counties



	e) Region 6, except Franklin and Walla Walla counties
66) Yellow starthistle, <i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	a) Regions 1, 2, and 3 b) Region 4, except T36 R38 in the area contained within Hwy 395/Hwy 20, Pingston Creek Road, and Highland Loop Road in Stevens County c) Region 5, except Klickitat and Whitman counties



WAC 16-750-015 State noxious weed list—Class C noxious weeds

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Absinth wormwood	<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>	Jubata grass	<i>Cortaderia jubata</i>
Austrian fieldcress	<i>Rorippa austriaca</i>	Lawnweed	<i>Soliva sessilis</i>
Babysbreath	<i>Gypsophila paniculate</i>	Longspine sandbur	<i>Cenchrus longispinus</i>
Black henbane	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Medusahead	<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>
Blackberry, evergreen	<i>Rubus laciniatus</i>	Nonnative cattail species and hybrids	Including, but not limited to, <i>Typha angustifolia</i> , <i>T. domingensis</i> and <i>T.x glauca</i>
Blackberry, Himalayan	<i>Rubus bifrons</i>	Old man's beard	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>
blackgrass	<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>	Oxeye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
Buffalobur	<i>Solanum rostratum</i>	Pampas grass	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>
Cereal rye	<i>Secale cereale</i>	Perennial sowthistle	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i> ssp. <i>Arvensis</i>
Common barberry	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>	Reed canarygrass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>
Common catsear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Russian olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>
Common groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Scentless mayweed	<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>
Common St. Johnswort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Smoothseed alfalfa dodder	<i>Cuscuta approximate</i>
Common tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Spikeweed	<i>Centromadia pungens</i>
Common teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Spiny cocklebur	<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>
Curly-leaf pondweed	<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	Spotted jewelweed	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>
English hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Swainsonpea	<i>Sphaerophysa salsula</i>
English ivy 4 cultivars only	<i>Hedera Hibernica</i> "Hibernica" <i>Hedera helix</i> "Baltica" <i>Hedera helix</i> "Star"	Thistle, bull	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Eurasian watermilfoil hybrid	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> <i>x M. sibiricum</i>	Thistle, Canada	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Field bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Tree-of-heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>
Fragrant water lily	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	Ventenata	<i>Ventenata dubia</i>
Hairy whitetop	<i>Lepidium appelianum</i>	White cockle	<i>Silene latifolia</i>
Hoary cress	<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Wild carrot (except where commercially grown)	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Italian arum	<i>Arum italicum</i>	Yellow flag iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
Japanese eelgrass	<i>Nanozostera japonica</i>	Yellow toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>
Jointed goatgrass	<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>		



WAC 16-750-020 Noxious weeds—Civil infractions—Schedule of monetary penalties.

Civil infractions under chapter 17.10 RCW shall be assessed a monetary penalty according to the following schedule:

(1) Any owner knowing of the existence of any noxious weeds on the owner's land who fails to control the noxious weeds will be assessed the following monetary penalties. The penalties are assessed per parcel, per noxious weed species, per day after expiration of the notice to control filed pursuant to RCW 17.10.170:

(a) Any Class A noxious weed:

1st offense within five years	\$ 750
2nd and any subsequent offense	1,000

(b) Any Class B designate noxious weed in the noxious weed control region in which the land lies:

1st offense within five years	\$ 500
2nd offense	750
3rd and any subsequent offense	1,000

(c) Any Class B non-designate noxious weed in the noxious weed control region in which the land lies; or any Class C noxious weed:

1st offense within five years	\$ 250
2nd offense	500
3rd offense	750
4th and any subsequent offense	1,000

(2) Any person who enters upon any land in violation of an order in force pursuant to RCW 17.10.210 will be assessed as follows:

1st offense within five years	\$ 500
2nd offense	750
3rd and any subsequent offense	1,000

(3) Any person who interferes with the carrying out of the provisions of chapter 17.10 RCW shall be assessed as follows:

1st offense within five years	\$ 500
2nd offense	750



3rd and any subsequent offense 1,000

WAC 16-750-022 Noxious weed list—Listing process.

The noxious weed list is adopted annually by the Washington state noxious weed control board. The listing process is open to the public, and there are several opportunities for participation. The process of considering changes to the list begins with the board's noxious weed committee. The weed listing process consists of the following steps each year:

- (1) The board accepts proposals to make additions, deletions, or changes to the weed list between January and the end of April.
- (2) Starting in May, the committee reviews and evaluates the proposals and may conduct additional research including literature reviews, surveys of counties, discussions with other states, and field investigations during its deliberations, which continue into September.
- (3) The board considers the committee's recommendations in September and votes on which proposed changes to include in a public hearing, typically held in November.
- (4) The board solicits public comment at the public hearing and makes its final decisions on proposed changes to the weed list after considering the testimony received.
- (5) The new revised noxious weed list becomes effective in January.
- (6) Proposals to add new species to the weed list that were not adopted by the board will not be reconsidered for future listing unless additional information is provided, including additional data from scientific sources regarding any invasive and noxious qualities of the species, as well as existing positive economic benefits.

WAC 16-750-025 Plant monitor list—Purpose.

The purpose of the monitor list is to gather more information on suspect weeds as well as monitor for occurrence or spread. Information collected may be used to justify future inclusion on the state noxious weed list. There is no regulatory aspect to this list. Reasons for plant inclusion on the monitor list include:

- (1) There is reason to believe the species is invasive or poses a potential threat to Washington.
- (2) Additional information is needed on distribution, abundance, or biology.
- (3) The species was once present in Washington and on the state noxious weed list. It is now being monitored for reoccurrence.



(4) There is need to verify existence (site investigation), verify identification, and/or obtain voucher specimen.

(5) It exists in an adjacent state or province or occurs on an adjacent state or province's noxious weed list and is not known to occur in Washington.

Native species of Washington will not be included on the monitor list. Each weed included on the monitor list will be included by vote of the noxious weed committee. A sponsor is required in order to place a weed on the monitor list. The current monitor list is kept in the state noxious weed board office.

WAC 16-750-100 State noxious weed control board—Description— Purpose.

The board was created pursuant to chapter 17.10 RCW, Noxious weeds—Control boards. The board is an advisory board to the department regarding the state noxious weed program and has rule-making and administrative responsibilities under chapter 17.10 RCW.

WAC 16-750-105 State noxious weed control board—Powers—Duties— Responsibilities.

The powers and duties of the board include:

(1) Adopting rules defining the words "control," "contain," "eradicate," and the term "prevent the spread of noxious weeds";

(2) Conducting elections to the board, and adopting rules as set forth in this chapter establishing a position number for each elected position to the board and designating in which county noxious weed control board members are eligible to vote for each elected position;

(3) Electing officers, conducting meetings, holding hearings, appointing committees, entering upon any property to administer chapter 17.10 RCW, and adopting the necessary rules to carry out its powers and duties identified herein;

(4) When petitioned, holding a hearing in a county to determine the need for activation of the county noxious weed control board and, if such a need is found to exist, ordering the county legislative authority to activate and appoint members to such board;

(5) Each year or more often, adopting a state noxious weed list, classifying the weeds on the list, and entering written findings for the inclusion of each weed on the list;

(6) Sending a copy of the state noxious weed list to each activated county noxious weed control board, regional noxious weed control board, weed district, and each county legislative authority of each county with an inactivated noxious weed control board;



(7) When petitioned and following a hearing, ordering any county noxious weed board to include a noxious weed from the state list on the county board or district's weed list;

(8) Adopting a schedule of monetary penalties for each violation of chapter 17.10 RCW classified as a civil infraction and submitting the schedule to the appropriate courts;

(9) Employing an executive secretary whose qualifications, duties, and responsibilities are set forth in this chapter and RCW 17.10.070;

(10) Preparing and distributing a biennial written report showing the expenditure of state funds on noxious weed control; specifying how the funds were spent; the status of state, county, and district programs; recommending the continued best use of state funds; and recommending the long-term needs regarding weed control;

(11) Advising the director as provided for in chapter 17.10 RCW.

WAC 16-750-110 State noxious weed control board—Mission.

The mission of the board is to serve as responsible stewards of Washington by protecting and preserving the land and resources from the degrading impact of noxious weeds.

The board believes that prevention is the best approach and may be achieved through full implementation of the intent of the state noxious weed law. To further that, the board strives for enhanced public awareness through improved educational efforts.

The board does not deal directly in control activities but rather works to achieve this end through others. For that reason, the board seeks to improve communication, gain cooperation, and improve coordination of the efforts for noxious weed control.

The board believes noxious weed control is best carried out by strong, adequately funded programs at the local level. To achieve this, the board strives to build public support for local programs and to empower those programs to be more successful.

WAC 16-750-115 State noxious weed control board—Membership.

The board is comprised of nine voting members and three nonvoting members selected as follows:

(1) Four of the members are elected by the members of activated county noxious weed control boards eligible to vote for the elected position established by the state noxious weed board. Two members are elected from the west side of the state, the crest of the Cascades being the dividing line, and two from the east side of the state.

(2) The director is a voting member.

(3) One member is elected by the directors of activated weed districts formed under chapter 17.04 or 17.06 RCW.



(4) The Washington state association of counties appoints one voting member who must be a member of a county legislative authority.

(5) The director appoints two voting members to represent the public interest, one from the west side and one from the east side of the state.

(6) The director appoints three nonvoting members representing scientific disciplines relating to weed control.

WAC 16-750-120 State noxious weed control board—Nominations— Elections— Terms of office—Vacancies.

(1) Nominations and elections to board positions are conducted by regular mail.

(2) The board calls for nominations to elected positions at least sixty days prior to expiration of position terms.

(3) The board sends ballots to eligible activated county noxious weed control boards or weed district directors by regular mail at least forty-five days prior to expiration of each position term.

(4) Ballots must be returned no later than thirty days before expiration of each term. Only official ballots will be accepted. Photo- copied ballots will be considered invalid.

(5) The board chairperson appoints a committee to count ballots and certify elections at least thirty days prior to expiration of each term.

(6) Results of elections are announced prior to the next scheduled board meeting.

(7) For the purpose of conducting nominations or elections, the board uses the current list of county noxious weed control board voting members and weed district directors.

(8) Any person who is a resident in and member of an activated county noxious weed control board in the counties represented by positions 1, 2, 3, and 4 may enter his or her name, or that of any qualified person in nomination for election to the board position by voting members of the above activated county noxious weed control boards.

(9) Any director of an active weed district formed under chapter 17.04 or 17.06 RCW may enter a name in nomination for election to position 5 on the board.

(10) Each candidate or each person nominating such candidate must complete a certificate of nomination and must return it to the board postmarked by the date specified.



(11) The board creates a ballot listing the names in alphabetical order beginning with the last name first, of the candidates nominated to the position of the board: Provided, That the board shall remove the name of any person nominated who notifies the board in writing that he or she is unwilling to serve on the board.

(12) The ballot, along with the statement, if any, of each candidate in the election will be mailed by regular mail to each voting member of an activated county noxious weed control board or director of an active weed district. Only county board members or weed district directors within the established position area are eligible to vote for the board member to represent that area.

(13) Each voting member of an activated county noxious weed control board or director of an activated weed district may cast one vote for the candidates appearing on the appropriate ballot and return it to the board as provided above and as per the dates specified.

(14) The candidate receiving the highest number of votes is elected: Provided, that if the candidate fails to receive more than fifty percent of the votes cast in an election, a second election will be held between such candidate and the candidate receiving the next highest votes and: Provided further, that if there is only one candidate, that candidate will be deemed elected unanimously.

(15) The term of office for all members of the board is three years from the date of election or appointment.

(16) Vacancies among board members appointed by the director will be filled by the director. Vacancies among elected members will be filled by special election by those entities eligible to elect that position for the expired term. Special elections follow the same procedure as regular elections. Board members appointed to fill vacancies will serve out the existing term.

WAC 16-750-125 State noxious weed control board position numbers —Eligibility for voting.

Position numbers for elected members of the board and those eligible to vote for each position are as follows:



Position	Voting Eligibility
(1) Westside, southern tier	(a) Voting members of activated county noxious weed control boards in Grays Harbor, Mason, Thurston, Pierce, Lewis, Pacific, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Skamania, and Clark counties
(2) Eastside, southern tier	(a) Voting members of activated county noxious weed control boards in Adams, Whitman, Asotin, Garfield, Columbia, Walla Walla, Franklin, Benton, Klickitat, and Yakima counties
(3) Westside, northern tier	(a) Voting members of activated county noxious weed control boards in Whatcom, Skagit, San Juan, Island, Snohomish, King, Kitsap, Clallum, and Jefferson counties
(4) Eastside, northern tier	(a) Voting members of activated county noxious weed control boards in Okanogan, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Lincoln, Grant, Kittitas, Chelan, and Douglas counties
(5) Weed districts	(a) Directors of activated weed districts in Washington

WAC 16-750-130 State noxious weed control board—Organization.

The organization of the board is as follows:

(1) The officers of the board are the chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary. The title of the chief administrative officer is the executive secretary.

(2) Duties of officers.

(a) The chairperson presides at all meetings of the board, has the power to appoint committees, acts as ex officio member of all committees except the executive committee, serves as chairperson of the executive committee, serves as official signer of agreements between the board and public or private agencies, and performs such other duties as pertain to the office.

(b) The vice chairperson performs the duties of the chairperson in his or her absence, acts as an ex officio member of all committees, and any other duties delegated by the chairperson. The vice chairperson will assume the duties of and serve out the term of the chairperson upon permanent departure of the chairperson.

(c) The secretary is the official keeper of the minutes and, approves them, and presents them to the board for adoption. In the absence of the chairperson and vice chairperson, the secretary performs the duties of the chairperson.

(d) The duties of the executive secretary, in addition to administrative duties assigned elsewhere in this chapter, are to keep a record of the



proceedings of the board, notify all board members, county noxious weed control boards, and weed districts of meetings, act as an ex officio nonvoting member of all committees, negotiate agreements with public and private agencies on behalf of the board, and perform other responsibilities as delegated by the chairperson.

(3) Term of office. Term of office for officers of the board is two years following elections held at the first board meeting in January and ending at the January meeting of the second year.

(4) Election of officers. Elections will be held every two years at the January meeting of the first year. Officers are elected by a majority vote of the voting members present.

(5) Vacancies of officers other than chairperson, shall be filled by election of the voting board members present.

WAC 16-750-135 State noxious weed control board—Meetings.

(1) All meetings of the board are open and public and all persons are permitted to attend any meeting of the board, except as otherwise provided in the Open Public Meetings Act, chapter 42.30 RCW.

(2) Members of the public are not required, as a condition to attendance at a board meeting, to register names, other information, or otherwise to fulfill any condition prior to attending.

(3) Interruptions. In the event that any meeting is interrupted by any person as to render the orderly conduct of the meeting unfeasible, and order cannot be restored by the removal of individuals who are interrupting the meeting, the chairperson may order the meeting room cleared and continue in session or may adjourn the meeting and reconvene at another location selected by a majority vote of the board members present. In such a session, the board will follow the procedures set forth in the Open Public Meetings Act (RCW 42.30.050).

(4) Adoption of rules, regulations, resolution, etc. The board shall not adopt any rules, regulations, resolution, etc. except in a meeting open to the public and then only at a meeting, the date of which is fixed by rule, or at a meeting of which notice has been given according to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Any action taken at meetings failing to comply with this section is null and void.

(5) Regular meetings—Schedule—Publication in State Register—Notice of change. The board will meet at least five times per year and at other times determined by the chairperson or by a majority of the voting members. If any regular meeting falls on a holiday, the meeting will be held on the next business day. The executive secretary files with the code reviser a schedule of the time and place of regular meetings on or before January of each year for publication in the Washington



State Register. Notice of any change from this meeting schedule will be published in the State Register for distribution at least twenty days prior to the rescheduled meeting date.

(6) Notice. Ten days' notice of all meetings will be given by mailing a copy of the notice and agenda to each board member, county noxious weed control board, and weed district.

(7) Special meetings. The ten-day notice may be waived for special meetings which may be called at any time by the chairperson, director, or a majority of the voting board members. Special meeting notification shall follow the procedures for special meetings set forth in the Open Public Meetings Act (RCW 42.30.080).

(8) Adjournments. If a meeting is adjourned before the advertised time, a written notice will be posted at the meeting place that specifies when the meeting was adjourned.

(9) Executive sessions.

(a) The board may hold an executive session during a regular meeting which may be called by the chairperson or a majority of voting board members present. No official actions will be taken at executive sessions. Executive sessions may deal only with matters authorized by RCW 42.30.110.

(b) Before convening in executive session, the chairperson shall publicly announce the purpose of excluding the public from the meeting place and the time when the executive session will be concluded. The executive session may be extended to a later time by announcement of the chairperson.

(10) Agenda. The agenda will be prepared by the executive secretary in consultation with the chairperson. Items may be submitted by all board members to the executive secretary at least fifteen days prior to the board meeting.

(11) Attendance. Each board member is expected to attend all board and assigned committee meetings. In the event a board member is unable to attend, he or she is requested to provide the chairperson or executive secretary with the reasons for the absence prior to the meeting. Any voting member who misses two consecutive board meetings without providing the chairperson or the executive secretary with the reasons for the absences prior to the meeting may be removed from the board, following due notice and a hearing. Removal procedures may be initiated by a quorum vote of the board.

(12) Voting procedures. Board voting procedures on all matters are as follows:

(a) Five voting members constitute a quorum to conduct the affairs of the board.

(b) The chairperson may vote on all matters coming before the board.



(c) A roll call of all voting board members present may be requested on all motions by any member.

(d) All members have the right to move or second motions.

(e) Proxy voting is not permitted.

(13) Minutes. The minutes of all regular and special meetings, except executive sessions, will be promptly recorded and such records are open to public inspection.

(14) Press releases. All press releases and official information concerning board activities will be released from the board office.

(15) Public participation.

(a) Any person wishing to make a formal presentation at a regularly scheduled meeting of the board must notify the executive secretary of the subject matter at least fifteen days before the meeting.

(b) Permission to appear before the board will be granted by the executive secretary in consultation with the chairperson before the meeting. Permission includes the date and time of the meeting and the time set for formal presentation.

(c) The chairperson may, at his or her discretion, recognize anyone in the audience who indicates at the time of the meeting a desire to speak.

WAC 16-750-140 State noxious weed control board—Committees.

Standing committees shall fairly reflect the composition of the board and unless advertised and open to the public, not more than four voting members may attend a committee meeting.

(1) Executive committee. An executive committee is authorized to deal with housekeeping and personnel matters, subject to board approval at the next scheduled board meeting. The chairperson appoints the executive committee with approval of the board.

(2) Standing committees. The standing committees of the board are: Budget, executive, legislative, noxious weed, and education. The board chairperson appoints the chairperson and other members of each committee.

(3) Ad-hoc committees may be appointed from time to time.

(4) Committee voting procedures.

(a) All members of a particular committee have the right to vote. Other members in attendance may enter into discussion but shall have no vote.

(b) Proxy voting is not permitted.



(c) All questions decided by the committee will be by majority of the committee members present.

(5) Advisory committees. Advisory committees are established by the board as deemed necessary to the functioning of the board. Advisory committees are limited in their scope to the purposes determined by the board.

(6) Notice. Notice of committee meetings shall be given to the executive secretary.

(7) Committee reports.

(a) Committee reports and recommendations are submitted to the board in writing except when committees meet in conjunction with the board.

(b) Minority reports may be submitted by members of a committee, if signed by those members.

(8) Committee compensation. Board members attending meetings of committees will, upon request, be reimbursed on the same basis as for attendance at regularly called board meetings.

(9) All committee appointments will be reviewed in January of even-numbered years.

WAC 16-750-142 State noxious weed control board—Executive secretary and education specialist—Hiring and dismissal.

The board has the responsibility for hiring and removing from office the executive secretary and education specialist which are exempt employees. The executive secretary or education specialist may be dismissed by a majority vote of the full board upon the recommendation of the chairperson and the executive committee. Prior to initiating a dismissal the executive committee will notify the department. Neglect of duty, gross inefficiency, gross incompetence, gross misconduct, malfeasance or willful violation of obligations may give cause for a recommendation for dismissal or dismissal. Before any action is taken by the board to dismiss the executive secretary or education specialist, the chairperson and one member of the executive committee will confer with the employee and provide in writing and fully explain the charges and contemplated recommendation for dismissal. The privilege of a hearing before the executive committee or full board will be granted to the employee prior to any formal action taken by the board. The employee is granted thirty days preparation time for the hearing and is entitled to present evidence, to be assisted by favorable witnesses, and to confront unfavorable witnesses at the hearing.

WAC 16-750-145 State noxious weed control board—Executive secretary—Definition.

The executive secretary acts as the chief administrative officer for the board, duties of whom are fixed by the board which include, but are not limited to, as follows:

(1) Implements and administers the statutes, administrative rules, and policies of the noxious weed control program assigned to the board;



- (2) Plans, develops, and prepares administrative rules and policies for the state noxious weed control program in conjunction with the board and the department; arranges public hearings in compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act and acts as chief hearing officer for the board; conducts elections for positions on the board;
- (3) Coordinates board activities with the department, maintains a liaison and performs coordinating activities with other public and private agencies;
- (4) Negotiates agreements, with consultation and approval of the board, with federal agencies, tribes, and other public and private agencies;
- (5) Represents the board before the state legislature; coordinates the development, edits, and oversees the production of the biennial report to the county noxious weed boards and weed districts on how state funds were spent and recommendations for the continued best use of state funds for noxious weed control;
- (6) Acts as the principal spokesperson of the board to the media, technical audiences, and the public;
- (7) Provides technical advice to county noxious weed boards and weed districts on the state noxious weed law and related rules;
- (8) Plans and coordinates statewide approaches to selected noxious weeds, assists in the development of statewide noxious weed survey standards, coordinates efforts with department weed specialists;
- (9) Coordinates the activities of the board by scheduling all regular and committee meetings; in consultation with the chair, prepares meeting agendas; prepares all board correspondence; updates board on local, state, and federal noxious weed activities; acts as an ex officio, nonvoting member of all committees;
- (10) Records the official minutes of the board and ensures their distribution; maintains all board records, acts as public records officer;
- (11) Oversees fiscal management of the board's administrative budget and cooperates with the department in budget development;
- (12) Supervises additional board employees, approves hiring, re-hiring, promotion, and termination of additional board employees and ensures these processes and any disciplinary actions comply with state and department personnel policies; notifies board and department prior to initiating an adverse personnel action against any employee;
- (13) Performs other assignments as determined by the board.



WAC 16-750-146 State noxious weed control board—Education specialist—Definition.

The education specialist duties whom are fixed by the board which include, but are not limited to, as follows:

- (1) Supports and assists the educational and weed control efforts of county and regional noxious weed control boards and weed districts;
- (2) Plans, prepares, and presents programs on noxious weed control, specific weed species, and the role of the board;
- (3) Maintains a collection of scientific and technical information relating to noxious weeds and integrated vegetation management; prepares written findings for the inclusion of species on the state noxious weed list;
- (4) Develops, maintains, and ensures dissemination of information relating to noxious weeds to county noxious weed control boards and weed districts and keeps the general public and program participants informed of board activities and accomplishments;
- (5) Performs other assignments as determined by the board.

WAC 16-750-155 State noxious weed control board—Exchange time.

The board shall provide exchange time in lieu of overtime pay to its employees for hours worked in excess of forty hours per week. The time shall accrue on an hour-for-hour basis. Exchange time has no cash value.

WAC 16-750-160 State noxious weed control board—Antidiscrimination clause.

No person shall be denied participation in any phase of the board's program activities because of race, color, religion, sex, marital status, national origin, age, physical, sensory, or mental handicap, or sexual orientation. This nondiscrimination shall extend to employment by the board including retirement, selection, hiring, promotion, benefits, and dismissal.

WAC 16-750-165 State noxious weed control board—Budget and finances.

- (1) All board funds must be expended in a manner consistent with board wishes. The executive secretary is authorized to make these expenditures as appropriate. All matters related to payment of compensation and other expenses of the board are subject to the State Budget and Accounting Act (chapter 43.88 RCW).
- (2) Budget approval. The executive secretary prepares the biennial budget after consulting the budget committee. The budget will provide for costs associated with salary, personal benefits, travel, equipment, and goods and services for the



operation of the board. The budget is reviewed by the board for recommendation to and approval by the department and office of financial management.

(3) The board reserves the right to pursue additional funds for its administrative budget independent of the department.

WAC 16-750-170 State noxious weed control board—Legal counsel.

On an as needed basis, a member of the attorney general's staff will serve as legal counsel for the board.

WAC 16-750-180 State noxious weed control board—Rules of order.

Robert's Rules of Order newly revised shall serve as parliamentary authority for procedures not covered in these rules.

WAC 16-750-185 State noxious weed control board—Access to public records and documents.

(1) In accordance with the Public Records Disclosure Act of Washington, the board shall make available for public inspection and copying all public records, unless the record falls within the specific exemptions of RCW 42.17.260(6), 42.17.310, 42.17.315, or other statute which exempts or prohibits disclosure of specific information or records.

(2) The provisions of chapter 42.17 RCW shall be liberally construed to promote full access to public records so as to assure continuing public confidence and to assure the public interest will be fully protected.

(3) Place and times for inspection and copying. The executive secretary will make public records available for inspection upon request.

(4) Charges for copying. No fee shall be charged for the inspection of public records. The executive secretary may impose a reasonable charge for providing copies of public records and for the use by any person of agency equipment to copy public records, which charges shall not exceed the amount necessary to reimburse the board for its actual costs incident to such copying.

(5) Responses to requests. Responses to requests for public records shall be made promptly within five business days of receiving a public record request the board will respond as follows:

(a) With the record requested;

(b) Acknowledgement of the request and a reasonable estimate of the time it will take to provide the requested records or documents;



(c) Denying the public record request. Denials of requests will be accompanied by a written statement of the specific reasons the request is being denied and shall have received a prompt review and final determination by the board's executive committee. Additional time may be required to respond to a request due to time needed to clarify the intent of the request, to locate and assemble the information requested, to notify third persons or agencies affected by the request, or to determine whether any of the information requested is exempt. In acknowledging receipt of a public record request that is unclear, the executive secretary may ask the requestor to clarify what information the requestor is seeking. If the requestor fails to clarify the request, the board will not respond to it.

