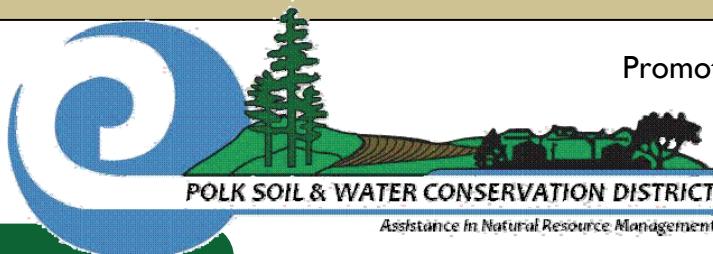


The Conservation Voice



Promoting voluntary conservation and the wise use of natural resources in Polk County since 1966!

Summer 2015

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CREP Technical Assistance Now Available

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary USDA Farm Service Agency program that pays landowners to restore and enhance their streamside land (land adjacent to either seasonal or perennial streams). Polk SWCD has entered into a Partnership with Yamhill SWCD to bring technical assistance for CREP back to Polk County landowners.

Upon enrollment participants gain access to a cost share reimbursement of up to 75% of the installed conservation practices cost. Eligible conservation practices on cropland and marginal pastureland are:

- Invasive weed removal & maintenance
- Riparian buffers – native tree and shrub planting
- Fencing off livestock from waterways
- Off-stream watering facilities

In addition to Cost Share Reimbursements, enrolled landowners receive Annual Payments as well as One-



Time Incentive Payments. Participants receive not only financial incentives, but also technical assistance in exchange for establishing and maintaining healthy riparian buffers. District staff work with landowners to develop a conservation plan that identifies the buffer width necessary to meet each individual's conservation needs; to be eligible for CREP, the minimum buffer width is 35 feet.

CREP is a great option to consider for landowners who: have weed-dominated stream banks, erosion concerns, areas adjacent to streams that are inaccessible or too wet for production, desire to establish native trees and shrubs be it to improve aesthetics or attract wildlife, or want to increase pollinators. For more information go to the USDA CREP page, www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-enhancement/index or contact Resource Conservationist Liz Graham at liz.graham@polkswcd.com or Call 503-623-9680 x 107.



Liz Graham

Luckiamute Watershed Council: Rockin' the River at Rogue Farms!

Wednesday, June 17 from 5pm to 8pm

Kick off your summer by celebrating your watershed and supporting the Luckiamute Watershed Council at beautiful Rogue Farms, located alongside a picturesque bend in the Willamette River. In addition to Rogue's award-winning beers made from their own hops, barley and rye, you'll be enjoying live music by The Morgans. Other fun activities will include outdoor games and a silent auction featuring locally-sourced goods and services.

Proceeds from the auction and your donations will go directly to supporting the Luckiamute Watershed Council's Ash Creek Restoration Project, a community partnership that is helping to remove invasive weeds and restore native plant communities along the banks of Ash Creek in the cities of Monmouth and Independence. Another way you can support this project is to donate an item, service or gift certificate for the silent auction. Email Gail Oberst at gailoberst@yahoo.com if you have a contribution to the auction. You can find out more about the Rockin' the River celebration and the Ash Creek Restoration Project by heading to <http://www.luckiamutelwc.org/rockin-the-river.html>. Don't miss the fun!



Oregon Pesticide Stewardship Partnership

Oregon Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships identify potential concerns and improve water quality affected by pesticide use around Oregon. The partnerships combine local expertise and water quality sampling results to encourage voluntary changes in pesticide use and management practices. State agencies, including DEQ, Oregon State University's Extension Service, Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon Department of Forestry, work with diverse parties, including watershed and other natural resource groups, local landowners and growers, soil and water conservation districts and tribal governments to find ways to reduce pesticide levels while measuring improvements in water quality and crop management. The goal is measurable environmental improvements, making Oregon waters safer for aquatic life and humans.



On May 22, the Polk SWCD partnered with the ODA to collect over 23,000 lbs. of waste pesticides, adding to the over 63,000 lbs. collected in McMinnville last December. These two events accounted for almost 70% of the waste pesticides collected in Oregon, not to mention the trailers full of empty containers. There will likely be more events in the south valley later this year. For more information contact Kevin Masterson, DEQ's toxics coordinator at 541-633-2005.



Youth Education Update

Polk SWCD is involved in numerous youth education events in the county. This summer we will be presenting macro-invertebrate classes to several different summer camps. This provides students with the opportunity to get their hands wet and learn about the macro-organisms they can find in their local streams and ponds, as well as how those organisms give a long term history of the health of the water.

We will be partaking in quite a few fairs this summer with Claudia Chinook, doing youth and adult outreach on many natural resource topics, as well as just being out in the public to answer questions and let people know of the land management assistance we can provide. We will be joining in Marion SWCD's Salmon Watch late this summer/early fall to help teach Polk and Marion County schools about macro-invertebrates, salmon biology, riparian buffers, and water quality. We hope to see you or your student at one or more of these events and hope we can help you learn about all the cool things nature has to offer.



Luckiamute Watershed Update

The Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) is partnering with local landowners, Central School District, Ash Creek Water Control District, and the Cities of Monmouth and Independence to improve the riparian zone along Ash Creek. There are two sections of the Ash Creek Restoration Project -- "Revegetation Reach" and "Stewardship Reach" -- which have different restoration goals. The Stewardship Reach has a fairly healthy vegetated stream bank area. Along this section, the focus will be on removing high-priority invasive weeds. The stream bank along the Revegetation Reach has been significantly degraded, with many areas having almost no vegetation. Along this section of the creek, the LWC will be removing invasive species and planting native trees and shrubs.

Some of the invasive species targeted for removal are Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, Japanese knotweed, American holly, reed canary grass, poison hemlock, and vinca. If you suspect that you may have one or more of these species on your property, don't hesitate to call the LWC at 503-837-0237 or send an email to info@luckiamutelwc.org to find out how to remove these invasive plants and learn about some excellent native plant varieties to replace them. To read more about the Ash Creek Restoration Project, view maps of the project area, and discover how you can support the project, head to <http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/Ash-Creek-Restoration-Project>.



Luckiamute Watershed Council

Your Land. Your Rivers. Your Community. Your Watershed.

Source Water Protection

"Why Protect Sources of Drinking Water? Source water is untreated water from streams, rivers, lakes or underground aquifers that is used to provide public drinking water, as well as to supply private wells used for human consumption. Public utilities treat most drinking water before it enters the home. Protecting source water from contamination can reduce the cost of this treatment, as well as the risks to public health. Protection can also increase the public's confidence in their drinking water." (Federal Funding Opportunities for Source Water Protection, online EPA pdf, accessed May 20, 2015).



The Polk SWCD has in past years encouraged landowners to voluntarily complete restorative land management projects designed to improve **surface water** quality, such as riparian planting or manure storage projects. We would like to further our goals to include improving **groundwater quality**, outreaching to rural residential, agricultural, and ranching audiences with wells or septic systems. More specifically, to educate them about elevated levels of nitrates in groundwater sourced drinking water systems that can cause a number of human health concerns if not kept below certain parts per million in the supply.

For instance, results of real estate transaction (RET) tests around Polk County indicate wells with nitrate levels exceeding 3ppm, sometimes as high as 5-6ppm over the years. This is the threshold used to begin discussions with well and septic users of the possible health concerns that become associated with elevated levels of nitrate in drinking water. Probable sources of this type of contamination include: excessive fertilizer application, improper septic system maintenance, wildlife inputs (typically more of a bacteria problem), domestic livestock manure management, and improper protection of wells from chemical storage and disturbance.



With this information in mind, the Polk SWCD is working to establish partnerships with local water providers and others to offer an outreach program directed at groundwater sourced drinking water with elevated levels of nitrate. The project will include workshops to increase awareness surrounding this general information and clinic style events with free and confidential nitrate screening. Screening results will be shared that same day with individual landowners /land managers /residents about optional next steps, and if necessary for implementing best management practices. If you have questions, would like more information, or want to have your water tested, please go to the OSU Extension service website at <http://wellwater.oregonstate.edu>, or call OHA's Drinking Water Program at 971-673-0405.

OWEB Small Grants Program



The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a state agency that provides funding for restoration and support for conservation districts and watersheds alike. If you have seen an Oregon Salmon license plate, you know who they are. A major staple of the OWEB funding options easily accessible for landowners is the Small Grants Program. OWEB provides \$100,000 every two years to teams across the state assisting restoration on private landowner property to enhance wildlife and install conservation minded agricultural practices which contribute to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds as well as the Oregon Conservation Strategy.

Polk county residents are eligible for these funds through the Soil and Water Conservation District or their local watershed council. A small grant can provide up to \$10,000 towards an eligible project offsetting the cost of conservation enhancements to the landowner; in return the landscape is improved through progressive agricultural processes, wildlife habitat improvement, or both. Common projects include design and construction of dry manure storage facilities, heavy use area construction, vegetation establishment in riparian areas or upland habitat, Oak woodland releases, as well as in-stream projects to manage stream bank erosion and removal of fish passage blocking culverts – the list goes on!

In this last biennium, 14 projects and over \$96,000 was distributed to purchase materials and provide technical expertise to landowners for projects in Polk, Yamhill and a small portion of Benton County. Once recommended, a small grant project must be completed within two years - ample time to perform site preparation activities, mow, chemically treat, seed and construct whatever the project requires, all with technical assistance from staff on behalf of the landowners. Project scope and involvement can be quite flexible – it may be self-contained one time effort like the construction of a manure storage shed, provide a contribution to a larger venture started with another agency like the US Fish and Wildlife Service, or be a multi-phase project addressing small sections of a long term plan sequentially.

The 2013-2015 biennium just ended and soon begins the 2015-2017 biennium, so fresh funding is coming soon! If you have a need for an aerated composting facility manure storage or heavy use area, are concerned about erosion on your property, interested in establishing a rain garden, or would like to enhance native wildlife habitat on your property – please call the Polk SWCD today at 503 623 9680 x 5 and schedule a site visit appointment with Marc, Liz or Lucas today.



Save the Date: July 8, 2015 Agroforestry Workshop



An Introduction to Pacific Northwest Agroforestry Practices

Integrating trees and shrubs into an Agricultural Land use System to enhance productivity, profitability and environmental stewardship.

When: July 8 2015, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Where: Willow Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant, 5915 Windsor Island Road North, Salem, OR

This is a free workshop with lunch provided. Please **RSVP** before seats fill up!!!

Contact: Marion SWCD at 503-391-9927

Partners: OSU Extension, Yamhill SWCD, Polk SWCD, Marion SWCD, North Santiam Watershed Council, Pudding River Watershed Council, and the USDA Agroforestry Center.



Polk County's Most Wanted Weeds

The Polk Soil and Water Conservation District is rolling out a new program starting in July. Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) is a noxious weed control program that will focus on tracking populations of invasive plants that are known to exist in nearby counties, but are not known to exist within Polk County. When one of the weeds on the EDRR list is found, the district will work with partners to control the population before it can become a widespread problem. This program is part of a broader effort that is being undertaken by members of the Mid-Willamette Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA), in order to reduce the aggressive spread of noxious weeds. The district is working with Oregon Department of Agriculture to verify the presence of existing weed populations throughout the county. This information will help update the regional database that helps the district and ODA prioritize control efforts.

Polk SWCD is also partnering with Polk County Public Works (PCPW) to help train their employees on invasive plant identification; in return, PCPW staff will report on weed sightings in the right-of-way. These efforts alone will not be enough to catch all new invaders! We will be asking you to keep a watchful eye out for our EDRR listed weeds. Polk SWCD will be reaching out to adopt-a-road program participants and other local organizations to offer trainings in an effort to connect residents of Polk County with weed identification and reporting resources. For more information on this program or to schedule a training event, please contact Lucas Hunt. Check out our website www.polkswcd.org to learn more about each of the weeds on our EDRR list. Over the next several newsletters we will include inserts featuring each of these invasive plants – look for the giant hogweed insert in this edition! Think you've found an invasive weed? Call 1-866-INVADER, or visit www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org to submit a report!



Save the Date: June 22, 2015 Water Regulation Workshop

Wetland, Ponds, Ditches - Questions???

Bring your regulatory questions about waterways, wetlands, ditches, streams and ponds!

When: June 22, 2015, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Where: OSU Extension Service Conference Room - 289 E. Ellendale, Dallas, OR

Who: Jo Morgan, an ODA Agricultural Water Quality Specialist for Polk County and beyond.

Jericho Winter, a NRCS Resource Specialist based in Oregon City will discuss NRCS policy

as well as information from the Department of State Lands and the Army Corp of Engineers.

Todd Whitaker, a Professional Engineer with Polk County Planning Department

Pre-registration by June 16 recommended to ensure accommodations & snacks provided meet demand.

Contact: Phone Polk SWCD at **503-623-9680 x 5** or email marc.bell@polkswcd.com to RSVP. This workshop is **FREE** thanks in part, to support from the NRCS, ODA, and the Polk SWCD.



Upcoming Events

June 2015

- 10: PSWCD Budget Hearing, 5pm
Polk County Fairgrounds
- 10: PSWCD Board Meeting, 6pm
Polk County Fairgrounds
- 11: LWC Board Meeting, 7pm
Volunteer Hall, Monmouth
- 18: GGWC Board Meeting
Call for time and location.
- 22: Polk SWCD Water Workshop at Polk OSU Extension, 9am-12pm
- 25: RWC Board Meeting, 1pm
Call for location.

July 2015

- 8: Workshop: Agroforestry Practices, 9am-3:30pm
Willow Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant
- 8: PSWCD Board Meeting, 6pm
- 9: LWC Board Meeting, 7pm
Luckiamute State Natural Area Park Office, Buena Vista Road
- 16: GGWC Board Meeting
Call for time and location.
- 23: RWC Board Meeting, 1pm
Call for location.

August 2015

- 6-8: Polk County Fair
- 12: PSWCD Board Meeting, 6pm
- 13: LWC Board Meeting, 7pm
Call for location.
- 20: GGWC Board Meeting
Call for time and location.
- 27: RWC Board Meeting, 1pm
Call for location.

September 2015

- 17: Polk SWCD Annual Meeting, Time and Place TBA

For more information on these events please contact Polk SWCD or the appropriate agency/council.

Acronyms:

PSWCD — Polk Soil & Water Conservation District:

503-623-9680 x 5

GGWC — Glen-Gibson Watershed Council: 503-362-6860

LWC — Luckiamute Watershed Council: 503-837-0237

RWC — Rickreall Watershed Council: 503-623-9680 x 104

GYWC — Greater Yamhill Watershed Council: 503-474-1047

Staff Spotlight

Karin Stutzman (née Nembach): District Manager

Karin graduated from OSU with a post baccalaureate in Natural Resource Policy, focusing her studies around watershed management. She has worked for the district since 2011 and in January 2014 became the District Manager. Karin also holds a degree in education from University of Wisconsin, Madison and has lived in the Pacific Northwest for over 20 years.

Karin is responsible for overseeing all district operations, yearly budget creation and implementation, long range business planning (along with her 7 Directors), book keeping, public contracting, partner relationships, board development, and managing staff.

Her prior 17 year career in real estate and banking helped develop the skills she needs for being District Manager, and she understands the need to carefully steward tax payer dollars that help to fund district work. Karin takes pride in developing sound community relationships, and working with the citizens of Polk County to understand and foster conservation of our precious natural resources.

The great outdoors brought her here. She was attracted by all the hiking, camping, music, microbreweries, wine country, and of course the wide variety of geologic and ecologic systems here. Karin enjoys spending time with her family and friends, and has recently begun training her two year old lab terrier mix (lots of energy here!) to Barn Hunt, a dog sport where dogs get to practice their innate hunting skills ferreting out vermin from barns.



Contact Her About:

District Operations and Policy, Budgeting, Conservation and Community Partnerships, Long-term Land Protection and Conservation Easements, and Board of Directors Relations.

**503-623-9680 x 110 or
manager@polkswcd.com**

Director Spotlight

David Simmons : Board Chair, Zone 2

David is a fourth generation farmer. He has been working in the hills west of Salem for the past 40 years, the past 21 years on 350 acres as a certified organic grower/processor. His main crops are Italian plums, sweet and tart cherries, small grains, and legume seed. You can reach David at david.simmons@polkswcd.com

Polk SWCD Director for 11 years
OACD Treasurer for 5 years
OACD Secretary for 4 years
OACD Awards chair 7 years
OACD V. President 2 years
Past Chair of the Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council
Manager of Orchard Heights Water Association



Welcome our newest board Member: Matthew Crawford, Zone 1

Matt manages his family's 1000 acre Seabreeze Farm in Amity, Oregon. He has worked with the Polk SWCD in implementing conservation practices on his land, and participated in the Commercial Agriculture Needs Assessment done by the District in January.

Matt and his family were kind enough to allow the District to use their farm as the location for the 2014 Annual Meeting. The venue provided an opportunity for the community to look at some of the great things the Crawford's are doing with their land.

We look forward to having Matt on our board and utilizing his knowledge of commercial agriculture to help us reach out to the community. You can reach Matt at polkswcd.zone1director@gmail.com



Polk SWCD Board of Directors

Polk SWCD is an Oregon Special District administered by seven locally elected directors who serve without pay for four year terms. Five directors represent landowners from each of the 5 geographic zones outlined in the map of the county to the right, and two at large directors represent the entire district. Directors meet monthly to administer the business of the Polk SWCD. The Directors donate hundreds of hours on behalf of the residents of Polk County and its natural resources.



Directors (left to right): Simmons, Crawford (inset) Gordon, Pender, McKibben
(seated), Dalton, Woods

Matt Crawford
Zone 1
polkswcd.zone1director@gmail.com

Jock Dalton
Zone 4 / Treasurer
polkswcd.zone4director@gmail.com

David Simmons
Zone 2 / Chair
david.simmons@polkswcd.com

Kelly Gordon
Zone 5
kgordonski@hotmail.com

Chad Woods
At-Large / Vice Chair
chad.woods@polkswcd.com

Directors Emeriti
Tom Thomson
Jim Clawson
Brian Sparks
Terry Lamers

Frank Pender
At-Large / Secretary
frank.pender@polkswcd.com

Associate Directors
Rachel Walker
Judy Beebe
Lois Loop
Mel Chase

David McKibben
Zone 3
polkswcd.zone3director@gmail.com

Contact Us

Polk SWCD

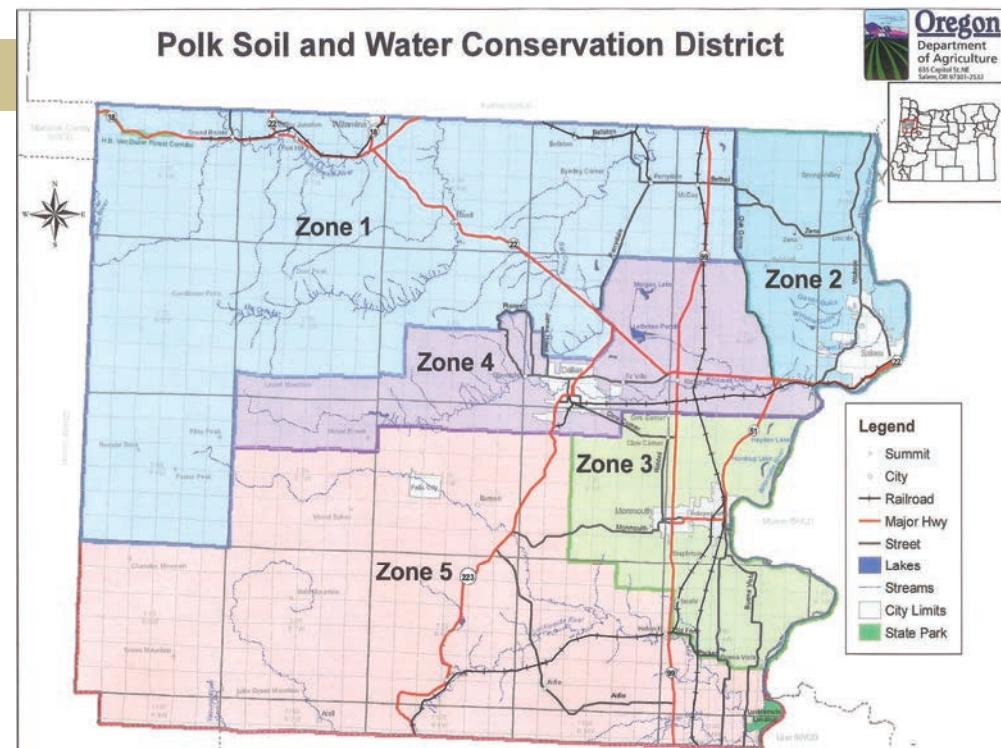
Phone: 503-623-9680 x 5
580 Main St. Suite A, Dallas, OR 97338

Karin Stutzman—District Manager manager@polkswcd.com	Ext. 110
Marc Bell—Resource Conservationist marc.bell@polkswcd.com	Ext. 103
Liz Graham—Resource Conservationist liz.graham@polkswcd.com	Ext. 107
Lucas Hunt — Stewardship Forester luca.hunt@polkswcd.com	Ext. 104
Sawyer Finegan—Youth Outreach sawyer.finegan@polkswcd.com	Ext. 113
Tom Wilson — Office Administrator clerk@polkswcd.com	Ext. 108

NRCS

Phone: 503-623-5534 Fax: 1-855-651-8930
580 Main St. Suite A, Dallas, OR 97338

Tom Finegan — District Conservationist tom.finegan@or.usda.gov	Ext. 109
Sue Reams — Soil Conservationist sue.reams@or.usda.gov	Ext. 114
Billy Burr — Accounting Specialist billy.burr@wa.usda.gov	Ext. 112
Samantha Bartling - Natural Resource Specialist samantha.bartling@or.usda.gov	Ext. 102



Marion-Polk County FSA

Phone: 503-399-5741 Fax: 1-877-885-8382
650 Hawthorne Ave. SE, St 130,
Salem, OR, 97301

Janelle Huserik—County Executive Director janelle.huserik@or.usda.gov	Ext. 114
Debbie Pothetes — Program Technician debbie.pothetes@or.usda.gov	Ext. 111

Beverly Schmidt — Program Technician beverly.schmidt@or.usda.gov	Ext. 100
Scott Nieman — Farm Loan Manager scott.nieman@or.usda.gov	Ext. 113
Stuart Butsch — Farm Loan Officer stuart.butsch@or.usda.gov	Ext. 115
Lora Surmeyer — Farm Loan Program Tech. lora.surmeyer@or.usda.gov	Ext. 116



Polk SWCD

Phone: 503-623-9680
Ext. 5
580 Main St. Suite A,
Dallas, OR 97338

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

WWW.POLKSWCD.ORG

The Polk SWCD is a local public source of information and education on natural resources. We provide a number of services to help with responsible land stewardship such as:

- Technical Assistance - Plant ID assistance, soil and water information, invasive species controls, improvements and protection of wildlife habitat and water quality, manure management, and conservation practices.
- Land Management - Assistance in developing forestry, range, farm, wildlife, wetland, and small acreage management plans.
- Funding Opportunities - Grants, government programs, and coordinated efforts with other agencies are available to assist with habitat restoration and other natural resource related projects. Cost share programs are available to provide assistance with irrigation system improvements, forest stand improvement, and small farm assistance are also available.

Polk SWCD is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Dallas, OR 97338

580 Main St. Suite A

Please call 1-866-invader if you suspect you have found this species

Giant hogweed

Heracleum mantegazzianum

Other common names: cartwheel-flower, giant cow parsnip, giant cow parsley, wild parsnip

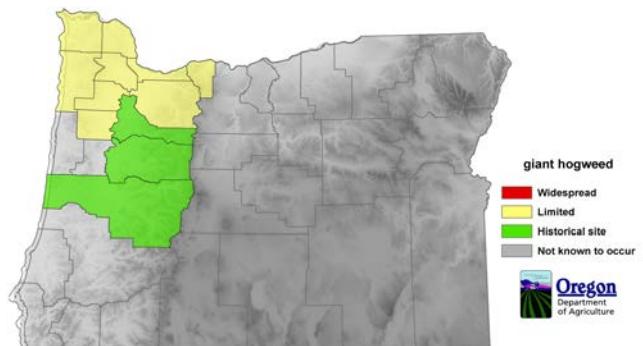
USDA symbol: HEMA17
ODA rating: A and T



Introduction: Giant hogweed is a native of the Caucasus Mountain region of Asia. It was imported for planting in the arboreums and private gardens of Europe and North America early in the twentieth century. Because it is a prolific seeder, it soon escaped and naturalized in surrounding areas, especially riparian and urban sites. It is a significant weed species in parts of Europe, England, Scotland, Scandinavia and Germany. In North America it grows in Ontario and British Columbia, Canada, Maine, Maryland, New York, Washington State and Oregon.

Distribution in Oregon: For a collection of spatial information on the distribution of this plant in Oregon go to <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/WeedMapper.aspx>

Description: Giant hogweed is a robust member of the carrot family (Apiaceae) noted for its huge leaves and an umbrella-like flowerhead. As a short-lived perennial, it frequently grows a stalk 10-15 feet tall splotched with reddish-purple blotches and pustules. The stalks are hollow with a three to four inch diameter; flower heads may attain a two to three foot diameter. Flowers generally develop in two to four years with bloom time occurring in May-July. Leaves are also impressive growing three to five feet wide, are compound and deeply incised. This plant closely resembles the common native cow parsnip which rarely exceeds six feet high sporting a flower head only 8-12 inches wide.



Impacts: Giant hogweed poses a health hazard to humans. The plant exudes a clear watery sap, sensitizing skin to ultraviolet radiation. Exposing human skin to the plant sap or smoke from burning hogweed often causes severe burns to the affected areas resulting in blistering and painful dermatitis. Blisters can later develop into purplish or blackened scars. In addition to the health risks, hogweed quickly becomes a garden pest, overrunning flower beds and readily escaping to adjacent natural areas. It has naturalized in many of the places where it was introduced, and is one of the most invasive weeds in Europe.

Biological controls: Biological control agents are not used on "A" listed weeds in Oregon. When the weed is found in the state, it is targeted for eradication or containment.



Oregon Department of Agriculture • Noxious Weed Control Program
635 Capitol Street NE • Salem, OR 97301 • 503-986-4621
www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/Default.aspx

Photos by Glenn Miller,
Shannon Brubaker and Beth
Myers-Shenai- ODA