

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners
Mark McCauley, County Administrator

FROM: Sophie DeGroot, Noxious Weed Control Coordinator

DATE: February 5, 2024

SUBJECT: Noxious Weed Free Certification Program

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Washington's Noxious Weed Law (RCW 17.10) established that all landowners are responsible for helping to prevent and control the spread of noxious weeds at their own expense. When landowners and managers have access to certified weed-free materials, the chances of noxious weeds being spread drastically decreases. Noxious weeds often spread at construction or renovation sites due to the disturbances that remove established vegetation and leave the surface exposed and free of competition. When materials are brought into these sites and projects, seeds can be moved great distances. This is also true for materials such as mulch and woodchips that may travel across hundreds of miles and end up in someone's yard. Providing weed-free materials prevents this spread of noxious weeds and keeps a wide variety of lands healthy and weed-free.

While Scotch broom is not required for control across Jefferson County as its extent is vast, the Noxious Weed Control Board did vote to require control of Scotch broom within 100-ft of aggregate piles and storage facilities. This is to curb the spread of seeds to areas that are not currently infested with Scotch broom.

ANALYSIS:

The Noxious Weed Control Board has created a certification program in which a Weed Board employee would inspect a site (gravel pit, storage space, compost facility, etc.) to determine how many noxious weeds are present. The Weed Board will also work with these sites to control their noxious weeds and come into compliance. The program is entirely voluntary, but provides an important service to the citizens and business owners in Jefferson County.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no additional cost for the County to implement this program. Keeping it free of charge for participants will incentivize businesses to seek out an inspection and receive certification. If we can limit the spread of seeds and propagative parts of noxious weeds, the cost of controlling noxious weeds decreases for everyone.

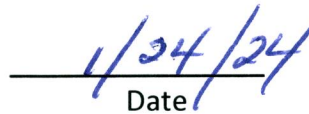
RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve of the Noxious Weed Board's Program Standards in order to make Noxious Weed Free Certifications and Inspections available to aggregate pits and storage facilities as soon as possible. The Noxious Weed Control Board approved of the program (with minor changes that have since been made) at their November 27, 2023 Board Meeting.

REVIEWED BY:



Mark McCauley, County Administrator



Date



January 22, 2024

Washington's Noxious Weed Law (RCW 17.10) established that all landowners are responsible for helping to prevent and control the spread of noxious weeds at their own expense. When landowners and managers have access to certified weed-free materials, the chances of noxious weeds being spread drastically decreases. Noxious weeds often spread at construction or renovation sites due to the disturbances that remove established vegetation and leave the surface exposed and free of competition. When materials are brought into these sites and projects, seeds can be moved great distances. This is also true for materials such as mulch and woodchips that may travel across hundreds of miles and end up in someone's yard. Providing weed-free materials prevents this spread of noxious weeds and keeps a wide variety of lands healthy and weed-free.

The following document detailing the proposed Noxious Weed Free Certification Program was prepared with guidance from the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) and the Clallam Noxious Weed Control Board's varying weed free programs. It has been adjusted to be introduced in Jefferson County. Creating a noxious weed free program is one pathway to the prevention and management of noxious weeds. The standards are designed to support cross-jurisdictional cooperation, provide assurance to all participants that certified materials meet a minimum acceptable standards, and to generally limit the spread of noxious weeds through materials such as mulch, woodchips, and gravel. This program will not include the certification of forage and hay, as that is run through the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

As the Noxious Weed Coordinator, I propose that the County adopt this program, free-of-charge, to all material sources in Jefferson County. Prevention of seed proliferation is a top priority when it comes to controlling the spread of noxious weeds. By stopping the spread of seeds in the first place, this program can also help limit the financial burden and time commitment placed on individual landowners who are required to control noxious weeds on their property. The Noxious Weed Control Board voted to approve this policy on November 27, 2023.

Sophie DeGroot

Noxious Weed Coordinator, Jefferson County

360-316-9332

sdegroot@co.jefferson.wa.us

Jefferson County Noxious Weed Free Aggregate Certification Standards

INTRODUCTION

There is a growing demand in North America for the use of certified weed free gravel, soil, and other aggregate materials to limit the spread of noxious weeds. The Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board's Mission To protect lands within Jefferson County from the degrading impacts of noxious weeds by educating residents, property owners, land managers, and public agencies in how to serve as responsible stewards and aid in the protection and preservation of the land, water, and natural resources.

The goal of a noxious weed free program is to work with local agencies and businesses to provide guidelines, standards, and set minimum goals for a weed free Jefferson County.

DEFINITIONS:

Area of origin: Where the material is stored

Borrow/ Fill Pit: A location where the soil or other natural deposits on or in the earth are removed from their location to make them suitable for use elsewhere. These areas include, but are not limited to: surrounding ditches, topsoil piles, gravel/sand piles, fence rows, roads, easements, rights-of-ways, working areas, storage areas, and a buffer zone surrounding the area. All areas must be included in the inspection.

Inspector: A Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Employee or designee.

Gravel: Small stones or pebbles, or a mixture of these with sand, stone, and gravel, as well as recycled materials such as concrete or asphalt.

Aggregate material: Substances such as mulch, woodchips, gravel, and borrow or fill coming out or going into the pit area.

Noxious Weed: a plant that when established is highly destructive, competitive, or difficult to control by cultural or chemical practices.

Responsible Party: The individual or representatives of the entity that controls, directs, or manages the operation of the site.

Propagules: Any part of a plant capable of enabling it to reproduce (seeds, roots, and/or stolons).

Soil: The natural medium for the growth of land plants on the surface of the earth; composed of organic and mineral materials.

JEFFERSON COUNTY MINIMUM STANDARDS:

Revised 1/16/24

In order to receive a Noxious Weed Free Rating from the County:

1. Aggregate material shall be inspected by the authority designated by the Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board
2. Aggregate material shall be inspected in the area of origin
3. Aggregate material shall be free of those species identified in Appendix A.
4. Gravel / borrow area which contains any species outlined in Appendix A, may be certified if the following requirements are met:
 - a. Area upon which the gravel / borrow material was mined was treated to prevent seed formation or seed ripening to the degree that there is reduced risk of dissemination of the seed, or any injurious portion from such species, or the propagating parts of the plant are not capable of producing a new plant.
 - b. Weeds are treated according to best management practices, prior to development, or distribution of propagative parts.
5. When opening a new gravel pit or expanding an existing gravel pit with weeds present, topsoil and materials and material should be removed and stockpiled appropriately. Infested material must not be moved to vehicle traffic area (i.e. parking lots, road sides, construction sites).

An inspection certificate, as seen in Appendix D, shall document that the above requirements have been met based upon a reasonable and prudent visual inspection 1-2 times per year.

Facilities will then display the graphic from Appendix E in a public-facing place where buyers can see it, if applicable. This will provide transparency and provide further information on the meaning of being "Noxious Weed Free."

A list on the County Noxious Weed Board website will be updated and maintained as the official source for which sites have been inspected and what certification they received.

Appendix A: Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control List

Revised: 1/ 8/ 24

The designated authority shall inspect sites for these prohibited species.

Species can be petitioned for addition or removal at the first Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting of each year.

Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board

2024 Weed List

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

CLASS A WEEDS are non-native species with a limited distribution in Washington. Preventing new infestations and eradicating existing infestations is required by law.

Common Name	Scientific Name
common crupina	<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>
cordgrass, common	<i>Spartina anglica</i>
cordgrass, dense-flowered	<i>Spartina densiflora</i>
cordgrass, saltmeadow	<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 umbellatus</i>
French broom	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>
garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
giant hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>
goatsrue	<i>Galega officinalis</i>
hydrilla	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>
Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>
knapweed, bighead	<i>Centaurea macrocephala</i>
knapweed, short-fringed (Vochin)	<i>Centaurea nigrescens</i>
kudzu	<i>Pueraria montana</i> var. <i>lobate</i>
meadow clary	<i>Salvia pratensis</i>
orange peel (oriental) clematis	<i>Clematis orientalis</i>
palmer amaranth	<i>Amaranthus palmeri</i>
purple starthistle	<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>
reed sweetgrass	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>
ricefield bulrush	<i>Schoenoplectus mucronatus</i>
rush (Spanish) broom	<i>Spartium junceum</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>
smooth frogbit	<i>Limnobium laevigatum</i>

(South American spongeplant)	<i>Zygophyllum fabago</i>
(Syrian) bean-caper	<i>Helianthus ciliaris</i>
Texas blueweed	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>
thistle, shore (Italian)	<i>Silybum marianum</i>
thistle, milk	<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>
thistle, slenderflower	<i>Carduus cinereus</i>
thistle, ashen (Turkish)	<i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i>
variable-leaf milfoil & hybrids	<i>Mirabilis nyctaginea</i>
wild four o'clock	

WAC 16-750-005 State noxious weed list: Region 1 Class B designate noxious weeds

CLASS B- DESIGNATED WEEDS are non-native species that are presently limited to portions of the state. The following Class B species are designated for control in Jefferson County. Control is required by law.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Blueweed	<i>Echium vulgare</i>
Brazilian elodea	<i>Egeria densa</i>
bugloss, annual	<i>Lycopsis arvensis</i>
bugloss, common	<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>
camelthorn	<i>Alhagi maurorum</i>
common reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i> (nonnative genotypes only)
Dalmatian toadflax	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i> ssp. <i>Dalmatica</i>
Eurasian watermilfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>
European coltsfoot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>
Fanwort	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>
gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
grass-leaved arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria graminea</i>
hairy willow-herb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>
hanging sedge	<i>Carex pendula</i> (<i>Carex pendula</i> subsp. <i>pendula</i> and <i>Carex pendula</i> subsp. <i>agastachys</i>)
hawkweed oxtongue	<i>Picris hieracioides</i>
hawkweed, orange	<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>
hawkweeds	All nonnative species: and hybrids of the Meadow subgenus (<i>Pilosella</i>)
hawkweeds	All nonnative species and hybrids of the Wall subgenus (<i>Hieracium</i>) and the Meadow subgenus (<i>Pilosella</i>)
hoary alyssum	<i>Berteroa incana</i>
houndstongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>
indigobush	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>
knapeed, black	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
knapeed, brown	<i>Centaurea jacea</i>
knapeed, diffuse	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>
knapeed, meadow	<i>Centaurea x gerstlaueri</i>
knapeed, Russian	<i>Rhaponticum repens</i>
knapeed, spotted	<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>
knotweed, Himalayan	<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>
kochia	<i>Bassia scoparia</i>

lesser celandine	<i>Ficaria verna</i>
loosestrife, garden	<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>
loosestrife, purple	<i>Lysimachia salicaria</i>
loosestrife, wand	<i>Lysimachia virgatum</i>
parrotfeather	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>
perennial pepperweed	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>
policeman's helmet	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>
puncturevine	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>
rough chervil	<i>Chaerophyllum temulum</i>
rush skeletonweed	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>
saltcedar	<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i> (unless intentionally planted prior to 2004)
shiny geranium	<i>Geranium lucidum</i>
spurge, leafy	<i>Euphorbia virgata</i>
sulfur cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla recta</i>
thistle, musk	<i>Carduus nutans</i>
thistle, plumeless	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>
thistle, Scotch	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>
totalote (Malta starthistle)	<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>
velvetleaf	<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i>
water primrose	<i>Ludwigia hexapetala</i>
white bryony	<i>Bryonia alba</i>
wild chervil	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
wild basil	<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>
yellow floating heart	<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>
yellow nutsedge	<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>
yellow starthistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>

County selected weeds

RCW 17.10.090 State Noxious Weed List allows counties to select weeds from the state B or the C list for mandatory control within the county.

Common Name	Scientific Name
bush, butterfly (B) (except in incorporated Port Townsend)	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>
fennel, common (B) (except in incorporated Port Townsend)	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>
Eurasian watermilfoil hybrid (C)	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> x <i>M. sibiricum</i>
Herb-Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Knotweeds (B)	<i>Polygonum spp. (non-native)</i>
Spotted jewelweed (C) (everywhere West of Lake Leland)	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>
Scotch broom (C) (within 100-ft of aggregate piles & storage facilities)	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>
spurge laurel (B)	<i>Daphne laureola</i>

poison hemlock (B)	<i>Conium macculatum</i>
tansy ragwort (B)	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
tansy, Common (B)	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>
teasel, common (C)	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>
yellow archangel (B)	<i>Lamiaeum galeobdolon</i>

Weeds of concern

These weeds are not required for control in Jefferson County, but monitoring and control are encouraged.

Common Name	Scientific Name
bindweed, field	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>
blackberry, Himalayan	<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>
blackberry, evergreen	<i>Rubus laciniatus</i>
buffalobur	<i>Solanum rostratum</i>
canarygrass, reed	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>
carrot, wild	<i>Daucus carota</i>
catsear, common	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>
daisy, oxeye	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
everlasting peavine	<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>
groundsel, common	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>
Italian arum	<i>Arum italicum</i>
ivy, English	<i>Hedera helix</i> "Baltica", "Pittsburgh", "Star", and <i>H. hibernica</i> "Hibernica"
Japanese eelgrass	<i>Nanozostera japonica</i>
laurel, spurge	<i>Daphne laureola</i>
non-native cattail species and hybrids	<i>Typha spp</i>
old man's beard	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>
pampas & jubata grass	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> & <i>jubata</i>
sowthistle, perennial	<i>Sonchus arvensis ssp.</i>
spurge, myrtle	<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>
St Johnswort, common	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
thistle, bull	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
thistle, Canada	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
toadflax, yellow	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>
tree-of-heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>
yellow flag iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>

Appendix B:**Inspection Certificate Minimum Requirements – Revised 1/22/24**

- Designated authority contact information
- Inspection Certificate numbering system
- Responsible party contact information
- Legal description of property being inspected
- Number of acres inspected
- Inspection Date
- Inspector signature
- Comments section
- Certification termination date

Appendix C: Minimum Guidelines for Active Material Pit Inspections:

- The pit or facility owner / operator meets with Inspector at the gravel / borrow pit for the first inspection.
- The entire border shall be walked or driven.
- All storage areas and piles shall also be inspected and meet the standards.
- Area around all equipment and working areas must be inspected to meet the standards.
- Areas shall be inspected annually with a minimum of one inspection in the growing season.
- All safety protocols will be adhered to during visit.
- An inspector may not inspect a site that they have ownership of or financial interest in.
- Responsible party will control prohibited weeds as listed in Appendix A within the entire area of the property, this includes stockpiles (regardless of origin), parking areas, and driving area

Appendix D: Jefferson County Gravel Inspection Certificate

Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board Material Source Inspection Record for Invasive Plants

Valid one year from date of inspection. Expiration date: _____

Site Information:

Name of Source:	Parcel Number (s):	Acres:
Address of Source:		
Closest town:		
Phone Number:		
Name and Title of Contact Person:		
Narrative of location of source:		

Inspection Information:

Agency Conducting Inspection: : Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board	
Name and Title of Inspector: Sophie DeGroot, Noxious Weed Coordinator	
Contact Information of Inspector: (360) 316-9332	
Signature of Inspector:	Date of Inspection:
Does this Rock Source have mitigation requirements? _____	
Description:	
Treatment/Management priorities:	
1. Access roads:	

2. Active pit area:	

3. Perimeter of property:	

4. Vehicle parking & wash areas:	

5. Stock piles:	

6. Additional areas:	

Pit description and primary uses:

Weeds of Concern Found During Inspection (treatments should focus on these species):

Common Name	Plant Code	Summary of Recommendations

Name of Rock Source:

Date of Inspection:

Document valid 1 year after inspection.

Does This Rock Source Meet Forest Service and/or Clallam County Requirements for Use?

The Inspector will circle or highlight the option that best describes this quarry. **This rating is *not* an endorsement.**

Option A	This rock source exceeds requirements. <i>Invasive plants are rare to absent in quarry.</i> Use of materials would almost certainly not contribute to the spread of invasive plants.
Option B	This rock source meets requirements. <i>Invasive plants are uncommon in quarry, and easily isolated.</i> • Invasive plants that are present – even those that are easily isolated - are not listed as high priority or regulated species and/or are not species of particular concern. • Non-regulated or lower priority species may be present, but are not pervasive. They may be present in small, isolated patches within or near the rock source, but can be isolated by simple precautionary measures. • Typically, less than 10% of the pit either has weeds growing on it or potentially could contain weed seed or other propagules, and these areas are easily isolated from rock source materials. • Treatment of weeds is recommended, but use of materials from this source as found on the day of inspection would most likely not contribute to the spread of invasive plants on Forest Service lands if simple precautionary measures are followed. County road or restoration projects may require additional mitigation.
Option C	This rock source meets minimum requirements. <i>Invasive plants are common in quarry; precautionary measures will need to be followed carefully to prevent spread.</i> • Any regulated species listed as priority or species of particular concern are absent in or around rock source*. • Non-regulated species listed as priority are present in patches, but some portions of the rock source are relatively free of weeds, are most likely are not contaminated with a significant amount of propagules (seeds, roots, etc.) from these species. • Typically, between 10 – 50% of the pit will have weeds growing on it and/or potentially could contain seed or other propagules from these species, and these areas are easily isolated from rock source materials. • Treatment of weeds is highly recommended, and may be required as a condition of use by the Forest Service or County projects. Distribution of materials from this rock source may contribute to the spread of noxious weeds if precautionary measures are not followed carefully. County road or restoration projects may require additional mitigation.
Option D	This rock fails to meet minimum requirements for use on Forest Service lands or Clallam County Projects. <i>Distribution of materials from this rock source would likely contribute to the spread of noxious weeds.</i> • Regulated or weed species listed as priority 1 and/or species of particular concern are present in or around this rock source, OR weed species listed as priority 2 by the Forest Service are present to the extent that plants and/or propagules (seeds, roots, etc.) are present in significant portions (greater than half) of the rock source and/or cannot be isolated by simple precautionary measures. • Treatment of weeds followed by subsequent inspections will be required as a condition of use.

Name of Rock Source:

Date of Inspection:

Document valid 1 year after inspection.

Additional space for map, comments and/or recommendations:

Name of Rock Source:

Date of Inspection:

Document valid 1 year after inspection.

Appendix E

Graphic to be displayed at the checkout of aggregate material sources, or somewhere that the customer can easily view it.



This facility was evaluated by
the Jefferson County Noxious
Weed Control Board's
Noxious Weed-Free Program.

This facility was inspected on _____ **DRAFT** _____

This facility was inspected by _____ **DRAFT** _____

Upon inspection, this facility meets minimum requirements,
meaning noxious weeds are present and precautionary
measures are being taken to prevent further spread.

For more information or to see the Official Certificate,
please call 360-316-9332 or visit our website at bit.ly/jcnwcb