

HLOA Membership Meeting Weed Report, May, 2022

Update on Weed Activities

1. In 2022 the County will again reimburse property owners for half the cost of treating weeds up to \$500 (some rules apply). Call Andy Marcum at Wallowa County: 541-426-4543 Ext. 1206 or check on-line.
2. We continue to restore and naturalize the area around the community water tank as part of our 5 year plan to improve habitat there (now in Year 2). We'll do more of the same this year: hand pulling mullein, spot spraying for knapweed and sulfur cinquefoil and meadow hawkweed, keeping the various thistles in check, seeding areas with native grasses.
3. It's worth reminding folks that Nancy Clarke has developed a plant guide to help property owners identify, appreciate, and perhaps cultivate some of the native shrubbery and small trees local to the area. Copies are available (on the website, at the annual meeting).
4. In 2021 the HLOA contracted with a local sprayer to treat 10 lots, plus common areas for weeds. On the plus side, more property owners took action than in years past. But we also had complaints that the sprayer wasn't as thorough as hoped. The best results came when owners were on site during the spraying and could show the sprayer where boundary markers were and could point out areas of concern.

Decisions needing deciding

1. Should we mount an effort to jointly hire a contractor in 2022 as we did in 2021? If yes, how might we do it better?
2. I would like to step down as the 'weed committee.' I am sure there are volunteers who would be more effective than I have been. Any takers?

Resignation Letter

I am a Weed Committee of one
Charged with rooting out knapweed and
Hawkweed and, by last count,
Twenty-seven other Class A noxious plants
Plaguing our part of the world.

It would help if I knew the difference between
Metsulfuron and Chlorsulfuron
And had an opinion on the use of biologicals
Or the best herbicides to apply near water.
But all I know is the phone number

Of the county weed guy.

I am meant to encourage
My neighbors to be vigilant,
To care more about weeds
Than I do.

Sure, I understand the logic:
A single knapweed stalk
Produces tens of thousands of seeds,
Engages in chemical warfare,
Is impossible to dig out,
Can turn a productive pasture
Into a beautiful useless
Monocrop of small pink flowers
In a single season.

All of us need to do our part
I tell the home owners association.
And yet I can't remember the difference
Between tansy and thistle
Or puncture vine and perennial pepper
And if I try
My eyes water as if I am allergic to the subject.

I lack diligence. I lack leadership.
Only the new words I've learned—
Inflorescence, stolon, umbel, nutlet—
Are any fun at all.

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