

February 28, 2013

TO: Joint Committee, Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

RE: SB 5502, Opposing the Noxious Weed Program Funding Cut

FROM: Bill Reynolds, Rangeland Agriculture Management Specialist  
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I do not support SB 5502 and the following facts support my beliefs:

1. The success of the tansy ragwort biological control program of the 1970's greatly impacted the livestock industry. The ongoing effort to introduce new agents and assist agencies and landowners in distribution of biocontrol insects that are established.
2. The noxious weed grants that assist counties with on the ground control efforts.
3. Early Detection Rapid Response efforts by the State and Counties (e.g. purple starthistle, Mediterranean sage, distaff thistle, African rue, Kudzu, Paterson's curse, and many others).
4. The Noxious Weed Control Program is the hub in Oregon and provides technical information to the counties and other agencies.
5. The Noxious Weed Control Program supports other state departments like Department of Transportation, Department of Fish & Wildlife, and Department of Forestry.

These are just a few facts that prove that the ODA, Noxious Weed Control Program works to protect natural resources here in Oregon. I would hate to think that we couldn't find the funding to support the Program and it is essential that Legislature identifies base funding for invasive plant programs for the future.