

Brian Nakamura  
Nakamura Orchards Inc.  
4130 Willow Flat Road  
Hood River OR, 97031  
February 27, 2013

Senator Chris Edwards and Representative Ben Unger, Co-chairs  
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
900 Court St. NE, Room 453  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

I am writing to ask you to support funding in the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) budget for the Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships (PSP) and water quality monitoring program. Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy would also benefit greatly by funding a position for a water quantity specialist, as proposed in the Governor's budget.

I have participated from the beginning with the PSP program in the Hood River Valley. The cooperative effort initiated by the Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers (the local orchardist group) has brought together several participants, including the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWS), ODA, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District (HRSWCD), the Hood River Watershed Group, Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service, and the OSU Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research Center. The collaboration has led to measurable reductions in pesticides in our local streams.

The Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers started working on the issue after DEQ took water samples in the Hood River Valley in 1999 and 2000. With funding from grants and grower resources, a handbook of best management practices (BMPs) for pesticide handling and application was developed and distributed to all our members. Key to the success of BMP program is continued distribution of information to growers annually through newsletters and grower meetings, plus continued water quality monitoring of the local streams. Monitoring, which has been financially supported by several grants from DEQ and CTWS, continues to demonstrate the success of the PSP here in Hood River. Your support for funding the PSP program through ODA would assist agricultural producers, water resources, and local communities across Oregon.

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Page 2

The second ODA proposal to support the agricultural water quality monitoring staff position and data collection that has been funded the past two years is important for the PSP in Hood River as well as providing help with the Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan (AWQMP) for the Hood River Basin. I participate in the Local Advisory Committee (LAC) for the AWQMP through my position as the HRSWD board chair and have seen the LAC develop basin specific recommendation for orchardists, as well as livestock and other agricultural producers to minimize water quality problems from agricultural lands. The ODA monitoring program is important to demonstrate that agriculture is contributing to reductions in pollutants entering our waterways.

The third proposal to fund a water quantity specialist to work on irrigation water supply and use efficiency issues is important to all irrigators in the state. As the board chair of East Fork Irrigation District and a board member of the Oregon Water Resources Congress (the association of state irrigation districts), I closely followed the development of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy. This specialist would help support statewide water supply planning efforts that could lead to sustaining our diverse irrigated agriculture operations in Oregon.

These three proposed items in the Governor's recommended budget for ODA would benefit not only agriculture but all Oregonians.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Brian Nakamura  
Nakamura Orchards Inc.

**From:** Kyle Strauss <[kylestrauss@gmail.com](mailto:kylestrauss@gmail.com)>

**Date:** February 21, 2013 10:10:10 AM PST

**To:** [info@oda.state.or.us](mailto:info@oda.state.or.us)

**Subject: supporting the noxious weed program**

To whom this may concern,

I am writing to express my support for the ODA noxious weed program, and to encourage the department to continue funding this important program at appropriate levels.

I understand there is the possibility of reducing funding for this program, and while I understand the realities of shrinking budgets, I do not believe this program is one that should face any reductions in funding. The staff involved in this program already have the tremendous responsibility of dealing with invasive species that threaten our state's resources, and have done admirable work considering the limited resources at their disposal. Current staffing levels are, in my opinion, the minimum ODA should be providing, and cuts to this program would lead to more expensive problems down the road in the form of invasive species invasions that are difficult to deal with.

As someone who cares about Oregon's agriculture and natural resources I urge you to avoid cuts to the noxious weed program.

Thank you for your time,

Kyle Strauss

Grants Pass, Oregon

**From:** Katy Coba <kcoba@oda.state.or.us>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Opposing ODA policy pkg 330 in ODA Budget Submission for 2013-2015-  
**Date:** February 27, 2013 10:57:54 AM PST  
**To:** Stephanie Page <spage@oda.state.or.us>

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Please send to Paul for public testimony.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Irene Hardwicke Olivieri <[irene@yellowknifewireless.net](mailto:irene@yellowknifewireless.net)>  
**Date:** February 27, 2013 10:52:19 AM PST  
**To:** [kcoba@oda.state.or.us](mailto:kcoba@oda.state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Opposing ODA policy pkg 330 in ODA Budget Submission for 2013-2015-

*Hello Katy,*

*I live in central Oregon and chose to live here because of my close connection to the natural world. I am strongly and opposed to the proposal by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (Policy Package 330 in ODA Budget Submission for 2013-15) to cut all funding for Oregon's threatened and endangered native plant species with the unrealistic aim of replacing the monies by external grant funding. Such a cut would send the strong message that 'Oregon does not actively support its own legislative mandate for plant conservation.' This would torpedo the State's ability to raise matching grant funds and might impact ODA's legal structure to receive Section 6 funds for plant conservation under the Federal Endangered Species Act.*

*Preservation of plants and animals is important, not only because many of these species are beautiful, or can provide economic benefits for us in the future, but because they already provide us many valuable services. These organisms clean air, regulate our weather and water conditions, provide control for crop pests and diseases, and offer a vast genetic "library" from which we can withdraw many useful items. Extinction of a species could potentially mean the loss of a cure for cancer, a new antibiotic drug, or a disease-resistant strain of wheat. Each living plant or animal may have values yet undiscovered. Scientists estimate there are thirty to forty million species on earth. Many of these species are represented by dozens of genetically distinct populations. We know very little about most species; less than two million are even described. Oftentimes, we do not even know when a plant or animal becomes extinct. Game animals and a few insects are watched and studied. Other species need attention too. Perhaps in them may be found a cure for the common cold or a new organism that will prevent millions of dollars of loss to farmers in their constant fight against crop diseases.*

*I ask that you act to prevent this irrational and short-sighted elimination of a critical State program.*

*Thank you,*

*Irene Hardwicke Olivieri*

*65580 Sisemore Road*

*Bend Oregon 97701*

February 28, 2013

**Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
Testimony on the Oregon Department of Agriculture Budget and its  
Weed Control Program**



**Noxious**

Co-chairs Edwards and Unger and members of the committee,

My name is Lisa DeBruyckere, and I am President of Creative Resource Strategies, LLC, a small consulting firm that assists natural resource entities with communication needs.

My purpose in writing you is to share with you the results of a set of four listening sessions I conducted with 30 Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) stakeholders in December of 2012 to obtain their perspectives on the relevance of ODA's Noxious Weed Control Program.

Listening session participants represented the diverse geography of Oregon, and included federal, county, and local government entities, nonprofit organizations, weed control districts, soil and water conservation districts, academic extension, cooperative weed management areas, and watershed councils. They described coordination, facilitation, outreach and education, early detection rapid response, stewardship, communication, enforcement, control, management, engineering, providing technical assistance, offering incentives, conducting surveys and assessments, and working with private landowners and partners as their key roles and responsibilities.

The diversity of organizational structures and methods of funding for noxious weed control in Oregon is as diverse as the organizations involved in program implementation. How programs are funded affect the ability to implement long-term sustainable programs and set priorities. Projected reductions in federal and state funding for invasive species will have a negative cascading effect among organizations throughout the state of Oregon, especially because the majority receive either state or federal funding as part of their funding portfolio.

Most listening session participants indicated staff time and financial resources are devoted primarily to on-the-ground work, but all recognize the importance of a diverse program that consists of outreach and education, early detection, rapid response, recordkeeping, communication and coordination, and surveying and monitoring. Several respondents described the difficulty in obtaining funding for outreach and education and monitoring, the latter being critical for adaptive management and informing future management actions.

Most organizations do not have the capacity to address their highest priorities, and few have the capacity to address secondary priorities, which elevate to higher priorities when not addressed quickly. Barriers to addressing highest priorities included funding, lack of sufficient numbers of skilled contractors in both rural and urban parts of the state during key times of the year, insufficient resources to address new vectors of introduction, insufficient legal ability to treat weeds and lack of an adequate regulatory framework, the tension that exists between expending the majority of resources on small acreages in remote areas versus expending the majority of resources along roadsides, lack of in-house expertise on chemical treatments, public perception issues, lack of adequate personnel, and insufficient prioritization of weeds locally (versus statewide priorities). Numerous participants expressed concern about the future of existing funding programs, including the Farm Bill, Oregon State Weed Board grants, and other programs.

A complex network of organizations work together at a variety of scales to collaborate, exchange services, and provide and share resources. **Essential to that network is ODA, which is recognized for their expertise and assistance in providing information and on-the-ground activities relative to chemical treatments.**

Collaboration and coordination is integral to successful noxious weed control management in Oregon, and little, if any, duplication exists. It was noted that if counties had a leadership role in weed programs, then landowners would have local staff that could provide noxious weed management assistance.

**There are gaps in Oregon's ability to administer an effective and comprehensive noxious weed control program. These include lack of adequate funding,** failure to perform risk assessments in a reasonable period of time, inability to prevent new introductions by failing to focus on vectors, lack of a statewide awareness public campaign re: noxious weeds, lack of political will to adequately fund noxious weed efforts, lack of weed control districts throughout the state, regulatory shortfalls, procedural barriers, lack of statewide prioritization, inconsistent border patrols, lack of adequate county enforcement, gaps in the ability of entities to use all of the tools available for invasive species management, lack of biosecurity at the state level, lack of good information about the controls and treatments of noxious weeds, failure to develop an adequate infrastructure for early detection rapid response, and failure to create a clearinghouse for noxious weed information best management practices.

**Participants described the leadership role that ODA plays as critical to noxious weed management in the state,** from grants disbursed through the Oregon State Weed Board to their role as regulators and enforcers as well as educators. **Participants described the efficiencies they experienced as a result of ODA staff expertise and on-the-ground control,** although several noted if less on-the-ground management was performed, more time could be available for their staff to serve in a consulting and education role [currently, shortfalls in funding require ODA staff to perform on-the-ground management on federal lands]. **ODA staff play an important role intersecting with local weed managers, they coordinate across states, they participate in important biocontrol programs, they practice quality control as they visit sites, they work closely with the nursery industry, and they provide a statewide framework that other entities rely on and intersect with as noxious weed programs are implemented.**

**Weaknesses in ODA's noxious weed control program include lack of visibility, inadequate funding and capacity,** failure to address larger political issues, lack of visibility and sharing success stories, the need to enhance notifications to land management entities when biocontrols are being released, the desire to more clearly articulate State Weed Board priorities, the existence of regulatory gaps, and duplication of efforts with weed mapping databases.

I would be pleased to provide the complete report to you in its entirety, but believe the executive summary provided here adequately describes the importance of ODA and its leadership role in directing statewide noxious weed programs that help protect Oregon's economy, agriculture, and natural resources.

I apologize for not being able to present this testimony in person – I will be out of state during ODA's budget hearings.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Lisa A. DeBruyckere, President  
Creative Resource Strategies, LLC  
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78276 S. Cold Spring Rd.  
Pendleton, OR 97801  
February 22, 2013

Senator Chris Edwards and Representative Ben Unger, Co-Chairs  
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
900 Court St. NE, Room 453  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Support for the OR Dept. of Ag. Noxious Weed Control Program

Dear Gentlemen,

Weeds are a major concern for land managers throughout the Oregon. Regardless of whether it is a 100 sq. ft. lawn or vast acres of rangeland, weeds affect our lives and their control often is very expensive. On my wheat farm, controlling weeds and other unwanted vegetation is my most expensive and time-consuming operation.

Additionally, most of the weeds that are problematic are not native. Whether it is common dandelions or Armenian (formerly Himalayan) blackberries or, my nemesis, downy brome, all are invaders.

Here is where the ODA Noxious Weed Program enters the picture. They are the only Statewide group that is available to monitor, work, and coordinate the "war" on weeds. New species of weeds are regularly introduced into our State and old introductions need new approaches to halt their spread.

In the Program's nearly 40-year existence, they have many victories with both old and new invaders and are constantly looking for new solutions to some of the problem weeds that vex our private and public lands.

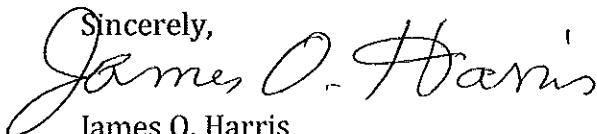
Their bio-control program is one of the foremost in our nation.

The proposed budget cut (approx. 25%) will severely hamper the Program's ability to serve all of the State. All of the Program's projects depend on a coordinated effort of their small staff and various cooperators, both public and private.

The proposed personnel cuts will be especially bad for my part of the State, northeast Oregon. The proposed cuts leave that entire quadrant of the State without field personnel.

All of the Department's programs are important. Please find a way to restore funding to the Noxious Weed Program.

Sincerely,



James O. Harris

Umatilla Co. farmer



Senator Chris Edwards and Representative Ben Unger, Co-Chairs  
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
900 Court St. NE, Room 453  
Salem, Oregon 97301

February 22, 2013

Dear Co-Chairs of the Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee,

My name is Jeanne Michele (Shelly) Bowe. I reside at 9200 Willowbrook Drive Tillamook, Oregon. I have lived in Tillamook County 34 years, moving here to farm in 1979.

I am currently the Executive Director of a non-profit community based organization called Food Roots. Food Roots exists to cultivate a healthy food system for our North Coast Oregon community. Our programs strive to increase regional food production and access, increase community assets, support beginning farmers, and strengthen our regional economy.

I have worked in agriculture and food systems for over 35 years as a restaurateur, farm hand, childcare nutrition educator, 6 years as a Tillamook County Creamery Association coop member dairy farmer and for the past 14 years in non-profit community food system work.

I have had an opportunity to intersect with ODA in a number of different capacities and most recently in relation to the FoodCorps program. Food Roots was the first rural site in Oregon to be chosen to participate in the National FoodCorps Program. The Oregon Department of Agriculture serves as the Host Site Supervisor for FoodCorps, a national service program. In the first year alone, Food Roots' FoodCorps service member served 353 students, and generated 303 volunteers who provided 878 hours of community service. Our FoodCorps service member then went on to become Oregon's FoodCorps Fellow, now working at Oregon Department of Agriculture. This program is a tremendous asset to teach students about Oregon agriculture and food, while it works to strengthen the food system in Oregon's North Coast communities. It also inspires the next generation to explore careers in agriculture, laying the foundation for our agricultural future.

To continue to deliver great programs and partnerships in coastal Oregon, I strongly support full funding of the Oregon Department of Agriculture's baseline budget. I passionately believe that agriculture and it's affiliated link to all our food system, hold great promise to grow vital rural communities, and Oregon Department of Agriculture is a key partner in this endeavor.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like additional information. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Michele (Shelly) Bowe  
P.O. Box 382  
9200 Willowbrook Drive  
Tillamook, OR 97141