



Our Mission: *To conserve, protect, and develop soil, water and other natural resources for the economic and environmental benefit of the residents of Morrow County*

430 W. Linden Way, PO Box 127, Heppner, OR 97836-0127

Phone (541)676-5452

January 27, 2017

State of Oregon Senators
State of Oregon Representatives
Salem, Oregon

Dear Legislators:

This letter is to request your support of the budget request of \$3.3 million to continue Oregon Department of Agriculture Biological Control Program in the amount of \$1.5 million and \$1.8 million in the form of grant funding for struggling County Weed Districts across the state.

Oregon's Biological Control program is recognized as one of the top programs in the world. This is a significant honor for our State's program. Just one example of this exceptional program is Morrow SWCDs partnership on Russian knapweed control with Oregon Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Program, Oregon State Weed Board, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Morrow County Weed District, Gilliam County SWCD, Gilliam County Weed District, Wheeler County Weed District, Umatilla County Weed District, US Fish & Wildlife and numerous landowners. The numbers of partners and landowners have increased with the popularity and success of our biological control program for Russian knapweed. Morrow County rangelands were infested with Diffuse knapweed until seed head and flower weevils were released as biocontrols in the 1990s. The native grasses and shrubs have recovered in what were once monocultures of Diffuse knapweed.

Use of biocontrols for weed control rather than pesticides is a preferred method across the land, not to mention the cost benefit ratio of 13:1 for Tansy ragwort alone.

Please keep weed control programs strong across our great state and counties with funding for the 23 existing Weed Control Districts and encourage programs in the remaining 13. Natural Resource agency budgets combined make up less than 1% of the State budget while agriculture provides 30% of the gross product.

Please help protect our natural resources with this important funding.

Thank you,


Janet Greenup, Morrow SWCD Manager