



**LOWER DESCHUTES**  
COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA

April 19, 2021

Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural  
Resources 635 Capital Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301-2532

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources,

On behalf of the Lower Deschutes Cooperative Weed Management Area and its partners, BLM, ODFW, Wasco County SWCD, and the Sherman County Weed District, the proposed funds shift in the Governor's 2021-2023 Budget for the ODA Noxious Weed Control Program to Other Funds in the Hemp Program would not be in the best interest of programs that promote healthy ecosystems for the agricultural communities of which they are apart. Noxious weed control and other habitat management efforts are critical components to ensuring a lasting legacy of Oregon's Natural Resources. Therefore we do not support the transfer of funds away from the ODA Noxious Weed Control Program.

The ODA Noxious Weed Control Program provides a number of invaluable resources to noxious weed control programs across the state and beyond. Through their technical expertise, outreach and education, and funding opportunities, ODA makes it possible for programs like ours to thrive and succeed.

The mission of ODA is to "Ensure healthy natural resources, environment, and economy for Oregonians now and in the future through inspection and certification, regulation, and promotion of agriculture and food." Noxious weed control needs to be made a primary objective of the Oregon Department of Agriculture's mission. The sustainability of Oregon's rich agricultural heritage depends on, at the very least, maintaining the funding this program currently receives. If funds shift to other areas a disservice will be brought to all Oregonians now and for future generations to come. Rather than shifting funds from the ODA Noxious Control Program, please consider increasing their funds to establish a more robust noxious weed control program that will benefit all Oregonians.

Lower Deschutes CWMA Coordinator

Sherman County Weed District Supervisor

Sherman County Judge Joe Dabulskis