

Wallowa Resources Noxious Weed Bounty Program
BOUNTY HUNTER PACKET

Dear Bounty Hunter,

Wallowa Resources and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation have teamed up to create a Noxious Weed Bounty Program in the Lower Grande Ronde. Thank you for your interest in this program. Your efforts to learn noxious weed identification and to look for new sites of noxious weeds are extremely important to us. You are a key partner in weed control! We want to reward your efforts by providing you with this opportunity to win a \$200 Bounty when you find a new weed site. Please review the contents of your Bounty Hunter Packet carefully in order to ensure your eligibility for a weed bounty should you locate a new site.

In this packet you will find:

- Program rules
- Helpful hints to assist you in your search
- A map of the Lower Grande Ronde Noxious Weed Program Area (the area eligible for the Bounty)

Additional maps for each weed and Weed Watch Fliers with identifying characteristics are available for viewing and printing online at www.wallowaresources.org (click on Noxious Weed Bounty) or in hard copy at Wallowa Resources.

Please read the information in the packet carefully and follow all rules.

Happy hunting!

Sincerely,

Mark C Porter
Noxious Weed Bounty Program Coordinator
Rangeland Stewardship Coordinator
Wallowa Resources
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Enterprise OR 97828
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BOUNTY PROGRAM RULES

- Bounty Hunters must follow all program rules to be eligible for a Bounty award.
- A bounty award of \$200 will be awarded for the verified identification of a **NEW SITE** of one of the following six top priority noxious weeds:
 - Rush Skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*),
 - Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*),
 - Meadow Hawkweed (*Hieraceum pratense*),
 - Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*),
 - Whitetop (*Lepidium alba*)
 - Orange Hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*)
- The new site must be located within the Lower Grande Ronde Noxious Weed Program Area to be eligible for a bounty prize (See map, attached).
- No bounty will be paid until the species of weed and it's presence at the site have been verified by the Program Coordinator or other approved staff (see list at end of document). The Program Coordinator or approved staff will visit the site for verification prior to awarding the bounty.
- ***If there is only one plant present in a site, do not pick the plant!*** Report the site location to the Program Coordinator or approved staff and they will visit the site for verification. ***Mark the site well***, so it can be found easily by the verifier (use flagging or other means).
- For sites with more than one plant, the hunter must bring in a sample (three plants maximum) of the weed that includes enough of the plant to allow positive identification (including > 4" of root, the entire stem, a full sample of the leaf, and entire seeds and or flowers that are on the plant at the time of finding). ***The Sample must be contained in such a way as to preserve its condition and to prevent accidental spread of seed: if it is not, no bounty will be awarded!***
- The bounty hunter must report the sighting to the Program Coordinator or other bounty contacts (see list at end of document) and turn in the sample, describe the site and mark it on a map. GPS locations are acceptable when downloaded onto the program coordinators or bounty contact's mapping program.
- Bounties will only be paid for new sites of the six weeds listed above. ***In addition, Leafy Spurge sites must be farther than 100 yards from the high water mark of the Grande Ronde and Wallowa Rivers to be eligible for a bounty.***
- No bounty will be paid for a private land weed site unless the owner confirms that you had permission to go there - before you went looking!
- The program coordinator or paid staff will keep the plant sample for proper disposal.
- There will be ten \$200 dollar awards available, five awards for weeds found in Oregon, and five awards for weeds found in Washington.
- Those employed or contracted in weed control (and their families) will NOT be eligible for bounty payments.
- Bounties will be paid on a first come first serve basis until all ten bounties have been awarded or until July 15th, 2006.
- This program will expire on July 15th, 2006.

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Report your sightings to:

- **Mark Porter**
Weed Bounty Program Coordinator
Rangeland Stewardship Coordinator
Wallowa Resources
200 W. North Street
Enterprise, OR 97828
541-426-8053
mark@wallowaresources.org
- **Nelle Murray**
Coordinator, Asotin County Noxious Weed Control Board
Courthouse Annex
95 Second Street
Asotin, WA 99402
506-243-2098
- **Allen Schnetzky**
Wallowa County Vegetation Manager
619 Marr Pond Lane
Enterprise, OR 97828
541-426-3332
wcweeds@co.wallowa.or.us

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HELPFUL HINTS!

Maps (available at www.wallowaresources.org) are made to help you find areas that would be good to look in – where you might find a new site. They are not made to navigate to exact points with. Ask the program coordinator if you would like more information.

Some of these points are on **private land!** Do not go onto private land without permission. No bounty will be paid for a private land weed site unless the owner confirms that you had permission to go there - before you went looking!

Weeds can be hard to find and identify during some times of the year but if you know what you are looking for you can find them most anytime. So pay close attention to these hints.

- Orange Hawkweed – best seen in late June and July. The only known site is at Puffer Butte State Park. Orange Hawkweed generally likes shady areas or moist type meadows.
- Meadow Hawkweed – best seen mid July to early August. Very hard to find when it is not in bloom. There are some native hawkweeds that look very much like meadow hawkweed, so study your Hawkweed flier before you go looking!
- Rush Skeletonweed – is easiest to see in August and September when the grass around them dries out. Biological control agents can make the plant look different than the pictures so make sure you use the Skeletonweed flier to help identify the plant correctly!
- Spotted Knapweed – is a late bloomer from late July to mid or late August. Remember that it closely resembles diffuse knapweed and can have white or purple flowers! Again, use your flier!
- Whitetop – is an early bloomer beginning in May at the low elevations and blooming through June in the higher elevations. Remember, it is a perennial plant with smooth stems and a bunch of roots!
- Leafy Spurge - is known to be scattered throughout the riparian areas of the Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers (no bounty available for sites within 100 yards of these rivers!). It is easy to see its bright yellow bloom beginning in May through July. It turns red in the fall before losing its leaves. **Remember the sap from this plant is caustic and can cause blindness – always use gloves when handling it! Take extra care to keep the sap out of your eyes!**

To keep your weeds in good shape carry a plastic freezer bag with you and put a slightly damp paper towel in the bag with the plant– keep cool (refrigerated) as best as possible.