

**SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000
PUBLIC LAW 110-343
TITLE II PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM
USDA FOREST SERVICE**

**Name of Resource Advisory Committee: Olympic
Project Number** (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):
Funding Fiscal Year(s): 2015

2. Project Name: Olympic Peninsula Cooperative Noxious Weed Control (Jefferson and Clallam Counties)		3a. State: Washington
		3b. County(s): Clallam and Jefferson Counties
4. Project Submitted By: Cathy Lucero on behalf of Clallam and Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Boards/Hood Canal and Pacific Ranger Districts		5. Date: 7/23/15
6. Contact Phone Number: (360) 417-2442		7. Contact E-mail: clucero@co.clallam.wa.us
8. Project Location:		
a. National Forest(s): Olympic		b. Forest Service Districts: Pacific and Hood Canal
c. Location (Township-Range-Section) Township <u>25N</u> Range <u>02-04W</u> Section(s) _____ Township <u>26N</u> Range <u>02-04W</u> Section(s) _____ Township <u>27N</u> Range <u>02-05W</u> Section(s) _____ Township <u>27N</u> Range <u>09-13W</u> Section(s) _____ Township <u>28N</u> Range <u>02-05W</u> Section(s) _____ Township <u>28N</u> Range <u>09-13W</u> Section(s) _____ Township <u>29N</u> Range <u>02-05W</u> Section(s) _____ Township <u>29N</u> Range <u>10-13W</u> Section(s) _____ Township <u>30N</u> Range <u>06-13W</u> Section(s) _____ Township <u>31N</u> Range <u>06-13W</u> Section(s) _____		
9. Project Goals and Objectives:		
The goal of this project is to stop the spread of noxious weed species, reduce existing populations, and prevent the introduction of additional exotic plants throughout Clallam and Jefferson Counties. The objective is to coordinate and standardize weed control efforts across many jurisdictional boundaries to more effectively minimize the negative impacts of noxious weeds on watershed functions, wildlife habitat, human and animal health, and recreational activities. This project enables the Forest Service to control noxious weeds as required under the Federal Noxious Weed Act. This is a continuation of work approved through previous projects (Project summaries highlighting annual achievements; will be distributed to RAC members at meeting).		
10. Project Description:		
a. Brief: Detect and treat noxious and invasive weed infestations on Forest Service lands, ensure neighboring properties with infestations do not degrade Forest Service natural resources, and deliver education and technical assistance regarding the impacts and control of noxious weeds to residents of both Jefferson and Clallam counties.		
b. Detailed: This project is a comprehensive program for noxious weed control on the north Olympic Peninsula performed		

in close collaboration between Noxious Weed Control Boards and Forest Service staff. All control activities are part of a long term strategy for reducing invasive plant infestations in the Olympic National Forest (ONF). The project includes activities to identify and control noxious weeds, to coordinate actions and communication between local and Federal jurisdictions, and to raise public awareness of the impacts imposed by noxious weeds. This project provides jobs to local residents. Effective noxious weed control requires long-term planning and sustained control efforts. Stable funding allows us to capitalize on the considerable progress made to date, and to foster interagency openness and cooperation which is central to Title II enabling legislation.

This proposal encompasses “on the ground” implementation of the Olympic National Forest’s Invasive Weed Management (IWM) Program within Clallam and Jefferson counties. The requested funding will support a locally based 3 person crew that treats infestations identified in a prioritized annual work plan drafted by Forest Service staff. No other workforce is based in such close physical proximity to the problem, nor knowledgeable enough to adapt quickly to onsite conditions. The Forest Service relies on this Weed Board crew to direct Washington Conservation Corps or the Sheriff’s Chain Gang when they are made available to tackle large noxious weed infestations. Members of these various crews are learning skills and gaining experience that may yield future employment in invasive plant control and salmon and habitat recovery efforts. Additionally, Weed Board personnel provide technical support and leadership to volunteer groups as directed by the Forest Service or as requested, who are interested in participating in invasive plant control projects on ONF.

The annual IWM work plan outlines weed control projects that help the Forest Service meet important resource conservation and restoration requirements and goals. Pre-emptive projects include treatments in advance of timber sales, road upgrades or decommissioning, restoration projects and other ground disturbing activities that are likely to increase weed infestations. There is an emphasis on controlling invasive plants in gravel pits, (both on and off Forest), on roads, in campgrounds, and along trails, which, due to heavy use or off-site movement of potentially infested materials, serve as the primary vectors of new weed invasions into wilderness areas or between various land ownerships. Most years, depending on funding levels, Weed Board crew identifies 10-40 new small sites, treats over 100 “projects” encompassing up to six hundred acres and a couple hundred road miles. To date, we target 35 invasive plant species already found in the ONF. We are also working to prevent an additional 6 noxious weeds of high concern that are found in neighboring county lands from spreading onto the Forest.

This program will also support quarry inspections at the request of contractor, private landowners, or Forest Service staff to help those preferred rock sources meet required Forest Service standards. Weed Boards can also inspect fields to provide weed free hay and straw certifications so that local growers can supply materials that meet Forest Service requirements for both recreational users and contractors. Additionally we will begin to build information sources for weed free materials and best management practices with Community Development Departments within both counties.

All infestations, treatments and monitoring will be documented per Forest Service protocols. This information is collated into a Forest Service data base. We will compile and distribute a detailed report of all activities at the end of the season. (A summary of 2014 accomplishments will be provided to RAC members at the 2015 project discussion meeting. The complete 2014 report and those for prior years are available on our website at http://www.clallam.net/weedcontrol/html/forest_service.htm.) Agency representatives will meet regularly to communicate progress and to revise project direction as necessary.

This proposal complements the Weed Board mission to protect agricultural, human and natural resources from the degrading environmental and economic impacts of noxious weeds which easily spread without regard to jurisdictional boundaries. Clallam and Jefferson Weed Boards provide the vital link to other public land managers and private landowners whose weeds threaten federal lands. Both Weed Boards serve as a local contact that can respond quickly to reports of new weed sightings. Educational outreach by Clallam and Jefferson County Weed Boards will increase public awareness of noxious weeds and the problems they create. Weed Board staff will direct programs at members of the community who

work in the forest, live near it, or recreate or volunteer within it.

As budgets have tightened across all public agencies, Title II funding has become an essential means of protecting past weed control efforts and is a down payment for preventing new invasive plants from gaining a foothold. Weed boards are deeply committed to long term invasive weed control projects by any entity within their respective counties. Weed Boards are therefore best positioned to understand local needs, respond promptly and efficiently to new concerns, and provide vital follow-up treatments.

The goal of this project is to attain a healthy, productive and sustainable forest that meets many public demands. After years of participating in Title II funded projects with the Forest Service, we are making considerable progress with several goals. Overall presence of noxious weeds has diminished. The Forest Service has implemented many prevention measures such as pre-disturbance surveys and treatments. Several special botanical areas are being actively transitioned back to native vegetation. Title II funding has not only allowed the Noxious Weed Control Programs to develop a unique and creative relationship with our Forest Service partners but also to also draw in other natural resource managers and volunteer groups. Effective invasive plant control requires cooperation, diligence, and persistence and we have forged the working relationships that allow us to succeed. It has been a privilege and honor to work on this project and we hope you will approve funding to allow us to continue the good work into the future.

11. Types of Lands Involved? Private and public lands

State/Private/Other lands involved? Yes No

Land Status:

If Yes, specify: County weed boards will coordinate control efforts on private and public properties or other non-federal properties infested with invasive weed species that have potential to degrade or impact Forest Service land and natural resources.

12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? (Check at least 1)

Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure.

Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems.

Restores and improves land health.

Restores water quality

13. Project Type

a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)

Road Maintenance

Trail Maintenance

Road Decommission/Obliteration

Trail Obliteration

Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):

Soil Productivity Improvement

Forest Health Improvement

Watershed Restoration & Maintenance

Wildlife Habitat Restoration

Fish Habitat Restoration

Control of Noxious Weeds

Reestablish Native Species

Fuels Management/Fire Prevention

Implement CWPP Project

Other Project Type (specify):

b. Primary Purpose (select only 1): Noxious and Invasive Weed Control

14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish
Miles of road maintained: Depending on level of funding, 200-300 miles are typically surveyed/invasive plants controlled (included as part of acres weeds controlled in reporting). Approximately 300 acres can be treated for invasives in a season (double that area is searched/surveyed for invasives).
Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated:
Number of structures maintained/improved:
Acres of soil productivity improved:
Miles of stream/river restored/improved:
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved:
Acres of native species reestablished:
Miles of trail maintained:
Miles of trail obliterated:
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction): See acres of noxious weeds and invasive plants controlled.
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved: See acres of noxious weeds and invasive plants controlled.
Acres of noxious weeds controlled: Depending on level of funding, can range from 200-300 acres (per Forest Service protocols)
Timber volume generated:
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks: 1.2
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention): 300
Direct economic activity benefit:
Other:

15. Estimated Project Start Date: 9/1/15	16. Estimated Project Completion Date: ongoing
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17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.

Jefferson, Clallam, Mason, and Gray’s Harbor County Weed Boards, Olympic National Park, Olympic National Forest, Clallam and Jefferson Conservation Districts, Washington State Departments of Agriculture, Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resources, and Transportation, Washington State University Extension and affiliated Master Gardeners, Cities of Port Townsend, Sequim, Port Angeles, and Forks, Back Country Horsemen, Rayonier Timber, Merrill and Ring, Green Crow Corp, North Olympic Salmon Coalition, Jamestown S’Klallam, Lower Elwha, Quileute, and Makah Tribes, Clallam County Streamkeepers, North Olympic Land Trust, North Olympic Salmon Coalition, Pacific Salmon Coalition, 10,000 Years Institute.

18. Identify benefits to communities.

This project will improve overall forest health and natural watershed functions while preserving multiple economic and recreational uses of the forest. By preventing the spread of weeds to neighboring landowners,

economic use of private property is also preserved. Funding for this project translates directly into jobs for an economically depressed area.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?

Noxious weeds negatively impact federal lands in many ways, such as impeding forest regeneration, degrading fish habitat, choking waterways, and replacing beneficial plants with non-palatable or poisonous species. By removing, controlling, and preventing noxious weed infestations, this project improves general watershed and forest health while preserving the aesthetic beauty, and the economic and recreational uses of the forest.

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreement
<input type="checkbox"/> Americorps	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YCC/WCC Crews
<input type="checkbox"/> Job Corps	<input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Contract
<input type="checkbox"/> Merchantable Timber Pilot	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): Olympic Correctional Crew, possibly Clallam County Sheriff's Chain Gang

21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Materials? Yes No

22. Anticipated Project Costs
a. Title II Funds Requested: \$71,501-\$35,751 from Jefferson, \$35,751 from Clallam
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:

Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board-**\$6,150** in-kind; Clallam County Noxious Weed Board-**\$29,319**, in-kind; Forest Service **\$9,975** in-kind.

24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment)

- a. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above.
- b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring:
- c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k):

25. Identify remedies for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement.

If project cannot be completed under the terms of this agreement:

- Unused funds will be returned to the RAC account.
- Other, please explain: If weed projects are not completed within a certain treatment window, we will extend the completion date until it can be done. If there are additional funds not expended at the end of the agreement, we will produce more treatment acreage until the funds are exhausted.

Project Recommended By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Chairperson

Resource Advisory Committee

Project Approved By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Forest Supervisor

National Forest

Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

Worksheet 1

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

Item	Column A Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution	Column B Requested Title II Contribution	Column C Other Contributions	Column D Total Available Funds
a. Field Work & Site Surveys				
b. NEPA/CEQA				
c. ESA Consultation				
d. Permit Acquisition				
e. Project Design & Engineering				
f. Contract/Grant Preparation	2,470			2,470
g. Contract/Grant Administration			300	300
h. Contract/Grant Cost-interagency				
i. Salaries	7,505	50,284	34,250	92,039
j. Materials & Supplies		3,300	500	3,800
k. Monitoring*		3,000		3,000
l. Other-(transport)		5,000	2,206	7,206
m. Project Sub-Total		61,584	37,256	108,816
n. Indirect Costs-County		9,917	4,713	14,630
Indirect Costs-Forest Service				
o. Total Cost Estimate	9,975	71,501	41,969	123,445

NOTES:

- a. Pre-NEPA Costs
- g. Includes Contracting/Grant Officer Representative (COR) costs. Excludes Contracting/Grant Officer costs.
- i. Cost of implementing project
- l. Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.
- n. Contracting/Grant Officer costs, if needed, are included as part of Indirect Costs.

*monitoring is part of the overall project and cannot be totally separated out. (Please see the attached monitor plan for details). At least one month of staff time is devoted to compiling and submitting Forest Service report forms, and preparing, publishing, and distributing the year-end report.

Olympic Peninsula Cooperative Noxious Weed Control Project Monitoring Plan

Monitoring and measuring progress of the Olympic Peninsula Cooperative Noxious Weed Control project is built into the program itself on several levels.

Before treatments begin, the Weed Boards and Forest Service prepare an extensive project plan outlining where the current season activities will occur. The document contains the Forest Service's highest priorities and includes treatment acres. During a spring meeting, all meet to understand specific goals for the year, how the work is to be documented, and discuss any new developments, needs, or items of special concern.

Seasonal field crew are trained and supervised by licensed Weed Board staff *at minimum* until they obtain a Washington State applicator's license. Weed Board staff regularly submits reports (FACTS, NRIS, pit survey forms) and communicates with Forest Service staff about where and how much work has been accomplished. Often new sites or new priorities emerge during the season, and the field crew is able to respond quickly to Forest Service needs or adapt as actual conditions dictate.

Field crews must monitor a minimum of fifty percent of treated acres per Forest Service protocol. All monitoring must be documented on Forest Service monitoring forms. A copy of every completed form is turned into Forest Service personnel and the original is retained in our records. As time allows, crew performs and documents any necessary re-treatments during the monitoring process. Consistent follow-up visits and treatments over several years are key to successful invasive plant control.

At the end of each treatment season, Weed Board staff prepares an extensive combined Clallam/Jefferson report summarizing all activities specific to Forest Service lands. The report discusses the extent of the invasive plant problem and program effectiveness, along with some suggestions for improvements and future needs. Treatment information is used by the Forest Service to file compliance reports to meet ESA consultation requirements and to see whether the program is meeting the overall goals of the invasive plant program. A snapshot summarizing county weed status, and provided services is also included in this report. A complete, or executive summary copy of the report is distributed to all interested parties as well as local, state, and federal legislators. (A copy is supplied to members of the Resource Advisory Committee during the annual meeting to review program proposals). A copy of the full report is posted on our website. Weed Board and Forest Service staff meet late fall to debrief. Project finances are monitored and approved by Forest Service staff.