



Social Media Response Statement
Rod Asher, Sherman County Weed District Director
May 16th, 2017

The Sherman County Weed Control Ordinance has not been changed or reinterpreted. It was passed by the Sherman County Court on March 14th, 2001, after two public hearings on two separate occasions. It replaced existing Weed District Policy that had been in place for many years to give more authority, as in a law compared to a rule. Both were modeled after the Oregon Revised Statute 569.

The Ordinance does not require ‘eradication.’ The text states:

8.1 Upon the service or posting of the notice provided in Section 7.0 of this Ordinance, any owner or occupant of land shall destroy or prevent from seeding or spreading the weed or weeds specified in the notice. Such obligation shall be a continuing obligation throughout the remainder of the then current growing, seeding or spreading season, unless terminated by discontinuation of ownership or occupancy, or upon dissolution of the Weed District.

Mowing Canada thistle in July or August does not prevent it from seeding or spreading. In fact, it worsens the problem, and certainly mowing or plowing through rush skeletonweed is the worst possible idea! Its seed can travel for miles in the wind, and a root fragment as small as one inch will reproduce a new plant.

The Ordinance does not require spraying with herbicides. Refer to Section 8.0.

Roundup was never mentioned in either weed violation letter sent by the Weed District, but it was mentioned multiple times on the social media posts. Roundup, or glyphosate, would not be a good choice at this time of year. It is a non-selective product with a short half-life. An application of glyphosate would eliminate all competition, including the grasses, encouraging new weeds to grow back. The first weeds to come back are usually the noxious ones because they are more aggressive.

Milestone and Escort were mentioned in the first letter. Milestone, or aminopyralid, is a selective product and can give up to 18 months of control. My personal experience has seen an estimated nearly 95% control the second year after treatment on both rush skeletonweed and Canada thistle. Escort, or metsulfuron, is one of the few products I've used with any success on whitetop. Both of these products have very low use rates: 7.0 ounces and 1.0 ounce per acre respectively.

Trespass: **ORS 569.380 Weed inspector right of entry**; negates the charge of trespassing. I make every effort to contact a landowner or operator before I go on their property and have not been off the County right-of-way near any Ecclesia lands this year.

Quarantine: The county does not have the authority to quarantine land under the Weed Control Ordinance. The State Department of Agriculture does have the authority under ORS 569.400. The county has the ability to request a quarantine be imposed.