

Deschutes County Area Receives One of 20 BASF Grants

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Deschutes County's vegetation program is one of 20 recipients of matching grants to fund programs designed to fight the spread of noxious weeds. The grants, totaling about \$200,000, were awarded by BASF Professional Vegetation Management.

The County's vegetation manager, Dan Sherwin, applied for approximately \$21,000 representing the Central Oregon Weed Management Area group to better combat Yellow Flag Iris. The weed is currently on Oregon's Noxious Weeds List and also on Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson County's weed lists. Yellow Flag Iris is becoming a substantial challenge in Central Oregon and throughout the State.

The targeted project locations to be treated with the grant funds include over 600 miles of main canals and main laterals of irrigation ditches within Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson Counties. Within these three Counties the project will also include Hay Stack Reservoir, Lake Billy Chinook shorelines, and along the Deschutes River.

"We received over 125 excellent applications for funding. There are so many programs out there and they all need some type of funding to be effective in the fight against invasive plants," said Jim Bean, environmental resource specialist for BASF. "Our goal is to try and help as many programs as we can each year. The projects chosen this year all offered a realistic action plan for how to control invasive weeds and restore natural ecosystems."

BASF grant funds will be provided to the following Oregon organizations:

Central Oregon Weed Management Area " OR

The project will control yellow flag iris in more than 600 miles of main canals and main laterals of irrigation ditches within Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties. This area includes Hay Stack Reservoir and Lake Billy Chinook shorelines and the Deschutes River.

Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District " Columbia County, OR

This project is the preliminary stage of a multi-year effort to control knotweed species using herbicides and revegetation of treatment sites. Purple loosestrife and yellow flag iris are also being targeted. The project seeks to control infestations on 75 acres of land, primarily along 12.5 linear miles of streams within the county.

Tualatin River Watershed Council â€™ Washington County, OR

About 11 acres of Japanese knotweed and giant knotweed will be controlled along a four-mile stretch of Gales Creek, which is located in the western end of Washington County. This stream is one of highest quality steelhead streams in the Tualatin Basin and is one of the highest priority streams for restoration for the Tualatin River Watershed.

The Central Oregon Weed Management Area group includes: Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson Counties, Bonneville Power Administration, US Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation, Central Oregon Irrigation District, North Unit Irrigation District, Portland General Electric Company, Crooked River Weed Management Area, and Raven Research.

For more information about the Deschutes County noxious weed program, please call 322-7135. More information can be found about BASF by visiting <http://www.corporate.basf.com/> .

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