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**From:** Thom Bruce  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 05, 2008 4:08 PM  
**Subject:** Lane County Weed Control

To Whom It May CONCERN!

Lane County should be very engaged in the control of noxious weeds. Wheeler County is living proof of what happens when there is nobody guarding the gate! We have been without a weed control person more than any other county in the state. And our weeds show it. There has not been a consistent effort until the Wheeler County Road Department took on the responsibility to provide weed personal and funding for the county weed program.

In place now is an all out effort to assist the public in a plight to control the wave of weeds that has infested the county over the last 20 years.

20 years ago.....there were a handful of non native weeds in the county. Now there is every kind of noxious weed that will grow within our environment. Hundreds of species have developed into problems here in just 2 decades. This is the results of nobody watching the gate into our county. It is way too late for control of some of these weeds. We will never gain control on most of our problems. We can only hold the line the best we can with our limited funding and personal.

The same will happen to Lane County. If you do not control what comes to your gateway....nobody will. It is easier to stop a train before it starts than after it is rolling through your county. And you are kidding yourself if you think there is not a train coming your way.

This is not a decision of whether to continue a weed program.....but a decision of how can we fund and continue a better weed and chemical program. You are shooting yourself in the foot and soon will be unable to maintain control of your invasive problems by denying weed control efforts in your county.

AS for your next question.

Kill weeds with the best control available. Leave the limiting of chemical types and usage up to the EPA and ODA. Take advantage of what is out there now before they are gone.

We have lost so many valuable chemicals and more will become extinct as we move through the environmental friendly era of lawsuits in the next few years.

We will see the day when our user friendly herbicides are no longer effective. In the Midwest, there are many places without the ability to control their weeds because their weeds have built up a genetically resistant defense over the years from lack of sufficient herbicide usage.

It is so important to kill and control weeds the first time. It is the most cost effective and an assurance that they will not genetically adapt to the chemicals we have available.

I challenge each of you that are considering these matters to take one hour and purposely drive your county looking at the weeds. You will never see them if you are not tuned into and focusing on seeking them out. You will be amazed that they are everywhere and a problem that is silently snowballing.

Invasive silent snowballing FIRES that will burn you in the end.

Thom Bruce  
Wheeler County Weed Control

