

CONSERVATION CONNECTION

Wheeler SWCD Annual Meeting Scheduled for December 12th in Spray

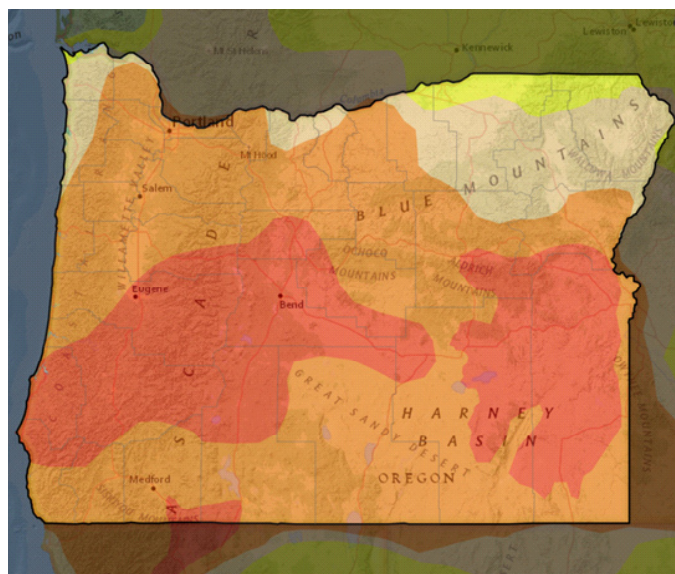
The Wheeler Soil & Water Conservation District's annual dinner and annual meeting will be held on December 12, 2018 at the Spray Grange Hall. The dinner event begins at 6:00 pm; please plan to arrive early so everyone can be seated by 6:00 pm.

The speaker this year will be Margaret Matter from Oregon Department of Agriculture. She will speak to the assembly about the Changing Variability in Hydrology: Influence on Water Resources Administration, Water Rights and Drought Resilience. In addition to the keynote speaker, there will be photos and displays of District projects, the annual report will be presented, and staff and directors can answer your questions about projects you may want to do on your property in the future.

This is a very popular dinner meeting and fills up fast. There is limited seating so don't wait! Please RSVP as soon as possible (deadline is December 6th). This delicious prime rib dinner with all the trimmings is \$20 per person. No dinners are prepared for 'take out'. You must be in attendance to receive a dinner.

This is a wonderful time to meet with other landowners, district staff and directors, and to learn about Wheeler SWCD's and the Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council's activities.

RSVP by email: Administration@wheelerswcd.org or call 541-468-2990



Drought Conditions in Oregon



Statewide CORE Pesticide Applicator Training, December 12th

Oregon State University Extension is hosting a statewide training session for pesticide applicators. The training will be delivered simultaneously via video-conference to multiple locations through the state including Gilliam and Wheeler Counties. The course is divided into two 2-hour sessions which allows participation in either morning or afternoon session (2 credits each) or both sessions (4 credits total). Oregon pesticide applicator recertification credits earned during this training will count either as CORE or general credits. To register at the Wheeler or Gilliam County sites please contact: Wheeler County Extension Office at 541-763-4115 or Gilliam County Extension Office at 541-384-2271.

Session topics include Triclopyr & Glyphosate, and Risk Assessments & Pesticides in the morning and ODA Laws & Regulations Update, and ODA Case Studies & Lessons Learned in the afternoon.



What's Inside?

Tamarisk (Saltcedar)	2
Grant Awarded to Watershed Council	3
Event Calendar	4

"B" Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant, but may have limited distribution in some counties

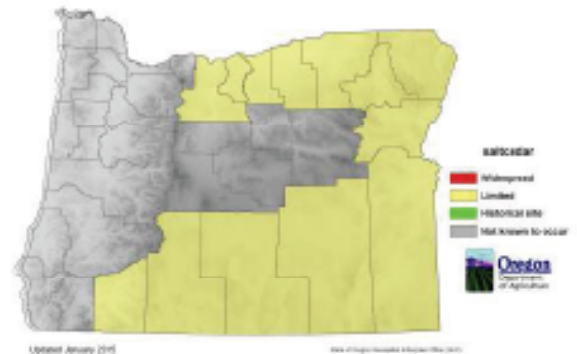
Saltcedar
Tamarix ramosissima

Other common names:
salt cedar, tamarisk

USDA symbol: TARA
ODA rating: B and T



Introduction: (*Tamarix ramosissima*, *T. chinensis*, or *T. gallica*) is a large shrub or small tree introduced to North America from the Middle East in the early 1800s. This weed has been used as an ornamental, for windbreaks and erosion control. By 1850, saltcedar had escaped from these plantings, infesting many river systems and drainages in the Southwest – often displacing native vegetation. By 1938, infestations of saltcedar could be found from Florida to California and as far north as Idaho. Saltcedar continues to spread rapidly and currently infests water drainages and wet areas in the United States. [courtesy Montana State University Extension.



Distribution: Malheur County hosts the highest densities of saltcedar especially along the Snake River and Owyhee Reservoir. Smaller outbreaks in other eastern Oregon Counties are targeted for eradication.

Description: Saltcedar species are spreading shrubs or small trees, 5-20 feet tall, with numerous slender branches and small, alternate, scale-like leaves. The pale pink to white flowers are small, perfect and regular, arranged in spike-like racemes. The distinct petals and sepals occur in fours or fives. The fruit is a capsule [Hitchcock and Cronquist 1961].

Impacts: Saltcedar is an aggressive invader of riversides, springs, creeks and gullies in the arid regions of the American west. It has an enormous water appetite causing springs and small waterways to dry up putting stress on many desert species. The plants provides no food for wildlife and little nesting cover.

Biological controls: The saltcedar leaf beetle, *Diorhabda elongata* is well established in eastern Oregon often causing complete defoliation of all plants in specific drainages.



Oregon Department of Agriculture • Noxious Weed Control Program
635 Capitol Street NE • Salem, OR 97301 • 503-986-4621
www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/Default.aspx

Photos by Malheur Experiment
Station Oregon State U.

Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council awarded \$190,702 for Bologna Creek Watershed Improvement Project

(Gold Beach) – The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) awarded \$190,702 to Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council for a restoration project at their October 16-17, 2018 Board meeting. The award was one of 60 grants totaling \$9,226,487 provided to local organizations statewide to support fish and wildlife habitat and water quality projects.

“This funding will make a large impact on the watershed health of Bologna Creek in Wheeler and Grant Counties. These types of projects take multiple people and many hours to implement and we appreciate the support of our funders, partners and landowners to put these conservation projects in place,” says Kendall Derby, President, Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council.

The Bologna Creek Watershed Improvement project will focus on upland restoration, removing 740 acres of juniper, spraying for weeds and reseeding 72 acres, and developing one spring for water used by both livestock and wildlife. The projects are expected to begin in December 2018 and be completed by June 30, 2021.

Funding for grants awarded by the OWEB Board comes from three primary sources – the Oregon Lottery, Salmon License Plate revenues, and Federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery funds provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Since 1999, the Oregon Lottery has provided over \$500 million to OWEB’s grant program that helps restore, maintain and enhance Oregon’s watershed along with additional investments from Salmon License Plate revenues. Combined, the Lottery has earned over \$9 billion for watershed enhancements, public

education, state parks and economic development. For more information about the Oregon Lottery visit www.oregonlottery.org

For additional information about this project contact Debbi Bunch, midjohndaywc@wheelerswcd.org. For additional information about OWEB and its grant programs, contact Eric Hartstein at eric.hartstein@oregon.gov. A listing of all awarded grants is available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/Documents/2018-Fall-Board-Awards-Spring2018-Offering.pdf>.

◆◆◆





Wheeler Soil & Water Conservation District
40535 Highway 19
Fossil, Oregon 97830

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #8
FOSSIL, OR

This publication made possible by funding provided by
the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

12/12	10 am-3 pm	OSU Extension Pesticide Applicator Training, Jeanne E. Burch Building
12/12	6 pm	Wheeler SWCD Annual Meeting and Dinner, Spray Grange Hall
12/18	10 am	Lower John Day Place Based Planning Meeting, Conference Call
12/19	10 am	John Day Partnership Meeting, John Day
1/23	5 pm	Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council, Fossil
1/29	10 am	Lower John Day Place Based Planning Meeting, Condon Natural Hazards and Infrastructure
1/30	6 pm	Wheeler SWCD Board Meeting, Big Service Corral Meeting Room

Everyone is welcome to attend these events. For more information please contact Debra Bunch, Watershed Technician at 541/468-2990 or debrabunch@gmail.com.