

CONSERVATION CONNECTION

Wheeler SWCD Annual Meeting Scheduled for December 11th in Spray

The Wheeler Soil & Water Conservation District's annual meeting and dinner will be held at 6:00 pm, December 11, 2019 at the Spray Grange Hall.

Join local fish ecologist Nick Weber for a short presentation that asks us to reimagine our concept of healthy streams and wetlands, and how we might think about riverscape rehabilitation. He will speak on low tech restoration techniques including beaver dam analogs. In addition to the 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 future projects you may want to do on your property.



There is limited seating at this very popular dinner meeting so don't wait! Please RSVP as soon as possible (deadline is December 5th). This delicious prime rib dinner with all the trimmings is \$20 per person. You must be in attendance to receive a dinner, as none are prepared for 'take out'. Please plan to arrive early as the event begins promptly at 6:00 pm.

*Beaver Dam Analog construction on Bear Creek
Photos from Nick Weber*

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



Statewide CORE Pesticide Applicator Training, December 12th Wheeler County Stockgrowers Meeting, December 13th

Oregon State University Extension is hosting a statewide training session for pesticide applicators on December 12, 2019. The training will be delivered simultaneously via video-conference to multiple locations through the state including Gilliam and Wheeler Counties. The course will be in the Jeanne E. Burch Building in Fossil, from 9:45 am – 3 pm and lunch will be served. The training offers 4 CORE or other Oregon pesticide applicator recertification 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.

Wheeler County Stockgrowers will meet on Friday, December 13, 2019, location and time TBD. This event will offer Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification for cow-calf producers, hold a business meeting, serve dinner and then have a guest speaker on Body Condition Score (BCS). Contact Wheeler County Extension at 541-763-4115 for more information.



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“B” Rated Weeds

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

Butterfly bush

Buddleja davidii (*B. variabilis*)

Other common names: summer lilac

USDA symbol: BUDA2

ODA rating: B



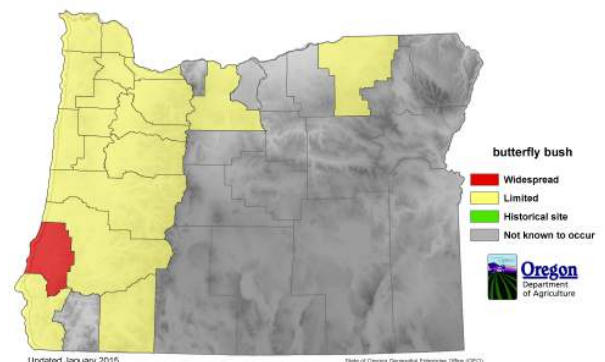
Introduction: Butterfly bush is native to northwestern China and Japan. In Oregon, infestations are established on auto and railroad rights-of-way, in industrial yards, forest clear cuts and in disturbed riparian areas. It has been identified in forested areas of the Cascades and in commercial timberland on Oregon's south coast.

Distribution in Oregon: Coos, Lane and Multnomah Counties have the most reported escaped butterfly bush populations. Generally all western Oregon counties have some escaped populations. In eastern Oregon, only Wasco and Umatilla County has reported feral butterfly bush populations.

Description: Butterfly bush is a perennial shrub growing up to 10' high. Leaves are narrow, opposite, green to blue-gray. Flowers are small, purple and heavily bunched in 8-10 inch flower spikes. Butterfly bush appears similar to lilac but blooms much later (late summer) than lilac. Its popularity arises from its beauty and ability to draw in lots of nectar feeders.

Impacts: Butterflybush is a pioneering species that can dominate open habitats. It poses an ecological threat to dry-land meadows and open slopes, dominating these sites similarly to Scotch broom. It also invades reforested sites and right-of-ways, resulting in increased vegetation control costs

Biological controls: No approved biological control agent is available. Though sterile varieties have been bred and are now marketed as replacements to the original varieties.



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 Glenn Miller, ODA

Agricultural Channel Maintenance

New legislation (HB 2437, 2019 Legislature) authorizes maintenance activities without a Removal-Fill permit from the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) in dry, traditionally maintained, agricultural drainage channels under certain circumstances. A new notice-based process will be developed and administered by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA).

What do you need to know?

HB2437 provides for the "...maintenance of channels used for agricultural drainage ... in a manner that protects, maintains, or improves ecological function of the channels and that upholds state objectives for fish recovery." It also makes it easier to remove built-up sediment in dry ditches and intermittent streams that have traditionally been maintained for agricultural drainage.

HB 2437 transitions a portion of the current regulatory program at the Oregon Department of State Lands to a notice-based program at the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The Oregon Departments of Agriculture, State Lands, and Fish and Wildlife are coordinating on implementation.

Until DSL adopts new administrative rules and ODA establishes a notification process to implement HB 2437, landowners should not conduct any removal or fill within a channel or wetland without contacting the Department of State Lands.

What's next?

The Departments of State Lands, Agriculture and Fish & Wildlife are working together to implement HB 2437. The objective is to establish a notice-based process to allow for agricultural maintenance in dry traditionally maintained channels to a limited geographic area by Fall 2020.

New administrative rules

DSL will be developing new administrative rules, which are targeted for adoption by spring 2020. There will be opportunity for public engagement. To view DSL's rulemaking page, visit Department of State Lands rulemaking - HB 2437.

New notice-based tools

ODA will be establishing the new notification process that will require a landowner to submit a notice prior to performing any agricultural maintenance under HB 2437. This includes the

development of new forms and guidance for this notice-based process.

Outreach and education

The agencies will be conducting outreach efforts prior to the implementation of HB 2437. This includes outreach and education to the public, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, agricultural, conservation, and other interest groups to ensure broad understanding of the bill. This will include an overview of the regulatory changes, what is expected for the new notice-based process, and conditions of approval. Agencies will also provide information on opportunities for public comment during the new administrative rules to be developed by DSL.

Additional Resources

Additional resources, including a link to sign up for email notifications, are available on the Oregon Department of Agriculture webpage: <https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NaturalResources/Pages/AgChannelMaintenance.aspx>.

Oregon Department of Agriculture



Mid John Day-Bridge Creek WC and Wheeler SWCD Awarded Grants

(Condon) – The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) awarded \$131,282 to Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council for a restoration project and \$146,124 to Wheeler SWCD for a restoration project and a technical assistance project at their October 15-16, 2019 Board meeting. The awards are three of 61 grants totaling \$9,284,183 provided to local organizations statewide to support fish and wildlife habitat and water quality projects.

Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed

Council's Alder Creek Watershed Improvement 1 will remove over 600 acres of juniper upslope of Alder Creek, improve grassland habitat and develop one water source for both wildlife and livestock use.

Wheeler SWCD's Pine Hollow Middle and Upper Restoration project will restore passage for native fish by correcting a culvert, removing a barrier, and will add instream habitat structures on Pine Hollow Creek, a steelhead stream in SE Wheeler County. The Pine Hollow - Shingle Creek Fish Passage

technical assistance grant will develop designs to remove barriers blocking access to steelhead moving upstream to critical cold water habitat. The designs will be used to seek funding for an on-the-ground project in the future.

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.





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

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the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

11/25/	6 pm	Wheeler SWCD Board Meeting, Big Sarvice Corral Meeting Room
12/11	6 pm	Wheeler SWCD Annual Meeting and Dinner, Spray Grange Hall
12/12	9 am	OSU Extension Pesticide Applicator Training, Jeanne E. Burch Building
12/13	TBD	Wheeler County Stockgrowers Meeting, Location TBD
1/29	6 pm	Wheeler SWCD Board Meeting, Big Sarvice Corral Meeting Room

*Everyone is welcome to attend these events. For more information please contact
Debra Bunch, Watershed Technician*

541/468-2990 or midjohndaywc@wheelerswcd.org.