

**Weed Alert: The growing season for plants is well under way ... and the bad hombres (weeds) always get the jump by starting growth early and growing fast.**

It's time for landowners to assess their situation and to make plans to get rid of these unwanted invaders. We live in Woodside Ranch for the forest environment and the wildlife and scenery it provides. Noxious weeds are aggressive plants that quickly convert native landscapes into ugly monocultures that provide no value to most any critter.

The most prevalent Noxious Weeds in our neighborhood are Dalmatian toadflax (yellow snapdragon-like flower) and spotted knapweed. Noxious Weeds form an official designation of plants that are of import because of the economic and environmental threats they cause. Another undesirable plant, although not a Noxious Weed is cheatgrass.. It is the ubiquitous grass with purple drooping heads. It will send your dog to the vet, stick in your socks and burn as fast as gasoline when it has cured. It has been in the United States since the 1800's and although a pest, it somehow escaped official designation.

Deschutes County has a Noxious Weed manager (located within the Road Department) that is tasked with controlling weeds on public rights-of-way and very recently with **enforcing our new county weed ordinance!** The weed ordinance is based on a complaint driven process that emphasizes cooperation and education and has sizeable enforcement teeth (fines).

I called the weed manager to discuss the county's efforts, including upcoming work in our subdivision. He directed me to the county website for some great information.

**For more information consult the Deschutes County Website:**

**[www.deschutes.org/Road/Noxious-Weed-Program/Noxious-Weed-Control.aspx](http://www.deschutes.org/Road/Noxious-Weed-Program/Noxious-Weed-Control.aspx)**

**If you need help identifying weeds on your property, I'd be glad to take a look. Rob Evans (541-385-7493). Leave a message with your name, phone number and time you called on the old machine.**