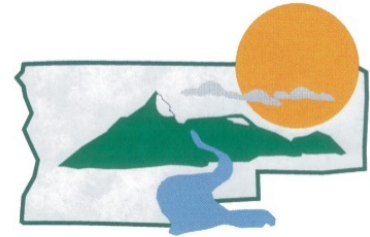


# JEFFERSON COUNTY

## Public Works Department

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### NEWS – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2023

**Jefferson County awarded \$20,500 to assist eligible landowners to treat noxious weeds.**

For More Information:

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Salem – In late February, the Oregon State Weed Board awarded \$20,504 to the Jefferson County Public Works for treating noxious weeds in the Trout Creek, Mud Springs and Willow Creek watersheds from 2023 to April 2024. The recent grant is the third for Jefferson County and builds upon the success of the initial 2020 and 2021 OWEB grants. The program incentivizes landowners to treat noxious weeds by providing a 100% cost-share for herbicides and related materials.

The award was one of 48 grants totaling \$1,406,380 for the ODA Weed Grants program and recommended for approval in State budget cycle 36-2023. The opportunity is provided to local organizations statewide to support fish and wildlife habitat and water quality projects. The grants represent great natural resource enhancement projects occurring throughout all of Oregon.

“Our project goal is improving riparian and upland habitat, mostly on private lands, by reducing noxious weeds such as Scotch thistle, whitetop, Yellowstar thistle and other priority weeds. Eliminating pervasive noxious weeds improves perennial grass establishment and boosts riparian vegetation vigor all-the-while benefitting streamflow for aquatic species and provides added forage for wildlife or livestock grazing,” says Thomas Laird, Weeds Program Coordinator with the County.

The project is expected to begin in April and be completed by the end of the year. Central Oregon landowners with weeds are encouraged to reference the Jefferson County website and view the Public Works Department page under Vegetation Management for helpful information regarding noxious weed identification, life cycles and herbicide recommendations.

Funding for grants comes from partnership with OWEB and the Oregon State Lottery Fund. Since 1999, the Oregon Lottery has provided over \$500 million to OWEB’s grant program which helps restore, maintain and enhance Oregon’s watersheds. 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](http://www.oregonlottery.org).

For additional information about this project contact Thomas Laird at [tlaird@jeffco.net](mailto:tlaird@jeffco.net)

For additional information about ODA Noxious Weed Grant Programs, contact Tristen Berg at [tberg@oda.state.or.us](mailto:tberg@oda.state.or.us).