



Joe Sims/Contributed Photo

This month's noxious weed is whitetop (*Lepidium draba*). Anyone finding the weed in Wallowa County is urged to contact Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership Program Manager Joe Sims.

## Noxious weed of the month is whitetop

Wallowa County Vegetation Department

ENTERPRISE — As part of the Wallowa County Vegetation Department and Weed Board's ongoing education efforts, in conjunction with Wallowa Resources, the Chieftain features a noxious weed each month that is on the county's list of noxious and invasive weeds.

This month's noxious weed is whitetop (*Lepidium draba*).

The goal is to educate the public, as landowners and county residents are instrumental in identifying and eradicating those weeds.

**What:** It is a perennial that grows up to 2 feet tall, has leaves that are covered in short, soft white hairs, and a distinctive flower head of several small, white, four-petaled flowers, giving the plant a white, flat-topped appearance. It blooms from May into mid-summer and continues to grow until frost.

**Where:** Whitetop prefers open, unshaded areas and can be found in a variety of different soil types. It prefers moist sites or areas of moderate rainfall. In Wallowa County, it can be found predominantly in the lower Imnaha Canyon and contributing drainages.

**Dangers:** It grows in



Joe Sims/Contributed Photo

**Whitetop is a perennial that grows up to 2 feet tall, has leaves that are covered in short, soft white hairs, and a distinctive flower head of several small, white, four-petaled flowers.**

dense patches that dominate areas, degrading pasture areas and restricting the growth of other species.

**How you can help:** If you find whitetop either on your property or while out and about, take note of the location. You can contact our Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership Program Manager Joe Sims at 541-426-8053, ext. 61.

## Seasoned and prospective vendors attend the Farmers Market Vendor Symposium

By ANN BLOOM  
For the Wallowa  
County Chieftain

### ENTERPRISE

Despite the snowstorm, prospective Wallowa County Farmers Market vendors turned out to learn valuable tips for success from seasoned vendors at the market's vendor symposium held Saturday, April 16, in Cloverleaf Hall.

The symposium included a panel of current vendors composed of Wendy McCullough of Sally B Farms, a goat milk soap and lotion vendor; Anne Robinson of Annie's Southfork Silverworks, a silver jewelry maker; and Christian Niece and Ali Lyons, the new owners of Backyard Gardens, an organic produce farm. Each presented their perspective on what creates a welcoming booth, suggestions for interacting with customers and ideas for marketing a vendor's product.

Jessica Bogard was introduced as the new market manager. She provided an overview of the new rules for the market, explained the setup of the booths during the market season and explained the fee structure for participation, and how to apply to be a market vendor.

Robinson said the market not only offers an opportunity for vendors to sell their wares, but serves as a cooperative community endeavor.

"It contributes to the economy of Wallowa County, and serves as a vibrant community gathering spot," she said. "We are a supportive environment for first time vendors to share their wares and learn how to promote and market their product."

She said it has been especially gratifying to see new vendors go from being first-time vendors, to regulars, to growing their business



Contributed Photo

The annual Wallowa County Farmers Market vendor symposium took place April 16, 2022.

to some even going on to securing a brick-and-mortar business location later.

The farmers market offers everything from fresh produce to photos taken by local photographers, to jewelry and pottery, to craft items, meat, and baked goods for sale. Music is an integral part of the market featuring local musicians and bands at many of the regular market days.

McCullough, a vendor with many years of experience with the farmers market offered several ways to help inexperienced, or new vendors, succeed in their sales experiences.

"You need to have a story about your products covering the highlights — how you make them, ingredients, how it's grown, etc. It should be short and engaging. Entice people to buy or at least ask you questions. People are interested in what you do, and how you do what you do. They want to get to know you and

your product," she said.

The panelists offered their tips for success including how to set up an attractive booth, pricing, marketing and customer service and words of encouragement for when times are slow, or sales are down.

"Each Saturday is different, so don't get discouraged if your sales are down," Lyons said.

"Hang in there. If you are friendly, smile and laugh with customers, have a catchy story about your products, have a good product that is attractively displayed and priced right you will be successful," McCullough said.

There is also the practical side of being a vendor at the farmers market, as Ali Lyons and Christian Niece pointed out during the symposium.

"Don't hesitate to ask for support from other vendors. Bring layers of clothes and hats for every kind of weather and lots of water

for the heat," Lyons said.

All the panelist vendors stressed engaging with customers as a top priority for being a successful vendor.

"It's a fun event and builds community!" Lyons said.

Robinson advised first time vendors to look at their product and hone it to what locals and tourists are attracted to and need.

"Tourists especially love to go home with a little piece of Wallowa County," she said.

The Wallowa County Farmers Market is accepting applications for new vendors. It is especially interested in vendors who would like to sell prepared food items. For more information on how to become a vendor at the Wallowa County Farmers Market, contact Bogard at [wallowacountyfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:wallowacountyfarmersmarket@gmail.com). Opening day of the market is Saturday, May 28, at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of Stein's Distillery in Joseph.

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## Trail-with-rails project plans update

### Project still on track despite opposition

Chieftain staff

WALLOWA — The Joseph Branch Trail Consortium, the nonprofit group that hopes to establish a trail-with-rails alongside the existing railroad tracks that run between Elgin and Joseph, will hold its annual member gathering Saturday, May 7, in Wallowa, according to a press release.

The gathering will run from 4-6 p.m. at the Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland Project and will include project updates, a short hike along the trail route in Wallowa and complimentary food and beverages.

There also will be an announcement of the winners in the group's spring drawing. Drawing prizes include two

seats on a five-day rafting trip on the Snake River, two nights lodging at the Wallowa Lake Lodge, dinner and drinks for two at the Gold Room in Joseph and an echo fly fishing rod.

A limited number of drawing tickets are available until May 7 via the website [JosephBranchTrail.org](http://JosephBranchTrail.org).

The consortium hopes to establish a 63-mile route along the tracks from Elgin to Joseph, but objections by landowners in Wallowa County have led to the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners denying conditional use permits for the project where it runs through the county.

Wallowa County Commission Chairwoman Susan Roberts, who is co-chairwoman of the Wallowa Union Railroad Authority, said Feb. 21 she believes the project is unlikely to go through.

"It's doubtful it'll ever go through because people were vehemently opposed to it," Roberts said. "Wallowa County Planning (Department) at this time is not involved because it's not in our county."

But Gregg Kleiner, project coordinator for the consortium, said in an email April 26 that he believes there is strong hope for the success of the project.

"Momentum is building, our membership is growing and we're attracting major funding and support," Kleiner said.

He added in a May 2 email that the conditional use permit was not formally denied, as it had been withdrawn upon the recusal of one commissioner.

All are welcome to join the May 7 gathering, but an RSVP is requested by sending an email to [info@josephbranchtrail.org](mailto:info@josephbranchtrail.org).

**Congratulations!**

Enterprise High School Junior, Harlie Stein daughter of Adam and Aneliese Stein of Joseph is the new Queen of the District 3 Idaho High School Rodeo Association.

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