

Invasive weed of the week

By Jeffrey Pettingill

The Enemy

Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*)

The Strategy

This is a biennial plant that grows from 1 to 4 feet tall and reproduces by seed. Each plant will send up four to six vegetation shoots. The leaves are rough, long (resembles a hound's tongue), and somewhat hairy. The flowers of this enemy are reddish-purple and form four prickly nutlets, each about 1/3-inch long with barbs that allow it to cling onto clothing, fur, shoelaces, and anything that brushes against it. Houndstongue is toxic to animals as it causes liver damage. It is mainly spread by wildlife and livestock, but we can find it anywhere humans have visited.

Attack

One of the ways that animals eat it is by indirect ingestion through weedy baled hay and alfalfa. The seed can catch a ride on animal's fur



Photo by: Richard Old
www.xidservices.com

Rich Old/ Contributed Photo

Houndstongue, also known as beggar's lice, is easily spread because its seeds cling to almost anything

or feathers and be carried for many, many miles. This plant is extremely mobile and

water) areas as there is an abundance of moisture and it gets rubbed off animals in the shade by the branches. Because the seed is cased in the hard barbed shell the seed can last seven to 10 years in the soil.

Defense

As this is a biennial plant, mechanical control can be quite effective. If you decide to dig it out with a shovel just make sure that you get at least 3 inches of the root. Research is in the final stages in finding a biological control insect that will be effective in slowing the spread of this plant. Many herbicides are available that work well. Telar XP, Opensight, and Milestone work extremely well. Treatments can be in spring or fall.

Jeffrey Pettingill is the weed control supervisor for Baker County. He encourages people with noxious weed questions to call him at 541-523-0618 or 541-519-0204. He also encourages people to like the Baker County Weed District's Facebook page.

Wyden, Merkley want to add dozens of streams to Wild and Scenic Rivers list

By Ellen Morris Bishop

For the EO Media Group

ENTERPRISE — Northeast Oregon is wild, scenic and recreational. If a new bill in the U.S. Senate becomes law, more local streams will officially become Wild, Scenic or Recreational, too.

Oregon's U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, both Democrats, cosponsored the River Democracy Act of 2021, which would add nearly 4,700 miles of rivers and streams in Oregon to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system, bringing the total length of protected rivers in Oregon to almost 6,900 miles, or 6.2% of the state's 110,994 miles of streams.

That includes more than 700 miles in Wallowa, Union, Baker and Grant counties. The new designations include many tributaries important to fish, as well as portions of main stem rivers here and across Oregon.

"Rivers and streams are Oregon's lifeblood," Wyden said. "More protected rivers and clear management objectives means more jobs, improved wildfire resiliency and a guarantee for the livability of Oregon."

Union County Commissioner Donna Beverage expressed concerns about duplicating protection for endangered species and increasing wildfire threats.

"This proposed act has the potential to restrict customary use, limit economic opportunity and erode the multiple use character of Union County," she said. "It will not provide any economic benefit and will have negative impacts on legal water users."

Wallowa County Commissioner John Hillock was cautious about the proposed



Ellen Morris Bishop/For EO Media Group

The Grande Ronde River about 8 miles below Troy. A bill from Oregon's U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley would designate about 42 miles of the Grande Ronde River as wild where it runs through the Umatilla or Wallowa-Whitman national forests.

designation, especially on private lands.

"It looks as though there will be some impact to private landowners in the Crow Creek-Chesnimnus drainages," he said. "Private landowners should be compensated if they can't develop. I'm not in favor of putting undue burdens on private property owners in (agency-developed) management plans."

The specific protections for each designated stream-reach will be determined by a management plan developed by the U.S. Forest Service or other agency the bill designated. The vast majority of the proposed designations are on federal lands. The bill has language to ensure nothing in the bill would affect private property rights on the short stretches on private lands, according to Wyden spokesperson Hank Stern.

The new legislation includes the requirement that federal land managers assess wildfire risks in the stream corridors, implement a plan to reduce wildfire risks to homes and businesses near Wild and Scenic Rivers, assist

local governments to mitigate wildfire risks and restore water quality should a fire strike near a Wild and Scenic River.

"This is a remarkable achievement by Sen. Wyden," said Gregg Haller, executive director of the Pacific Rivers Council. "It's a landmark effort to build climate resiliency into our watersheds, including concerns for drought, increased wildfire, stream temperatures for fish habitat. It's a very forward-looking bill and it makes Oregon the leader in this area."

The list of streams is long. All streams and reaches, and their proposed designations, are listed in the River Democracy Act of 2021, available at www.wyden.senate.gov/download/river-democracy-act-of-2021-bill-text.

In Wallowa County, about 440 miles of rivers and streams in the drainages of Joseph Creek and the Imnaha, Grande Ronde and Snake rivers are in the bill.

See Rivers/Page 5A

Existing wild and scenic rivers list

- Eagle Creek, 28.9 miles, Eagle Lake to Wallowa-Whitman boundary at Skull Creek. Designated in 1988.
- Grande Ronde River, 43.8 miles, Wallowa River confluence to Washington border. Designated in 1988.
- North Fork John Day River, 54.1 miles, headwaters to Camas Creek confluence. Designated in 1988.
- Joseph Creek, 8.6 miles, one mile downstream from Cougar Creek to Wallowa-Whitman boundary. Designated in 1988.
- Lostine River, 16 miles, from headwaters to Wallowa-Whitman boundary. Designated in 1988.
- Minam River, 41.9 miles, from headwaters to Eagle Cap Wilderness boundary. Designated in 1988.
- North Powder River, 6.4 miles, from headwaters to Wallowa-Whitman boundary. Designated in 1988.
- Powder River, 11.7 miles, from Thief Valley Dam to Highway 203. Designated in 1988.
- Snake River, 66.9 miles, from Hells Canyon Dam downstream. Designated in 1975.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Baker Middle School announces honor roll

Baker Middle School has announced its first semester honor roll.

Students with an asterisk after their name earned a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Eighth grade

Jose Armenta*, Benjamin Ashton, Colton Birmingham, Daniel Brown, Palmer Chandler, Kady Child, Rebecca Craigmile*, Ashlyn Dalton*, Tessa Feeley, Kevin Gutierrez-Dealy, Sofia Hanson*, Olivia Jacoby*, Anastasia Johnson, Hannah Lay, Jaxon Logsdon*, Jessica Mercado, Zane Morgan, Emylia Myer*, Brooklyn Rayl*, Anastacio Rodriguez, Alexis Rupel*, Eowyn Smith*, Sadie Stampfle, Tiyana Stevens, Antonio Washington*, Peyton Waters, Jayden Whitford, Lilyana Wilson, Alexander Wise, Paige Wolfe

Seventh grade

Claire Bachman, Sage Baker, Athena Bork, Kegan Bott*, Nolan Briels*, Ashlyn Child*, Jasmine Cole, Dylan Conklin, Andie-Jo Craigmile, Sage Cuzick, Landon Dougherty, Harris Gaslin*, Talon Gyllenberg*, Gage Hatfield, Henry Hester, Riley Hurliman, Alex Jaca, Dean Jobs, Taylor Johnson, Rasean Jones, Jack Joseph*, Daniel Maldonado*, Jake McClaughry*, Kathryn Murphy, Elissa Nilsen, William O'Connell, Gwendolyn Rasmussen, Kara Regan*, Andrew Richards, Reagan Ritter*, Leona Rose, Erelah Rosin, Chase Roy, Reese Roys*, Madelyn Rudi, Gracie Spike*, Clayton Stevens, Wayland Thomas, Ella Wilde*, Roman Zickgraf

County seeks proposals for transportation agencies that serve seniors, others

Baker County is soliciting proposals for projects benefiting transportation agencies that serve seniors and people with disabilities. The purpose is to remove barriers to people using transportation services.

Information on the program and the application can be found at: <https://www.oregon.gov/odot/RPTD/Pages/Funding-Opportunities.aspx> under the 5310 tab. Proposals can be up to \$163,000.

Project proposals are due by 4 p.m. on Feb. 24. Submit proposals to Doni, Transportation Grants Administrator, 1995 Third St., Baker City, OR 97814 or dburland@bakercounty.org

New At The Library

Patrons can reserve materials in advance online or by calling 541-523-6419. Drive-in hours at 2400 Resort St. are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

FICTION

- "Blood Grove," Walter Mosley
- "The Four Winds," Kristin Hannah
- "The Lost Boys," Faye Kellerman
- "The Shadow Box," Luanne Rice
- "Crown of Shards" series, Jennifer Estep

NONFICTION

- "Wicked Plants," Amy Stewart
- "This is a Book for Parents of Gay Kids," Dannielle Owens-Reid
- "Stay Fit For Life," Joshua Kozak
- "Women of the Blue & Gray," Marianne Monson
- "The Total Gun Manual," David Petzal

DVDS

- "Born Racer" (Documentary)
- "Jungleland" (Drama)
- "Shot Caller" (Action)
- "Undertaker: the Last Ride" (Documentary)
- "Hope Has a Name" (Documentary)

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Thursday 8am-12pm
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John Day (every other Monday)
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Night @ Old Auburn
"COVID STYLE" • February 27, 2021
Poker Run: 2:00pm - 5:00pm
Drive Through Dinner: 5:00pm - 7:00pm
"POKER RUN"

Enjoy a drive through historical Baker City as you collect your best poker hand at 7 different landmarks.

You will begin at the Baker Heritage Museum and collect your first card as well as the clues to the rest of the landmarks to collect your poker hand. Best 5 out of 7 cards to be turned in back at the museum by 5:00 pm.

\$20 buy in to start your journey.
\$300 Visa Gift Card is up for grabs.

REMEMBER, All proceeds benefit the Baker Heritage museum

"DRIVE THRU DINNER"
End your day with a delightful dinner of a Prime Rib sandwich with all the fixings. \$35 not only buys you an incredible dinner, each ticket will be entered into a drawing for an array of prizes. All you need to do is drive thru at North Baker School, entering on 8th Street, off of B street.

SPONSORED BY: The Grove Team, Ash Grove Cement, OTEC and Triple C Ready-Mix

You: A good listener with strong writing skills. A problem-solver with drive. The idea of playing a role in Baker's future and helping people is energizing!

Us: A small team of dedicated land use professionals. A fun and interactive office dynamic. Coordinating development with multiple community partners.

Join our team!



Sound like a good fit?

Visit www.bakercounty.org to apply and learn more about the position. Benefits included.