



Prineville City Manager Steve Forrester
August 24th, 2010

Staff Report – *Status of Noxious Weed Abatement PCO: 93.40*

Department: Police

Staff: Chief Eric Bush

Recommendation/Conclusion:

Current abatement processes are showing positive results and should continue. No action by Council is recommended at this time.

Overview:

Due to a number of circumstances our community has seen a significant increase in the number of properties that are failing to comply with the City's Noxious Weed ordinance, 93.40. This ordinance requires vegetation be maintained in a safe manner during certain times of the year.

Since the beginning of this year the Police Department has received 149 complaints related to Noxious Weeds. Of those 149 complaints 46 properties were identified in violation of City Ordinance.

On July 21st, each of the above properties received a warning letter and within the first 10 days 80% of those properties were in compliance. Through close management, it took approximately two weeks to bring an additional 10% of the original 46 properties into compliance. Five properties, representing approximately the last 10% of the original 46 require abatement.

Of those five, two have been abated by a volunteer and one has been abated by a landscape company. We estimate that the remaining two properties will be brought into compliance by September 3rd, 2010, likely through abatement.

Discussion:

Current demands on services for managing abatement have required the Police Department to shift focus from other areas of Ordinance enforcement, primarily managing the dog at large population and other, less common violations. The

system in place is adequate and no recommendation for action by the Council is anticipated.

Public Relations/Media

One letter by the Chief, has been published in the Central Oregonian in order to educate the community on the issue. An editorial by the Central Oregonian News Paper that supported the City's efforts to bring properties into compliance has also been published.

Budgetary Impact:

Insignificant.

Reference:

93.40 NOXIOUS VEGETATION.

(A) *Definitions.*

(1) The term **NOXIOUS VEGETATION** does not include vegetation that constitutes an agricultural crop, unless that vegetation is a health hazard or a fire or traffic hazard within the meaning of division (2).

(2) The term **NOXIOUS VEGETATION** does include, at any time between May 1 and November 1 of any year the following.

(a) **Weeds** more than ten inches high.

(b) Grass more than ten inches high and not within the exception stated in division (1).

(c) **Weeds**, grass or vegetation that is a health hazard, a fire hazard because it is near other combustibles or a traffic hazard because it impairs the view of a public thoroughfare or otherwise makes use of the thoroughfare hazardous.

(B) Between May 1 and November 1 of any year, no owner or person in charge of property may allow noxious vegetation to be on the property or in the right-of-way of a public thoroughfare abutting on the property. It shall be the duty of an owner or person in charge of property to cut down and haul away or to destroy grass, shrubbery, brush, bushes, **weeds** or other noxious vegetation as often as needed to prevent them from becoming unsightly, from becoming a fire hazard or in the case of **weeds** or other noxious vegetation, from maturing or from going to seed.

('91 Code, § 4-4.18) (Ord. 911, passed 4-28-87) [Penalty, see § 93.99](#)