



Prineville City Manager Steve Forrester
July 24th, 2012

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

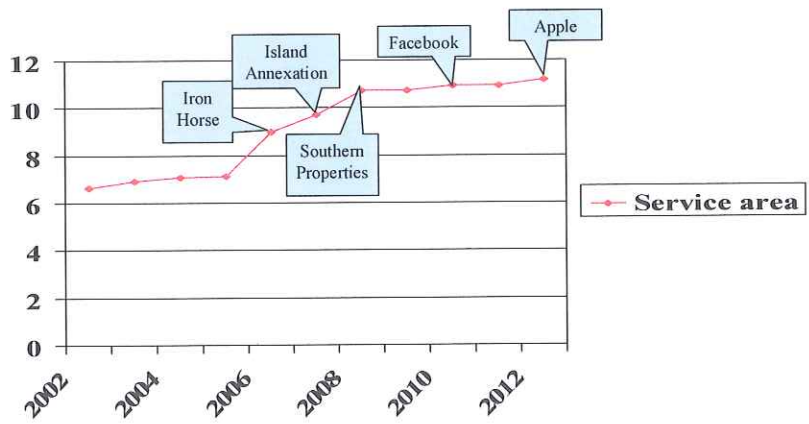
Department: Police

Staff: Chief Eric Bush

Recommendation/Conclusion:

Current abatement processes are showing positive results and should continue. Due to the significant amount of urban / interface annexations in the last two years and the relative lack of development of existing home sites and previous annexations, staff recommends development of additional ordinance language to accommodate the new, larger urban growth annexations.

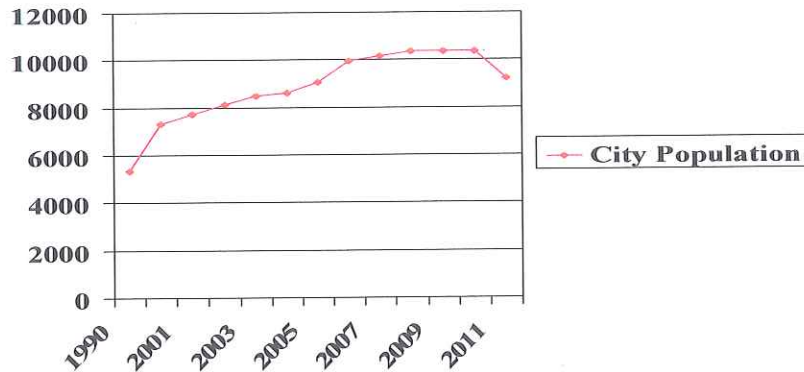
Police Service Area in Sq Miles



Overview:

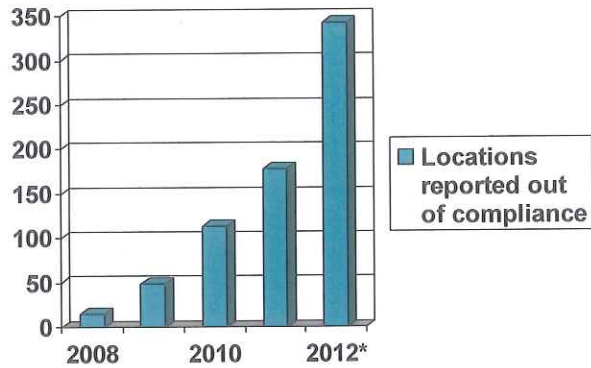
Due to a number of factors, that includes an overall growth in our service population in the last 5 years, our community continues to see increases in the number of properties that are failing to comply with the City's Noxious Weed ordinance, 93.40. This ordinance requires vegetation be maintained in a safe manner during certain times of the year. In 2011 we saw a 95% compliance rate by the end of the weed season (November 1st).

Service Population



Since the beginning of this year the Police Department has received 171 complaints related to Noxious Weeds. To date, of those 171 complaints 92 properties are now in compliance for a current compliance rate of 53%. A total of 167 abatement warnings have been issued. 22 of the current complaint locations are repeat offenders from previous years.

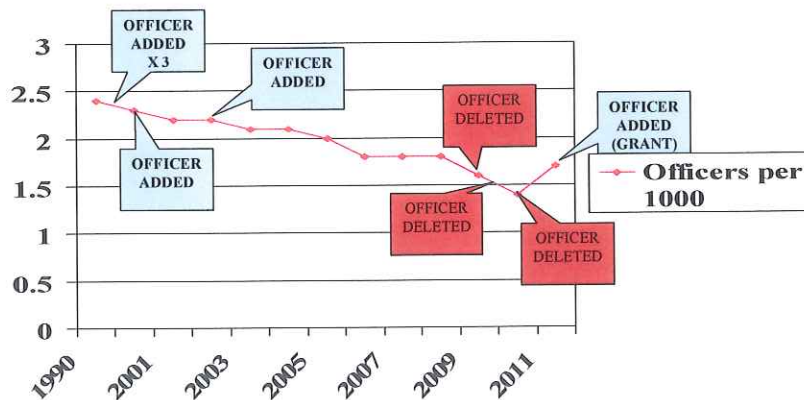
Calls for Service by Location



Staffing adjustments

This year the responsibility for tracking and managing weed complaints has shifted to administrative staff at the Police Department. This move has significantly improved efficiency and freed up the Community Service Officer for more field work. This has resulted in the identification and managing of non-compliant locations much earlier in the season.

Police Officers per 1000 Residents



Budgetary Impact: Insignificant.

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](#)