



# Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board

Rochelle Osborne, Coordinator

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Reclassification Request

Hoary Alyssum - (*Berteroa incana*)

Hoary Alyssum is an annual, biennial, or short lived perennial herb growing from 1 – 3.5 feet tall. It infests alfalfa, pastures, turfs, and many other locations. Hoary Alyssum does not respond to mowing and has no bio-controls at this time. Tilling when the plant is young and herbicide application give sufficient control. This plant is also toxic to livestock specifically horses and may even cause death depending on the amount consumed this is either dried or green.

The original infestation was recorded in the 1980's near Malo, WA. It wasn't until mid-1990 that the infestation began to spread rapidly throughout the northern part of the county. Since 2006 the Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board has offered cost assistance on Hoary Alyssum in both the northern and southern portions of the county to try and gain control of Hoary Alyssum to no avail.

Hoary Alyssum was requested to be designated from Highway 20 South by the FCNWCB in 2010. We are now requesting Hoary Alyssum to be undesignated throughout the whole county. Despite control efforts it has still spread to the southern portion of our county with infestations at the southernmost point of our county. Half of Ferry County is the Colville Confederated Tribe. They have elected not to treat this weed species as a priority due to the fact that the spread is too great to control and efforts would be better spent on other species that have not yet spread to this degree. With both of these things in mind we can no longer keep this noxious weed in check.

Roadsides will continue to be treated and our Board may elect to control Hoary Alyssum on roadsides to stop the spread to neighboring counties where Hoary Alyssum is still designated. This is the approached the Colville Confederate Tribe has taken. They still provide funding for roadside treatment of Hoary Alyssum, but are not targeting infestations.

Sincerely,

Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board,  
Craig Lamberson, Chairman

*The goal of the weed board program is to aid in the containment, slow the spread and when possible, the eradication of noxious weed infestations and the identification and prevention of new infestations of other problem weeds under RCW 17. 10.*  
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