**Enclosure 1**

**Annual Report for Cooperative Agreements Executed under**
**7 U.S.C. § 2814, Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974,**
**Management of Undesirable Plants on Federal Lands**
**Portland District**
**14 January 2025**

This annual report for 2024 is being submitted per the implementation guidance for the delegation of authority of 7 U.S.C. § 2814, Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, Management of Undesirable Plants on Federal Lands dated 04 August 2023.

Portland District awarded six (6) cooperative agreements with state and county agencies in FY24.

All Agreements had five (5) distinct components listed in the Statement of Work: Coordination, Planning, Surveying, Implementation, and Reporting. All cooperating agencies contributed to the Coordination, Planning and Reporting components, even if the Surveying and Implementation work was limited due to timing of award and environmental factors. (e.g., Hot and dry conditions limit the effectiveness of some herbicides.) The Coordination and Planning work was done once the award was executed, and the Reporting work was done at the end of the period of performance. Specific implementation accomplishments are as follows.

*Agreement Number:* W9127N-24-2-0001
*Recipient:* Oregon Department of Agriculture
*Base Year Period of Performance:* 26 April 2024 – 28 February 2025
*Funding Obligated*: $30,000
*Funding Dispersed to date*: $0
*Accomplishments:* A kickoff meeting was held on August 7, 2024, but due to a complete turnover in staff in the Willamette Valley Project botany department, no work was coordinated with ODA.

*Path Forward:* Both the Corps and the recipient are eager to bilaterally exercise Option Year 1, with a full 12-month period of performance to accomplish the objectives.

*Agreement Number:* W9127N-24-2-0002
*Recipient:* Skamania County, Washington
*Base Year Period of Performance*: 17 May 2024 – 28 February 2025
*Funding Obligated*: $15,000
*Funding Dispersed to date*: $10,972.93
*Accomplishments:* Target award date was 01 March 2024. As a result of the delay in the Agreement being executed, planning was simplified for 2024. It was too late to treat some species like poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), so Skamania County focused on target species and areas that could still be effectively managed within the season. High priority species for Skamania County and the Columbia Gorge region were prioritized first. Skamania County also coordinated with USACE staff and the Forest Youth Success (local youth conservation corps) to control priority weeds manually in mid-summer.
Noxious weeds were chemically and manually controlled at the Bonneville Project and the Fort Lugenbeel area on 48 acres. These weeds included knapweed species (*Centaurea* spp.),

indigobush (*Amorpha fruticosa*), scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), tansy ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), spurge laurel (*Daphne laureola*), and others. This acreage does not include the area where Forest Youth Success manually removed over 5,000 pounds of noxious weeds.

*Path Forward*: Additional treatment days and surveying are planned between January 1 and February 28, 2025, of the current base year period of performance. Both the Corps and the recipient found the base year of this Agreement to be successful and plan to bilaterally exercise Option Year 1, with a full 12-month period of performance to accomplish the objectives.

*Agreement Number:* W9127N-24-2-0004
*Recipient:* Benton County Noxious Weed Control Board (Washington)
*Base Year Period of Performance*: 01 July 2024 – 28 February 2025
*Funding Obligated*: $3,000
*Funding Dispersed to date*: $0
*Accomplishments:* A little survey work was accomplished on USACE lands in Benton County, WA, to identify target species. Before the end of the period of performance, work is planned to treat Plymouth Campground with a non-selective and a pre-emergent herbicide so the campground will be ready for opening on 15 April 2025.

*Path Forward:* Both the Corps and the recipient are eager to bilaterally exercise Option Year 1, with a full 12-month period of performance to accomplish the objectives.

*Agreement Number*: W9127N-24-2-0005
*Recipient:* Sherman County, Oregon
*Base Year Period of Performance*: 15 May 2024 – 28 February 2025
*Funding Obligated*: $13,000
*Funding Dispersed to date:* $13,000
*Accomplishments:* A total of 116.5 acres were treated with herbicide, including 75 acres at Giles French Park, 14 acres inside the John Day Lock and Dam security fence, 16 acres at LePage Park and 11.5 acres at Rufus Landing. Target species included puncturevine, rush skeleton weed, diffuse knapweed, yellow star thistle, and Himalayan black berries. Residual treatments were made in the fall instead of spring due to delay in Agreement award date. Target award date was 01 March 2024.

*Path Forward:* Both the Corps and the recipient are eager to bilaterally exercise Option Year 1, with a full 12-month period of performance to accomplish the objectives.

*Agreement Number*: W9127N-24-2-0006
*Recipient*: Gilliam County, Oregon
*Base Year Period of Performance:* 08 July 2024 – 28 February 2025
*Funding Obligated*: $6,911.29
*Funding Dispersed to date*: $0
*Accomplishments:* Target award date was 01 March 2024. Objective was to treat 20 acres in the Philippi Park area. This includes, lawn treatments, bare ground treatment, broadleaf and undesirable plant management. When this Agreement was finalized, it was fire season and that prevented the recipient from driving to the park through Philippi's property. All the supplies including herbicides needed for this project have been procured, and the backpack sprayers and ATVs have been prepared. Work will be accomplished from the date of this report through the end of Period of Performance as weather allows. No invoices have been received to date but may be submitted before the end of the period of performance.

*Path Forward*: Both the Corps and the recipient are eager to bilaterally exercise Option Year 1, with a full 12-month period of performance to accomplish the objectives.

Agreement Number: W9127N-24-2-0007

Recipient: Morrow County, Oregon

Base Year Period of Performance: 20 May 2024 – 28 February 2025

Funding Obligated: $38,540

Funding Dispersed to date: $34,385.85

*Accomplishments:* The most significant accomplishment was the discovery and treatment of Dalmatian Toadflax. This was the only A-listed weed found and was successfully treated for all known existing plants. Other noted accomplishments were the treatment of Canadian and Scotch Thistles at the east end of Willow Creek reservoir that included the access roads to the parking areas. The USACE Compound Yard at the reservoir also saw significant improvements with the weed treatment by herbicide. It is too early to see the full scope of the pre-emergent application of herbicide, but the conditions were very favorable and significant moisture has followed.

Additionally, the recipient provided a herd of goats to graze the encroaching vegetation of the face of Willow Creek dam and adjacent Project lands. Left unchecked, this vegetation could compromise the structural integrity of the dam (roller-compacted concrete) and presents increased wildfire risk to Corps assets and surrounding neighborhoods. This biocontrol method is a natural alternative to chemical treatments and significantly reduces wildfire risk. Additionally, prescribing this work under a cooperative agreement significantly reduces internal labor for supervision and administration of a traditional contract (both NRM and CT), saving thousands of taxpayer dollars. The prescriptive goat grazing successfully controlled weed growth and exceeded expectations. The goats were introduced on the west side and grazed their way east, which allowed significant growth of hemlock at the east end by the time the goats had arrived at the pasture in that area. This will be changed in the future to prevent the large overgrowth of hemlock and retain better control.

*Path Forward:* Both the Corps and the recipient found the base year of this Agreement to be successful and plan to bilaterally exercise Option Year 1.