

DNS 23-045 Comment from Emma Guerrant

received via PublicInput on 11/21/2023

As a student at Green River College's Natural Resource Program, I have become passionate about projects that affect our resources, in both positive and negative ways. Currently, I have started my third year and am working towards my Bachelor in Natural Resources. Over my time in the program, restoration has piqued my interest. While attending classes, this project came to my attention, and I became curious as to how the project would help. While the project seems sound and well set up and researched, I had one question about the follow up management of the noxious weeds SEPA # 23-045 – West Little Walla Walla River Restoration - DNS Section B.1.a - Noxious weeds treated annually It was not made clear how invasive/noxious weed removal was done, currently and into the future. This is not in reference to the Reed Canary Grass, as that was well specified, and the precautions were listed well (A.11, 3.a.2). The other noxious weeds listed (4.e) in the project area that are currently being treated are the ones in question. As the proposed project hopes to enhance the existing and create more wetlands, the measures used may need to change or be modified to not harm the riparian areas depending on the current strategy used. If there is information on this process, I would appreciate the knowledge for future reference. Thank you for your time. -Emma Guerrant, Green River College Student

Nov 21, 2023 3:30 pm

WDFW Response:

Currently noxious weed control is done with herbicide application and mechanical methods (mowing). When herbicides are used the labels are followed closely and herbicides are applied consistent with labeled uses. As more wetlands develop over time, or plant communities change, noxious weed control efforts will change appropriately.