

# Foster Creek Conservation District

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Board Chair: John McLean



State Legislative District #12  
Congressional District #4

## 2015 Feature Accomplishment: Biological weed control



Dalmatian Toadflax

**RESOURCE CHALLENGE** “Noxious weed” is the traditional, legal term for invasive plants that are so aggressive they harm our ecosystems or disrupt agricultural production. These plants crowd out the native species that fish and wildlife depend on. They also cost farmers millions of dollars in control efforts and lost production. The term “noxious weed” includes non-native invasive plants, shrubs, and trees that grow both on land and in wetlands, lakes, shorelines, and streams.

**PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS** Partnering with WSU Extension, Foster Creek Conservation District (FCCD) staff identifies the major invasive weeds within Douglas County in order to determine which bioagents will help control their populations.

Biological weed control is the “act of bringing back together the weed and its natural enemies”. Only the bioagents — which have run the gauntlet of the USDA test and demonstrated that they will starve rather than eat anything but their host — are released. The use of bioagents is a long-term method for weed management. FCCD provides insects for Dalmatian toadflax, Canada thistle, Diffuse knapweed, and Common mullein.

**KEY PARTNERS:** WSU Extension; State Conservation Commission; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



Douglas County land managers release bioagents for Dalmatian toadflax

## Other Accomplishments



Finalized the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for Douglas County. Species covered include sage grouse, pygmy rabbit, Washington ground squirrel, and sharp-tail grouse. Credit: Sharon Davis



Greater sage-grouse  
Credit: Sharon Davis



Douglas County informational HCP meeting

## More Work to Do!

- Signing of the Douglas County Habitat Conservation Plan with US Fish and Wildlife Service; 30 Section 10 Permits will be processed.
- Continue implementation to control invasive weeds on approximately 30 properties in Douglas County.
- Implement direct seed practice with 12 land managers.
- Implement stream restoration efforts with three land managers.