

2ND ANNUAL WEED AWARE WORKSHOP

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
Thursday April 1, 2004 6pm – 9pm and Saturday April 3, 2004 9am – 3pm

WHAT ARE WEEDS AND WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT THEM?

- ❖ Weeds are non-native invasive plants
- ❖ They present a great challenge to natural resource protection
- ❖ They degrade native habitats, and replace native plants that provide critical food for wildlife
- ❖ They hinder habitat restoration efforts
- ❖ They negatively affect ecosystem processes
- ❖ They may hybridize with native plants, forever altering the genetic integrity of native species

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP...

- ❖ Training session for new or past volunteers interested in being a "Refuge Weed Warrior" at Nisqually NWR, Black River Unit, and Grays Harbor NWR
- ❖ Focus on prevention, control, and eradication of non-native invasive plants
- ❖ Presentations by Refuge staff and members of the Thurston County and Washington State weed boards
- ❖ Topics include definitions, plant ID, reasons for concern, methods of transport, control methods, and reporting procedures (including how to use a GPS unit)
- ❖ Field trip on Saturday!



BECOME A
REFUGE
WEED
WARRIOR!

WHAT DO REFUGE WEED WARRIORS DO?

They may do any or all of the following activities, and may be assisted by other volunteers and staff:

- ❖ Control weed infestations
- ❖ Trail rove in search of new weed infestations
- ❖ Monitor weed infestations
- ❖ Use a GPS unit to document weed locations
- ❖ Enter and analyze data
- ❖ Produce maps and reports

QUALIFICATIONS & REQUIREMENTS:

Volunteers should be able and willing to:

- ❖ Work outside for up to 4 hours at a time, in variable weather and site conditions
- ❖ Hike into areas that are closed to public access
- ❖ Bend and kneel down to reach plants
- ❖ Pull weeds
- ❖ Use tools such as shovels, weed wrenches, hand pruners, machetes, and loppers
- ❖ Contribute 8 hours a month April thru September

This year's workshop has been expanded to focus more on field data collection methods, including instructions on how to use a GPS unit. If you plan to attend this year's workshop, please pre-register by **March 31st** by contacting Danielle D'Auria at (360) 753-9467 or via email: danielle_dauria@r1.fws.gov

