Wasco County Soil & Water Conservation District

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November 13, 2026

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Attn: Tristen Berg, Oregon State Weed Board
635 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for OSWB Grant Application – Ravenna Grass and High Priority Weed Control

Dear Review Committee,

The Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors, serving as the newly instated Wasco County Weed Board, is pleased to support the District's Oregon State Weed Board grant application focused on Ravenna grass and other high priority noxious weeds.

The Board recently adopted an updated County noxious weed list that prioritizes targeted management of invasive species that threaten agriculture, native habitats, waterways, and rangelands throughout Wasco County. Ravenna grass has emerged as a significant concern due to its ability to rapidly invade riparian areas, transportation corridors, and disturbed sites, where it can outcompete native vegetation and create long-term management challenges. The adopted weed list also identifies other priority species including leafy spurge, perennial pepperweed, purple loosestrife, knapweeds, and houndstongue for focused management efforts.

Wasco County encompasses diverse landscapes ranging from high-elevation forests to dry shrub-steppe and productive agricultural lands. Protecting these resources requires proactive management and early intervention before invasive species become widespread and costly to control.

Oregon State Weed Board funding is critical to helping establish and strengthen the county's renewed weed management program. This project will support early detection, rapid response, strategic treatment, and landowner outreach efforts that protect both economic and natural resources.

The Wasco County Weed Board, and SWCD Board of Directors respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this proposal and appreciates the continued investment in local weed management efforts across Oregon.

Sincerely,

Bill Hammel, District Board Chair
Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors
Serving as the Wasco County Weed Board