

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**February 19, 2008**

**MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**411 NORTH 5<sup>TH</sup> ST**  
**SHELTON, WA 98584**  
**(360) 427-9670 EXT. 419**

**TO: KMAS, KRXV, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN**

**RE: Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board Vacancies**

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The Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board needs representation from the southern area (Weed Control District 1) and northern area (Weed Control Districts 4 and 5) of Mason County. Noxious weeds threaten our agriculture base, livestock health, forests and public health. The board is comprised of five members, each representing one of the five designated weed control districts in the county. Four of the five members must be producers of an agricultural product, such as livestock, crops, shellfish, timber or Christmas trees.

The board has the mission of working to protect the citizens, natural resources (including lakes, shellfish and timber), livestock and agricultural resources of Mason County from the degrading effects of noxious weed invasions. The Board works to identify priority weed issues and develops a strategy to control noxious weeds with the cooperation of residents and agencies in the county. The Mason County Noxious Weed Control Program works to educate residents on noxious weed identification, eradication methods and works cooperatively with landowners who have noxious weed infestations.

Noxious Weed Background: Noxious weeds are non-native plants introduced to Washington through human actions. Because of their aggressive growth and lack of natural enemies in the state, these species can be highly destructive, competitive or difficult to control. These exotic species can reduce crop yields, destroy native plant and animal habitat, damage recreational opportunities, clog waterways, lower land values, increase fire risk and poison livestock. In the United States, introduced weeds are spreading across approximately 1.7 million acres of wildlife habitat and cause over \$26 billion dollars in crop losses each year.

To obtain an application please contact the Commissioners' Office at 427-9670 ext. 419 or 275-4467 ext. 419 or visit our website at [www.co.mason.wa.us](http://www.co.mason.wa.us). You may also pick up an application at the Mason County Commissioners' Office at 411 N Fifth Street in Shelton. For more information, interested individuals can contact Pat Grover at 427-9670 or 275-4467 ext. 592.

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Tim Sheldon  
Chair

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Ross Gallagher  
Commissioner

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Lynda Ring Erickson  
Commissioner