

MORROW SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S QUARTERLY FLYER: WINTER 2023-2024

Woven Wire Fence Removal

The late 1800's - early 1900's saw a boom in sheep grazing in Morrow County. With the end of open range and the beginning of grazing regulation, fencing was a popular option with ranchers. Woven wire fences reduced the need for herders, cut losses to predators, established boundaries & in the long run improved the economics of the ranch. Today, the large bands of sheep have dwindled as has the need for woven wire fences. Fences still define and divide ranches but don't need to be constructed in such a way that they pose a barrier to big game animals moving across the landscape.

The Morrow Soil & Water Conservation District's Blue Mountain Wildlife Fence Modification Project with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) has replaced over 15,000 ft. of woven wire fence with barbed wire (wildlife friendly specs), installed sections of drop-rail wildlife jump fencing & applied vinyl reflective markers to existing fences in high traffic wildlife areas.

To date, RMEF funds have been used to leverage over 2 million dollars from partners on this project. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Blue Mountain Elk Initiative (BMEI), & USDA Forest Service have all partnered with the SWCD on this project. To date, over 140 miles of woven wire fencing has been removed from the landscape, with more to come!

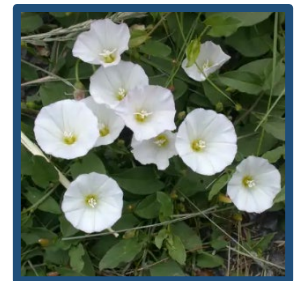
Weeds to Watch:

Field bindweed/Morningglory

Convolvulus arvensis L.

Field bindweed is a perennial herbaceous plant introduced from Europe with creeping and twining stems that grow along the ground and can form dense tangled mats. It has an extensive system of rhizomes that can grow deep into the soil. Flowers are bell or funnel-shaped, white to pinkish and approximately 1 inch in diameter.

Grows in a wide range of conditions from full sun to full shade and is drought tolerant. Very difficult to eradicate given its extensive root system (up to 10 ft.). Seeds remain viable for up to 50 years.



430 W. Linden Way
PO Box 127
Heppner, OR 97836
(541) 676- 5452
visit us @: morrowswcd.org

Have a CREP contract?
When does it expire? Plan to re-enroll?
Is it in need of a management activity?
Give us a call to find out.