

# WANTED

**NOT!**

## Field Work

Finally, as a NWV, you are now prepared to begin your Field Work. Your tasks will include the following ways to be involved in protecting our environment.

1. Learn to identify the noxious weeds most often found where you camp, hike, or ride. Your county weed office or extension service often offers free weed identification pamphlets to carry with you. If you find a suspicious plant, take a photo of it and write down the location to show to your local weed control office. If you are certain it is a noxious weed, pull it, put in a plastic bag, and throw it in the trash.



Camping along the Smith River

John Sackett

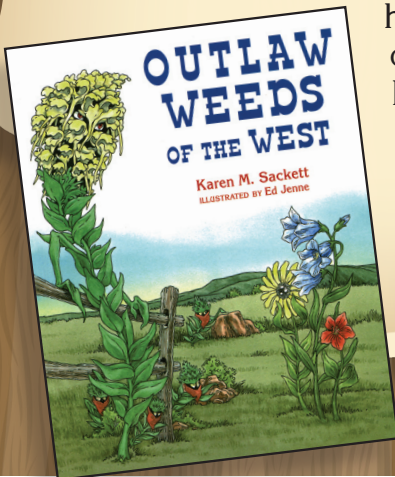
*Note: Remember, always wear gloves when you are pulling noxious weeds. Some have thorns or burrs and some produce chemicals that can irritate your skin.*

2. When you are hiking or riding, “think like a weed.” Invasive weeds love ground that has been disturbed (looks scraped or has fresh dirt showing), so watch for those areas. Also, watch along graveled roadsides. Remember that some noxious weeds are stowaways and they hide in the gravel.
3. After hiking, camping, or horseback riding, check your gear, clothing, dogs and horses for hitchhiking seeds. Remove the stickers or burrs and put them into a plastic bag to carry out with you to throw in the trash.



Houndstongue seed

John Sackett



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4. Check your ATV, bike, or truck or car for sticky hitchhikers if you have been riding off-road. Try to avoid traveling in weed infested areas.
5. After boating, help your family or friends wipe down the boat and trailer so that you will not spread invasive aquatic weeds.

**Congratulations, NWV!** You are now an important part of the noxious weed fighting Team! If you choose to learn more, move on to the Advanced Tasks.



John Sackett

Boat and Trailer

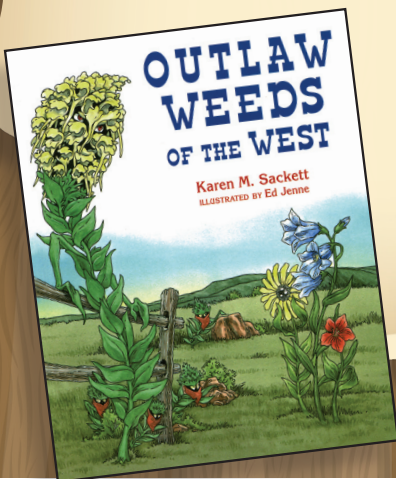
## Advanced NWV Tasks

1. Discover which noxious weeds threaten the states that border your state. Remember, they might be heading your way!
2. Study more about the use of insects for controlling noxious weeds. Which insects are predators for which noxious weeds? How do they attack the plant?
3. Researchers are trying to find more solutions to the problem of noxious weeds. For example, one possibility being studied is how certain noxious weeds can be used for fuel. Use your imagination. What would you suggest?
4. Learn how to use a GPS (Global Positioning System) device to accurately report the location of a noxious weed infestation that you may discover when hiking or camping.

*Note: Some "smart phones" have a GPS and offer free apps to report invasive species. Also, check out the early detection and rapid response (EDDRR) and the INVADERS Database programs.*

*([www.eddmaps.org](http://www.eddmaps.org) or [www.invader.dbs.umt.edu](http://www.invader.dbs.umt.edu))*

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5. Learn more about allelopathic plants, the plants that put biochemicals into the soil around them to keep other species from growing there.
6. Keep learning and remember that being an NWV isn't all work. It's important to enjoy this amazing world. Your final assignment is to explore the wonderful world of weeds.



*Author's Note: As a Noxious Weed Vigilante, your protective vigilance draws you into the marvelous world of nature in a special way. You will see how everything is connected and how living things interact with each other. The more you learn, the more you will discover and enjoy the important part you play in protecting nature's matchless beauty.*

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