



## News Release

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### **Ketchum to Spot-Spray Noxious Weeds** *Applications of Low-Toxicity Herbicide to Begin April 21*

KETCHUM, Idaho (April 14, 2014) – The City of Ketchum will begin spot-spraying noxious weeds in City rights-of-way with low-toxicity herbicide beginning April 21.

The City will spray only specific weeds identified by the state of Idaho as “noxious.” No entire rights-of-way will be sprayed and notices will be placed in affected areas 72 hours in advance, Juerg Stauffacher, parks and natural resources superintendent said.

It is safe for humans and animals to come in contact with the spray as soon as it is dry, he added. However, the City is taking extra precautions. Signs will be posted suggesting that people avoid the weeds for 72 hours after spraying. A special dye will allow people to see sprayed weeds easily, he added.

Residents who prefer to pull noxious weeds adjacent to their properties by hand may do so by notifying the City parks superintendent at 726-7820. The Parks Division may lend tools and provide garbage bags on request. It also is available to assist in identifying noxious weeds on public and private property and to answer questions about City policy.

Noxious weeds are species that grow rapidly and crowd out native plants. They can increase water and wind erosion, alter nutrient cycling, destroy wildlife habitat, reduce the usefulness of recreation areas, and decrease agricultural productivity, according to the Idaho Department of Agriculture.

Spot-spraying will continue throughout the summer as required, Stauffacher said.

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#### **About the City of Ketchum**

The City of Ketchum is located in the Wood River Valley in south central Idaho. Founded in 1880 during the mining boom, Ketchum is now regarded as one of the most popular destinations for winter and summer visitors due to its world-class skiing, mountain biking, fishing, hiking, restaurants, art galleries and shopping. The City of Ketchum hosts the famous annual Wagon Days Parade, held on Labor Day weekend, and numerous other year-round attractions. Ketchum is home to more than 10,000 full- and part-time residents. For more information about the City of Ketchum, visit [www.ketchumidaho.org](http://www.ketchumidaho.org).

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