



THE BOARD OF BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Jacob Greenberg, Chairman * Angenie McCleary, Vice-Chairman * Lawrence Schoen, Commissioner

***** Press Release – For Immediate Release *****

December 12, 2016 – 3:00 p.m.

The Board of Blaine County Commissioners and the Blaine County Noxious Weed Department would like to remind all residents of ordinance 2016-01 passed in February, 2016, prohibiting the sale, planting, and possession of Yew plant within unincorporated Blaine County. The Blaine County Noxious Weed Department would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your assistance and cooperation in helping control the continued presence and spread of the Yew plant.

At this time, Blaine County would like to take this opportunity to remind Blaine County residents that the sale and planting of the Yew plant can now result in a misdemeanor violation. This includes the Japanese Yew (*Taxus cuspidata*), European or English Yew (*Taxus baccata*), Chinese Yew (*Taxus chinensis*), and their hybrids within all of unincorporated Blaine County. Your diligence and continued efforts in ensuring this plant is not brought into Blaine County is appreciated.

This ordinance was passed in response to the death of at least twenty elk during the 2016 winter in developed areas through Blaine County from the consumption of Yew plants. Yew as the cause of death was confirmed by experts with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The Board of County Commissioners determined that these highly toxic plants pose an imminent danger to wildlife and a potential danger to pets, livestock, and children. Eradicating them will promote wildlife and community health and safety.

To facilitate disposal of Yew shrubs and trees, Blaine County will continue accepting all Yew plant materials at the Ohio Gulch and Carey Waste Transfer Stations free of charge. All main stems, trunks, limbs, leaves, and bark must be collected and delivered separately from all other household yard waste or charges will apply. All plant debris should be removed thoroughly from any site, as even a small amount of leaves or plant material can be deadly.

The Blaine County Noxious Weed Department and the University of Idaho Extension Office are ready to assist in identifying all State and County noxious weeds. To aid in the identification of the Yew plant, a picture or plant sample may be submitted, including branch, leaves, and flowers if present, for identification.

The Blaine County Noxious Weed Department may be reached at (208) 788-5543.

The University of Idaho Extension office may be reached at (208) 788-5585.

Jacob Greenberg
Chairman

Angenie McCleary
Vice-Chairman

Lawrence Schoen
Commissioner