

APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS

Access & Habitat Program
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE
Salem, OR 97302

I/We, Harney SWCD of Hines, Oregon, hereby make application for financial assistance under the terms and conditions of the Access and Habitat program in the amount \$ 14,633.00

The total cost of the project is \$44,459

I/We understand that if this project is approved for funding by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, before we receive project funds we will be required to:

- Sign a Grant Agreement containing the terms and conditions upon which funds will be released including submission of necessary permits;
- Obtain landowner and maintenance agreements if needed;
- Sign a certification to comply with state, federal and local regulations if needed;
- Submit a completion report to the Board on project performance.

I/We understand that if this application results in an access grant, ODFW will publicize my/our property via printed documents and internet for the purpose of helping hunters locate private lands that may be open to hunting. I/We will cooperate with ODFW to post signs indicating public hunting access at the project location.

I certify that either:

I am the sole landowner of the Property where the Access and Habitat Project will occur.

I am an authorized representative of the landowner of the property where the Access and Habitat project will occur.

I am leasing the property from the landowner and the lease allows me to enter into this agreement.

I have the legal authority to enter into a grant agreement for this Access and habitat project because: _____

(Fill in details – for example: “The project is on three parcels; one is owned by me, one is owned by my wife, and one is owned by our family farm business”).

Grantee Signature: _____



Date: _____

3/13/25

Position: Harney CWMA Coordinator

ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

Application for Grant Funds

1. **Project Title:** Lawen Salt Cedar 2025
2. **Applicant:** Harney SWCD Phone: 5415736446
Grantee: Harney SWCD (As will appear on contract/payments)
If private nonprofit, attach IRS letter of 501(c) (3) status
Address: P.O. Box 848
City/State/Zip: Hines/OR/97720 **Phone:** 5415736446
Email: Goss@harneyswcd.net
3. **Location:** ODFW East Region – Lawen, OR
Watershed District / Wildlife Management Unit: Hines District / Steens Mtn
County: Harney Township/Range/Section: T25-R32 S16
4. **Type of Project:**
 Habitat Improvement Access Damage
5. **Number of acres of habitat to be improved:** 3,928
6. **Number of acres of access to be provided:** N/A
 Welcome to Hunt By Permission Other _____
7. **Proposed Start Date:** 7/1/2025
8. **Proposed End Date:** 06/01/2027
9. **Estimated Cost of Project:** \$ 44,459.00
10. **Access and Habitat Fund Request:** \$ 14,633.00
11. **Briefly explain what the project proposes to do:**

The Lawen Salt Cedar 2025 project is located 20 miles southeast of Burns, Oregon. In recent years there has been a rapidly expanding infestation of Salt Cedar, necessitating an urgent need for control. Although Salt Cedar is widespread throughout Oregon, this is a new occurrence in Harney County. Salt Cedar infestations are rare, with this currently being the only known site of more than an intermittent single tree. Harney County has listed Salt Cedar as an A-list weed. In 2024 a local herbicide contractor noticed Salt Cedar as she was treating other weeds. She treated as many Salt Cedar as she could at that time and notified the CWMA to secure funding for further treatment. Although this is a locked basin, it often seasonally floods thousands of acres in the Lawen area. This could cause for rapid expansion of Salt Cedar within the Harney Basin. There is a true need to address this noxious weed prior to the next flooding event to stop

its spread. Harney CWMA has several partners eager to assist. While this portion of the Harney Basin is suffering from the current infestation, hundreds of thousands of surrounding acres are at risk of Salt Cedar spread, both on private, Oregon Department of State Lands, and the Malheur National Refuge. The DSL will fund treatment on its land. The Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (at the project's border) will expand its search and treatment efforts in 2025/2026 and beyond using the Harney County SWAT crew. Harney County Weed Control will partner in both increasing the right-of-way patrols in the area and assisting in the survey and treatments.

12. **Habitat and Landscape:** Describe the habitat and landscape of the project area.

The habitat within the specified treatment area consists of flat basin pastureland. In dry years, the access area is composed of meadow, hay, forbs, and bullrush. In years with precipitation events, this access area is composed of multiple sloughs, ponds, and flooded acreage that become occupied by wetland species of vegetation.

13. **Background:** Describe the project area and explain the wildlife habitat and/or access challenge or opportunity this project will address. Address how current management actions benefit public access and/or wildlife, and their habitat needs.

The project area encompasses a total of 5,510 acres. Of that acreage, 3,928 acres are private lands enrolled in the Access and Habitat program as "welcome to hunt." These properties provide public access to hunting an area within the Steens Mountain Wildlife Management Unit that would otherwise be unavailable. The area also provides access to the northern portion of MNWR for waterfowl hunting opportunities.

14. **Past A&H History:** Describe any past Access & Habitat project, especially if the proposed project deals with continuation or amendment to a past project.

The Lawen Lane Access Area has been enrolled with the A&H program since 2006. Prior to being enrolled in the program, this area was closed to public hunting and access. Most of the adjacent land is privately owned, with the exception to the south where the property connects with the northern portion of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

15. **Hunter Use Data:** New Projects: Must give estimates of expected usage and how usage will be assessed. Old Projects: Use Access Area Permit data, vehicle or pedestrian counts, hunter interviews, etc.

ODFW began collecting hunter use data on Lawen Access Area in 2012, using permit boxes. Permits provide a satisfaction rating from 1 to 5 (1 being not satisfied, 3 being satisfied, and 5 being very satisfied). The average satisfaction rating for the Lawen Access Area from 2012-2023 is 3.25. A county road bisects the project area and hunters can access anywhere along this road, sometimes missing a permit box resulting in missing data. The permits that are collected also are not tied to any specific parcel of the project due to the intermixed ownership of the Lawen Access Area, making it somewhat biased with where users utilize their hunting access.

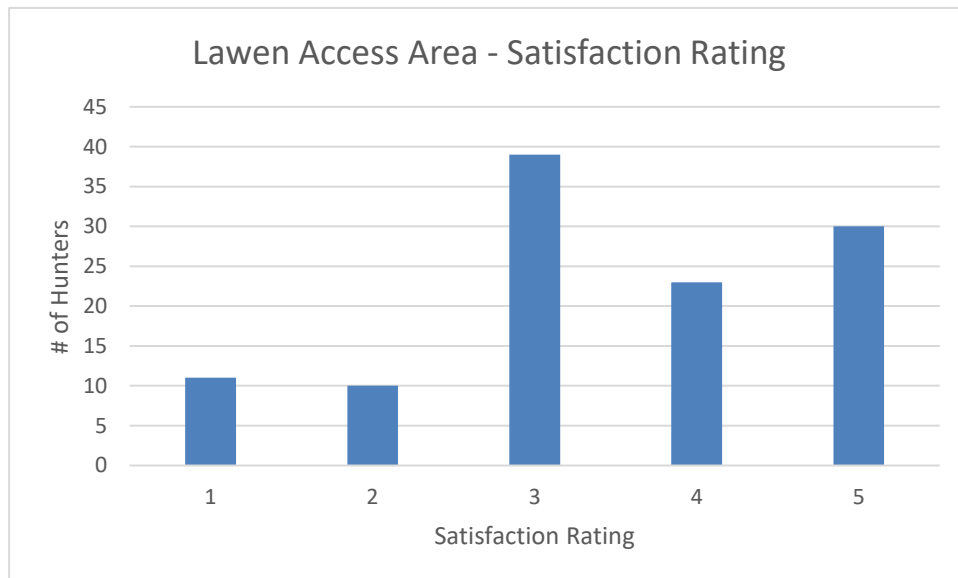


Figure 1: Hunter satisfaction rating on the Lawen Access Area (1= not satisfied, 3= Satisfied, 5= very Satisfied)

16. **Project Objective(s):**

- (a) What is the objective of the proposed project?

The goal is to reduce the amount of invasive Salt Cedar and prevent its spread into the wetland habitat within the Harney Basin.

(b) How will the project benefit wildlife habitat?

Salt cedar is a T listed species in Oregon, meaning that it is a priority noxious weed designated by the Oregon State Weed Board. By applying herbicide applications to the proposed areas, local wildlife will benefit through prevention of the spread of an invasive plant species, an increase/better retention of the water availability in this area for native wildlife and their habitat, and restoration of wetland habitat along the Malheur National Refuge's boundary.

(c) Select species that will benefit from **habitat** improvements:

- | <u>Big Game</u> | <u>Upland Bird</u> | <u>Migratory Game Bird</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deer | <input type="checkbox"/> Chukar | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ducks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elk | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Quail | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bear | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Valley Quail | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Coot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cougar | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pheasants | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wilsons Snipe |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pronghorn | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Grouse | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bighorn Sheep | <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey | <input type="checkbox"/> Band Tailed Pigeon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Goat | <input type="checkbox"/> Gray Partridge | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Coyotes & Small Mammals |

(d) Length of time benefits provided <3yr 3-6yr >6yr

Examples of Project Benefit Duration

Noxious weed.....2yrs	Forage planting.....5yrs	Aspen fencing..... 10yrs
Range fertilization...2yrs	Forest thinning.....5yrs	Aspen plant/fence 10yrs
Rx Fire-grassland.....2yrs	Aspen (conifer removal)....5yrs	Road closure..... 10yrs
Rx Fire-forested.....3yrs	Juniper removal.....7yrs	Road decommission....10yrs
Fence Removal.....10yrs	Water Dev/Enhancement.10yrs	

(Source: Blue Mountains Elk Initiative Project Evaluation Criteria)

(e) How will the project benefit public access? If limited access, how many hunters will be permitted?

N/A

(f) Select species for which public access will provide:

<u>Big Game</u>	<u>Upland Bird</u>	<u>Migratory Game Bird</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deer	<input type="checkbox"/> Chukar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ducks
<input type="checkbox"/> Elk	<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Quail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geese
<input type="checkbox"/> Bear	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Valley Quail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Coot
<input type="checkbox"/> Cougar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pheasants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wilsons Snipe
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pronghorn	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Grouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove
<input type="checkbox"/> Bighorn Sheep	<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/> Band Tailed Pigeon
<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Goat	<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Partridge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Coyotes & Small Mammals

(g) If damage related, how will the project alleviate/eliminate the problem?

N/A.

17. **Project Location:** Attach a map and provide a description of the location and how to get there from a major highway.

SEE ATTACHED MAP (Figure 2.). The project area is located approximately 20 miles SE of Burns, Oregon.

18. **Procedure:** Specifically describe how the project will be conducted--use separate page for additional information, drawings, or pictures.

The Lawen Salt Cedar 2025 Project is approximately 3,928 acres. With all acres needing surveyed and approximately 20 net acres of treatment. Utilizing the transect method we will locate and treat the Salt Cedar discovered. The treatment will include spraying plants in a foliar application with an approved herbicide during the bud to blooming stage of the growth period. The survey will be conducted in conjunction with the treatment element of the project. We will use GPS-enabled tablets to record the treatment points and Garmin GPS units for tracks. The tracks will ensure we do not have holes in our survey transects. The Harney CWMA coordinator and the Harney County Weed department will partner on the treatments and surveys and will be using an Imazapyr product with a quality surfactant such as Syltac EA. The surveying and treatment will be conducted at the same time. The Harney CWMA will conduct a monitoring program for the next two years. Following that time monitoring will be handed off to the landowners.

19. **Permits:** Have all the appropriate permits been secured or applied for? Examples: Water Resources Department for water rights, Division of State Lands for fill-removal or wetlands projects.

This project will require a land use permit that will be acquired before project implementation.

20. **Scheduling:** What is the estimated project schedule?
- a. Habitat Work Start Date: 08/01/2025
Habitat Work Completion Date: 06/01/2027
Access Agreement Start Date: / /
Access Agreement End Date: / /
 - b. List major project activities and time schedule for each:

Activity

- 1. Survey and treat Salt Cedar 7/15/2025
- 2. Second survey and treatment of Salt Cedar 08/10/2025
- 3. Alt. year – Survey and treat Salt Cedar 7/15/2026
- 4. Alt. year – Second survey and treatment of Salt Cedar 08/10/2026

21. **Participation and Funding:** Will other organizations or individuals participate in the project? If so, list and describe participation, and attach letters of commitment or verification of grant awards. Costs listed here must be included in “Other Funds” column of the Project Budget (Section 20).

	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Cost</u>
1.	Malheur National Refuge	Treatment on USFW lands adjacent to this project	\$ 14,000.00
2.	ODA OSWB Grant	Survey and treat surrounding Private landowners	\$ 15,826.00
3.	_____	_____	\$ _____
4.	_____	_____	\$ _____

Have any conditions been placed on the funds listed above which may affect the completion of the project? If so, identify and explain. YES NO

22. **Project Maintenance and Monitoring:**

- (a) Who will maintain the project and fund long-term maintenance and/or operation if needed?

The Harney CWMA will keep records and monitor the project.

- (b) What element(s) of the project will be monitored, how often, for how long?

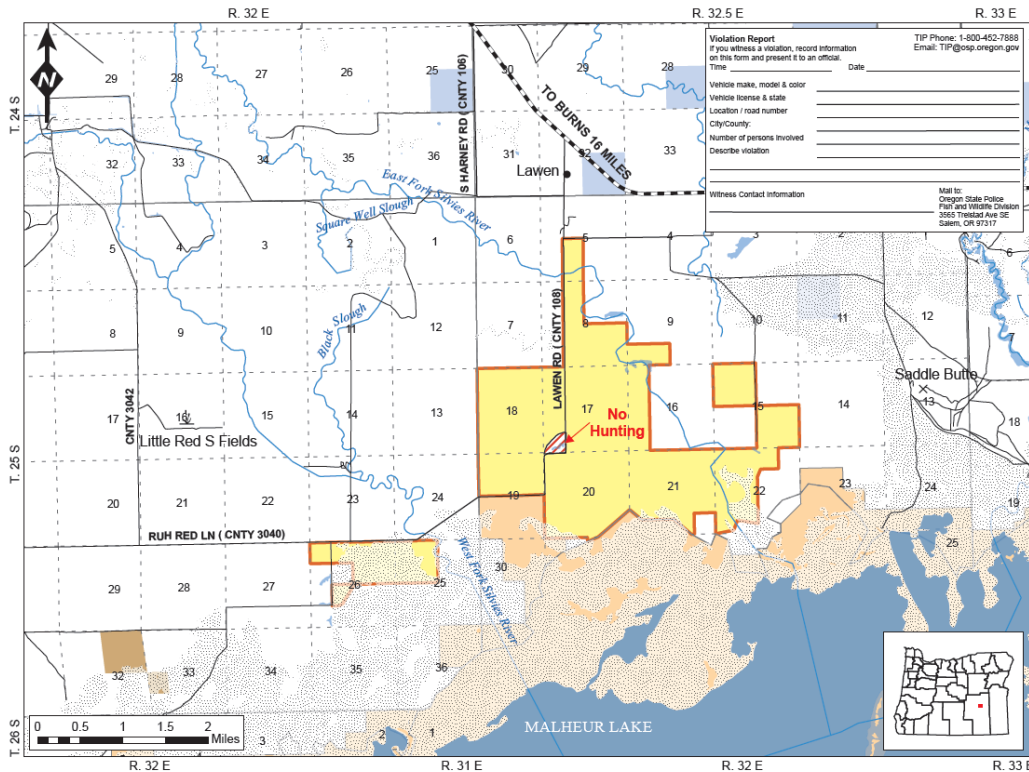
The Salt Cedar treatments will be monitored annually by Harney CWMA.

23. **Project Budget Narrative:** (Provide details; describe in-kind funding; provide narratives here of non-itemized entries in your worksheet.)

The Harney CWMA and weed control will contract the survey and treatment on this project. The Harney County SWAT Crew will be funded by the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge to survey and treat Salt Cedar on its property adjacent to the project.

Project Budget (Provide as much detail as possible)

Totals automatically round to the nearest dollar. Please do not include cents.			
Expense Category	A&H Funds	Cost Share In-Kind/ Cash (Match) ¹	Total Project Cost
ADMINISTRATION: Personnel and benefits @ ___%			
Harney CWMA Coordinator	4400		\$ 4,400.00
			\$ -
SUBTOTAL (1)	\$ -	\$ -	\$4400 -
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS²			
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
SUBTOTAL (2)	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00 -
SUPPLIES			
Impazapyr 4 SL	\$ 1,575	\$ -	\$ 1,575.00
Syltac EA	\$ 258	\$ -	\$ 258.00
High-Lite	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100.00
SUBTOTAL (3)	\$ -	\$ -	\$1,933.00 -
CONTRACT SERVICES (itemize)³			
Harney County Weed Control (5 People)	\$ 7500	\$ -	\$ 7,500.00
Harney County SWAT Crew	\$ -	\$ 14,000	\$ -
ODA OSWB Grant	\$ -	\$ 15,826	\$ -
SUBTOTAL (4)	\$ -	\$ 29,826.00	\$7,500.00 -
EQUIPMENT (itemize)			
ATV Use	\$ 800	\$ -	\$ 800.00
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SUBTOTAL (5)	\$ -	\$ -	\$800.00 -
Access Payment			
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
PROJECT TOTALS	\$14,633.00 -	\$29,826.00 -	\$44,459 -



Lawen Lane Access Area

The Lawen Lane Access Area is a cooperative program between a private landowner and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Access and Habitat Program to allow public hunting access on private lands and increased access to public land. The Access Area provides public hunting opportunities for deer, pronghorn, pheasant, waterfowl, California quail, and predators. All Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Regulations and Seasons Apply.

Access Allowed:
August 1 - March 10

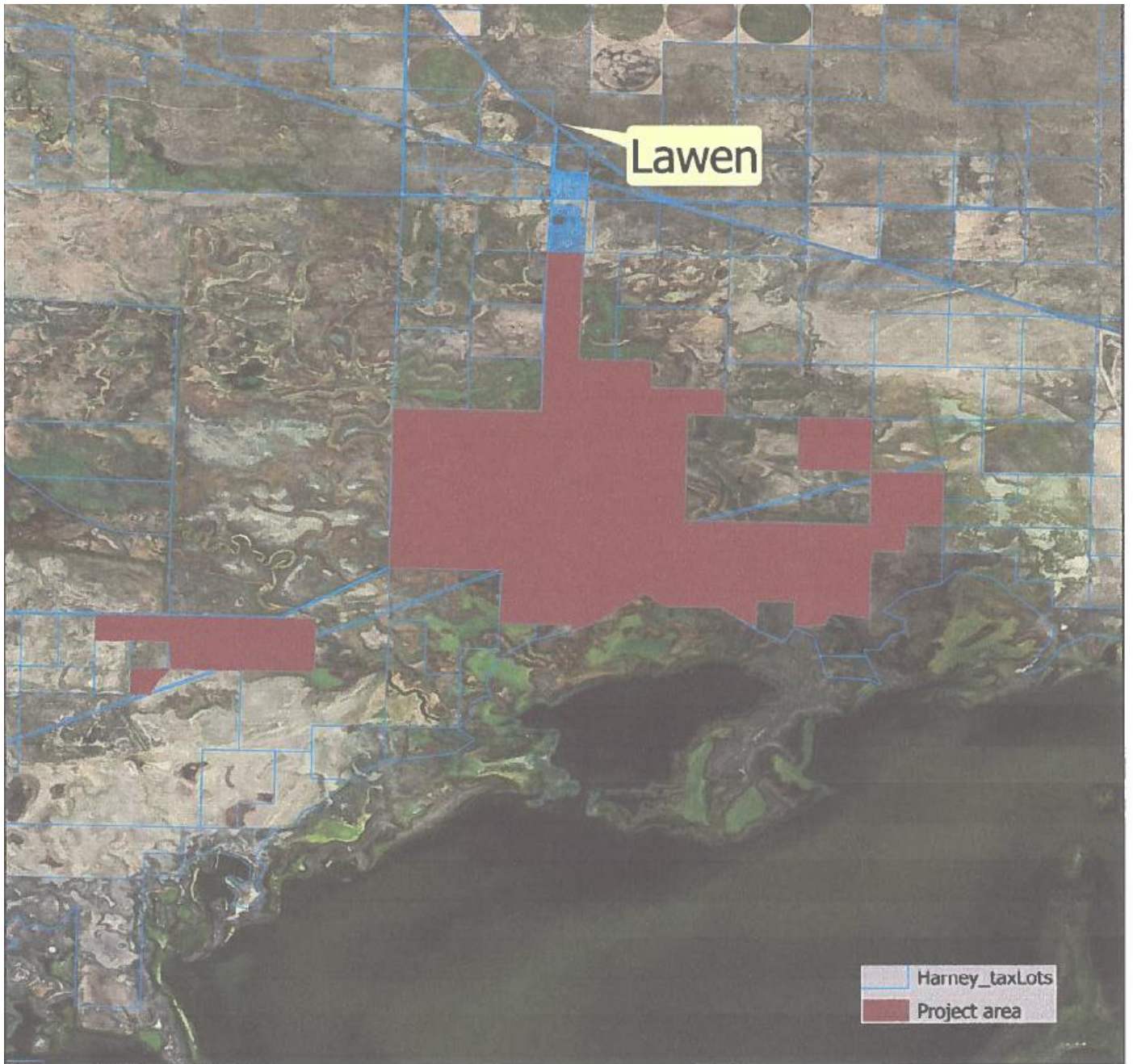
Area Regulations:

- No ATV's on Private Land
- No Camping or night time use of the private land
- No Fires
- No Littering, pick up any trash including expended shells
- Report any unlawful activities
- Leave all gates as you found them
- No Access to adjacent private lands without landowner Permission
- Vehicle Travel only on roads mapped and posted as open access road

Note: Hunting on Private Land is a privilege, not a right. Private land hunting opportunities will remain in the future only if the property and rights of private landowners are respected!

*This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for, legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.
revised 5/2021

Figure 2. Lawen Lane Access Area

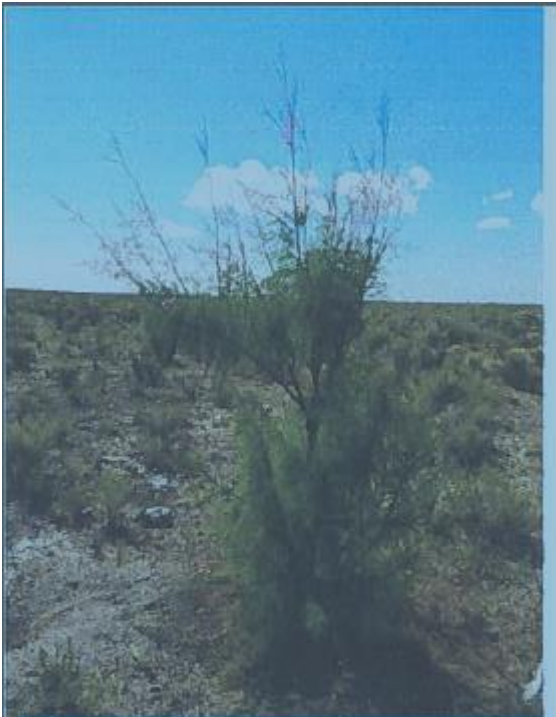


Harney CWMA
Tyler Goss
3/4/2025

0 1.02 2.05 4.1 Miles

*Figure 3. Project area of Lawen Salt Cedar
2025 Project*

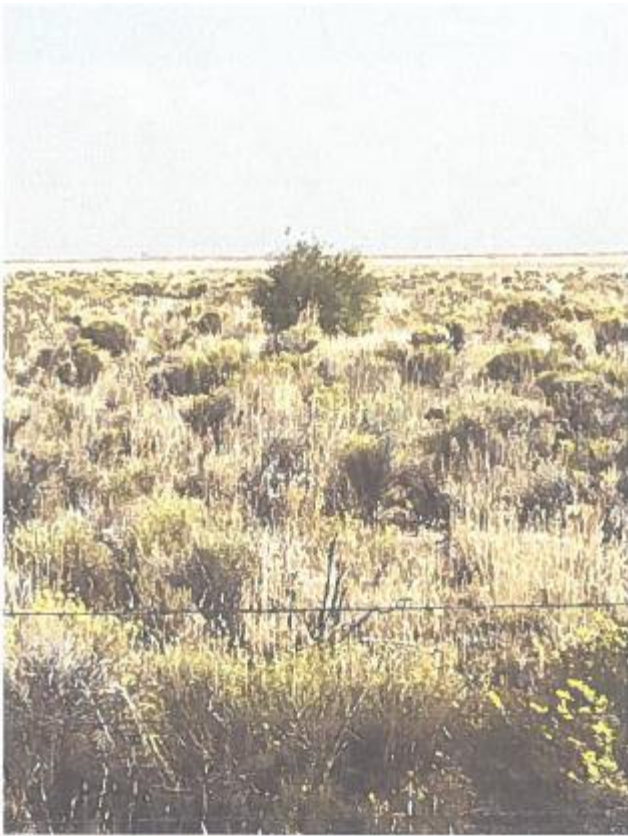
Photos provided below are from 2024 monitoring of Salt Cedar within the boundaries of the proposed Lawen Salt Cedar 2025 Project. Updated photo monitoring will occur in 2025 and 2026.



Monitoring point Photo #1



Monitoring point Photo #2



Monitoring point Photo #3



ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

Regional Advisory Council

Council Appointment Review

East Region / A&H Regional Council: Malheur Council

Type of Appointment: Landowner Hunter Chair

Applicant(s): Tyler Goss (CWMA Coordinator) – Landon Hardt (ODFW)

Date of Council Review: 6/13/2025

Motion: Nick Miller (Chair) Motioned to recommend funding for Lawen Salt Cedar 2025.

<u>Council Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Nick Miller	Chairman	Yes
Jon Reponen	Landowner Representative	Yes
Erika Fitzpatrick	Landowner Representative	N/A
Vacant	Landowner Representative	N/A
Kyle Wieland	Hunter Representative	Yes
Jerry Elliot	Hunter Representative	Yes
Kipp Dombay	Hunter Representative	Yes

Disposition of Vote: A consensus with members of the regional advisory council was reached with all attending members recommending that funding be provided for the Lawen Salt Cedar 2025 project.

Applicant's Strengths:

- Noted the risk salt cedar poses to the Harney Basin.
- Breakdown of funding/timing was thought out and presented well in the application. Being that the basin has standing water currently the time period would be extended for the funding.

Council's Concerns:

- Spread of invasive salt cedar if not treated in the near term could cause for a monotypic stand of salt cedar on the Lawen Access Area and inhibit native wildlife and plant species from being present on the landscape.
- Whether or not Imazapyr 4 SL would cause for other issues on the bordering property of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

