



The Mid-Columbia Agriculture Hall of Fame was formed in Year 2000 to recognize and honor distinguished individuals that have made significant contributions to the agricultural community in the Greater Franklin County region and its immediate surrounding areas; although nominees from neighboring counties of Franklin County within a 150-mile radius are often also considered for this prestigious award.

The Pasco Chamber Board has proudly created a Selection Committee comprised of quality individuals representative of our agriculture industry and has chartered them with the honorable task of reviewing all nomination submittals. Induction candidates are selected based on their outstanding performance in the agriculture industry and their bountiful support of the local and rural communities. Candidates are recognized by their peers for not only their dedication, generosity, and selflessness, but also their demonstrated achievements, noteworthy expertise, and creative innovations that often provide a legacy of impactful results and lasting benefit to the overall enhancement of the local agricultural industry and community at large. Farmers, growers, ranchers, and owners/employees of agribusiness firms are all eligible for nomination as either individuals and/or families.

The Ag Hall of Fame inductions will be presented at a special gala January 21, 2021 at the Pasco Red Lion. **Deadline for Application is November 2, 2020.**

### Mid-Columbia Agriculture Hall of Fame Intent to Nominate

Nominee's Name Vic Reeve

Mailing Address 2609 S. Kent Drive

Nominee's Phone 509.531.2103 Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail debrareeve14@gmail.com

Date of Birth 04/16/1953 Birthplace Connell, WA

Date of Death (if deceased) \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Name Dulcye Field

Phone 509.855.2204 Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail dulcyefield@gmail.com

Family Contact same as nominator (daughter)

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Ag Hall of Fame 2021 Nominee



Victor A. Reeve

Nominated by Dulcye Field, daughter and Debra Reeve, wife

Submitted October 30, 2020

## Years of Community and Agricultural Service

### Agricultural Service:

- Lead, Southeast Washington Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) for Franklin, Asotin, Garfield, Columbia, Walla Walla, Benton and Whitman Counties
- Member, Washington State Weed Board
- Member, Washington State Association of Wheat Growers
- Past President, Franklin County Washington Association of Wheat Growers
- Past Chairman, Franklin County Conservation District
- 20 years of service to Connell Grain Growers Board
- Volunteer, Connell Ag Days

### Community Service:

- Connell Cystic Fibrosis Bike-A-Thon Volunteer, 11 years
- Past Chairman, North Franklin County Young Woman of the Year/Junior Miss Float Committee
- Walk to Emmaus Supply Chairman and Secretariat Member/Director
- Past Treasurer, Eltopia United Church of Christ

## Mid-Columbia Ag Hall of Fame Selection Committee

### Biography for Victor Allen Reeve

Vic Reeve was destined for a life in agriculture. Arriving on April 16, 1953, in the Connell Clinic, he never ventured far from there. Born to Eugene Victor Reeve and Beverly Joyce Bolon, his roots to North Franklin County ran deep. Grandparents on both blood lines were homesteaders, his father's side sprouting from the Howton line near the Sand Hills. His ancestors were also like-minded people. Records found that both sets of his great grandparents had lived at separate times, in the same log cabin back in Orofino, Idaho where they were loggers. He came from pioneer stock.

Vic's father, Gene Reeve, was working for his uncle Darrell Pepiot on their 3200-acre dryland wheat ranch south of Connell when Vic was born. Shortly after, Darrell suffered an unexpected death which would bring the Reeve family permanently to the farm to help Gene's aunt, Geneva Howton Pepiot, manage it. Vic would spend the next 52 years on the Pepiot Ranch, and would know, and love, every square inch of it. As a toddler, Vic grew up with his older siblings Mike, Jeanne, and Jan as they raised a myriad of cats, dogs, geese, and chickens. Cattle and horses were added, Vic especially taking to the cows while Mike preferred the horses. At an early age, Vic was driving trucks and helping move equipment. By his teens, he was proficient in operating every machine on the farm and repaired them repeatedly. There was no new equipment for them! If a part could not be found, one was made so Vic learned to weld, mechanic, carpenter and plumb. Not only did he become a great craftsman of metal and wood, it seemed he could make anything from any material and continues to do so to this day. He also had a heart for animals and raised Herefords when he began farming. In addition, he raised Black Angus for his uncle Vic Bolon for a time, noting the difference in temperament between the two breeds. Everyone on the farm benefited from Vic's milk cows, and Vic did too. Milking strengthened his forearms earning him several arm-wrestling trophies at local competitions in his twenties. One day he earned two consecutively, one for the right arm and one for the left. He also enjoyed playing town league softball.

Loyal and sincere, while in grade school Vic made friendships that have lasted a lifetime. He was a good teammate and leader. As a youngster, he played baseball, basketball, then moved on to football and wrestling when he entered high school. He was the Eagles Offensive Captain his senior year and ASB Secretary his junior year. He joined the Future Farmers of America when he was a freshman and remained an active member throughout high school. When there was a job to be done, you could always count on him to accomplish the task at hand. As his children became involved in the Connell FFA program in the late 80's and early 90's, he was a willing volunteer and was awarded an Honorary Chapter Degree.

As a family man, he has been a loving and faithful husband to Debra for 47 years and was a 'hands on dad'. His three children, Dulcye, Zack and Sarah, were frequently found with him working on equipment, feeding cows, down in the shop or helping Grandma Ruth Howton Reeve in her garden. Vic was a good father and mentor, teaching them a strong work ethic that they live by today. He also stewarded their friends and classmates by volunteering to coach their tee-ball and football teams, umpire for others, and later coached the Class of 1994's Homecoming Powder Puff team to an undefeated four-year reign. He also employed a few of them when they were looking for summer jobs. When his wife Debra proposed an annual Ag Week for Connell Elementary in the 1980's, Vic supported the program by calling on friends to participate, gathering equipment, and later animals, to bring to the school. Students were able to view, touch and climb on, animals and machinery, respectively. In addition, the Reeves created a presentation of the life cycle of a kernel of wheat, from planting to harvest, ending with a hot loaf of bread. Each student was given baggies of freshly ground flour, yeast, and water which they kneaded in the bags at their desks. Their loaves were labeled and baked in the school ovens. This event truly brought agriculture into the classrooms and this event continued for many years incorporating FFA students, some his own children, to come and participate. When Connell Elementary needed new playground equipment, Vic was instrumental in organizing a group to grade and level the space and create what they could according to guidelines. He was also a volunteer at their Field Days. Though he lived out of town, Vic also supported Fall Festival and Connell Clean-Up projects while serving in the local JayCees in the 70's. He was on the Connell Daze Car Show committee in the new millennium, promoting a great show for several years, which brought hundreds of cars and their owners into the community. He proudly served as the official videographer for the Cystic Fibrosis Bike-A-Thon for close to 20 years.

As a dryland wheat farmer Vic was, and remains, a fervent supporter of Washington Association of Wheat Growers, serving on several committees and as a Franklin County president and officer. He was the first in Franklin County to use the 'no-till' drill, which met with much skepticism in those early days. He proved that the drill indeed increased their marginal yields once implemented into their process. Vic extended his expertise with fellow farmers working to improve agriculture through information sharing. He also supported Harvest States, Connell Grain Growers, and served as a board member from 1989-

1999. Through the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, Vic and Deb also hosted "Farm City Swaps" for several years. This brought families from the city to stay for a week on their farm experiencing a wheat harvest, farm life, good food and local tours, many for the first time. When Dulcye and Zack took 4-H pigs to the Benton Franklin county fair, Vic was available as a volunteer hog wrangler in the ring. He also assisted Sarah in her pheasant project, raising and releasing dozens of birds back into wild. In addition to raising wheat Vic promoted drilling an irrigation well on the farm allowing three circles to raise grass seed for Jacklin Seed, alfalfa and, even potatoes for a short time.

Vic's Christian faith has always been a foundation for his life. Active in the UCC, Methodist and now Kennewick First Presbyterian Church, he has served on numerous committees and held many offices. He is also a bass guitarist and has served in music ministry and worship services for each church. He served on the Eastern Washington Walk to Emmaus Secretariat and dozens of interdenominational retreats in leadership and speaking positions. He has also participated and led several Mission Trips, one to Biloxi, Mississippi, after Hurricane Katrina, rebuilding damaged homes. Naturally, Vic's favorite scriptures and parables are those involving the sower, the grower and the harvest. He has used them frequently in correspondence and conversation, probably because he can relate to them so well.

Victor means 'conqueror' and through the years, he has lived up to his name. When the years of wear and tear on his body began to interfere with his ability to get the job done, Vic realized he would have to leave his beloved farm. It was the most difficult decision he had ever made. After a lifetime of farming, and no degree to fall back on, what could he do at age 55? Soon Vic found work at Connell Auto Parts, and then in sales for Connell Oil. It was there that he realized he enjoyed driving throughout the country, visiting friends and neighbors, but he still wanted to have a hand in farming. In 2004, he became employed with the Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board and found a new way to care for the land. He quickly became an Inspector and when colleague Mike Braun died tragically in 2010, Vic assumed the role of Coordinator for Franklin County. He worked hard to create a new program through communication. He strove to address farmers concerns, improve conditions in the county and build a strong relationship between the weed board and farmers. He became an advocate of the Columbia Basin Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA), which brings together experts in this field. Vic also founded the South Eastern CWMA which focused on our closest counties. He held numerous educational meetings and presentations, bringing speakers from all over the state to share their knowledge with farmers. One of his last projects in Franklin County was lobbying for a long overdue tax assessment increase allowing the needed growth of staff and resources to meet the County's needs. For the first time in nearly fifteen years the rate was increased in 2015. When he felt he had done all he could in Franklin County, Vic applied for the Coordinator position in Benton County, where he now lives. He rebuilt their program from the ground up, adding staff and plans like that of Franklin County. He also lobbied for the same tax assessment increase for Benton County since they had not had one in over twenty years. His proposal was rejected twice, but he was undeterred. When commissioners did approve the increase in 2019, Vic felt he could retire in peace, leaving Benton County in 'good shape' May of 2020.

While at Benton County, Vic also voluntarily served on the Washington State Noxious Weed Board and was an alternate Councilmember for the Washington Invasive Species Council. He remains close with his contacts and looks forward to conferences and related events around the state. Vic has strived to keep good ties with the Franklin County team believing that by working in concert with each other, the two counties, and the farmers within them, would greatly benefit. For the last 15 years Vic has tirelessly promoted education regarding noxious weeds to the cities and public he has served. He has approached his position as Coordinator with the same commitment, tenacity, and devotion he did his farm. He would spend the time it took to accomplish each day's checklist, even if it meant staying late or working on the weekends. Often, he would visit citizens who had questions after work or on Saturdays, making sure no inquiry was left unanswered. This type of dedication, integrity, and trustworthiness which Vic has displayed consistently throughout his life is why we nominate him as a true 'steward' of agriculture. He is most deserving of this honor.

Debra Reeve, Wife & Business Partner

October 22, 2020

Gentlemen,

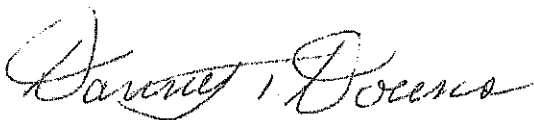
I am pleased to have this opportunity to support the nomination of Vic Reeve to the Agriculture Hall of Fame.

In September 2015, Vic was employed as by the Benton County Noxious Weed Control Board as Coordinator for the agency. The Agency was in a major transition period, having been released from Benton County to become a separate agency. Vic was given the task by the "Board", of rebuilding the agency to provide education and service to the citizens of the County and hopefully build acceptance and respect from other entities in the area and State.

At the time of Vic's retirement April 30, 2020, through his guidance, the agency had achieved those goals. The Benton County Noxious Weed Control Board is now relied upon for information and assistance by the citizens and entities of the County.

It has been my pleasure to work with Vic and see the Agency grow and become viable under Vic's direction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danny T. Downs".

Danny T. Downs, Chairman

Benton County Noxious Weed Control Board

To: Selection Committee of Mid-Columbia Agriculture Hall of Fame

I first met Vic Reeve when I was nominated to serve on the Benton County Noxious Weed Board. He was the Coordinator of the board and we served together for four years. Fighting noxious weeds is a nonending task and I found very quickly that Vic was very qualified and up to getting it done. I was impressed with Vic's dedication and how he handled him self with the board and with other county personal and especially with property owners who had noxious weed issues. As Coordinator Vic had authority to write citations for property owners who failed to take care of their noxious weeds, but that was not his approach. His approach was to help property owners understand the importance of getting rid of the weeds and then giving them guidance and help to get it done.

I was in management my whole career and served on county, state and national boards and never found anyone more honest, hardworking and dedicated to serving the public than Vic. I had the privilege of watching Vic take over a county noxious weed board that was non-functional and to build it into a successful county board that is now serving the people of Benton County.

In getting to know Vic I have found him to be of high character and a person that cares about serving others and I value him as a lifetime friend.

For these reasons I highly recommend Vic Reeve for this prestigious award.

Dave Owens

General Manager Carnation Farm -Retired



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This letter is in support for Vic Reeve's nomination for the Stewardship award to the Ag Hall of Fame. Vic came to the Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board in 2004 after years of dryland farming in Connell, WA. Farming has always been Vic's passion and he demonstrated this passion by dedicating himself to making the Weed Board's program the best it could be. For Vic, his role at the Weed Board was not just a job, it was a way of life. During his time at the Weed Board Vic made many contributions to the community and local agriculture.

Vic took on a leadership role from the moment he hired in; with the intent of expanding the effectiveness of the existing program by promoting an active role in the community. He had a clear vision of giving the Weed Board a "face" in the community. He began by encouraging collaboration with FSA to address noxious weeds in CRP, an area of concern for all producers. By fostering positive working relationships with farmers and ranchers in the dryland region Vic affirmed the Weed Board's presence in the community and was able to elicit cooperation between landowners on noxious weed control. It was important to Vic that landowners regarded the Weed Board as a resource that provided expertise on options for weed control on a case by case basis. He strove to advise operators with severe noxious weed infestations in the best method of control available to that individual without causing them undue economic hardship, showing the farming community that he had their best interest at heart.

Vic willingly stepped into the role of Program Coordinator following the untimely death of the previous coordinator. He has always been willing to share his knowledge; from mentoring staff in professional relations to educating others on noxious weeds, herbicides, control options and timing. During his tenure Vic partnered with several private groups and public agencies organizing education and training events which continue to take place annually. He worked hard to address noxious weed issues across county lines founding the SE WA CWMA, an organization comprised of seven county Weed Boards that meet twice a year. Under Vic's leadership the Weed Board began administering, and continues to oversee today, the roadside spray program on Franklin County roads for the Public Works Department. Vic realized how important it was to protect transportation routes from the damaging effects of noxious weeds.

Vic has also been a long standing member on several organizations with interests in protecting the areas agricultural resources including the Invasive Species Council and on the Vegetation Management Committee for The WA State Weed Conference. Vic's accomplishments and contributions benefited the local agricultural industry and the overall community. He performed his role selflessly and tirelessly. After 11 years with Franklin County Vic moved on to rebuild Benton County's noxious weed control program leaving a legacy of hard work, innovation and dedication to noxious weed management. The Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board wholeheartedly supports his nomination for the distinguished honor of the Stewardship award to the Ag Hall of Fame.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Harris  
FCWB Program Coordinator  
509-545-3847



Greg Hart  
PO Box 268  
Connell, WA 99326

2021 Mid-Columbia Ag Hall of Fame  
Selection Committee

It was recently brought to my attention that Vic Reeve is being nominated for induction into the Ag Hall of Fame as a potential recipient of the Stewardship Award. Vic is an excellent candidate for your consideration in choosing someone to honor with this award. I have known Vic for virtually my entire life and have been able to observe how his involvement in agriculture exemplifies my definition of what stewardship means.

Vic returned to the family farm several years after graduating from Connell High School. Working alongside his father, he began caring for the land where he had worked since he was a child. Although the farmland was owned by the Pepiot family, Vic and Gene treated the land as it was their own. Since the farm was located near the western edge of what is considered the tillable dryland wheat growing area of Franklin County, farming there presented more than a few challenges. As Vic assumed more and more of the management of the farm, he implemented the tillage and cropping practice changes that were necessary to ensure that the land would stay productive for generations to come. While farming, he served almost ten years on the Franklin Conservation District Board of Supervisors, was an active member of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers and served as a board member for Connell Grain Growers.

About twenty years ago, health issues related to back injuries, forced Vic to make the difficult decision to leave the farm. This led Vic to make the career change that I feel makes him very deserving of the Stewardship Award. In 2004 Vic went to work for the Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board as a field inspector. In 2010 he was promoted to program coordinator for the Weed Board. Under his direction, the Weed Board became a highly effective agency that made great strides in working to reduce the problems associated with lack of weed control in an agricultural area such as Franklin County. He worked hard to better educate property owners, producers and governmental agencies about their responsibility to develop plans to reduce the presence of both noxious and troublesome weeds. His push to work with the Franklin County Roads Department and have the Weed Board take over roadside spraying on county roads has led to a dramatic reduction in weed pressure in many areas of our county. In 2015, Vic made the move across the river to become program coordinator for the Benton County Weed Board. He was tasked with rebuilding the program from the ground up. At the time of his hiring, he was the only employee. He officially retired this past Spring, but not before re-establishing a functioning Weed Control Board for Benton County.

I support the nomination of Vic Reeve as the recipient of the 2021 Stewardship Award.

Sincerely,



Greg Hart

Dear Ag Hall of Fame Nominating Committee:

It is both a delight and honor to endorse my cousin, Victor Reeve for the Ag Hall of Fame Stewardship Award.

My family homesteaded the Pepiot farm (affectionately known to us as "The Ranch"), and for many years and several generations our cousins, the Reeves, farmed it. My earliest memories include the exciting drive from the metropolis of Kennewick to the "country", steering the Ford Rambler from my dad's lap, down a bumpy, winding Pepiot Road. But, nothing was more thrilling than sitting in the hot, dusty, open-air cab of the combine, munching on a fist full of newly harvested wheat.

Thirty years later I found myself managing some of the Ranch business and was aptly placed in the hands of my cousin Vic, who had the dubious honor of "showing me the ropes". I often felt like a fish out of water, but my cousin took the time to mentor me in many aspects of farming; the business, the government, the stockholders, the burdens and the blessings.

Vic's first-hand knowledge, faith-based discernment and steadfast demeanor helped me navigate a myriad of decisions in an industry I barely knew, but grew to deeply admire and revere. As testament to this nomination, I have no doubt that he influenced many other family, friends and colleagues in the same fashion. Oftentimes along the journey he would remind me, "the ox is slow, but the earth is patient".

In retrospect, not only did I gain vast insight of the depth and breadth of farming (merely scratching the surface of one who "lived the life"), but I also benefited from a meaningful kinship with a cousin I always looked up to.

Surely there must be a number of honors that Vic could receive, but "stewardship" of earth and agriculture seems like the quintessential recognition of this human being that has lived, learned, taught, fought, respected, championed and loved deeply, to his core.

I can think of no one more deserving of this honor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Pepiot Morrison

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**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE**

October 21, 2020

Mid-Columbia Ag Hall of Fame  
Selection Committee  
c/o Pasco Chamber of Commerce  
1110 Osprey Pointe Blvd, Suite 101  
Pasco, WA 99301

Selection Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Washington Invasive Species Council to support the nomination of Vic Reeve for the Mid-Columbia Ag Hall of Fame Stewardship Award in recognition of his significant long-term contributions to agriculture in Washington State.

The Washington State Legislature established the Washington Invasive Species Council in 2006 to develop a strategic approach to prevent and control invasive species that threaten Washington's environment and economy. The council membership includes state and federal natural resource agencies, regional, local, sovereign government representatives, non-profits, and private sector representatives. Members work collaboratively to prevent and stop invasive species across jurisdictional boundaries.

Vic Reeve joined the Washington Invasive Species Council in 2017 as the primary alternate for Councilmember Anna Lyon. In this role, Vic represented the interests of counties East of the Cascade Mountains on the council and brought invasive species issues and opportunities to the council for the benefit of Eastern Washington. Vic was a passionate advocate for Eastern Washington issues and agriculture and heavily influenced the work of the council over the past two years as the strategic plan he helped to develop was implemented.

If you have any questions about the Washington Invasive Species Council, or questions about our support of Vic Reeve's nomination, please feel free to contact me directly at 360-704-0973 or [justin.bush@rco.wa.gov](mailto:justin.bush@rco.wa.gov).

Justin Bush, Executive Coordinator  
Washington Invasive Species Council



# Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

*1111 Washington Street, P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504-2560*

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Mary Fee, Executive Secretary  
Desk (360) 902-2053  
Cell (360)561-4428

October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

It is my pleasure to nominate Vic Reeve for the Stewardship Award to the Ag Hall of Fame. Mr. Reeve has been a great asset to the noxious weed and agricultural community. He has a passion for farming which shows through in his career and community involvement. Throughout his career as Benton County Noxious Weed Coordinator, Mr. Reeve has provided much needed on-the-ground efforts, education, and support to the community regarding noxious weed control and agriculture conservation.

Mr. Reeve formed the South Eastern Washington Cooperative Weed Management Area in 2009 and it is still going strong. He has gone above and beyond his responsibilities as coordinator. He was integral in the development of both Benton and Franklin counties' road side management programs. Mr. Reeves has been very passionate about noxious weed control and insuring adequate funding for the Benton County Noxious Weed Program. He promoted an increase in the noxious weed assessment which was granted. He has been a member of several other organizations geared towards protecting agricultural resources including the Invasive Species Council and on the Vegetation Management Board of Directors for the WA State Weed Conference.

I have personally interacted with Mr. Reeve through many of these organizations and groups. He is always enthusiastic and action oriented when it comes to noxious weed control and the preservation of agriculture. He often times would approach these groups with innovative ideas and the passion to problem solve and get the job done.

I believe that Vic Reeve is well deserving of the Stewardship Award. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Mary Fee  
Executive Secretary  
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

# Weed concerns

A YEAR AFTER LEASES TERMINATED, BENTON COUNTY DNR LAND IS SITTING IDLE

By Trista Crossley

In the year since several Benton County farmers had their leases terminated early by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), little progress has been made in turning the land to a “higher and better use.”

According to Katie Mink, assistant region manager for DNR’s southeast region, the project was put out for auction in April of this year, but received no qualified bids. DNR has been reaching out to parties who had expressed interest in the project but didn’t submit a bid in an effort to understand those parties’ concerns. In most cases, Mink said, the cost of the project was the primary obstacle. DNR estimates that the cost for installing the pipeline and related on-farm infrastructure to be upwards of \$17 million.

“We are in conversations with a few parties who have expressed interest in working with us to make this project happen in a manner that is beneficial to both them and the school trust,” Mink said.

At this time, DNR hasn’t set another auction date.

In 2016, DNR unexpectedly terminated several Benton County leases on very short notice citing the “higher and better use” clause included in their standard lease agreement. Under this clause, if the department can identify a use for the land that has the potential for a higher return, they can terminate a lease early. The original contracts required a 60-day notice; that was amended in the 2017 state legislative session to at least 180 days. In the case of the Benton County land, DNR terminated the leases in preparation for a planned irrigation project that is designed to perfect a water right expiring in 2019.

The lack of a bidder has also caused headaches for neighboring landowners. When the leases were terminated, nearly all farming activity stopped, and weeds quickly took over. Calls were made to the county’s noxious weed board and to Benton County Commissioner

Shon Small who contacted DNR.

“The intent in April was to auction the property off and have it developed. When that didn’t happen, the weed issue arose,” Mink said. “We were working with a (DNR) lessee out there to figure out an agreement to have them mow for us when we got a call from Commissioner Small who let us know in no uncertain terms that people were unhappy. Later that day, we had reached an agreement (with the lessee), and they were able to get it mowed quickly. Going forward, if the land isn’t leased out again, we will have somebody lined up ahead of time to mow what needs to be mowed.”

Vic Reeve, coordinator of the Benton County Noxious Weed Control Board, said he did get calls from landowners who were concerned about the weeds growing on the DNR ground. He said that while there are weeds of concern growing there, it isn’t a “total wreck yet.” He is concerned, however, that the possibility exists for the weeds to get out of control.

“My concern now is what’s going to happen this coming year. It should have a weed control program developed for it if it’s not going to be farmed, and it’s going to cost the state to do that,” Reeve said. “In one year, the weeds can become much, much worse without someone doing the maintenance and overseeing it.”

The main concern is that the weeds will spread to nearby land, negatively impacting the productivity of that land.

“In the dryland farming area, farmers don’t have a lot of extra money to throw at these type of things, so if weeds start becoming a problem on neighbors’ ground, then it becomes an economic issue,” Reeve explained.

Chad Smith, one of the farmers who lost their lease and still farms land adjacent to the DNR ground, agreed.

“If weeds start spreading from their ground to mine, it is going to cost me money because it is going to contaminate my fields,” he said.



Katie Mink  
Assistant Region  
Manager,  
Washington State  
Department of  
Natural Resources



Vic Reeve  
Coordinator, Benton  
County Noxious  
Weed Control Board



Chad Smith  
Benton County  
farmer