



## 2014 Thistle Cut

### Lower Deschutes River

On June 7th and 8<sup>th</sup> 2014, OR-FNAWS and ODFW are planning another "Hands on Project". The 6<sup>th</sup> annual **Lower Deschutes River Thistle Cut** targeting the invasive scotch thistle weed . During this project, our main tasks will be to cut or chop the Scotch thistle plants that were missed or partially treated through chemical applications earlier in the season. This will be a super opportunity to float the river, view the bighorns (hopefully a terrific new lamb crop), and have fun fishing. This year's efforts should again really improve the upland habitat along the river.

The crew will depart from Mack's Canyon around 9:30 am on the morning of the 7th. You get to the Mack's Canyon boat ramp by taking Highway 197 south from The Dalles, to Tygh Valley. From Tygh Valley you take Hwy. 216 to Shearer's Falls. Approximately one mile after crossing the Deschutes you will turn onto the Mack's Canyon road, which follows the river down to Mack's Canyon.

We encourage participants to meet us at the Hwy 30/ Hwy 197 interchange in The Dalles at 7:00 a.m. The fewer vehicles we take into Mack's the more bodies we can dedicate to floating the river. ODFW will be providing the boats and lifejackets.

We will be setting up camp at Locust grove campground, just upstream from Harris Homestead, where everyone's personal gear will be shuttled to. Dinner will hopefully be ready soon after you make your landing. After a night of camaraderie, enjoyment, and hopefully a good nights sleep, we will eat breakfast and be on our way down river for more weed chopping. Makings for lunch, soda and water will be available both days. All meals will be provided for the weekend by OR-FNAWS and ODFW, so bring your appetite! We will also be given an excellent sheep viewing field trip after dinner Saturday night by the local ODFW biologists.

We typically arrive at the mouth of the Deschutes early afternoon on Sunday. We can use help working along the river, shuttling rigs to the mouth of the river, and a few trucks to haul all of the team's gear to the campsite. Essential gear would be rugged work gloves, sturdy work boots or shoes, a sharp and sturdy shovel, file, tent and sleeping bag, a change of clothes, extra socks, warm coat, personal gear, binoculars, spotting scope, fishing gear. Having a large "dry bag" to stow all of your gear in would be a terrific idea.

If you are able to attend, please contact Larry Jacobs at (503)-784-1358, George Houston at (503)-826-9109 or Mike Moore at (541) 296-4628 or email [michael.moore@state.or.us](mailto:michael.moore@state.or.us). We need to effectively plan on the number of boats and rafts available and the amount of food and support gear necessary, so please RSVP ASAP! We welcome everyone's help and active participation. This is one of the most substantial projects that we try to accomplish annually. We would really appreciate your continuing support and good company this year along the banks of the Deschutes! We are looking forward to hearing from you!

Thanks,

Larry, George, and Mike

(541) 296-4628

[michael.moore@state.or.us](mailto:michael.moore@state.or.us)