



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Fairbanks Fish & Wildlife Field Office *Weed Smackdown*

What public habitat restoration project includes federal agencies, service groups, businesses, churches, youth groups, and the Fairbanks Rollergirls team? The annual Fairbanks area Weed Smackdown!

This fun and friendly competition was started in 2010 in an effort to educate the public about the danger of invasive plants to Alaska's wild ecosystems. To date this event has included over 450 community volunteers and removed over 11,000 pounds of invasive weeds from the Fairbanks area.

Since 2010, this has become a state-wide effort with annual events in Anchorage, Palmer, and the Kenai Peninsula. The result is increased public awareness of the threat of invasive plants to Alaskan ecosystems, and the eradication of thousands of pounds of invaders.



It's never too early to learn about invasive weeds!



Local Girl Scout Troops earn community service credit and merit badges for participating in the Weed Smackdown.

Weed Smackdown Objectives

As a result of taking part in the program, participants will:

1. Be able to identify four target invasive plants in the Fairbanks area.
2. Continue helping to control the spread of invasive plants individually and as part of group efforts.
3. Educate other Fairbanks residents about the issue.

Project Sponsors

Area businesses and groups make contributions varying from plant identification expertise and cooking skills, to portable toilets and other materials and services to make the annual Weed Smackdown a huge success!

Project Partners:

- Soil & Water Conservation District
- Fairbanks Northstar Borough
- Fairbanks Dog Park
- Boy Scouts
- Area Businesses



Removing foxtail barley is important because it can lodge in the throats of pets that eat it.

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