

ORDINANCE NO. ____-2008

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SAN JUAN COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 2.42 TO INCREASE THE NOXIOUS WEED ASSESSMENT

WHEREAS, RCW 17.10 creates noxious weed control boards in each county of the state of Washington; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners through the enactment of Ordinance 7-1996 and Ordinance 8-1996 activated the San Juan County Noxious Weed Board; and

WHEREAS, there are insufficient funds in the general County budget to fund the County's noxious weed control program; and

WHEREAS, RCW 17.10.240 gives the County legislative authority the power to levy a special assessment in order to fund the County's noxious weed control program; and

WHEREAS, as required by RCW 17.10.240 the Noxious Weed Control Board held a public hearing on July 8, 2002 in order to classify land in the County into suitable classifications to form a basis for a special assessment; and

WHEREAS, the Noxious Weed Control Board has classified land within the County into four categories for purposes of weed assessments; and

WHEREAS, based on the recommendations of the Noxious Weed Control Board, the San Juan County Board of County Commissioners adopted a per parcel assessment for the control of noxious weeds in Ordinance 22-2002; and

WHEREAS, the current assessment is inadequate to maintain the existing program and control the spread of noxious weeds; and

WHEREAS, the Noxious Weed Control Board has proposed a revised assessment to be used for the control of noxious weeds; and

WHEREAS, the County Council held public hearings on September 30, 2008 and October 14, 2008 to hear public comments regarding this Ordinance and a proposed revision to the special assessment; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the San Juan County Council as follows:

Sec. 1. San Juan County Code Section 2.42.060 and Ordinance 22-2002 Section 5 are each amended to read as follows:

Rate.

A fee assessment for the San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Program of \$8.10 per parcel plus \$00.81 per acre on all property classified as nonforest land shall be imposed annually. Property classified as forest land as defined in RCW 84.33 (Use Code 88 as defined by the State Department of Revenue) and RCW 84.34 (Use Code 95 as defined by the State Department of Revenue), which is used solely for the planting, growing or harvesting of trees and which is typified, except for a single five-year period following clear-cut logging, by canopies so dense as to prohibit the growth of an understory, shall be assessed at the rate of \$00.81 per parcel plus \$0.081 per acre.

Adopted this _____ day of October, 2008.

[Signature Blocks]