

**BRENT D. REINKE**  
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FIRST DISTRICT

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CLERK  
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July 27, 2026

Ms. Andrea Thompson, Plant Industries Administrator  
Idaho State Department of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 790  
Boise, ID 83701

**Re: Support for Adding *Xanthium spinosum* (Spiny Cocklebur) to the Idaho State Noxious Weed List**

Dear Ms. Thompson:

Twin Falls County fully supports the addition of *Xanthium spinosum* (Spiny Cocklebur) to the Idaho State Noxious Weed List.

*Xanthium spinosum* thrives in a wide variety of disturbed habitats and is recognized as an invasive weed in numerous agricultural crops. Its ability to establish and spread rapidly allows it to outcompete desirable vegetation, negatively impacting both agricultural production and natural ecosystems.

In addition to its invasive nature, *Xanthium spinosum* poses a significant threat to animal health. Livestock that ingest this plant can suffer poisoning, resulting in illness or death. The presence of this toxic species in grazing areas creates an unnecessary risk for livestock producers and raises concerns about the safety of animals entering the food supply.

Based on its invasive characteristics, impacts on agriculture, and risks to animal health, *Xanthium spinosum* meets the criteria established under Idaho Code for designation as a state-listed noxious weed. Listing this species will provide an important tool for preventing its spread and protecting Idaho's agricultural industry, natural resources, and livestock.

For these reasons, we strongly support adding *Xanthium spinosum* (Spiny Cocklebur) to the Idaho State Noxious Weed List.

Sincerely,



Brent Reinke  
Chairman



Rocky Matthews  
Commissioner



Suzanne Hawkins  
Commissioner