Coast fiddleneck

*Amsoncia intermedia*  
Borage Family

**Key identifying traits**
- Flowers are small yellow and grow along one side of the stem
- Stems and leaves are covered with bristly hair
- The tips of the plants are curled into a "fiddleneck" or scorpion tail appearance
- Fruits form in 4 nutlets, each containing one seed
- Plants will grow to 1 - 2 ½' tall
- When they begin to dry, hairs are brittle and stick into skin

**Biology and ecology**
- An annual reproducing from seed
- Plants are toxic to horses, cattle and pigs when they are green or dry in hay, potentially causing severe liver damage
- This plant is a native of California and Oregon now widespread across the U.S.
- Commonly seen in barnyards, corrals, newly planted fields, and overgrazed areas

**Control**

*Prevention* - Learn to identify plants; check areas where hay is fed or animals are held, areas where soil is disturbed or overgrazed

*Biological* - No known biological control

*Cultural* - Does not compete well with a good grass or perennial plant stand

*Mechanical* - Cultivation works good as well as hand pulling small areas, mowing before seed production can kill many of the plants

*Chemical* - Difficult due to the hairs and must be done before seed production: refer to the [PNW Weed Management Handbook](#) for specific chemical recommendations in various sites

*Where found* - Scattered all across Stevens County at this time mostly in corrals, barnyards and waste areas

Stevens County Noxious Weed Control Board, December 2006