



DECLARATION OF COOPERATION

“Let’s Pull Together”

Josephine County Cooperative Weed Management Area

Introduction and background

Invasive weeds are a concern shared by residents, businesses, non-profits and agencies in Josephine County. Our climate, soils and geography lend themselves to invasions of new weed species, which crowd out native species and take over the landscape to the detriment of our natural environment and to a wide range of land uses. The negative impacts of invasive weeds can also be felt in watershed health, agriculture, recreation, forestry, and property values. Invasive weeds affect both public and private landownerships throughout the county and the undersigned participants understand that a collaborative approach to weed management is needed in order to facilitate weed management efforts across ownership boundaries while recognizing that the participants may need to use different methods in carrying out such cooperative efforts.

The Josephine Cooperative Weed Management Area is a network of individuals, agencies and organizations concerned with rural and urban invasive weed issues in Josephine County, Oregon. The Cooperative Weed Management Area has come together to increase communication and cooperation, and to facilitate efforts across all landownership types to effectively control weeds in Josephine County.

Purpose

The purpose of the Josephine Cooperative Weed Management Area is to promote effective control of invasive weeds in Josephine County through increased cooperation and communication of interested agencies, organizations and individuals. The Josephine CWMA will create a forum to consider the big picture or landscape scale of invasive weeds.

Goals & Objectives

The Josephine CWMA area will focus on opportunities to collaborate in order to achieve the following goals and objectives. Members shall be encouraged to participate voluntarily, and are in no way required or bound by the group to expend funds or undertake any specific activities.

GOALS	OBJECTIVES
1. Prioritize needs and promote increased funding of education and treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Measurable results ▪ Collaborate to maximize funding ▪ Develop or create incentives to motivate people to manage the weeds on their own properties. ▪ Get funds to on-the-ground folks
2. Education and outreach to the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create understanding and communicate why weeds are important ▪ Promote individual responsibility and action to control noxious weeds on private and public lands ▪ Develop, organize a noxious weed day/event
3. Training and practical skill building for effective treatments and weed identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Share knowledge about what works ▪ Increase understanding/skills of effective weed treatment methods ▪ Improve understanding of the roles and responsibilities of agencies, groups and individuals ▪ Learn more (from each other) about best management practices
4. Inventory of target species and geographic areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop an inventory of invasive species ▪ Prioritize what areas, species need work ▪ Create a big picture for weeds ▪ Establish connectivity among organizations and weed control efforts
5. Share resources to implement effective treatments and enhance the efforts of individual organizations and agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maximize the effectiveness of each agency ▪ Sharing, pooling educational tools ▪ Organize clean-up/weed pull days ▪ Finding resources (including tools, volunteers) ▪ Equipment sharing

Organization and Structure

The Josephine CWMA will function as a network to share information and resources. Members of the network will continue to have full responsibility for and control over their individual program, responsibilities, and expenditures. Members of the network will maintain their distinct policies, philosophies and operating principles with regard to treatment and education methods while looking for opportunities to work collaboratively. The Josephine CWMA will function as a clearinghouse to facilitate the development of partnerships and promote collaborative efforts.

Regular participants of the Josephine CWMA will name a chairperson and a vice chair to convene the group and provide leadership each year. The group will develop an annual work plan, which will outline activities of the group and responsible parties. Josephine CWMA will look for opportunities to work with its member organizations, agencies and individuals to implement projects rather than taking on fiscal administration and oversight of activities directly.

Participation

The Josephine CWMA shall be open to any person, organization or agency that supports the purpose and goals of the group. Membership will be established by signing on to this declaration of cooperation and participating in meetings and activities.

The membership will offer a range of opportunities, skills and attributes including but not limited to the following:

Educational materials	Tools and methods
Motivational ideas	Volunteers
Ability to work with private landowners	Outreach capacity
Grant funding	Dissemination opportunities
Grant partnering	Publications

Signing this declaration establishes that the individual or organization agrees with the purpose and goals of the Josephine County Cooperative Weed Management Area.

Organization Name	Contact Information	Signature and Date
Forestry Action committee	541-592-4098 forestryaction@cavenet.com POB 1872 Cave Junction OR 97523	s/ Susan Chapp 7/24/07
Josephine County Parks	541-474-5289 125 Ringuette St Grants Pass OR 97527	s/ Steven R S____ 7/24/07
Josephine County Public Works	541-474-5460 201 River Heights way Grants Pass OR 97527	s/ Jeff Wheaton 7/24/07
The Nature Conservancy	821 E 14 th Ave Portland OR 97214 503-802-8100	s/ Catherine _____ 8/20/07
Wild Rivers Ranger District, USFS`	26568 Redwood Hwy Cave Junction OR 97523	s/ Joel King 9/20/07
Medford District Bureau of Land Management	3040 Biddle Rd Medford OR 97504	Timothy Reuwsatt 9/26/07
Middle Rogue Watershed Council	576 Ne E Street; Grants Pass, OR 97526	Allan Hammer 5/14/08
Grants Pass Irrigation district	200 Fruitdale Drive; Grants Pass OR 97527	Daniel Shepard 5/20/08
Oregon State University Extension service, Josephine County	541-476-6613 215 Ringuette St Grants Pass, OR 97527	John Punches 8/6/08
Siskiyou Field Institute/Deer Creek center	PO Box 207, Selma OR 97538 www.thesfi.org	Arnie Green 7/13/08