



Southwest Oregon Resource Conservation & Development Council

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Josephine County Invasive Weeds Discussion Notes
February 22; USDA Forest Service/BLM Interagency Office

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Bob Budeska introduced himself as a noxious weed specialist and range manager with the BLM in Medford. He is also actively involved with the effort to form a cooperative Weed Management Area in Jackson County.

Jeff Wheaton explained that Josephine County uses funds generated by gas taxes to manage roadside vegetation and maintain road shoulders 30 feet from the center of the road. Glen (didn't catch your last name!) also coordinating vegetation management work came with him.

Susan Chapp described the Takilma Road program done in cooperation with the BLM to manage weeds through non-chemical methods. She says their continued efforts have inspired landowners to do more work on their own properties as they see it is not impossible and their efforts are complementary.

Kyle Strauss introduced himself as the coordinator for AmeriCorps volunteers sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and stationed throughout the state, but located in Medford. He lives in Josephine County and has lots of background in noxious weeds work in the Portland area. Kyle shared his experience in using a watershed approach to Japanese Knotweed. In the Sandy River basin, they started at the top of the watershed and worked their way down connecting with approximately 500 landowners using volunteers (not agency reps).

Molly Sullivan works with The Nature Conservancy also. They manage two preserves in Josephine County and are interested in controlling weeds on their own land. They have a pilot program for Early detection Rapid Response (EDDR) where they hope to train volunteers to recognize new invaders so they can be dealt with quickly. Molly recommended the web site: <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu>

Glen Brady is the weed coordinator for the Douglas Soil and Water conservation district. He explained that their program is to treat weeds on private lands where landowners are willing to pay for the assistance. They also coordinate and implement on the ground activities for the Douglas County Weed Control group. Glen said that they have a weed day yearly and do tours that have become well established and popular. They have a "Dirty Dozen" priority list. They have an ongoing effort with public service announcements, an interest in biofuels (possibility of Scotch Broom).

Robin Taylor works for the BLM on weed treatment and management in the Rogue River area.

Maureen Jules manages invasives for the Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest out of Cave Junction.

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Brad Carlson explained that the Middle Rogue Watershed Council has worked on several projects to manage noxious weeds on private lands. They prefer to combine weed management with other activities such as forest management and try to implement riparian restoration on a wider scope. He noted that many landowners are unable to do the work themselves and are looking for physical or financial assistance. Because it is not regulated it is largely unrecognized and of low public interest.

NEED/OPPORTUNITIES FOR COORDINATION

Jeff noted the County is often in a position to distribute information, but cannot publish any. They are always wondering how the weeds will be controlled above the road easement as they have neither funds nor authority to work there.

A suggestion was made to increase the incentive for treating weeds. Another suggestion was that a group can provide coordination and further public understanding for the existing jurisdictions and responsibilities of land owners/managers. Other ideas included: efforts should focus on new invaders, education is an excellent opportunity to coordinate and save energy, data sharing would be helpful.

Let's pull together was noted as a great slogan that helped people get a sense of responsibility and become motivated.

We discussed briefly the possibilities for future interaction and cooperation. There was universal support to get back together and start working collaboratively. The experience from Jackson County was briefly discussed and it was noted that the current suggested approach was to form a Cooperative Weed Management Area [CWMA]. This differs from the old-fashioned Weed Board that had codified responsibilities and requirements in state law. Basically the CWMA agrees to some mutual goals and agrees to work collaboratively to move toward achieving those goals. A written agreement is developed that each party can sign, which helps with fund-raising, coordination and networking. The agreements generally are a commitment to collaborate and do not commit signatories to funding or specific resources. Efforts that have gone through a collaborative process to identify and prioritize are more readily funded than efforts that have not been through the same type process.

A next meeting date was set for **March 22, 10 a.m.** at the BLM/FS Interagency office again. If there is someone you know of who should be involved please invite them.

Come Prepared: Each person was asked to come to the next meeting with their own answer to the following questions:

1. What is your idea of the purpose or mission of a weed group for Josephine County?
2. What can you or your organization offer to support that purpose/mission in the short and/or long term?

Directions:

From I-5 take the southern-most exit for Grants Pass Exit 55. At the first light turn left onto Agness. Go past one stop sign and turn left onto Spalding Ave. This is a newly developed industrial park area. About mid-block, the FS/BLM is on the left hand side in a large building. (phone 471-6500)



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Next Meeting April 26 at Forest Service in Cave Junction

Let's pull together

Purpose and Mission of the organization

The participants listed the following purposes and/or mission for a collaborative group:

- Communication and cooperation
- Create understanding and communicate why weeds are important
- Sharing, pooling educational tools
- Establish connectivity among organizations and weed control efforts
- Measurable results
- Promote effective of control weeds
- Share knowledge about what works
- Collaborate to maximize funding
- Increase understanding of possibilities for how to treat
- Improve understanding of agencies and groups roles and capacities
- Prioritize what areas, species need work
- Develop or create incentives to motivate people to manage the weeds on their own properties.
- Develop, organize a noxious weed day/event
- Get funds to on the ground folks
- Learn more (from each other) about best management practices
- Organize clean-up/weed pull days
- Cerate a big picture for weeds
- Finding resources
- Equipment sharing
- Maximizing the effectiveness of each agency
- Retain individual agency/entities rules, priorities, etc

WHAT MEMBERS OF THE GROUP HAVE TO OFFER

Educational materials
Motivational ideas
landowners
Grant funding
Grant partnering
Volunteers

Tools and methods
Ability to work with private
Outreach capacity
Dissemination opportunities
Publications

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MISC:

Oregon State Marine Board makes a good partner.

We discussed options for developing a working agreement. Amy volunteered to do some research to find out what the requirements are in terms of how formal the agreement must. Those present liked the idea of creating a letter or declaration of cooperation, which would allow for others to join and sign as they became aware. Amy volunteered to draft a basic statement based on the values expressed at the beginning of the meeting—this can be used as a straw man. Everyone preferred to take this route rather than creating a more formal and legal type document such as the Memorandum of understanding. We discussed that although it would be good to have the document formalized by higher levels of agencies to show their support, it was deemed more important to have a document that communicated between the active partners. Unless we are otherwise required to do something more formal, we would ask that each person/agency signing the letter decide for themselves what level of the agency should be brought into the agreement. For example it seemed beneficial to have both public works and parks departments sign and actively participate if they feel that is appropriate.

Susan and Maureen volunteered to help work on the draft.

We decided to go ahead and start doing the networking that we hope to make a focus of our collaborative effort and share current activities.

Upcoming activities:

April 3, 9-12. [Weeds In Jackson County; BLM Medford on Biddle Rd.](#)
Workshop to introduce the cooperative Weed management Area, talk about Most Wanted Species distribution and treatment—
Josephine County folks are more than welcome, please RSVP to 734-3143 or email Amy.

May 19 9-3 [Early Detection Rapid Response workshop, TNC. Location TBA.](#)
Training and field trip contact tsiemens@tnc.org

[I apologize for capturing more on some of the speakers than others!]

Amy – Southwest Oregon RC&D Council: in addition to providing support to the formation of the county level groups in Jackson and Josephine, we are developing a project to explore weeds education from a habitat-based marketing perspective. For example looking at riparian species and then evaluating the target audiences and messages that will work the best. Considering requesting funding for the project through OWEB.

Tom – GPID: The Irrigation District has a very tight budget right now and will not be able to treat weeds beyond this spring. Normally their program is fairly limited anyway because of all the restrictions around using herbicides near water. They normally work to maintain the easement clear and reduce fire danger, also making sure that water can flow through the ditches. They have open canals of over 100 miles.

Suzanne and Susan - Forestry Action committee: They work with individuals and community groups to do weed treatments on public and private lands. They do education with K-12 and community organizations. They have been helping the Siskiyou Field Institute with the property that they are now managing to map and identify weeds relating to their restoration

plans. They are able to loan tools out—especially the weed wrenches, which work well on broom. They also work with the Job Council. They have made some pamphlets on how to control knapweed, in particular a pamphlet showing in detail how to use black plastic to kill knapweed (which works really well IF you do it right). They convened a meeting to discuss sand and gravel activities and how to minimize spread of weeds. They are working with Copeland on mitigation planning. They share information and are mapping populations with Forest Service and BLM. They are trying to widen a weed free corridor. They have also recommended planting hedgerows to help folks stop the spread from neighboring untreated properties.

Brad – Middle Rogue Watershed Council: they have done bulk mailings of over 2000 pamphlets to targeted areas. They have done a scotch broom removal project in Wolf Creek through BLM Title II funding. They are planning a project on Azalea drive to treat 30-50 acres based on the response to one of the mailings. The local homeowner is organizing the neighbors to create a neighborhood project with the help of MRWC.

Maureen – Forest Service: main responsibility is to manage weeds on FS lands and educate recreational and other users. Funding over all is down. Most weed funding is tied to timber sales which limits the ability to work on other areas. The total budget for the year is \$80,000. There is \$6,000 earmarked for other activities which is planned to include manual treatments by college students hired in the summer. They do have good funding for entry infestations related to roads.

Robin – Bureau of Land Management: main responsibility is to manage weeds on BLM lands and educate recreational and other users. Funding sources are also limited. Funds currently relate to the Deer Creek Fire, the Rogue River recreational and scenic area, rock quarries and gravel pits.

Doreen – Josephine County Parks: Parks have gone from 30 employees to only eight full time employees. However, they care a lot about the environment and try to keep it going. They have volunteers who can help.

Melissa – Jackson-Josephine County Extension Service: Their main program is through outreach and education. They offer pasture management programs. They are available for farm visits and advising private landowners.

Jeff – Josephine County Public Works: They are finishing up the residual spraying of the road shoulders, which is done January through May. They have over 600 miles of road should to maintain. They have two chippers and also work with the “owner maintains roadside” program which some landowners opt for.

Karl – Oregon Department of Forestry: There are over 400 acres of state owned forest lands which are managed by ODF. They also promote fuels reduction activity around private homes and have the possibility to educate private homeowners in the rural area. They hire 50 seasonal workers. *We discussed the possibility of training some of these folks to spot and report new weeds.*

Vic – Josephine County Forestry Dept.: the County has 30,000 acres of forest land to manage (wow!). They do some weed treatment with their tree planting crews.

Kevin – Illinois Valley Watershed Council and Soil and Water Conservation District: they refer most of their request for assistance to the Forestry Action Committee.

NRCS (no representative at this meeting). They are a federal agency offering technical assistance to landowners to address resource concerns on their own land. Funding is available for some weed control/spread related activities such as pasture management and irrigation. They work with private landowners only on a voluntary basis, phone 476-5856.

A next meeting date was set for **April 26, 10 a.m.** at Forest Service District Office in Cave Junction (location details to be arranged by Maureen). If there is someone you know of who should be involved please invite them.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY VIA TELEVISION

message directed to watershed councils

Cc: ejahn@opb.org

Subject: Oregon Public Broadcasting invasive species campaign 2008

Message to Oregon Plan Outreach Team, OWEB program representatives, watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts:

Oregon Public Broadcasting is in the initial stages of planning several activities to be launched in the spring of 2008: * A public information campaign to encourage people to take action against invasive plants and animals. They will focus primarily on species with established programs aiming to curtail invasion. * A television special that will bring attention to the problem of invasives and show what the ordinary person can do.

Producer Ed Jahn is currently seeking ideas for the TV production and information campaign and looking for funding partners. If you have projects that would make good TV footage that will occur this year that illustrate individual and community involvement to tackle invasives, contact Ed. And, of course, he'd love to hear any partnership opportunities that would provide funding for the outreach pieces.

Send suggestions to Ed directly at ejahn@opb.org with a cc to me, please.

- > Monte Turner
- > Oregon Plan Communications Coordinator
- > Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- > 775 Summer St. NE Suite 360
- > Salem OR 97301-1290
- > 503-986-0195
- > www.oregon.gov/OWEB



Pulling together
Josephine Cooperative Weed Management Area
April 26, 2007
USDA Forest Service/BLM Interagency Office
Cave Junction

Next Meeting May 24, Cave Junction, USFS Butler Building

April 26, 2007 Meeting Notes

Participants:

Susan Chapp, Suzanne Vautier, Kathy Lombardo, Jeff Wheaton, Vic Harris, Kyle Strauss, Maureen Jules, Mike Scott, Glenn Crookshanks, Melissa Matthewson.

We welcomed everyone and heard from two new participants what their organizations focused on. Kathy Lombardo represents the Illinois valley Garden Club. They have about 65 members and are interested in educational programs. Members range from Selma to O'Brien, but not into Grants Pass area which has its own Garden Club. They have some volunteers, but not legions. In some of the education efforts, they made a display of the plants that are still being sold in nurseries that are considered bad weeds.

Mike Scott with ODOT works on the District which ranges from Prospect to the Siskiyou to Glendale, etc. They have over 900 miles of shoulder miles on state roads that they maintain. They use residual chemicals which inhibit the plants from living even after they resprout from seeds. The residual works for about one year. Their activity is restricted to the highway right of way. They also are trying to mangle their stock piles so that they are not spreading weeds from them.

We reviewed the draft declaration of cooperation. Amy reported that after inquiry through Oregon Department of Agriculture and other contacts, it became apparent that no particular format was needed for an agreement such as a Memorandum of Understanding. Maureen noted that BLM had some concerns about possibly needing a formal MOU. Amy offered to follow up with BLM to find out the bottom line. The following points regarding content of the declaration were discussed in anticipation that the principles would be incorporated into whatever final format we chose:

- Include consideration of non-profits (although don't need to add it everywhere—just get it in the range of interests)
- Emphasize that multiple landownerships make a collaborative approach necessary
- Emphasize that the groups role would be to facilitate efforts across ownerships
- Make the prioritization bullet first in the list to show that it is important
- To goal #4 add that the sharing will enhance the results of the efforts

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- Tagline of Pulling together was discussed and it was noted that some might read into it that using chemicals was not an option, but group felt that it was catchy enough that they would stick with it anyway, recognizing that within the group each agency uses their own methodology to treat weeds (maybe we can state this clearly, too)

Amy will work on the content draft and send back out to folks for comments, editing.

Any ideas for a logo?? Please share them.

We started planning for cooperative activities. A preliminary list of activities for this year included:

- promoting bio control of knapweed (by helping to identify locations, etc)
- holding a weed day
- get someone—some people trained in early detection rapid response from Jo County
- Generate press releases and news stories to keep weeds in the news; take turns so that it is coming from range of partners
- Share ideas to promote more action on weeds.

Announcements for the good of the order

- Early detection rapid response training by Nature Conservancy, May 19 location TBA, call (541) 914-0701, see flyer

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Pulling together

Josephine Cooperative Weed Management Area

April 26, 2007

USDA Forest Service/BLM Interagency Office

Cave Junction

Next Meeting May 24, Cave Junction, USFS Butler Building

May 24th, 2007 Meeting Notes

Participants:

Maureen Jules, Robin Taylor, Jeff Wheaton, Glenn Crookshanks, Susan Chapp, Darren Borgias (dborgias@tnc.org), Mike Scott,

NEXT MEETING PLANNED FOR: THURSDAY JUNE 28TH, IN GRANTS PASS AT GPIO. ROBIN IS BRINGING TREATS.

UPDATE ON SIGNING THE AGREEMENT:

Current attendees are for the most part ready to sign the agreement. Robin Taylor volunteered to do a phone tree before the next meeting, because we'd like to have organizations begin signing the agreement next meeting.

MOST OF THE MEETING SPENT IN GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH EACH ORGANIZATION GIVING AN UPDATE:

Update on early detection & rapid response (TNC): many competing events, but got lots of volunteers interested in participating in early detection rapid response. TNC plans to offer the training again. Molly Sullivan has the materials and would like to do the training in Josephine county.

Maureen Jules gave an update on the float of the Illinois River. No Japanese Knotweed was found, but slender false brome infests the entire stretch of river. The absence of knotweed on the Illinois raises the importance of eliminating all reported Illinois Valley sites.

Discussion over our motto the knapweed fairy. The group kind of likes mixing the nice feelings with the bad weeds. But, 5 out of 7 participants would like to find another motto. Chapp says it is effective to avoid pushing hate; hate causes withdrawal. If we send Darren a note, he will have a TNC volunteer collect a bunch of logos for us to peruse & select.

Another TNC update: TNC is very concerned about *Alyssum corsicum* and *A. murale*. Darren described the history of *A. murale* in the Illinois Valley. The plant is being

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used as a nickel hyperaccumulator for nickel mining in the Illinois Valley. Neat concept also used for bioremediation. TNC has 4 acres planted on TNC land. They are in the process of eradicating their 4 acres site. The site was disced, but both natives and the Alyssum has returned. Experimenting with round-up and weed-eating to prevent seed set. Herbicide application appears highly effective. Also monitoring roadsides and surrounding areas.

Susan Chapp: Suzanne from FAC has returned to airport plantings to monitor Viridian plantings. Viridian claims the plant just doesn't grow well, and they cut the plant before it sets seeds. However Suzanne is documenting much germination from the seeds that dropped from the plants. The bails are also being left on the site. Darren suggests a fly over. Alyssum Is the main update for FAC. Susan successfully completed a contract for BLM stewardship scotch broom removal. FAC will also be doing weed removal with the Maureen Jules in the forest service. Darren is interested in using FAC crew for Alyssum removal.

Mike Scott, used all chemicals for ODA, now out of money until July. Finished residual treatments, will release *Bruchidius vilosus* which he got for free from ODA near Sexton Pass. Robin Taylor also released the same thing. Jeff Wheaton tried to get some from ODA, but they were already out, and you'd have to go to Portland to get them. Near Shan Creek, once trees cleared, the scotch broom is flourishing in understory. Darren asked what we hope the insects will accomplish? Robin Taylor said we can expect control but not eradication, every area will differ. Darren: how effective in getting rid of seeds? Jeff: lots of weeds that have taken over don't have natural enemies. The insects are a tool among many to at least help reduce seed set. Mike could put the bugs near Hogue lane. Susan reminded the group of how many people have been borrowing the weed wrenches.

Mike: any sitings of blackberry rust? Robin, says the rust isn't being released yet because it will attack the agricultural crops. They are also doing studies to assure the rust doesn't attack natives.

Maureen: update of FS roadside brushing, chipping & broadcast 20-30 fill side of slope. Hopefully the FS will find another method. This method is likely to spread weeds 20-30 feet beyond road prism. Would like it if this weed group could spend a session discussing disposal of ditch cleaning overburden and roadside brushing chipped material.

Robin: been treating knotweed, just now launching into weed season, found Dyer's woad at Griffin park and is not finding tons of it on the Rogue River, where before there was hardly any. Robin still wants to involve Grants Pass City people. She can't get them to come to the meetings yet, but it would really help her deal with weeds to engage city officials. Will begin doing Rogue River float treatments. Would like to coordinate with the county for BLM and county treatments. Robin is pursuing a BPS grant. Is interested in producing large roadside weed signs. Where are the good areas to put up signs. I.e. Hayes Hill: STOP RUSH SKELETON WEED. Would be good to have signs at the entrance of the counties. Robin also interested

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in buying magnets and bumper stickers. Focus on education on placements etc. Group isn't too interested in bumper stickers or magnets. June 9th the Bend weed event will occur and Robin is considering attending. The group discussed the many ways that the county corrections crews can be used for weed removal.

Jeff & Glen: finished residual program and now short on labor for the foliar program. Can't use correction crew for this, because they aren't certified applicants. With spray tanks, usually residuals first and then later rinse and mix garlan for foliar treatment. They used to spray year round, but it hasn't been that good for 17 years. Hard to make management realize the benefits of doing this regularly. Citizens for clean air, Newport to Yachats, ODA pilot no spray program. Mike is worried this will be the trend for the state. Glen told story about tumble weeds being burned.

Robin Taylor is placing a large order with extension for a variety of flyers.



Pulling together

Josephine County Cooperative Weed Management Area

June 28

USDA Forest Service/BLM Interagency Office

Next Meeting July 19th, All Sports Park, (exact locale TBA)

June 28, 2007 Meeting Notes

Participants: Robin Taylor, Susan Chapp, Suzanne Vautier, Brad Carlson, Kyle Strauss, Amy Wilson

DECLARATION OF COOPERATION

The group reviewed the comments made by the Nature Conservancy legal office. The final copy was marked up and the plan is to mail out and ask for people to go ahead and start signing.

LOGO IDEAS

The Nature Conservancy offered to look for logos and Kyle's sister in Milwaukie (WI!) offered her graphic arts expertise—Many thanks Sarah! And Kyle way to go for recruiting help all the way from Wisconsin. We picked one out and are asking Sarah to give us a jpg or several jpgs so we can use it many ways. This discussion rolled right into the next one which was about getting the word out about the CWMA.

OUTREACH (and education)

We talked about our audience and decided we have two main audiences and messages. One is more focused on the CWMA itself and the other is the more general topic of weed education.

[Note from Amy here: I would recommend that outreach is about the organization and education is all about weeds] who and what:

What	Who
CWMA: (outreach) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative, voluntary group • Prioritizes weed populations, does inventory • Shares technical info • Public education 	Potential funders Potential supporters Agencies and organizations County Commissioners

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<p>All About Weeds: (education)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Personal/individual responsibility!!</u> • Weed species recognition • Weed species treatment • General management to minimize weed infestations • How to avoid spreading weeds • Cost/importance of weeds • Who to contact for help, when 	<p>Private landowners, land managers Agency partners, organizations Public Recreation people Gravel operators/people who move earth</p>
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Outreach Opportunities re the CWMA:

- Finalize the Resource list and share with members and some key others.
- Make a brief presentation to the County Commissioners when the declaration is signed.

Education opportunities for Weeds:

- Try to “populate” a booth with weed people and weed info. FS/BLM/Middle Rogue Watershed Council have a booth shared at the fair. Try to get plenty of weed info in there and distribute a general info brochure about the CWMA (see brochure ideas, next). Brad is already signed up for several shifts; others should try to fill in to make sure there is someone there who can answer weeds questions. To stimulate weed questions we should: make buttons or stickers that say “ask me about weeds”, think of some type display that would get people talking—Robin has her ‘fake plants” or maybe some knotweed plants or?? Note fair is in August.

Brochure Ideas:

- a brochure for the CWMA would be focused on communicating to the general public the importance of weeds and the need for citizens being responsible and taking action. Contact info per land type would be provided as well as the invader contact info with ODA for new weeds. Amy will play with a draft (this can be made in house for limited numbers, i.e. not thousands!).

RESOURCE LIST

This refers to the list of all the agencies and organizations involved in weeds and what they do. We discussed the potential use of this document and concluded that it is really more of a resource for us and as the background info for something much streamlined for public distribution. **Please make any changes in the attached and send back to Amy.**

UPDATES/ROUNDTABLE

We didn’t really do updates this meeting, but Susan mentioned that she was grateful to have gotten notice from Jeff Wheaton that there were biological controls available. She appreciated the opportunity to hear about the County plans and to be informed of efforts affecting weeds in the IV area.

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WEED EVENT

We discussed the value of holding an event for the sake of getting the word out about the CWMA and getting the public aware of the need to get involved AND to actually clean up/treat an area. We discussed the possibility of coordinating with the statewide "down by the Riverside day with SOLV. The advantages are that there is insurance for volunteers, publicity and support. Disadvantages are that there is competition for volunteers on that day –everyone wants to float the river.

Brad said he had talked to All Sport Park manager Jeff Nelson about weed activities. Everyone liked this as a possible site because people are more motivated to protect a beloved site than to work on weeds per se. Brad was volunteered to talk to Jeff about the possibility of an event next year and to ask if volunteers working at the park are covered by the city. Challenges with the planning of that would be to identify the best time (probably May June) then to identify the weeds that could be effectively worked on at that time with volunteers. (Don't want to spend their time on an activity that is ineffective. Also can't completely treat the area as a result of this one activity.)

This event would need to be fully planned with clear objectives. Need to address issue of follow-up and continued maintenance. We talked about perks like tee shirts as a volunteer draw (included with SOLV events).

LONG TERM PLANNING

We didn't really get into this topic either. A few ideas that came up, but were not in the immediate plans were the idea of creating tire (ATV & truck) washing stations that people could access.

The next meeting was set for **July 19th at All Sports Park.**

Agenda:

- Preparations for the Fair
- Signing of the declaration
- Reviewing finalizing brochure
- Updates/roundtable from the group

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Pulling together

Josephine County Cooperative Weed Management Area
July 24, Reinhart Volunteer Park

NEXT meeting Grants Pass Interagency Office August 9, 10 am.

Participants: Robin Taylor/BLM, Susan Chapp/Forestry Action Committee, Ed Cramp/Jo Co Public Works, Rob Brandis/Jo Co Public Works, Jeff Wheaton/Jo Co Public Works, Shannon Brubaker/ODA, Tim Butler/ODA, Molly Sullivan/Nature Conservancy, Suzanne Vautier/Forestry Action Committee, Brad Carlson/Middle Rogue Watershed Council, Kyle Strauss/Nature Conservancy, Amy Wilson

DECLARATION OF COOPERATION

There was agreement that we were ready to sign the agreement and Jeff Wheaton took the original to route around the county. Those who need to route it to someone else in their organization can get a signature on a separate sheet if they would like and it can be held on file—rather than trying to get it onto one single page!

Oregon Department of Agriculture Weed Program

We had a presentation by Shannon and Tim about new funds that are now available through the ODA. A million dollars has been added to the weed budget for grants to bring it to a level of approximately 2.5 million total. The funds come through Measure 66 Lottery channels and must therefore demonstrate some impact on the watershed and/or fish and wildlife. Funds will be targeted to the A or B listed species and must show that we are making a difference; plant density should go down. Grants are typically from \$2,000 to \$35,000. There are two cycles for submitting grants: Dec 10 (results in awards made in February) and July.

Applications from CWMA's are given some weight by the Board, as they like to see cooperative efforts. Cost share funding to entities to accomplish the work is common. Funding is released on a schedule: 50% up front, 25% at the interim report and 25% at the final report after the completion of the project. Admin may be billed at a rate of 10% and does not require itemization.

In requesting for a plant like meadow knapweed, make the case that it is a new invader in your particular area and that the population is treatable, i.e., not part of a huge population.

As per questions from Jeff, it was explained that funding from ODA would go to one organization, but the work could be completed by other parties including organizations or contractors. ODA would prefer to have one entity take over administrative functions for the CWMA, but it is not a requirement.

PRESS RELEASE FROM ODA:

Noxious invasive weed control grants available

07/11/2007

The Oregon State Weed Board is now accepting [applications for noxious invasive weed control projects](#) on both private and public lands. Eligible applicants include private landowners, counties, weed management areas, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed councils. No state or federal agency can apply for funds but can be a cooperator on successfully-awarded projects.

The deadline for grant applications is July 27, 2007. The State Weed Board will be awarding grants for the current round of funding in its September meeting.

The Oregon Legislature has recently increased the amount of funding for the grant program by \$1 million for the 2007-09 biennium, bringing the total amount of funds available for the next two years to \$2.5 million. The additional funding allows the State Weed Board to allocate an estimated 40 additional projects this biennium to help private and public land managers implement or continue watershed projects statewide that help meet the objectives of the Oregon Noxious Weed Strategic Plan. The grant program is in its fourth biennium with 378 grants awarded by the board to date totaling \$4.4 million.

Noxious invasive weeds continue to impact agricultural land, forests, and natural areas causing severe production losses, increased control costs, and negative impacts to watersheds. A conservative assessment documents an impact of more than \$83 million in annual losses to Oregon's economy due to noxious weeds.

For more information, contact Shannon Brubaker, grants coordinator with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, at (503) 986-4621.

PDF version

http://oregon.gov/ODA/docs/pdf/news/070711weed_grants.pdf

COUNTY FAIR

We talked about trying to have a presence at the County Fair as a part of the BLM/FS booth. **Please contact Robin** about scheduling yourself to be in the booth.

Amy offered to make some stickers to be handed out liberally that say: Ask me about weeds. Also suggested was: weed warrior.

We looked at the rough draft brochure that Amy made to see if we wanted to produce it in quantity for the fair. Everyone liked the basic idea, thought it should be in color and thought we should hand it out in the #750-1000 range.

DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AT THE PARK

Jeff Nelson from the Parks department was invited but could not make it. Brad reported that there were possibilities on the bike path, near the ponds and involving a range of weeds. Rather than try to pick a project as a group, Brad and Robin volunteered to review the options for a demo project at the park and come back to the group with recommendations. One question raised was whether or not the City/park had liability coverage for volunteers (Brad can you find out?).

MEETING WITH COMMISSIONERS

Amy related to the group that the visit from ODA had created interest and an opportunity to meet with the County commissioners about weeds. The Commissioners had invited ODA to meet with them and the Josephine CWMA was invited to tag along. Brad volunteered to accompany Amy for the meeting. [see notes below]

MISC:

Amy asked the group if they knew of any inexpensive housing opportunities to pass on to the incoming AmeriCorps volunteer.

NEXT MEETING: Aug 9th Grants Pass Interagency Office 10 am.

COMMISSIONERS MEETING NOTES; 3 pm July 24, 2007

Commissioner Ellis explained that the county owns and manages over 33,000 acres of land, including forestland, airports, parks, etc. There is concern that the Illinois Valley airport has weeds coming up through the landing strip. Unfortunately, these weeds seem to fall more into the realm of maintenance than the noxious weeds, which are targeted by the ODA funding.

Tim Butler ODA, explained the funding and also suggested that the Board of Commissioners have the possibility of creating a weed district with an official weed board which has a wide range of authority under Oregon Law. Commissioner Ellis expressed reservations that people would want that.

One idea for collaborative work was to look at purple loosestrife along the river and in parks.

Jeff Wheaton brought Commissioner Ellis up to speed on the declaration of cooperation and the interest and activity of the other county departments to date.



Pulling together

Josephine County Cooperative Weed Management Area
August 9, 2007 Grants Pass Interagency Office

NEXT meeting Grants Pass Interagency Office Sept. 20, 10 am.

Participants: Robin Taylor/BLM, Jeff Wheaton/Jo Co Public Works, Brad Carlson/Middle Rogue Watershed Council, Maureen Jules/USFS, Glenn Crookshanks, Amy Wilson/Southwest Oregon RC&D

COUNTY FAIR

We reviewed the plans for participating in the fair. Robin told us the time slots that are open are Tues/Wed/Thurs/Sat from 9:30-11 and 3-7. **Please contact Robin** about scheduling yourself to be in the booth. Robin also told us there will be parking passes and entrance passes available for people in the booth.

Amy showed off the stickers that say "weed warrior" and the pin-on name tags she made that say "ask me about weeds". Robin will keep those tags in the booth to be worn by weed folks who man the booth.

We did a final review of the brochure and everyone agreed that printing it on colored paper in black ink was sufficient. Amy agreed to print and deliver to Robin by next week.

DECLARATION OF COOPERATION

Jeff reported that he had distributed copies of it for signature, but they had not come back to him. We reminded folks that signatures will be collected and filed, then a summary document will be created with the list of signers, contacts, etc.

NURSERIES

We discussed nurseries and concluded that we should interact with them to encourage them to stop selling listed species. We agreed that we should send a letter with an enclosed list of the current listed species and offer to help them with identification or other weed questions.. Robin will draft a letter and bring it to the next meeting for review.

POTENTIAL PROJECT FOR ODA FUNDING

After the presentation at that last meeting, we discussed the possibilities for doing a small project or two to treat a specific population or location. This idea evolved out of the possibility of a project for Purple loosestrife as discussed in the meeting with Jo County Commissioners and department heads.

The group reviewed the parameters of the ODA funding and how they relate to this group. In the past we had agreed that the group itself would not seek to form a fiscal agency capacity, but would rather look to members to take on fiscal responsibility for a given grant project. We also reiterated that the cash flow procedure associated with the ODA funding needed to be carefully considered as, they dole out the money in chunks that require the fiscal agent to advance funds to complete the work. We discussed that this could be problematic for non-profits unless the projects were small. We disused the possibility of specific county departments handling the funds, but we did not have specific information on this option.

We listed a couple of alternatives for potential projects and people signed up to get some basic info for them to help with the review/analysis:

- Knotweed on Gilbert Creek – Brad mentioned that there was knotweed on several properties in Gilbert Creek and that there might be possibility to work with landowners. This would require treatment with chemicals. **ROBIN** agreed to follow up
- Skeleton Weed on 199 – would have to make the case that it has not yet invaded the IV and we are trying to hold the line (otherwise they'll think it's a lost cause), **Maureen/Jeff**
- Purple Loosestrife in county parks along Rogue River – this looked like a good option to help a county department and treat a problem weed. **Jeff** will follow up.

FOLLOWING UP means finding out some basic information to help us make a decision about which would make a good project. Therefore, we would need some information about each one such as:

- Who would treat the weeds with what kind of treatment (i.e. volunteers with weed wrenches? Certified applicators injecting stems, etc)
- Basic cost guesstimate
- Size, scale or scope of the project; i.e. number of acres relative population density, etc

We will need to evaluate and compare this basic information in order to decide which project might have the most potential to get funded.

We also discussed the possibility of small projects and of submitting two small grants. All projects would have to show impact on the weeds treated—measurable success.

WEED DAY PROJECT AT THE PARK

No report this meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Sept. 20th Grants Pass Interagency Office 10 am.

AGENDA

- 1. report on the fair - All**
- 2. review options for ODA project (deadline in December) Robin, Jeff, Maureen**
- 3. weed day project At Reinhart Vol. Park options _ Brad/Robin**
- 4. Update on declaration**



Pulling together

Josephine County Cooperative Weed Management Area
October 18, 2007 Grants Pass Interagency Office

NEXT meeting Grants Pass Interagency Office Nov 15, 10 am.

Participants: Robin Taylor/BLM, Suzanne Vautier/Forestry Action Committee, Kyle Strauss/Nature Conservancy, Ken French/ODA, Maureen Jules/USFS, Dana Stedron, AmeriCorps Volunteer, Amy Wilson/Southwest Oregon RC&D

NOXIOUS WEED DAY

Following up on the idea from the last meeting, everyone agreed that a project at Tom Perce Park had several distinct advantages. Positives include the fact that there is a significant user group who are aware of and bothered by the star thistle (the Frisbee golf folks), the County has been responsive and supportive of weed group so far, and the volunteers at County parks can earn credit toward a park pass. The target species would be star thistle and scotch broom. Time frame would be May - June. There might be a possibility of helping develop two sites for 4-hour projects so that volunteers could earn their pass (8 hours required). This group could take the lead on this project site and just lend a hand with the county taking the lead on the other site, for example. Robin agreed to be the lead person for this project. It was suggested that Video World might be willing to give prizes since they are a main provider of the Frisbee golf gear. Food was essential! Suggested some funds may be available through SOLV.

OTHER OUTREACH

Ken shared that the weed tour in Douglas County was very successful and might be something worth trying in Josephine County.

SKELETON WEED

Maureen reported that she had followed up on this potential project. She learned that there are two locations, one is approximately 11 acres near Grants Pass, the other is near Hayes Hill and is only 1 acre. ODOT has said they are interested in treating these locations. The larger site is thought to be a lost cause in terms of eradication, but should be closely watched to prevent spread. There is a road widening project in the future that may need to be watched very closely to prevent contamination. Ken French reported that this weed is extremely hard to control as the roots go VERY far down. There are mites being used, but they are not that promising. Amy noted that there was a project being proposed in cooperation with BLM on the I-5 corridor.

JAPANESE KNOTWEED/ GILBERT CREEK

Robin reported that they had not yet had a chance to tour Gilbert Creek. Ken affirmed that ODA is really looking to support projects where discreet drainages are targeted and where projects can show an impact in terms of specific species. There was some discussion about the Illinois Valley and whether or not there was Japanese Knotweed present yet. Kyle talked about a float trip on the Illinois where they found that the lower portion has not been infected yet. This heightened the need to stay vigilant and keep a watch on the upper portions. Suzanne thought they would be interested in helping to monitor it, but hesitant about any treatment options relating to chemicals—in terms of actually doing it themselves.

NURSERY LETTER

We revisited the nursery letter and the idea of keeping a list of compliant nurseries. Amy voiced the concerns expressed by the Jackson County group about implying that our group had enforcement authority. Ken said that there was also some question about the cultivars and the fact that some of the cultivars sold are legal, i.e. sterile. Ken suggested that we could find out more specifics about the enforcement of these rules from Dan Hillburn with the Oregon Plant Division/Nursery Inspector. The idea surfaced of asking him to participate in some kind of workshop to discuss weeds. It was noted that in spite of local systems there was availability of out-of-state materials that might be harmful. We decided to verify if a workshop was possible and to add that to the letter as a suggestion of something we might be able to organize to the benefit of local nursery producers.

KNAPWEED

Ken mentioned that diffuse and spotted knapweeds are an important emerging species that need to be looked at.

NEXT MEETING: Nov 15th Grants Pass Interagency Office 10 am.

AGENDA

- 1. Projects: Gilbert - Knotweed**
- 2. Nursery Letter/ Inspection Program**
- 3. Declaration Of Cooperation**
- 4. Weed Day – Tom Pearce Park**



Pulling together

Josephine County Cooperative Weed Management Area
November 15, 2007 Grants Pass Interagency Office

NEXT meeting Grants Pass Interagency Office Jan 17th, 10 am.

Participants: Robin Taylor/BLM, Susan Chapp/Forestry Action Committee, Brad Carlson/Middle Rogue Watershed Council, Dana Stedron, AmeriCorps Volunteer, Amy Wilson/Southwest Oregon RC&D

JAPANESE KNOTWEED/ GILBERT CREEK

No action has been taken on this item since the last meeting. We discussed that in the past the residents have not been too cooperative and that as it is an urban area there are a lot more residents/landowners to deal with than in an area where there are fewer landowners with larger holdings. Brad reported that some residents have said they want the knotweed for its privacy effects.

An alternative area where knotweed exists and needs to be treated is at the All Sports Park. Robin said that her treatment resources would likely not be available for supplementing a municipality vs. a small landowner who might not have the resources. The possibility of Jones Creek was also mentioned.

It was concluded that further information was needed on the extent of the problem on Gilbert Creek. A tentative plan to survey the distribution/presence of knotweed on Gilbert Creek was identified as a possible activity in March or springtime. Suggestion was made to contact Kyle to talk more about how to conduct the survey and other ideas that would further this effort.

It was also noted that the city puts out a small newsletter in their billing statement regularly. Brad volunteered to find out if there was a possibility to insert information about knotweed into the newsletter since it is a particularly urban problem. If they would allow it, Robin probably has some ready-made content for it.

NURSERY LETTER

We decided the revised nursery letter looked good, but decided to add the suggestion of holding a forum/workshop with the nursery/invasives representative from ODA as something the group could offer. It was concluded that Robin's phone number could go on the letter and that the RC&D Council's mailing address would be added for contact.

- Robin volunteered (I think) to contact the nursery inspector about possible future workshop.
- Brad volunteered to get addresses for nurseries.

Everyone gave Robin the green light to go ahead and send out the letter with the recommended changes.

NOXIOUS WEED DAY

Robin walked the site with Steve from County Parks and other maintenance personnel. They are all enthusiastic about the project/event. We decided we need to develop an outline of the event to include: timeline, budget, partners, sponsors, advertising. The tentative date is in May or June. Brad volunteered to donate \$100 from MRWC for event costs.

OTHER OUTREACH

Amy mentioned that Jackson County was submitting a report of their progress to date to interested parties and that she would develop a draft report of Josephine County activities.

We gave ourselves a holiday gift and planned the next meeting for January 17th.

NEXT MEETING:

AGENDA

- 1. Knotweed**
- 2. Nursery Letter/ Inspection Program**
- 3. Declaration Of Cooperation**
- 4. Weed Day – Tom Pearce Park**