

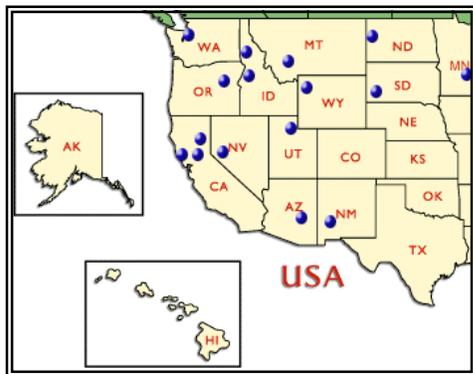
# Cooperative Weed Management Areas Grants Program 2002

Final Report – June 2003

## Executive Summary

Public concern about the harmful effects of uncontrolled weeds continues to increase. One result is the rapidly increasing number of cooperative weed management areas (WMAs) in the western United States as more communities of landowners join with state and federal partners to battle invasive plants and protect remaining healthy ecosystems.

In 2002, the Center for Invasive Plant Management offered competitive grants (up to \$5,000) for weed management areas in the western United States. This was determined to be an efficient method to widely promote ecologically based weed management in the West and to direct funding to “the folks on the ground” who were making a difference in their communities every day.



In 2002, thirty-one proposals were received from 13 western states, requesting a total of \$151,075.

Sixteen proposals were funded by CIPM (*see map at left*) for a total of \$79,435. The funded grants leveraged \$403,687 in matching funds and in-kind services, a ratio of 1:5.

Funded projects included management, education, and community outreach components.

Final reports from each of the funded WMAs indicate that the CIPM grants program for weed management areas is an excellent method of supporting on-the-ground weed management throughout the West. The vast majority of WMAs achieved their stated 12-month goals.

Site-specific weed management and community outreach together with low overhead make this granting program an effective and efficient approach. As the program grows, it is essential that CIPM stay in close touch with western state Department of Agriculture weed coordinators to ensure that the program complements state efforts in the region. This program is not intended to provide ongoing, base funding for WMAs; rather, its purpose is to provide incentive and initial funding to get programs or projects up and running so WMAs can leverage more comprehensive funding with partners in their areas.

Report analysis indicates that two needs are fairly common among WMAs: long-term funding and training assistance.

From 2002 to 2003, the number of proposals to the WMA grants program more than doubled, from 31 to 67, although the number of grants awarded increased only from 16 to 17. With additional funding, CIPM's WMA grants program could easily expand and provide more benefits (grants and training resources) to more communities in the West.