



Cooperative Weed Management Areas

Grants Program 2005

Final Report

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Montana State University – Bozeman

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Results of Grants Awarded in 2005

Executive Summary

Public concern about the harmful effects of invasive plants continues to rise. This concern is particularly evident in the rapidly increasing number of cooperative weed management areas (CWMAs) 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 2005, the Center for Invasive Plant Management (CIPM) continued its CWMA competitive grants program, through which up to \$5,000 is awarded to a limited number of CWMAs in the western U.S. This program has proved to be an effective method for widely promoting ecologically-based weed management and efficiently directing funding to on-the-ground land managers.

Of the 41 proposals received by CIPM in 2005, 19 projects in 12 states were funded for a total of \$95,925. The funded grants leveraged \$515,221 in additional funds and in-kind services, a ratio of better than one to five. Project areas encompassed 50,779,659 acres.

Projects funded by CIPM in 2005 included management, mapping, education, and community outreach components. The most common invasive plants addressed were leafy spurge, knapweed, Canada thistle, oxeye daisy, tamarisk, Russian olive, and yellow starthistle. The majority of CWMAs achieved their stated 12-month goals for site-specific weed management and community outreach and the final reports each submitted indicate that the CIPM grants program is an excellent method of supporting their efforts.

CWMAs are based on partnerships. Private landowners, the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and county departments were the most frequently mentioned partners. These groups were followed by universities and university Extension programs, state departments of transportation, and fish/wildlife and agriculture programs, a great illustration of working together toward a common goal.

Report analysis and interaction with CWMA participants indicate that two needs continue to be fairly common among CWMAs: long-term funding and training assistance. The social science aspects of CWMAs (networking, organization, facilitation, planning, issue framing, and promotion) are often as pressing as the biological and ecological aspects of managing invasive plants. CIPM is committed to overcoming these needs by providing resources and support for the formation and maintenance of community-driven CWMAs.

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Introduction

Communities of landowners are joining with local, state, and federal partners to battle invasive plants and protect weed-free ecosystems by organizing cooperative weed management areas (CWMAs) across the United States.

In response to a growing awareness of the threat of invasive plants and the need to prevent further invasions, the Center for Invasive Plant Management (CIPM) at Montana State University offers competitive grants annually to CWMAs in the West. This report describes CIPM's 2005 grants program and the 12-month accomplishments of the awardees.

What's a CWMA?

CWMAs are local organizations that bring together landowners and natural resource managers to coordinate action and share expertise and resources to manage common weed species. CWMAs often function under the authority of a mutually developed Memorandum of Understanding or Cooperative Agreement and are governed by a steering committee. Together, CWMA partners develop a comprehensive weed management plan for their area. At the least, CWMA plans include weed surveying and mapping components, as well as plans for integrated weed management. More comprehensive plans may include education and training, early detection of new invaders, monitoring, revegetation, annual evaluation, and adaptation of the weed management plan.

A **Cooperative Weed Management Area** is a partnership of federal, state, and local government agencies, tribes, individuals, and various interested groups who manage noxious weeds or invasive plants in a defined area.

Five characteristics of a CWMA:

- Defined geographical area distinguished by a common geography, weed problem, community, climate, political boundary, or land use
- Involvement or representation of the majority of landowners and natural resource managers in the defined area
- Steering committee
- Commitment to cooperation
- Comprehensive plan that addresses the management of prevention of one or more noxious weeds or invasive plants.

Definition adopted by the Western Weed Coordinating Committee in 2006.

Locally-driven CWMAs are especially effective at generating public interest in weed management and organizing community groups to support on-the-ground programs. In states that do not have a long history in/or strong legislative mandate for weed management, newly forming CWMAs are building crucial grassroots support for statewide weed management programming. States that traditionally have organized weed management on jurisdictional boundaries are finding that CWMAs organized by watersheds, for example, provide additional energy and cross-jurisdictional cooperation to augment existing programs.

CIPM's Cooperative Weed Management Area Grants Program

In 2005, the Center for Invasive Plant Management offered competitive grants of up to \$5,000 for weed management areas in the western United States. This is one of the most effective methods of widely promoting ecologically-based weed management and efficiently directing funding to on-the-ground natural resource managers. CIPM established its CWMA grants program in 2002.

In December 2004, notification of the grants and a proposal form were posted on the CIPM website, www.weedcenter.org. A simple online form was devised by CIPM staff for proposal submission. The availability of CWMA grants was communicated through western state Departments of Agriculture, regional professional organizations, the CIPM Steering Committee, the CIPM website, and regional listservs. By the deadline (March 4, 2005), 41 proposals had been received electronically by CIPM.

Stated criteria for the WMAs were:

- Cooperative efforts must involve diverse landowners and land managers
- Integrated, ecologically-based management strategies must be employed
- Management plan must encompass at least a watershed-scale area
- Additional support or in-kind services at a ratio of one to one were required.

Proposals were reviewed by a grant panel consisting of three state Department of Agriculture weed coordinators: Eric Lane, Colorado Department of Agriculture; Steve Schoenig, California Department of Food and Agriculture; and Greg Haubrich, Washington Department of Agriculture. The 2005 panel was appointed by the CIPM director who attempted to achieve geographical balance as well as expertise.¹ Proposals were scored by each panelist according to the following criteria:

- 20 points Organizational information: Diversity and commitment of CWMA participants
- 20 points Need for CWMA
- 30 points Project management plan: Integrated, thorough, ecologically sound, effective, and creative
- 20 points Project goals: Long- and short-term goals are realistic, community-oriented, and ecologically sound
- 10 points Budget: Appropriateness of budget and financial management arrangements, matching funds, in-kind services, and resources

All proposals and score sheets were mailed to panelists on March 4, 2005. The grant panel met April 4, 2005 in Aurora, Colorado to make funding decisions. Review of the 41 proposals took approximately seven hours. The CIPM director served as a non-voting moderator and record keeper. Those who submitted proposals to the grants program were notified of awards by the end of April.

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¹ Each year the grant review panel comprises three different state Department of Agriculture weed coordinators, rotating this volunteer opportunity among western states. This system has the added benefit of building personal networks among state weed coordinators and providing them with insights into programs in neighboring states.

2005 CWMA Grants by the numbers:

CWMA proposals received: 41
Projects funded: 19
States covered: 12
Total dollars awarded: \$95,925
Additional funds and in-kind services leveraged: \$515,221
Acres addressed: 50,779,659

Reporting

Final reports from grantees were due April 30, 2006 – one year after grant contracts were signed. In their final reports grantees were asked to address:

- Partners involved – and to what extent
- Accomplishments
- Progress toward the 12-month goals listed in the grant proposal
- Itemized budget of how the grant monies were spent
- Statement of the value of this grant to the weed management area.

The final section of this report documents each funded project and how the grantees met their 12-month goals. It also includes grantees' statements of the value of the CIPM grant to their projects. Grantees' final reports to CIPM included photographs, newspaper clippings, samples of educational materials produced, and other documentation. Four grantees did not submit invoices for reimbursement or final reports as they were unable to use the grants for various reasons.

Partnerships

The western states encompass more than 890 million acres that include national forests, national parks, tribal reservations, national wildlife refuges, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation lands, Forest Service lands, military bases, state lands and parks, and private lands. It is widely accepted among natural resource managers in the West that people must work together across jurisdictional lines to manage invasive plants and maintain healthy, non-invaded ecosystems.

Partners in the 19 CWMA's funded by CIPM in 2005 comprised a variety of federal, state, and local agencies and organizations, as well as private landowners. The Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and county departments were the next most frequently mentioned partners, followed by universities and university Extension programs, state departments of transportation, fish/wildlife, and agriculture – a great illustration of working together toward a common goal.

CWMA Funding

In 2005, CIPM funded 19 proposals – 46% of submissions – for \$95,925. The grants leveraged \$515,221 in additional funds and in-kind services, a ratio of more than one to five.

Community-led CWMAs often operate on relatively small budgets – particularly newly establishing CWMAs. A small grant of \$5,000 can make a significant difference to these programs, expanding simple weed-treatment projects to include proactive components such as mapping, public education, community involvement, long-term planning, and effective integrated management.

Funds are used efficiently at the local level. CIPM funding was used for herbicides and application equipment, biocontrol agents, educational workshops, brochures and fact sheets, newsletters, office supplies, mapping materials, professional training, postage for mailings, travel, and contracted services. A very small proportion (approximately 10%) was used for administrative overhead.

Conclusion

CWMA “success” can be evaluated in a number of ways: acres of weeds treated, number of collaborators, involvement of the community, increased awareness of the threat of invasive plants, informational products or plans developed, number of new infestations discovered, efficacy of management methods, program sustainability, and overall effect on the targeted ecosystem. Some of these measures are easily quantifiable; others involve less-quantifiable social issues that are just as important in determining the long-term sustainability of a program. Therefore, in this report, we do not attempt to compare one CWMA with another – each is unique and appropriate for its own community. All of the funded CWMAs showed strengths in at least two evaluation measures, each unique and appropriate for its own community.

Many CWMAs seek funding on a year-by-year basis from a number of sources (for example, state and local government agencies, federal partners, volunteers, and foundation grants). More western states are offering CWMA grants and support as they are able. However, a lack of continuous funding makes it difficult for CWMAs to strategically plan long-term, ecological land management programs. Coordinated regional or national CWMA funding, as well as training in grant writing, would benefit these community-led groups.

Two needs are fairly common among CWMAs:

- **Long-term funding** – Weed management and ecosystem improvement are long-term propositions. Long-term solutions require long-term funding. Ideally, CWMAs and other weed management entities would be assured of a base of funding so they could more confidently set proactive, long-term goals. Even a modest level of base funding can leverage participation and funding from partners.
- **Training** – CWMAs often seek workshops or training sessions for their members. Suggested subjects include: weed mapping, inventory, and monitoring methods; new research results in management and restoration techniques; small-group facilitation; and grant writing.

CIPM is committed to providing resources and support for the formation and maintenance of community-driven CWMAs.

Table 1: 2005 CWMA Grants Summary

CWMA	AWARDEE	LOCATION	GRANT
Lower Weiser River CWMA	Bonnie Davis	Washington County, Idaho	\$5,000
Kern WMA	April Durham	Tehachapi, California	\$5,000
Jackson Hole WMA	Amy Lerch	Jackson, Wyoming	\$3,000
Soap Creek Watershed WMA	Danguole Bockus	Gunnison, Colorado	\$5,000
Diamond Valley Weed Control District	Ellen Marimuch	Eureka, Nevada	\$3,030
Utah County Coordinated Weed & Education Management Area	David Bates	Provo, Utah	\$5,000
Snake Valley CWMA	Tom Baker	White Pine County, Nevada	\$5,000
North Dakota Weed Control Association	Bill Ragan	North Dakota	\$5,000
Canyon del Meutro/Tsaile Creek Watershed	Elaine Leslie	Chinle, Arizona	\$5,000
Los Angeles WMA	Andrea Vona	Los Angeles County, California	\$5,000
Newark/Long Valley CWMA	Jack Neal	White Pine County, Nevada	\$5,000
McKinley County WMA	Brie-Ann McKernan	Gallup, New Mexico	\$4,455
Marin/Sonoma WMA	Mark Newhouser	Marin & Sonoma Counties, California	\$4,994
Rock Creek Weed CRM	Brad Holliday	Southeast Carbon County, Wyoming	\$5,000
Mattole CWMA	Chris Larson	Humboldt & Mendocino Counties, California	\$5,000
Ponderosa Snow Warriors	Bob Bushnell	Lincoln, Montana	\$1,000
Madison River WMA	Mike Mooney	Madison County, Montana	\$4,000
Humboldt-Del Norte WMA	Michelle Forys	Humboldt & Del Norte Counties, California	\$5,000
Four County CWMA	Marshall Johnson	Clackamas, Multnomah, Clark & Washington Counties, Oregon	\$5,000
			TOTAL \$95,925

Final Reports from CWMA's Funded in 2005



Japanese knotweed pull, Mattole Restoration Council



Removal of ice plant, Big Lagoon County Park



Himalayan blackberry removal and re-planting with 400 native trees, The Wetlands Conservancy

Lower Weiser River CWMA
Washington County, Idaho
Grant Amount: \$5,000
Match Amount: \$100,000

Goals of the project were to:

1. Reduce the dense stands of leafy spurge to allow for the establishment of native species
2. Increase recreational opportunities for the general public
3. Provide educational outreach and increase weed awareness to local landowners, teachers, and citizens.

Progress toward goals:

The entire project benefited over 70 miles of river corridor by reducing the amount of leafy spurge in the area. This was accomplished through goat grazing, biological releases, herbicide applications, and reseeded in site specific areas. Twenty-one hundred acres of leafy spurge were grazed, achieving a 90% reduction in seed. An environmental workshop focusing on noxious weeds with an emphasis on leafy spurge was offered in summer 2005.

Statement of value of the grant:

CIPM funds were used to pay for goat grazing and the purchase of grass seed mixes. The Lower Weiser River CWMA made such progress and had such success in 2005 that the project will be continued in 2006.

Pine Mountain Club and Kern WMA
Tehachapi, California
Grant Amount: \$5,000
Match Amount: \$5,000

Goals of the project were to:

1. Verify existing spotted knapweed maps of target areas in late winter and early spring
2. Utilize chemical treatment and close cutting of spotted knapweed in early spring
3. Hand pull in late spring and early summer.

Progress toward goals:

Along with the Kern County Department of Agriculture, spotted knapweed growth was mapped for two months, resulting in a comprehensive understanding of the infested areas. Chemical treatment was very successful at roadside infestations where the Pine Mountain Club Property Owners Association could legally spray without permission from private property owners. Hand pulling was successful at sites where chemical treatment was impossible, though progress was slow. More hand pulling is already being coordinated for 2006.

Statement of value of the grant:

CIPM funding enabled success for a project that was a good start to the spotted knapweed eradication effort. Money was used to purchase chemicals and educational aides, pay for contracting services, and to obtain other supplies. Over 30 bags of knapweed were removed from the Mil Potero area roads and surrounding streambeds alone.

Jackson Hole WMA**Jackson, Wyoming**

Grant Amount: \$3,000

Match Amount: \$13,440

Goals of the project were to:

1. Educate landowners about noxious weed identification and their impacts on public and private lands
2. Eliminate oxeye daisy, yellow toadflax, and Dalmatian toadflax growing on private land along the west bank of the Snake River
3. Revegetate land after removing noxious weeds.

Progress toward goals:

Weed pulls kicked off with large barbeques where information was distributed. Newspaper ads and mailings were created to reach landowners and later recognize them for their efforts. Personal visits to landowners generated a dialogue about weed management solutions, when treatment could take place, and were followed up after the project finished. Awareness of oxeye daisy was increased to over 70 landowners and two subdivisions in Wilson, WY. Furthermore, the Jackson Hole Weed Management Area put on the Noxious Weed Extravaganza in the summer of 2005, made "Weed of the Week" ads in the newspaper, and attended annual events in the community as a way to spread awareness.

Statement of value of the grant:

"Thanks to the support of the Center for Invasive Plant Management and their grant, we have been able to reach many new landowners in Teton County. This project not only educated landowners but gave them incentive to get the job done. Now that the project has completed one successful season, we are ready to march into another!" – Amy Lerch, Project Manager

Soap Creek Watershed WMA**Gunnison, Colorado**

Grant Amount: \$5,000

Match Amount: \$68,520

Goals of the project were to:

1. Chemically and manually treat nine miles of Soap Creek for oxeye daisy
2. Collect native seeds for use in revegetation efforts
3. Continue GPS mapping and inventory, and treatment of other weed species
4. Build and install signs and kiosks to educate the public
5. Provide pesticide applicator training, equipment, and supplies to landowners.

Progress toward goals:

Ten acres of oxeye daisy were chemically treated on five miles of Soap Creek, though wildfire prevented further treatment. Eighty-six acres of musk thistle, 10 acres of yellow toadflax, eight acres of cheatgrass, seven acres of Canada thistle, six acres of white top, 0.1 acres of leafy spurge, and 0.5 acres of common mullein were also treated chemically or by hand pulling. Weed mapping was continued by those involved with treatments. Work is still being done to secure in-kind or contracted labor to build signs and kiosks in winter and spring 2005-2006.

Statement of value of the grant:

“This grant provided the key funding in the 2005 field season needed to hire contracted labor to treat the least accessible terrain in the basin. Since the other partner funding had already been committed in 2005, this accomplishment would not have happened without these CIPM grant monies. Partnering with CIPM provided needed funding to focus efforts on a neglected, but key, control issue and boost the Soap Creek Watershed Weed Management Area project from a first step mapping effort into an active control mode.” –Danguole Bockus, Project Manager

Diamond Valley Weed Control District

Eureka, Nevada

Grant Amount: \$3,030

Match Amount: \$4,147

The goal of the project was to:

Reseed 130 acres with crested wheat.

Progress toward goal:

Cooperation and enthusiasm from ranchers resulted in the successful seeding of over 200 acres that had been treated and mapped previously for noxious weeds. The most valuable long-term goal achieved was to increase enthusiasm for cooperative weed management. Ranchers began planning ways to make the west side of Pine Creek more accessible, extend noxious weed treatment, and continue restoration efforts.

Statement of value of the grant:

The grant from CIPM was essential for purchasing the seeds and equipment necessary for seeding. The whole project was extremely valuable in that it created an impetus for cooperative weed management between ranchers, county departments, and other volunteers.

Utah County Coordinated Weed and Education Management Area

Provo, Utah

Grant Amount: \$5,000

Match Amount: \$13,340

Goals of the project were to:

1. Inventory all identified populations of yellow starthistle, leafy spurge, and Dalmatian toadflax within the city of Highland using GPS units
2. Chemically treat all identified infestations and follow up with a hand pull of live plants remaining
3. Commence rehabilitation efforts in the fall with appropriate vegetation and hand seeding
4. Initiate a working relationship between city officials and residents by actively involving them.

Progress toward goals:

Meetings with city officials were held in June. Volunteers, who had been trained to identify and treat weeds, assisted county public works and weed department employees in spraying and hand pulling 30 acres. Furthermore, 850 acres were inventoried and mapped. Reseeding was completed in October of 2005 and revisiting sites for continued monitoring was already planned for 2006.

Statement of value of the grant:

The grant from CIPM was invaluable in facilitating education, project implementation, and raising awareness about yellow starthistle in the Highland area.

Snake Valley CWMA**White Pine County, Nevada**

Grant Amount: \$5,000

Match Amount: \$44,700

Goals of the project were to:

1. Treat 108 acres of tamarisk and other weeds identified in a 2004 inventory
2. Re-treat and monitor previously identified tamarisk infestations
3. Develop weed management information materials to be used for visitor education in Great Basin National Park
4. Improve coordination with the State of Utah on weed issues by collaborating with the Bureau of Land Management, Utah Department of Agriculture, and Utah Department of Transportation
5. Increase CWMA membership through outreach to landowners and valley-involved organizations
6. Expand the rapid response program by adding newly detected populations to the mapping system and further educating members and non-members about weed identification.

Progress toward goals:

This project successfully treated over 200 acres of tamarisk. The CWMA continued its work with Great Basin National Park and drew new landowners to CWMA meetings. The initial meeting of the Utah and Snake Valley CWMAs took place in March, at which landowners, and BLM and Utah Department of Agriculture representatives were in attendance.

Statement of value of the grant:

“The CIPM grant allowed the Snake Valley CWMA to get a good start on the tamarisk treatments in the valley. The membership knew the trees were a problem, but were a bit overwhelmed by the challenge of controlling them. This grant gave everyone the push they needed to get a control program moving. The CWMA is aware that this will be a multi-year project, but they are pleased with their initial start.”

–Betsy Macfarlan, Project Manager

North Dakota Weed Control Association**North Dakota**

Grant Amount: \$5,000

Match Amount: \$10,277

Goals of the project were to:

1. Establish a committee to identify invasive ornamentals threatening to invade North Dakota
2. Develop a list of native and perennial plants to replace the invasive ornamentals
3. Produce a brochure to educate the public about invasive or aggressive ornamentals and distribute the brochures through nurseries, greenhouses, garden centers, garden clubs, horticulture societies, home & garden shows, and the North Dakota Horticulture Society.

Progress toward goals:

The North Dakota Weed Control Association forged a relationship with the Nursery and Greenhouse Association (NDNGA) and the North Dakota State Horticulture Society (NDSHS) to cooperatively develop

an educational brochure. They produced the *North Dakota Education Guide to Potentially Invasive Ornamentals* and distributed 50,000 copies to all counties, county Extension offices, and other places of interest in North Dakota. The established committee researched and decided on a list of invasive ornamentals as well as a list of native and perennial plants to replace them.

Statement of value of the grant:

“The distribution of this brochure will allow us to educate more people in North Dakota on what invasive ornamentals are and on the dos and don’ts in purchasing plants and seeds. As more people develop an understanding of the harm caused by invasive ornamentals, we will be more capable of controlling the escape and spread of these plants. This, in turn, has the potential to increase the value of agricultural land and products, improve land for wildlife and human recreation, and decrease water contamination that can occur from the spraying of noxious weeds. Moreover, this grant has allowed the NDWCA to develop relationships with the NDNGA and the NDSHS as well as to strengthen relationships with our partners. Through the process of developing this brochure, diverse groups have developed ideas to further the process of protecting North Dakota from invasive species.”

–Kathy Kraft, Project Manager

Canyon del Meutro/Tsaile Creek Watershed

Chinle, Arizona

Grant Amount: \$4,900

Match Amount: \$50,000

Goals of the project were to:

1. Create and train a Navajo Exotic Plant Management Team
2. Coordinate field work with local residents to conduct field trips to help their understanding of pilot projects and monitor the Navajo Team to remove tamarisk, Russian olive, and other non-native species
3. Remove and treat biomass
4. Coordinate wood distribution among local residents
5. Develop a revegetation plan for residents and implement it as appropriate
6. Collect seeds of native species and subsequently re-seed during the appropriate season.

Progress toward goals:

CIPM grant money helped jumpstart the Canyon de Chelly National Monument project which will eventually treat and remove infestations on over 10,000 acres. Funds were used to purchase safety equipment, herbicides, and chainsaws for the removal of invasive species and biomass. In addition to weed removal, the Weed Management Area drafted a 96 page, 10-year Implementation Plan and steps were taken toward the plan’s completion.

Statement of value of the grant:

CIPM money was crucial in getting the entire program off the ground and encouraging the creation of and participation in a 10-year plan.

Los Angeles WMA
Los Angeles County, California
Grant Amount: \$5,000
Match Amount: \$6,165

Goals of the project were to:

1. Improve and expand restoration efforts already implemented at the White Point Nature Preserve, targeting areas with little or no native species cover
2. Identify and catalogue present weed species, then remove using herbicides and hand pulling
3. Grow and plant native species to replace the removed weeds.

Progress toward goals:

White Point Nature Preserve was surveyed and an area in its western portion was targeted for restoration. The Palos Verdes Land Conservancy cleared weeds using herbicides and a weed whip, leaving native shrubs much more visible. Additionally, over 600 native shrubs were planted in the area. Volunteer days were held monthly throughout spring, fall, and winter 2005. The Land Conservancy's third grade education program also brought hundreds of children to tour White Point Nature Preserve to learn about local flora and fauna. University of Southern California students also visited the site to examine coastal sage scrub and grassland restoration.

Statement of value of the grant:

"White Point Nature Preserve provides the public an opportunity to experience rare and threatened plant communities in an otherwise urban area. With nearly 14 million people living within an hour's drive of this preserve, White Point provides Southern Californians with a unique opportunity to enjoy scenic and ecologically rich areas and learn about the remarkable natural habitat that remains. The Palos Verdes Peninsula contains some of the last coastal sage scrub community in Los Angeles County, providing critical habitat for many rare, threatened, and endangered species; including the federally endangered Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly, the federally threatened California Gnatcatcher, and the Cactus Wren, a species of special concern. This weed control and habitat restoration project funded by CIPM is a service to the WMA of Los Angeles County. By assisting habitat restoration and invasive plant management efforts at White Point Nature Preserve, CIPM is furthering the progress of a large-scale restoration project in Los Angeles." –Andrea Vona, Project Manager

Newark/Long Valley CWMA
White Pine County, Nevada
Grant Amount: \$5,000
Match Amount: \$41,940

Goals of the project were to:

1. Contain leafy spurge infestations by monitoring previously treated land and re-treating as necessary (160 acres of leafy spurge inventoried in 2004 were to receive initial treatments)
2. Revegetate and re-seed appropriate areas
3. Re-treat previously treated areas, focusing on tall whitetop
4. Increase awareness of the fledgling Rapid Response Program and education efforts amongst members of the CWMA
5. Recruit new members.

Progress toward goals:

All the leafy spurge treated in 2004 was re-treated and an additional 90 acres received initial treatments. This project's Phase II, which entails treatment of the entire 160 acres, will take place in fall 2005. Hoary cress was also treated; Russian thistle will be focused on in the appropriate season. Chemical treatment promoting the reestablishment of native vegetation was chosen over seeding because the leafy spurge infestation had not reached a density where it was completely forcing out native species. A landowner from a nearby county took special interest in the efforts of the CWMA and has expressed an inclination to work with Newark/Long Valley CWMA and the Tri-County Weed Project.

Statement of value of the grant:

CIPM funding was used for the completion of the Tri-County Weed Project. Without this financial support this treatment would not have been accomplished and a follow up treatment in the fall would not have been impossible.

McKinley County WMA

Gallup, New Mexico

Grant Amount: \$4,455

Match Amount: \$78,000

Goals of the project were to:

1. Improve the sustainability of the McKinley CWMA in cooperation with the McKinley Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD) and the Rio Puerco Riparian Restoration Project
2. Continue aggressive management of non-native phreatophytes by treating 400 acres of the Rio Puerco and its tributaries
3. Maintain public outreach and education efforts by printing a professional and informative newsletter to be distributed around the area so as to increase visibility of the organization and educate landowners.

Progress toward goals:

Over 272 hours of MSWCD's tasks were contracted out using grant money. This enabled all MCWMA programs to continue, as the previous volunteer source had been terminated in July 2005. More work was done on large-scale management of non-native saltcedar along the Rio Puerco. Over the past three years, nearly 34 miles have been treated. Participation by MSWCD in the annual Water Fair in Gallup resulted in more publicity for the organization and its affiliates, as well as successful educational classes held for fairgoers.

Statement of value of the grant:

"This grant has helped us move toward sustainability of our weed management association, for which we sincerely thank you." – Lindsay Boris, Project Manager

Marin/Sonoma WMA & Sonoma Ecology Center

Marin & Sonoma Counties, California

Grant Amount: \$4,994

Match Amount: \$5,685

Goals of the project were to:

1. Map the geographic extent of the cape ivy infestation along Sonoma Creek and produce a map conveying weed infestations

2. Begin eradication of cape ivy from upstream sources and revegetate these areas with native riparian species
3. Develop a Weed Management Plan for the entire watershed to ensure a unified approach to weed management.

Progress toward goals:

The Sonoma Ecology Center (SEC) was able to identify and successfully control all cape ivy infestations in the watershed, which amounted to 5,815 square feet. Revegetation was completed in winter after treatment of two of the four known infestations. Landowners participated in management efforts, giving them more stake in and ownership of the success of the project. The regional weed management plan for the Sonoma Creek Watershed is still in its conceptual stage and thus far, participating organizations are limited to cooperating on joint projects and sharing weed distribution data.

Statement of value of the grant:

This grant allowed SEC to map and successfully treat all known occurrences of cape ivy, and attract matching funds to revegetate two of the eradication sites. CIPM funds enabled the Marin/Sonoma Weed Management Area to seek out more weed work to be accomplished within the region, as it provided the means to implement the MSWMA Strategic Plan Early Detection Rapid Response and enabled more organizations to work together on regional planning.

Rock Creek Weed CRM
Carbon County, Wyoming
Grant Amount: \$5,000
Match Amount: \$40,948

Goals of the project were to:

1. Continue coordinating control efforts of participants while promoting cooperative efforts among individuals, local government, state and federal agencies in developing and implementing programs to control invasive species
2. Support and encourage land managers to use Best Management Practices and Integrated Pest Management to foster prevention, early detection, and eradication of infestations
3. Hire a Weed Management Coordinator to map and inventory infestations, organize control activities, compile and analyze data, and implement adaptive management strategies
4. Increase active weed management awareness, participation, and information distribution to the general public.

Progress toward goals:

The project resulted in mapping of 7,923 acres (with weeds located and identified), treatment of over 380 acres, and re-seeding of 308 acres. Over 50 people attended the annual Education Day and Field Tour, and the distribution of educational brochures indicates a great deal of interest and opportunity for participation. Additionally, a mapping coordinator was hired; coordination of individual control efforts continued; prevention, early detection, and eradication practices were implemented by land managers; Integrated Pest Management strategies were used in the target area; and, awareness, participation, and information distribution to the public was increased.

Statement of value of the grant:

“We are confident that we have improved the overall health and condition of the riparian and associated upland areas within our target area. This is providing better wildlife habitat, improved

recreational experiences and improved land management options; is sustaining viable agricultural operations; and is reducing the economic burdens placed upon landowners and the agencies tasked with the management of our natural resources. The Rock Creek Coordinated Resource Management Area would again like to convey our sincere thanks to the Center for Invasive Plant Management for their support and participation in this partnership.” – Brad Holliday, Project Manager

Mattole CWMA

Humboldt & Mendocino Counties

Grant Amount: \$5,000

Match Amount: \$49,000

Goals of the project were to:

1. Implement a management strategy to treat isolated patches of Category A species along spread vectors, treat larger sites where removal presents significant public benefit, and re-treat sites through long-term funding arrangement with Mattole CWMA partners
2. Further develop the Mattole CWMA through coordination of eradication and management efforts among partners and other stakeholders
3. Expand education and outreach efforts within the watershed
4. Continue current removal projects while developing and prioritizing future weed removal projects on BLM and private lands
5. Eradicate and re-treat Scotch broom infestations in the Mattole River estuary
6. Complete landowner outreach and planning for the 102 acre town of Petrolia Scotch broom infestation
7. Monitor beach and dune plant communities for European beachgrass presence; eradicate detected infestations through volunteer and funded projects.

Progress toward goals:

The first Mattole Restoration Council (MRC) Invasive Plant Program was established and an informative Invasive Plant site was created for inclusion on MRC’s website to provide extensive information regarding invasive species, the Mattole River watershed, and resources for landowners and local residents. Several sites of Japanese knotweed were found and research and removal efforts were immediately conducted; seven sites were located and treated. Research and removal efforts regarding Scotch broom continued and educational sessions held for landowners. Tools such as loppers and weed wrenches were purchased for use by local residents via the Invasive Plant Program.

Statement of value of the grant:

“This grant offered the MRC a much-needed opportunity to develop our first official Invasive Plants Program to better manage noxious weeds in our CWMA. The developments within our CWMA have paved the way for additional grant development and thus the growth of many new invasive weed removal projects in the Mattole. We have also been able to increase our education and outreach efforts. As much of the Mattole watershed is comprised of privately owned land, our restoration efforts are largely community-based. This grant has given us the ability to strengthen the involvement and further the education of many landowners, residents, and community members on issues and projects surrounding invasive plants. This has proved to be one of the greatest assets in our efforts to protect and restore critical ecosystems within this watershed that we love.” – Chris Larson, Project Manager

Ponderosa Snow Warriors
Lincoln, Montana
Grant Amount: \$1,000

Goal of the project was to:

The goal of the project was to spray disturbed areas for knapweed, Dalmatian toadflax, Canada thistle, and tansy; and reseed with a mix of crested wheatgrass, fescue, and sodar streambank. Follow up monitoring and spraying if necessary was also planned.

Progress toward goal:

Spraying and re-seeding efforts were completed in target areas. Over 30 acres were seeded with dryland slope mix and harrowed to ensure penetration. In the long term, sites will be monitored and spraying will continue.

Statement of value of the grant:

CIPM money was necessary for the purchase of a seeder, grass seed, and payment for application of the seeds. These efforts not only benefit target areas ecologically but also improve the recreational experiences of visitors. The stewardship exhibited by the Bushnell and Ponderosa Snow Warriors is an inspiration to the entire community and beyond.

Madison River WMA
Madison County, Montana
Grant Amount: \$4,000
Match Amount: \$1,280

Goals of the project were to:

1. Decrease seed production and dispersal of spotted knapweed by employing carefully timed sheep grazing and continuing efforts initiated by earlier projects
2. Re-seed if possible, depending on the success of the previous year's revegetation efforts
3. More active outreach to recreationists in order to educate them about the project and the negative effects of knapweed.

Progress toward goals:

Seed production of spotted knapweed in the project area was decreased by 75% through utilization of sheep grazing. Unfortunately, revegetation was not accomplished in the 2005 season. A commercial applicator hired to treat the Madison River was essential in outreach toward recreationists, especially to fishermen. Additionally, outreach to landowners has been successful and the Madison Valley Ranchland Group (MVRG) produced a scenic calendar of the Madison Valley profiling noxious weeds threatening the area. The calendar was distributed around the area with great success.

Statement of value of the grant:

"The funding we received for the sheep grazing pilot project from the CIPM was a huge benefit to the program. BLM funding is always questionable with federal budgeting issues, and the MVRG Weed Committee is a nonprofit organization with limited resources. We feel this project is extremely beneficial to the watershed and the partnerships that have been established in conjunction with this project have been invaluable. Thanks much to the CIPM for helping fund a portion of the costs associated with the success of the pilot project. We are looking forward to the completion of the third year of the program

in 2006 and will have extensive monitoring results to provide to the entire watershed when we are done.” – Brad Mooney, Project Manager

**Humboldt-Del Norte WMA
Humboldt & Del Norte Counties, California**

Grant Amount: \$5,000

Match Amount: \$3,800

Goals of the project were to:

1. Hand pull ice plant and other invasive non-native species along the remaining two miles of beaches and dunes at Big Lagoon and Agate Beaches
2. Revegetate with native dune mat species (including American dune grass, beach bursage, and pea beach) at Big Lagoon using transplanted specimens from Humboldt Lagoons State Park
3. Examine sites before and after treatment using GPS mapping, photo-documentation, and transect plots
4. Educate the Big Lagoon community about ice plant using interpretive signs to be posted at a day use facility, and informational letters sent to local residents about weed control on private property.

Progress toward goals:

Seventy-three percent of ice plants were treated at the Big Lagoon County Park site, but unfortunately treatment of Agate Beach was not accomplished. Revegetation was not completed for several reasons, for example, an existing grass strip buffering the treatment area from the parking lot decreased the need for re-planting. Mapping, transect plot methods, and photographic documentation was completed. The educational component of the project produced signs explaining project needs, a timeline of the overall restoration project, and a project summary delivered to the Big Lagoon Community Property Association for distribution among residents.

Statement of value of the grant:

“This project is of great value to the Humboldt-Del Norte WMA in that multiple partners were able to work together to achieve restoring such a long stretch of sensitive habitat in Humboldt County. Funding was received by being a part of the HDNWMA. Not only does this project help complete a five-year-long invasive plant removal project already partly known in the community, but it has begun to positively affect wildlife species in the area as evidenced by an increased nesting of snowy plovers at Big Lagoon beach.” – Michelle Forys, Project Manager

**Four County CWMA
Clackamas, Multnomah, Clark, and Washington Counties, Oregon**

Grant Amount: \$5,000

Match Amount: \$5,000

Goals of the project were to:

1. Commence a public outreach and education program in the Kellogg Creek watershed, and document past restoration efforts there
2. Begin mapping reed canarygrass, Himalayan blackberry, teasel, nightshade, purple loosestrife, and thistle along Kellogg Creek
3. Prioritize restoration activities for identified sites
4. Develop a site analysis and vegetation management plan for the Heartwood Wetland

5. Implement removal of invasive plants and revegetation of native species in the Heartwood Wetland.

Progress toward goals:

The Wetlands Conservancy (TWC) staff conducted site investigations and developed an analysis and vegetation management plan for the Heartwood Wetlands Preserve (at the headwaters of Kellogg Creek). Approximately 8,000 square feet of the Heartwood Wetland Preserve were treated with a solarization process in 2005 and spring 2006, the area was revegetated with native emergent plantings and shrubs. Half an acre of Himalayan blackberry was removed from along the eastern border of the site and revegetated with 400 native trees.

Statement of value of the grant:

“TWC will continue to use the successes of the initial restoration projects as examples to teach workshops and spread enthusiasm throughout the watershed. TWC has become a member of the Four County CWMA, placing its staff in contact with a multitude of new contacts and resources. Furthermore, the success of the Heartwood reed canarygrass solarization project provides valuable experience which can be disseminated to other CWMA land managers struggling to control this pervasive weed. The support provided by CIPM has allowed TWC to embark on a watershed-wide invasive weed management project that will benefit not only Kellogg Creek, but the entire CWMA.”

– Marshall Johnson, Project Manager