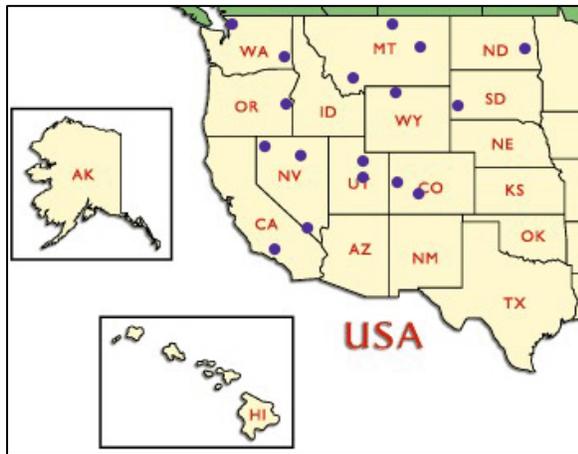




2003 CWMA Grants Program Executive Summary

Public concern about the harmful effects of uncontrolled weeds continues to increase. One result is the rapidly increasing number of cooperative weed management areas (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 2003, the Center for Invasive Plant Management continued its CWMA competitive grants program in which up to \$5,000 is awarded to a limited number of CWMAs in the western United States. This program has been shown to be an effective method to widely promote ecologically-based weed management and to efficiently direct funding to on-the-ground land managers .



In 2003, sixty-seven proposals were received. Seventeen proposals in 10 states were funded by CIPM (*see map at left*) for a total of \$81,210. The funded grants leveraged \$275,437 in additional funds and in-kind services, a ratio of better than 1 to 3. Project areas encompassed 21,403,775 acres.

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

Final reports from each of the funded CWMAs 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 CWMAs achieved their stated 12-month goals. Site-specific weed management and community outreach, together with low overhead, make this granting program effective and efficient.

Report analysis and interaction with CWMA participants indicate that two needs continue to be fairly common among CWMAs: long-term funding and training assistance.

Because CWMAs involve people who know the land well and can readily spot changes in the landscape, they are ideal mechanisms for **early detection and rapid response** to new invasions of weeds. Given an appropriate overarching structure and resources, CWMAs could play a role in statewide, regional, or national networks.

From 2002 to 2003, the number of proposals to the CWMA 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 (such as grants and training resources) to more communities in the West.**

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
CIPM’s CWMA grants program	5
Partnerships.....	7
Targeted species	8
CWMA Funding	9
Final reports	10
Conclusions.....	11
Appendices	
A. 12-Month Goals and Progress, Statements of the Value of the Grant to the WMA.....	13
B. Online Grant Submission Form.....	23

Center for Invasive Plant Management
Montana State University
Dept. Land Resources and Environmental Sciences
P.O. Box 173120
Bozeman, MT 59717-3120
Tel: 406-994-5557
Email cipm@montana.edu
www.weedcenter.org

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 the growing awareness of the threat of invasive plants and the need to prevent further invasions into healthy, weed-free ecosystems, the Center for Invasive Plant Management (CIPM) at Montana State University annually offers competitive grants to CWMAs in the West. This report describes CIPM's 2003 grants program and the 12-month accomplishments of the awardees.

What's a CWMA?

CWMAs are local organizations that bring together landowners and land managers (private, city, county, state, and federal) from a defined geographical area 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, and annual evaluation and adaptation of the weed management plan.

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. It should be noted that CWMAs do not supplant county weed boards where such organizations exist; rather, CWMA steering committees that include county weed personnel facilitate cooperation across county, state, and federal boundaries.

In the western United States, CWMAs have created weed ID brochures, organized weed education events, obtained grants, coordinated demonstration plots, instituted eradication and mapping projects, and created many other effective outreach and weed management projects. As the number of CWMAs has grown, the demand has grown for educational resources, technology transfer between researchers and land managers, and training.

Advantages of Cooperative Weed Management Areas¹

- CWMAAs encourage long-term planning to a successful resolution. Planning establishes priorities – cooperators can emphasize a particular species or area. The plan results in the greatest good for the entire WMA in the long run.
- CWMAAs focus attention and provide a united front to state and federal legislators, as well as communicate to the general public the seriousness of good land management and the value of healthy ecosystems.
- CWMAAs pool talents and resources.
- CWMAAs address the problem of weeds spreading from neighboring land before the damage occurs
- CWMAAs provide channels for communication between cooperators.
- CWMAAs may adequately assess the risk of damage to water, crops, threatened and endangered species, etc.
- CWMAAs base control efforts on biological and geographical factors rather than legal divisions, thus increasing the effectiveness of weed management.
- And finally, CWMAAs may help secure more stable funding for long-term management and prevention efforts.

¹ Adapted from “Guidelines for Coordinated Management of Noxious Weeds: Development of Weed Management Areas.” 1998. Produced cooperatively by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Montana Dept. of Agriculture, Idaho Dept. of Agriculture, Park County (WY) Weed & Pest Control District, and Ag West Communications.
Available online at www.weedcenter.org/management/guidelines/tableofcontents.html.

CIPM’s Cooperative Weed Management Area Grants Program

In 2003, 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 to widely promote ecologically-based weed management and to efficiently direct funding to on-the-ground land managers. CIPM established this grants program in 2002.

In January 2003, notification of the grants and a proposal form were posted on the CIPM web site (*see Appendix B*). A simple online form was devised by CIPM staff for proposal submission. The availability of the CWMA grants was communicated through western state Departments of Agriculture, regional professional organizations, the CIPM Steering Committee, the CIPM web site, and regional listservs. By the deadline (March 7, 2003), 67 proposals had been received electronically by CIPM. This was more than double the number of proposals (31) received the previous year.

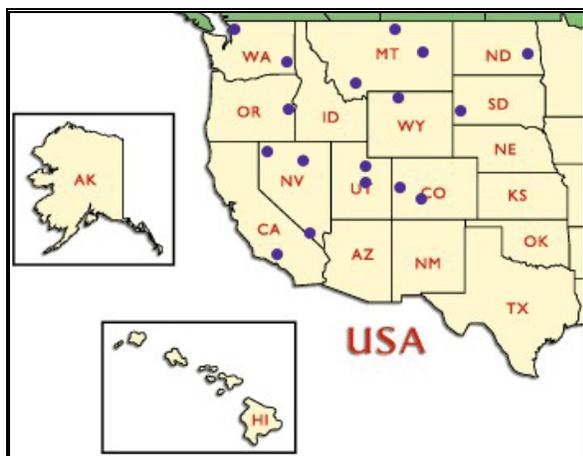
Stated criteria for the WMAs were:

- 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 funds or in-kind services at a ratio of 1:1 were required.

Proposals were reviewed by a grant panel consisting of three state Department of Agriculture weed coordinators: Frannie Miller – New Mexico, Ron Moehring – South Dakota, and Robert Leavitt – California. The 2003 panel was appointed by the CIPM director who attempted to achieve geographical balance as well as expertise.² Proposals were scored by each panelist according to the following criteria:

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

² 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.



In 2003, sixty-seven proposals were received from 14 states.

Seventeen proposals from 10 states were funded by CIPM (*see map at left*) for a total of \$81,210. The funded grants leveraged \$275,437 in additional funds and in-kind services, a ratio of better than 1 to 3.

State	Proposals received	Proposals funded	2003 Grantees (Contact person)
AZ	2	0	
CA	10	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mohave WMA (Valerie Page, Victorville, CA)
CO	8	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper Arkansas River WMA (Larry Walker, Salida, CO) • Land's End WMA (Judith Sirota, Grand Junction, CO)
HI	1	0	
ID	3	0	
MT	11	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milk Creek WMA (Mike Schuldt, Chinook, MT) • Steve's Fork WMA Coalition (Dean Rogge, Jordan, MT) • Alder South/West Bench (Gregory Day, Virginia City, MT)
ND	2	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Sheyenne Purple Loosestrife Project (Jim McAllister, Oriska, ND)
NE	1	0	
NV	7	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wall Canyon WMA (Wendi Lutz, Cedarville, CA) • Spring Creek Region CWMA (Jill Wilkinson, Elko, NV) • Southern Nye Co. WMA (Dan Simmons, Pahrump, NV)
OR	3	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malheur Co. CWMA (Gary Page, Vale, OR)
SD	2	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French Creek WMA (Sandra Walker, Custer, SD)
UT	7	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skyline CWMA (Rosann Fillmore, Huntington, UT) • Utah Co. Weed Education & Mgmt Area (Cindy Burton, Heber City, UT)
WA	4	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asotin Co. CWMA (Nelle Murray, Asotin, WA) • Nooksak Basin CWMA (Laurel Shiner, Bellingham, WA)
WY	6	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunlight/Crandall WMA (Bob Parsons, Powell, WY)

The 17 CWMA projects funded by CIPM in 2003 encompassed 21,403,775 acres, according to proposals. Individual projects ranged from 1,200 to 6.5 million acres.

Program Expenses

From a grant administration standpoint, CIPM's CWMA grant program expenses other than labor were minimal. A breakdown of estimated hours invested by CIPM staff for the 2003 CWMA grant program is as follows:

- Program development and consultations – 10 hrs
- Website proposal form update (*Appendix B*) – 2 hrs
- Downloading and organizing/inventorying 67 proposals – 20 hrs
- Copying and mailing proposals to grant panel – 4 hrs + copying charges (\$139.15) + postage
- Post-review correspondence with proposal-writers – 16 hrs + postage
- Correspondence with Montana State University Office of Grants & Contracts (which writes and accounts for all CIPM subcontracts/grants) – 20 hrs
- Record-keeping and correspondence with grantees over 12 mos. – 80 hrs
- *Montana State University Office of Grants and Contracts labor is provided to CIPM at no cost.*

CIPM offered to pay panelists' travel costs, as well as an extra night at the meeting site and meals, if necessary. Total cost of the review panel meeting in 2003 was \$475.80 for travel expenses submitted by panelists.

Grant Panel Meeting

Panelists were mailed all proposals and score sheets on March 7, 2004. The grant panel met April 4, 2003, at the Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas, NV, in conjunction with the Western Weed Coordinating Committee annual meeting. (As in 2002, the panel met in conjunction with another meeting to more efficiently use everyone's travel time and money.) The South Dakota panelist was prevented from attending the meeting at the last minute (i.e., the day of travel) by a state budget crisis. He faxed his score sheets to the CIPM director, who also interviewed him at length on the telephone immediately before the panel convened.

Review of the 67 proposals took approximately six hours. The CIPM director served as a non-voting moderator and record-keeper.

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, noninvaded ecosystems.

Partners in the 17 CWMAAs funded by CIPM in 2003 comprised a variety of federal, state, and local agencies and organizations, as well as private landowners. Partners provided support in the form of funding, seasonal labor, education and outreach efforts, equipment and supplies, monitoring and mapping, and more. Leadership in the 17 CWMAAs was provided by NRCS Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D program) (9 grants), county weed personnel (6 grants), state Extension Service (1 grant), and a city's environmental resources department (1 grant).

Partners mentioned most often in funded grant proposals (and the number of times mentioned) were:

- County weed (and other) programs – 30 (some CWMAAs encompass multiple counties)
- Soil Conservation District - 12
- Private landowners - 11
- USDA Forest Service - 10
- State departments of fish/game/wildlife - 10
- Other state agencies - 10
- BLM - 8
- State Extension service - 8
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service - 8
- National Park Service - 8
- Resource Conservation & Developments (RC&Ds) - 7
- Cities/towns - 7
- State parks - 6
- State departments of transportation - 6
- Conservation groups - 5

Other partners included the Bureau of Reclamation, state Department of Corrections, Department of Defense, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, stockgrowers and producers associations, water/irrigation agencies, youth groups such as 4-H, tribes, utilities, and state agricultural experiment stations.

Targeted species

Twenty-nine weed species were listed as “targets” in the funded proposals. Most common (listed by six or more CWMAAs) were saltcedar, spotted knapweed, Canada thistle, Russian knapweed, and leafy spurge.³

Weeds targeted by three to five CWMAAs were: diffuse knapweed, perennial pepperweed, houndstongue, Dalmatian toadflax, and yellow starthistle.

³ This correlates closely to targeted weeds listed in all 67 proposals. Species most often mentioned in all proposals were spotted knapweed (29), leafy spurge (26), Canada thistle (26), Dalmatian toadflax (22), saltcedar (22), and Russian knapweed (21). In 2002, the most commonly mentioned weed targets in funded proposals were very similar: saltcedar, Canada thistle, Russian knapweed, spotted knapweed, and perennial pepperweed.

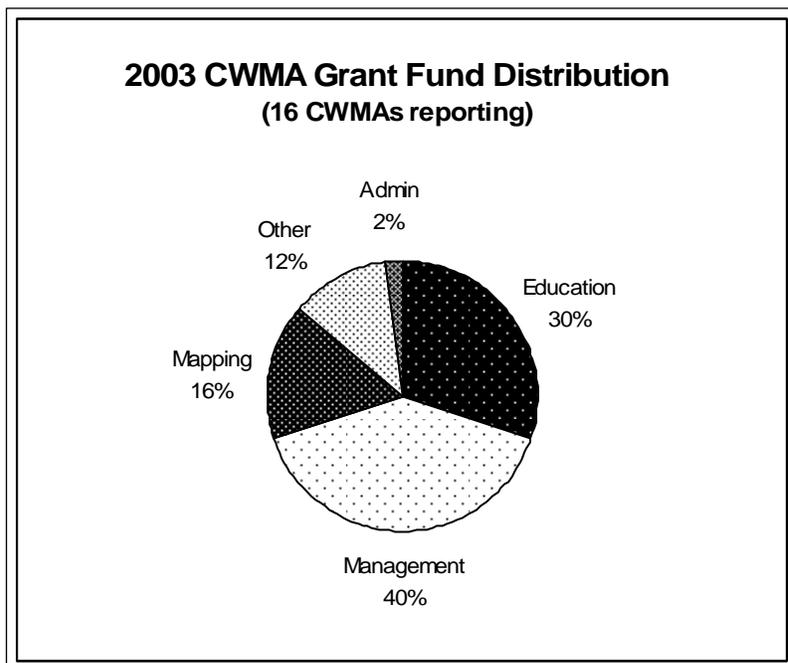
Other targeted weeds mentioned by one or two CWMAAs were: oxeye daisy, common tansy, yellow toadflax, burdock, hawkweeds, sulfur cinquefoil, St. Johnswort, dyer's woad, purple loosestrife, field scabious, musk thistle, tall buttercup, hoary cress, scotch thistle, rush skeletonweed, jointed goatgrass, whitetop, chicory, and knotweed.

CWMA Funding

In 2003, 67 CWMA proposals were received from 14 western states. Seventeen proposals (25%) were funded by CIPM for a total of \$81,210. The grants leveraged \$257,437 in additional funds and in-kind services, a ratio of more than 1:3.

Community-led CWMAAs often operate on relatively small budgets – particularly newly established CWMAAs. 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 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, seeds for revegetation, professional training, postage for mailings, travel, and contracted services. When these expenses are categorized, 40% of funds awarded by CIPM were used for on-the-ground management (supplies and equipment), while 30% of funds went to education and outreach (primarily development and production of materials), and training. Mapping weed infestations – an important early component of a management plan – comprised 16% of CIPM funding. Thirteen percent of funds – the “Other” category – were used to pay salaries for part-time program managers and, in one case, apply for nonprofit status. A very small proportion (2%) was used for administrative overhead (*see chart above*).



CWMA finances and grant management were handled in a number of ways and provided new opportunities for partnerships. Accounting responsibilities primarily were assumed by the county or a local Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) office, although one grant was managed by a watershed council and one by a city.

Final reports

Final reports from grantees were due April 1, 2004 – one year after grant notification. 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.

Final reports were received from 16 of the 17 awardees. One of the awardees (Milk Creek CWMA, Montana) declined the grant when local partners were unable to come together to meet the stated goals and objectives. Four of the projects requested and received two- to six-month extensions of their grant contracts.

Appendix A documents 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, posters, sign designs, and other documentation.

Conclusions

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, or 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. All of the funded WMAs showed strengths in at least two of the evaluation measures above. Each was unique and appropriate for its own community.

Based on proposal evaluations (2002 and 2003) and personal correspondence, including CWMAs that inquired about extended funding from CIPM, it is clear that many CWMAs seek funding on a year-by-year basis from a number of sources (e.g., state and local government agencies, federal partners, volunteers, 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.

Based on our experience and interactions with CWMAs, we have identified several factors (other than funding) that seem to be helpful in predicting the ultimate success of a CWMA:

- **Leadership** – Someone must be passionate about weed management and ecosystem health, and be willing to serve as the motivator and organizer of the group. This person isn’t necessarily the administrator, but he or she provides enthusiasm, insight, and commitment. A leader ensures that all partners are heard and decisions reflect the will of the group.
- **Partnership** – Because weeds don’t stop at jurisdictional boundaries, maintaining the functions of an ecosystem requires everyone’s involvement. It requires considerable effort to bring all affected public and private landowners to the table. In many cases, months of groundwork are laid before the first meeting is held. (Anecdotal evidence indicates that receiving an initial grant is a great motivator for bringing people to the table.) Diversity of partners is also important. By working together to develop a weed management plan, partners build trust in one another as well as a network of expertise. In addition, pooling resources helps ensure the sustainability of these programs.
- **Planning** – A well-written, comprehensive, site-specific weed management plan can be a focal point for a CWMA. In addition, the process of writing the plan focuses the group vision and helps establish priorities.
- **Coordination** – Someone must take the responsibility for communication and follow-through in a timely manner. When multiple partners are involved, timing becomes critical because one organization’s spray crew might depend on another agency’s permit, for example. Frequent communication is essential. This is a big job.
- **Good science** – A weed management plan must be built on good science and must maintain or improve the ecological function of a designated area. Integrated, ecologically sound approaches to weed management are necessary. Land restoration – moving toward

a desired plant community – is a more progressive, long-term approach than simply eradicating weeds.

- **Education and outreach** – Engaging the general public helps build community (and, ideally, financial) support for CWMA. Hands-on workshops, weed pulls, and school and community group presentations emphasize the impacts and relevancy of weeds in one’s own neighborhood. Person-to-person interaction is undoubtedly the most effective teaching and outreach tool. It is also important that outreach efforts be strategized. As noted in a 2000 report,⁴ CWMA need to define “*who* needs to be reached, to encourage *what behavior*, with *what message*, and by *what means*.” Attention to these questions allow CWMA to use their resources more effectively.

Two needs are fairly common among WMA. (*Corroboration of these needs should be made with individual state Departments of Agriculture, university Extension specialists, and others who work very closely with CWMA in their own sphere of influence.*)

- **Long-term funding** – Weed management and ecosystem improvement are long-term propositions. Long-term solutions require long-term funding. Ideally, WMA 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** – CWMA are seeking workshops or training sessions for their members. Suggested subjects have included: weed mapping, inventory, and monitoring methods; new research results in management and restoration techniques; small-group facilitation; and grant writing.

Because CWMA involve people who know the land well and can readily spot changes in the landscape, they are ideal mechanisms for **early detection and rapid response** to new invasions of weeds. Given an appropriate overarching structure and resources, CWMA could play a role in statewide, regional, or national networks.

Final reports from each of the funded CWMA indicate that the CIPM grants program for weed management areas is an excellent method of supporting on-the-ground weed management throughout the West. As documented in *Appendix A*, the vast majority of 12-month goals set by the CWMA were achieved. Great results together with low overhead costs make this an valuable program that should be continued and expanded, as long as it doesn’t duplicate programs offered by states or other organizations.

From 2002 to 2003, the number of proposals to the CWMA 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 CWMA grants program could easily expand and provide greater benefits to more communities in the West.**

⁴ From Bischoff, S. and W. Murray. 2000. Cooperative Weed Management Areas in the Northwest: Taking Stock and Moving Forward (unpublished report contracted by the Bureau of Land Management and The Nature Conservancy). Denver, CO: Conservation Impact, LLC. www.conservationimpact.com

APPENDIX A

12-Month Goals and Progress

and

Statements of the Value of the Grant to the WMA

**❖ Upper Arkansas River Weed Management Cooperative
Salida, CO**

12-month goals	Progress toward 12-month goals
1. Mapping and eradicating tamarisk infestations.	1. Treated and removed nearly 75% of the tamarisk within one target area of the Arkansas River, and treated other less-infested tributaries.
2. Direct education efforts at land managers and private landowners.	2. Colorado State Parks, the BLM and Chaffee and Fremont counties participated in treating tamarisk on their lands. Private landowner cooperation has been good and many requested assistance or began control measures on their own.

“The grant from Montana State University Center for Invasive Plant Management enabled the Cooperative to focus additional resources to begin work toward the goal of mapping and eradicating presently manageable infestations of tamarisk along the Arkansas River corridor in Fremont County. The goal is attainable within a three to five year period with continued cooperation of the participating landowners. Containment or reduction of the population along the Arkansas River and tributaries in eastern Fremont County and below is going to take many years of ambitious removal, treatment, restoration, and considerable financial resources. With the momentum gained from this project, the Cooperative has applied for additional financial resources to treat and evaluate an additional 350 acres of tamarisk in the upper Arkansas watershed in 2004.”

**❖ Wall Canyon Weed Management Area
Vya, NV**

12-month goals	Progress toward 12-month goals
1. Develop an educational packet for private property owners to communicate the need to control or eradicate tall whitetop.	Created and mailed “The Property Owners Tool Kit”, the Tall Whitetop Education Packet for Property Owners. Contents included brochures, fact sheets, and newsletters donated by federal and state agencies, universities, industry, and conservation and scientific organizations. “Tools” within the tool kit included information on identification, eradication, restoration, wildlife, and organizations and web resources. Mailing of the packet coincided with BLM’s efforts to request permission to inventory and treat noxious weeds on private property.

“The CIPM grant we received provided the necessary matching funds for the Vya Conservation District, partnering with BLM and other organizations to provide the private property owners in the Wall Canyon WMA with the resources they needed to make informed decisions about treatment for tall whitetop infestations and restoration options after treatment. Property owners are now aware that they can work together to stop the spread of this noxious weed and through cooperation enhance the value of the natural resources in the Wall Canyon WMA.”

**❖ Mojave Weed Management Area
Victorville, CA**

12-month goals	Progress toward 12-month goals
1. Coordinate the development of a comprehensive weed management plan for saltcedar infestations along the Mojave River. This plan will then be used to develop project proposals and funding requests necessary for implementation of the control actions.	1. Developed the Mojave River Saltcedar Control Plan, which employs an adaptive-management approach. Management area resources and management goals were identified as well as specific steps necessary to implement an effective watershed-based invasive weed control program. Received a large grant for extensive education and outreach and mapping of invasive weeds. Also received funding commitments for saltcedar control at key areas.
	2. MWMA Coordinator was invited to present and discuss the Plan to community and professional groups.

“As a new WMA with only a small amount of funding for control projects, and no funding for a Coordinator, the CWMA grant provided the funding necessary to truly begin coordinating our weed management efforts.”

“Development of the Plan was an opportunity to focus on our watershed, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries. Because of that focus, we recognized the need and the opportunity to secure additional funding to expand our Mojave River Saltcedar Control Plan into an Invasive Weed Management Plan for the watershed. It is unlikely, without the cooperative meetings funded by the CWMA grant, that we could have developed a successful Proposition 13 proposal.”

“Planning is a vital first step for a WMA and, unfortunately, funding for planning projects is usually difficult to secure. We have now and hope to continue securing grants of much higher dollar amounts than the CWMA grant. However, the real value of the CIPM grant, especially for new, poorly funded WMAs, is recognized and greatly appreciated by our own Mojave WMA.”

**❖ Sunlight/Crandall Weed Management Area
Powell, WY**

12-month goals	Progress toward 12-month goals
1. Complete a comprehensive weed inventory of the WMA, with special emphasis placed on remote, backcountry habitats. Spot treatment and eradication of any remote infestations will be a priority.	1. WMA crews visited and surveyed 8 established campsites, 9 unimproved campsites and 12 trailheads and trails. We also surveyed 89 miles of highway, both Federal and State. We also surveyed approximately 108 miles of Forest Roads and Forest Trails. We found approximately 168 acres of public and private land infested with noxious weeds. This represents 0.000336 or .03% of the total acreage. While this value seems very small, most of the weeds were found within one-half mile of established improvements. The only noxious weeds found in the “backcountry” were found along established USFS Trails and roads. 190 new weed points were mapped in 2003, only one infestation was found more than one-half mile from an established road or trail. Houndstongue was established along Lake Creek within a Forest Service allotment. Therefore, this represents less than 1% of new infestations were found in the “backcountry”.
2. Chemically treat and monitor already identified weed-infested locations.	2. Chemical and mechanical control were provided by several SCWMA partners. Herbicides were applied to 182 acres. Monitoring activities will continue in 2004, specifically targeting highways, USFS roads and trailheads.
3. Hold two or more “Weed Workshops” for residents and land managers of the SCWMA.	3. Held a combined weed workshop and weed tour for residents, land managers and special guests. Steering committee members were very pleased with the turnout and the day’s activities. Accomplished the task of informing participants about the goals and management plans of the SCWMA. Produced laminated color posters describing nine weed species for the weed tour and workshop.
4. Hold a SCWMA weed tour.	4. Addressed above in number 3.
5. Write and mail two “Weed News” newsletter	5. Produced and mailed a newsletter to private landowners and land managers.
6. Create a SCWMA GIS database that is consistent with the USFS and Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC)..	6. Purchased a Dell Axim X5 PDR with GPS unit, which made it possible to create a GIS database that is consistent with the databases of the USFS and GYCC.

**❖ Steve’s Fork Weed Management Area
Jordan, MT**

12-month goals	Progress toward 12-month goals
1. Update the current GIS maps of the watershed.	1. The sites where applications were made have been mapped by GPS. Updated maps will be distributed to WMA participants.
2. Herbicide applications will be made to at least 100 acres of Canada thistle, 3 acres of spotted knapweed and 10 acres of houndstongue.	2. Fire conditions precluded much of the planned control effort. However, of the 15,000 acres surveyed, 13 acres of Canada thistle, 3 acres of spotted knapweed, and 3 acres of houndstongue received herbicide treatment. An electric fence was erected around a 400-acre plot containing houndstongue to restrict livestock from the area.
3. Reseeding will accompany the herbicide efforts	3. Reseeding efforts were postponed until 2004 due to lack of

following the replant restrictions.	adequate soil moisture. The plan is to reseed the upper stretches of the drainage where herbicides were applied.
	4. Two monitoring sites were established but due to fire conditions no active control efforts were undertaken. In 2004, new sites will be established to adequately monitor the control process.

“The Center for Invasive Plant Management grant has helped solidify the Steve’s Fork Weed Management Area Coalition. The Steve’s Fork Weed Management Area has come together to work collectively on a common problem and the CIPM grant has encouraged the participants to stay focused on the project. There has been a learning curve by the group on working jointly over such a large area with a diverse group of individuals and varied production schedules. The group has realized more planning and greater communications between the partners will be required to realize their goals.”

**❖ Lower Sheyenne Purple Loosestrife Project
Oriska, ND**

12-month goals	Progress toward 12-month goals
1. Educate the public about identification and invasiveness of purple loosestrife and saltcedar.	1. Participated in two statewide agricultural shows and other county shows, as well as a school program. Developed placemats featuring saltcedar and purple loosestrife and distributed them statewide which has increased reported sightings. An article was posted on the ND Outdoors website. Colorful interpretive panels were designed to be placed at boat ramps, wildlife areas, parks, and other sites. The panels include a toll-free number for reporting weed locations.
2. Develop a map showing locations of purple loosestrife and saltcedar using GPS waypoints.	2. Developed a map with the help of the ND Dept. of Agriculture for 2003 and will have the 2004 version by Jan. 1, 2005. Surveying went very well; the survey area was expanded this year.

“The directors in our weed management area are very involved in all aspects of noxious weed control in their areas. This has been a growing experience for all involved and it is exciting to share ideas with those you work beside. We are very pleased with the Lower Sheyenne Purple Loosestrife Project and how it has evolved. We are always looking for new ways to educate the public on the invasiveness of noxious weeds.”

**❖ Alder South/West Bench Weed Management Area
Virginia City, MT**

12-month goals	Progress toward 12-month goals
1. Increase participation of the cost-share program provided by the County Weed Department.	1. Nature Conservancy interns visited landowners, passed out noxious weed information, discussed biocontrol, and promoted integrated weed management.
2. Increase participation at each educational spray day	2. Two “Weed Days” were held near Ruby Lake with contributions

in the project area.	from the Extension Service, BLM, MT Dept. Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Forest Service, and Ruby Valley Home Engineers. Attendance has increased 20% in two years. The final Weed Day saw 62 volunteers.
3. Manage all known infestations of weeds in the project areas to some extent.	3. (Unreported)
4. Locate all unknown infestations and treat those infestations to some extent.	4. (Unreported)
5. Foster increased knowledge of the public by the distribution of brochures and ID booklets.	5. 1,500 brochures were distributed to landowners; the county weed board had a booth at the county fair – The Nature Conservancy helped man the booth; a large Weed Seed Free sign was erected at a local campground; a War on Weeds insert was distributed in the local newspaper twice.

“This grant has greatly increased the effectiveness of Madison County’s educational programs in the Ruby Valley. By increasing the awareness and education of noxious weeds, more infestations will be controlled in the future.... Madison County would like to give the CIPM a sincere thank you.”

**❖ Spring Creek Region Cooperative Weed Management Area
Elko, NV**

12-month goals	Progress toward 12-month goals
1. Develop a strategic plan for the entire SCRCWMA.	1. Completed a strategic plan.
2. Develop an annual operating plan.	2. Completed the 2003 annual operation plan.
3. Pursue the 501(c)3 status since our RC&D in Nevada is unable to serve as a permanent fiscal manager.	3. Received 501(c)3 non-profit status.
4. Eradicate and control weeds by spraying with tractors, four-wheelers and back packs, weekend weed pulls, and by educating property owners to control their weeds.	4. Treated 178 acres with herbicides and by hand pulling. Reseeded 5 acres of private land that had been treated for dyer’s woad with crested wheatgrass.
5. Develop an aggressive education and awareness campaign.	5. Made presentations at schools, led field tours, and provided yard evaluations. Set up information booths at the home show, the fair, and the Homeowners Association BBQ. Submitted articles, quarterly, to the Homeowners Association Journal. Contributed to the production of the <i>Northeastern Nevada Home Owner’s Guide to Healthy Landscapes</i> .
6. Organize weed mapping/inventory work days along river tributaries and private lands.	6. Purchased 2 GPS units and provided weed mapping training for volunteers. Inventoried and mapped 23 acres.
	7. Developed a cooperative relationship with the community college and a consulting business in order to provide a mapping/inventory class and field experience for students.

“The CIPM grant was extremely valuable to us!!! Since June of 2000 several weed warriors in our community volunteered countless hours annually toward noxious weed control and education. The Spring Creek Region Cooperative Weed Management Area officially formed in February 2003 to assist those volunteers in their efforts. By forming this CWMA, we have opened many doors. Assistance is more readily available toward our projects and all our

volunteer efforts are actually worth in-kind matches. We know our volunteer efforts are greatly appreciated, but it is nice to know that our time is valuable as well.

“Being a recipient of the CIPM 2003 CWMA Grant enabled us to expand our control area and to improve our educational campaign. Prior to the CIPM Grant, our projects were funded out of our own pocketbooks. We focused our control efforts within a 10,000-acre homeowners association. The 2003-2004 CIPM grant provided us with the financial assistance we needed to continue with those projects, but to also expand our control efforts. The SCRCWMA now covers a 110,000-acre area. The CIPM grant empowered us to empower others to control their noxious weeds. We provided private property owners, tribal land managers, and Nevada State Park personnel with chemicals, equipment, labor, and other resources they needed for noxious weed control on the lands they own or manage.

“The CIPM grant also broadened our ability to educate our community about noxious weeds. Since more than 16,000 residents within our CWMA reside on small 2-5 acre parcels or 40-80 acre ranchettes, we decided a comprehensive manual was needed to inform these landowners about noxious weed identification and control and ways to improve their land through healthy land management practices. We are working with our local Cooperative Extension Agent on this manual. It will be published sometime in spring 2004. We were also able to provide 115 hours of educational presentations to our community through information booths, articles, classroom presentations, yard evaluation, and weed tours.

“We accomplished a great deal in 2003-2004. The 2003 CIPM CWMA grant made these accomplishments possible. We can not thank you enough for awarding us the grant in 2003. We hope to work with you again on future projects. Thanks again for your support.”

**❖ Asotin County Cooperative Weed Management Area
Asotin, WA**

12-month goals	Progress toward 12-month goals
1. Inventory and map noxious weeds with GPS. Treat weed infestations with herbicides and biocontrol.	1. Due to the rugged and remote terrain, surveys were conducted by horseback, foot, and four-wheel drive vehicles. Over 4000 acres were surveyed. Many of the sites were surveyed twice to detect various weed species during their different growing periods. Weed infestations were mapped, treated with herbicides, and biocontrol agents were released for yellow starthistle.
2. Develop photo points to provide a record of treatment success.	2. Monitoring points for yellow starthistle, sulfur cinquefoil, and rush skeletonweed were established.
	3. Private landowners were initially skeptical of success because of the difficulty of the terrain. But by the end of the season, they generally acknowledge the success of the project and were participating in future planning.

“The Center for Invasive Plant Management grant was the first significant project that the Asotin County Noxious Weed Control Board has undertaken since its inception in 1983. Two years

ago, the Weed Department was reorganized and adopted a proactive approach to weed control. Since many of our new invaders are found in rangelands, it was a natural partnership for the Asotin County Cattlemen’s Association and the Asotin County Noxious Weed Control Board to form an alliance. This cooperative arrangement has also facilitated communications with long established area agricultural producers. A dynamic weed program involved education of land owners and surveys of remote areas to assess the level of infestations. This grant helped the Weed Cooperative introduce a new weed philosophy with funds to back up their ideas.”

“Since this was the first grant that the Asotin County CWMA received, its psychological effect on the community can’t be overemphasized.”

**❖ Malheur County Cooperative Weed Management Area
Vale, OR**

12-month goals	Progress toward 12-month goals
1. Purchase a laptop computer and GPS units for mapping and database management.	1. Purchased a laptop computer and used it to create a comprehensive data base. The database program was developed by the joint venture of The Nature Conservancy and the BLM. This database along with two mapping software programs has enabled us to begin to build a clearer picture of our weed spectrum and extent. Large format maps were generated using GIS software, and distributed to spray contractors and used for public meetings and informational displays. Due to the growing interest in weed mapping by volunteer groups, two GPS units were purchased and used by boy and girl scouts, equestrian associations and many private landowners.
2. Purchase materials to be used for educating the public about noxious weeds. The computer also would be used to create posters and presentations for education.	2. The computer also has been used to develop and give for PowerPoint presentations and to create posters to advertised CWMA events. A TV VCR/DVD player was purchased to display programs such as the Idaho Noxious Weed Campaign’s public service announcements at the county fair and other events. We purchased weed bulletins, brochures, and books to handout to the public at events and meetings. Some of these materials have been used during an annual event that targets 4 th and 5 th grade students.

“To state how valuable this grant has been to us is not difficult. Without this money it would be very difficult to get the message about the CWMA to our audience. Just getting the grant sparked a lot of interest in the community. We were able to get a spot on a daily radio program to talk about weed issues and the formation of the CWMA, and the aid of the CIPM grant was one topic. So just the fact that we have someone interested and concerned enough to award us a grant was of considerable value.”

**❖ Land’s End Weed Management Area
Grand Junction, CO**

12-month goals	Progress toward 12-month goals
1. Hire a technician who will coordinate demonstration projects and field trips, prepare newsletters, publicize LEWMA and its projects, organize weed ID workshops, and assist with finalization of our strategic plan and annual work plan.	1. Hired an intern who was assisted with the daily operations of LEWMA. She was very valuable and we accomplished much more work than would have been possible without her.
2. With additional grant funds from the US Forest Service and Colorado Dept of Ag., we will conduct educational outreach through workshops field tours, and weed management demonstrations (herbicide treatment and reseeding) on private property.	2. We organized a weed tour, a noxious weed ID/control workshop, and a drainage and ditch weed workshop. We had planned to engage at least two landowners in weed management demonstration programs and actually engaged three. We are currently working with two additional landowners to establish NRCS Seed Program seed test plots.

“Grants from the Center for Invasive Plant Management, the US Forest Service, and the Colorado Dept. of Agriculture were instrumental in obtaining our goals for 2003.”

**❖ Skyline Weed Management Area
Huntington, UT**

12-month goals	Progress toward 12-month goals
1. Continue conducting detailed inventories as an aggressive mop-up effort to eradicate purple loosestrife. Plants will be treated with herbicides prior to flowering.	1. We augmented our personnel in order to treat more of this weed before it blossomed and seeded. The entire infestation was sprayed in a shorter period of time, preventing the maturation of most plants. This prevented plants from seeding and adding to the seed bank in the soil.
2. Purchase range finders, herbicides, and biocontrol insects.	2. Range finders were purchased and used to establish the size of infestations. Three-hundred acres were treated using Garlan 3A. Insects were purchased and will be released in the spring.

**❖ Utah County Cooperative Weed Education and Management Area
Heber City, UT**

12-month goals	Progress toward 12-month goals
1. Implementation of an integrated pest management plan on 5 or more acres of yellow starthistle, including initial survey and monitoring.	1. We implemented integrated pest management, which includes a mix of biological, chemical, and manual treatments on more than five acres. Survey and monitoring occurred prior to and after the Weed Work Day.
2. Subsequent treatment of Dalmatian toadflax on those same five acres.	2. Dalmatian toadflax was chemically treated along with yellow starthistle.
3. Reduce the threat of noxious weed spread thru the urban community.	3. We did a good job of eliminating the potential spread from the treated area by following up the herbicide treatment with hand pulling. Through the Master Gardener program, there will be an insert developed to educate the 200+ students in the Master

	Gardener program about the prevention of noxious weeds.
4. Direct education of 50 to 80 volunteers on noxious weed concerns and identification. Weed Work Day will provide 200 to 400 hours of volunteer labor.	4. Weed Work Day was held after weeds were treated, to manually remove any residual plants and further survey the area. Over 50 volunteers invested over 200 hours hand-pulling yellow starthistle. Volunteers also were trained in plant identification.
5. Volunteers will be trained in safety procedures, including wearing proper gloves, drinking plenty of water and wearing sunscreen.	5. Volunteers were trained in safety procedures.
6. Develop weed education and gratuity packets to provide local weed information to volunteers.	6. Volunteers received an educational gratuity pack, which included a fanny pack, sunscreen, notepad and pencil, Noxious Weed Field Guide, local maps, treats, and a baseball cap.

“This grant assistance gave our fledgling CWEMA purpose and legitimacy. We were able to kick off our first volunteer event with style and proper equipment. Knowing that we had outside funding, our group moved more quickly toward working together. We had some great ideas that came about due to this grant, including putting packets of native seed in the fanny pack, with a caveat about where and when to use this seed. With the money we were able to make a not-so-fun weed work day more appealing to volunteers by providing some incentives. We used the funding to provide educational materials to volunteers in the form of verbal, printed, and hands-on noxious weeds information.”

**❖ Nooksak Basin Cooperative Weed Management Area
Bellingham, WA**

12-month goals	Progress toward 12-month goals
1. Hire part-time knotweed coordinator.	1. Coordinator was hired; helped coordinate knotweed surveys.
2. Inventory knotweed on upper Nooksack River.	2. Approx. 10 mi of Nooksack River were mapped. The Lummi Indian Nation provided some knotweed inventory information. A survey form was adapted from the Skagit River Knotweed Working Group. Whatcom County, USFS, an adjacent private landowner, and The Nature Conservancy helped survey.
3. Increase public outreach.	3. Articles on knotweed, including interviews, appeared in local papers and newsletters. A brochure was developed and distributed locally, as well as at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show in Seattle. Informational booths about the project were sponsored at events statewide. A 30-second public service announcement (“Knotweed!”) was developed and shown in local movie theaters and posted on the TNC website for download and viewing.

“The group members continue to be dedicated to the ongoing efforts to manage the spread of knotweed, and new groups are organizing efforts in other watersheds in western Washington. The Nooksack Basin Knotweed Working Group is being asked to advise and help with the formation of these new working groups. The possibility for a symposium incorporating the efforts in western Washington and possibly with Oregon’s working groups will be addressed in an upcoming meeting.”

**❖ French Creek Weed Management Area
Custer, SD**

12-month goals	Progress toward 12-month goals
1. Develop education and awareness campaign.	1. Involved in organizing two watershed groups and working closely with them in weed control efforts. Purchased and distributed over 100 weed identification books.
2. Solicit landowner participation in weed control efforts and assist them in securing and applying chemical herbicides through a cost share program.	2. The landowner herbicide cost-share assistance program was advertised in the local paper. Twenty-one landowners were actively involved in chemical control of weeds on their property.
3. Discuss biological control options.	3. An order has been placed for gall flies and stem miners to be used in biological control.

“The participating landowners have been grateful for the financial assistance to purchase herbicides that are so costly. We have had the opportunity to contact more landowners, giving us the advantage of educating more people on noxious weed control and also involving more area in the watershed.”

“Our watersheds are a lifeline for all wildlife, domestic livestock, agricultural communities, and all users of public and private land. We will continue to seek funds to insure the diminishment of the noxious weeds until the watershed is healthy once again. The grant from the Center for Invasive Plant Management has been invaluable as we continue our efforts to obtain this ultimate goal.”

**❖ Southern Nye County Weed Management Area
Pahrump, NV**

12-month goals	Progress toward 12-month goals
1. Write the annual plan of work and have it signed so local working groups can apply herbicides in the fall.	1. Formed the CWMA and completed the annual plan of work.
2. Purchase GPS units for mapping and a digital camera for photo points and monitoring. School and youth groups will begin mapping in early fall.	2. Purchased four GPS units and a digital camera. Trained four volunteers on GPS use and mapping. Mapped 1/3 of the target area for tamarisk, Russian olive, and puncture vine.
3. Purchase equipment for herbicide application and provide pesticide application training.	3. Purchased five backpack sprayers, herbicides, pesticide application manuals, and held two pesticide training classes. Nineteen people received their pesticide application licenses.
	4. In conjunction with other grants that were received, a prison crew was hired to remove tamarisk and Russian olive in a pond and spring area in the headwaters of the Amargosa River. Currently working toward a goal of 900 acres free of these two species.

“This is the grant that got us started!!!”