

# Summary of Workshop Sessions

# Day 1 – Ecological Context & Species ID

- We are living in a time of unprecedented changes, of which some changes can be broadly predicted at the D2M timescale.
- Does the classic “restoration model” even work as a goal anymore, considering that we are mostly working with deliberately altered systems?
- Given the unpredictable nature of species responses to changing climate (temp, precip, etc.), should we even bother with invasives control and management?
- What can the land/natural resource manager do, beyond working to make current systems more resistant and resilient to climate change & altered fire impacts?
- How can a manager break the altered fire-invasive grass cycle?
- In order to even have a chance at success with invasives, prevention and EDRR must have a prominent role.

# Day 1 – Ecological Context & Species ID

## **Challenges**

- We are living in a time of unprecedented changes, especially climate
- Invasive species impacts on installation goals & objectives
- Altered fire regime as a result (and as a cause) of invasion
- Systems have been so altered, that it may not be possible to “restore” to a prior state

## **Solutions/Best Practices**

- Keep and make your habitats/systems as healthy and intact as possible, so that they are more resistant and resilient to threats
- Work to break the altered fire-invasive grass cycle
- Prevention and EDRR must play a prominent role in your invasives management

# Day 2 – EDRR, Prioritization & Management

- Having an adaptive management plan with clearly defined goals & objectives is vital to focus all planning and management activities
- Prevention and especially EDRR is possible at multiple scales & you can do it!
- There are many different methods, technologies, and data available for completing surveys, inventories and monitoring, but the method(s) you choose must be appropriate to your overall goals & objectives
- Overall management objectives and many variables must be considered when prioritizing management activities, and the use of multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) is a tool that can assist in this
- There are many different tools, methods and technologies available for the control and management of invasive plants, and the best tools to use depends on your specific situation, environmental context, available resources, and most importantly on your overall goals & objectives. The use of good IPM should become standard practice and encouraged.

# Day 3 – Restoration & Field Trip

- Revegetation/rehabilitation/restoration activities should be driven by need, assessed for feasibility, and most importantly guided by goals & objectives
- Successful restoration can be accomplished by active or passive means
- The impacts of altered ecosystem processes (hydrology, fire regimes, etc.) must be addressed when planning and implementing reveg/restoration projects
- Restoration project success often includes not only the biological/ecological recovery/revegetation of the native populations/habitats/systems, but can also be defined to include community involvement, communications, and support
- Restoration trajectories do not necessarily have to go back to a prior state

# Day 4 – Partnerships

- Partnerships are vitally important to achieve mutual goals and to fulfill mission & responsibilities
- Successful partnerships require the building and maintenance of personal relationships
- Successful partnerships can result in many benefits, including improving overall community relations, sharing limited resources, and leveraging strategies and actions across larger scales
- Incentive programs can be used to successfully prevent & manage invasive species
- Legal liability (if established & enforced) can be a very important tool to prevent the introduction & spread of invasive species
- Several federal agencies (DHS, USDA-APHIS, US Army COE, etc.) have specific roles & responsibilities in preventing the introduction of invasive species to the U.S., and many other agencies (BIA, USFWS, BLM, etc.) are working hard to control the spread & mitigate impacts

## Day 4 – Partnerships (cont.)

- Private contractors can be a useful tool to get on-the-ground management done, but is most useful when you have a very good idea of your goals & objectives, environmental context, and what you want to do
- CWMA/CISMA/PRISM/WPAs and species-specific groups (giant salvinia , SJWWII, etc.) can be a great tool to work cooperatively with local stakeholders (especially those not usually involved with invasives) to share data, mutual goals, EDRR, resources and successes
- There are lots of opportunities and vehicles/methods for the DOD to work with both external (NGOs, univ extension, other agencies, etc.) and internal partners (MDEP- VENN, ITAM, QDPW, etc.)
- Partnership opportunities are limitless (Valerie M.), but it takes work to develop stable-over-time partnerships, especially with inconsistent funding & staff turnovers
- Even with extremely limited funds, work can get done (ex. SJWWII - each partner contribute one day for monitoring)
- Communications and resources available (via the web) is a necessary tool for getting the information out

# Day 4– Partnerships (cont.)

## Challenges

- Staff time, time commitment
- Working with non-traditional partners
- Intellectual property rights (academic partners)
- Difficulties with getting MOUs signed
- Funding! Leadership commitment, communication with leadership

## Solutions/Best Practices

- Tours on the installation
- Working with existing partnerships, NGOs
- Inviting non-traditional partners early on in the planning process (transparency)
- Reserving some intellectual rights with research findings and communications/advising on graduate committees
- Find-out who has the authority to sign MOU partnership agreements; figure-out how to fast-track MOUs through legal
- MOUs that do not commit funds move more-easily through the system
- Using separate signature pages for MOUs
- Setting-up multi-year Cooperative Agreements might allow more flexibility in partnerships, projects, etc.
- Work from bottom-up & top-down to build support for projects and get things done



# End of Workshop Summary



Cool!

Freaky!

Weird!

# New insights/cool things/ideas/best practices that YOU might do...

*From the group...*

- Add cheatgrass to state weed list
- Use separate signature pages for MOUs
- Investigate the use of biocontrols and other new tools for the management toolbox
- Gather together existing data (phenology, etc.) and find data gaps
- Work on a Legacy proposal for using new mapping technologies (and at YPG)
- Kick start and/or participate in a local CWMA
- Focus on EDRR instead of only efforts into management
- Remember to consider climate change impacts in management plans
- Can use existing management plans (& tools & techniques) as templates
- Use available tools (eg., “Invasive Species Toolkit” from DoD)
- Continue to communicate with each other, network with colleagues
- Integrated Natural Resources Plan, remember to include invasives