

Western Weed Coordinating Committee
MEETING MINUTES
November 29 - December 1, 2011
Las Vegas, NV

DRAFT Final, January 12, 2012

These draft minutes were taken by Steven Ryder and CIPM, and were approved by the WWCC Executive Committee.

Meeting Participants:

Scott Marsh, NV SWC, WWCC Chair
Warren Ririe, USFS, WWCC Vice Chair
Steve Ryder, CO SWC, WWCC Secretary
Eric Lane, CO DOA, WWCC Treasurer

Adrienne Peterson, Sublette County, WY
Albert Mulder, USDA-NRCS
Alison Halpern, WA Nox Weed Board (phone)
Andrea Minor, USBR
Bob Parsons, Park County, WY
Brian Rector, USDA-ARS
Chuck Barger, Bugwood, U Georgia
Colleen Hougen, Invasive Plant Council, BC
David Pilliod, USGS
Dawn Rafferty, NV DOA
Dean Kelsch, CA SWC
Emily Rindos, CIPM (phone)
Eric Geisler, BLM, AK (phone)
Gina Ramos, BLM (phone 11/29)
Greg Cox, CPS Timberland Div.
Greg Haubrich, WA SWC
Janet Valle, USFS, S&PF
Jim Olivarez, Invasive Plant Control, Inc.
John Cantlon, DuPont

John Jones, USFWS
Justin Welty, USGS
Kitty Weiss, CIPM (phone)
Curt Deuser, NPS-EPMT, NV
Liz Galli-Noble, CIPM and MRWC
Mark Coca, BLM, NV
Mark Schwarzlaender, U Idaho
Mike Ielmini, USFS (on phone 11/29)
Mitch Coffin, NE SWC
Nick Rice, So. Nevada Water Authority
Rachel Seifert-Spilde, ND SWC (phone)
Rich Riding, UT SWC
Rita Beard, NPS (phone 11/29)
Sandra Baniaga-Brown, USDA-APHIS
Slade Franklin, WY SWC
Stephanie Phillips, USFS
Tina Mudd, NV DOA
Tim Butler, OR SWC (phone)
Janetta, Oklahoma (phone)??
Brianne, Alaska (phone) ??

Tuesday (November 29th)

Welcome and Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

Healthy Habitat Coalition Update

Presenter: John Cantlon, DuPont

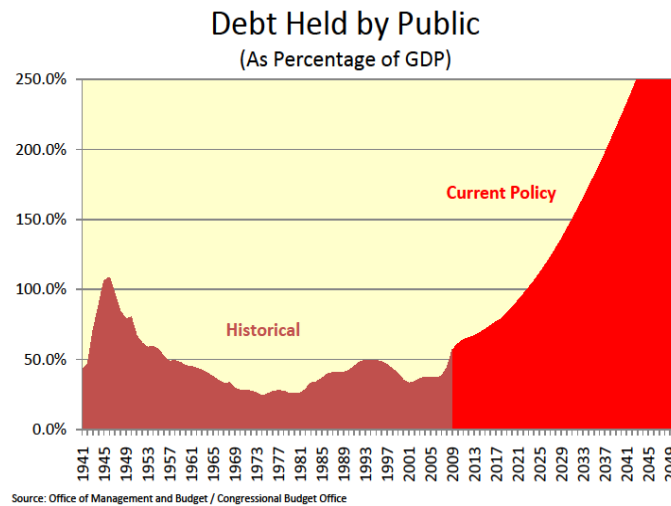
John Cantlon presented an update of the Healthy Habitats Coalition (HHC). His powerpoint presentation is available on the WWCC website at: <http://www.weedcenter.org/wwcc/>; see "2011 Meeting Presentations". John Cantlon began by explaining who is involved in HHC. He reported that Tracee Bentley is no longer the HHC Executive Director because she took a new position with the Colorado Energy Office. Roger Batt, a weed awareness expert and lobbyist from Meridian, Idaho, has replaced Tracee in that position and is part of the HHC Executive Committee. He also addressed the HHC Steering Committee and reported that there are three to five open spaces on that committee and they are looking for broader representation, primarily from the eastern states. All of this information (mission, vision, members list, etc., can be found on the HHC website at: www.healthyhabitatscoalition.com.

John Cantlon then touched on the history of weed management in the West, and showcased the 8th Annual Western Weed Control Conference of 1946. He showed how the main issues discussed during that conference – national funding to stop the harm from weeds; laws and regulation uniformity; new Bureau of Plant Industry, research expansion; and new chemistry knowledge – are the same issues prevalent today. He showed a Recent Time Line of progress that has taken place since 1987, which included: Federal Noxious Weed Act passed in 1987; ANS Task Force formed in 1990; FICMNEW formed in 1993; Executive Order #13112 passed in 1999; and others. He also highlighted the NASDA Committee on Invasive Species, which recently formed to expand the HHC message. That committee will also deal with the Farm Bill and invasive species funding.

John Cantlon then discussed the impediments to success, which are not much different than in 1940:

Lack implementation of landscape scale project due to:

1. Inconsistent NEPA implementation
2. Costly litigation on western lands from EAJA
3. ESA has not been used to forward invasive species management
4. Lack of effective and efficient management of laws and policies to expand management and control capacity (need more resources to local entities)
5. Insufficient applied research that creates solutions from a \$350 billion funding mechanism.



John asked:

How do we get critical mass?

He then explained how HHC is targeting their efforts.

- HHC promotes conservation of the nation’s natural resources and economic interests by advocating against invasive species harm.
- Through state and federal leadership, HHC seeks appropriations assisting private land owners and land managers with on-the-ground control resources benefiting commerce.
- The House and Senate is HHC’s focus; in particular: the Natural Resource, Agriculture and Public Land Committees, and Appropriations Committees.

There were 15 HHC State Teams (of three natural resource managers) that traveled to Washington D.C. in March 2011 to build relationships with Congressional representatives. The teams are varied, but work together as a network to go every year to gain support from Congress. HHC is asking for specific partnerships, including: eastern states, WSWS, State Weed Coordinator Alliance, National Cattlemen Beef Association, National Livestock Association, NACD, ALEC, State Farm Bureau, SARL, etc.

John Cantlon went over the key meeting scheduled for HHC IN 2012, which included the November 30th, WWCC meeting.

He also outlined the “Critical Asks to Jump Start Control Programs”:

Goal: Improve control & management of invasive species on dispersal corridors.

ASK 1: Over five years, Federal land managers shall increase on-the-ground control obligation by five-fold and decrease current infested acres by 25%.

ASK 2: Federal agencies shall provide the states pass through funds assessed at 25 cents on each federally managed acre.

* State(s) submit for money based on a set of measurable criteria.

* The Governor directs funds annually on prioritized targets.

* Attain 70% for on-the-ground control for any invasive taxa.

ASK 3: The FwHA should authorize \$300 per every center line mile of state highway annually.

* Money passes to each state DOT Maintenance Section.

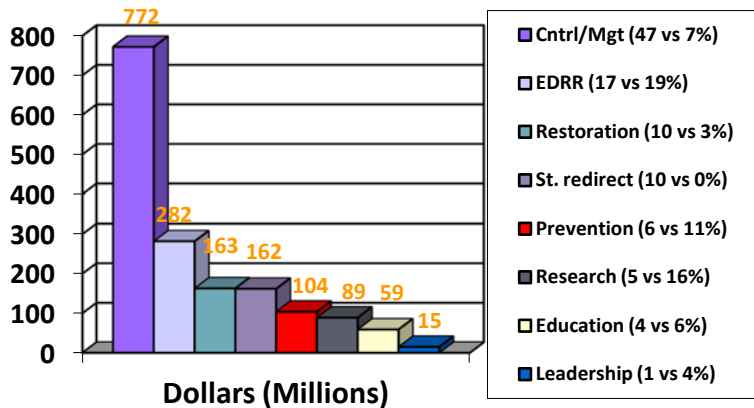
* Improve control, EDRR, prevention or education.

ASK 4: Enforce the Federal Noxious Weed Act (Section 2814) passed in 1991.

ASK 5: Each state should develop an invasive species plan with a solid law in collaboration with the appropriate federal agencies. See Idaho and Washington laws.

ASK 6: States should work in regional/national concert to educate the public via media tactics. Cooperation is essential to eliminate redundancy.

HHC Proposed Invasive Species Budget (\$1.647 Billion) (Add State Redirect to Treat 7.7 M acres)



John then covered HHC’s reduction plan for infested acres (Federal land impacts)

- 2009 49,481,709 acres (Annually treat 7.7M acres)
- 2010 47,877,904 acres
- 2011 44,999,252 acres
- 2012 41,775,162 acres
- 2013 38,164,181 acres
- 2014 34,119,883 acres
- 2015 29,590,269 acres
- 2019 5,343,936 acres (89% reduction)

John Cantlon then concluded with:

You can help with this:

1. Create a State Advocacy Team
2. Support the Six HHC ASKs
3. Get on the HHC Steering Committee
4. Build your state priorities list; and share that with HHC
 - *Slade Franklin just sent WY’s to HHC
5. Donate to the cost of our lobbyist. Roger Batt, roger@amgidaho.com; 208.888.0988
 - *All of this relies on donations to the HHC.

A brief discussion followed the presentation:

Scott Marsh - Why did you put the highway money back into the "asks"?

John Cantlon - State DOTs need it and carrying DOT water is going to be tough. Last year it was determined that there was no funding for this issue. The states said they need this. We need to advocate in DC with federal highways.

Slade Franklin - Where is NASDA?

John Cantlon - Something should be coming in February 2012.

Tina Mudd – Where is the Cattlemen’s Association on this? Are they not giving the same message as HHC?

John Cantlon – He will be meeting with them soon.

Greg Haubrich – What are the states’ main priorities? If each state has a list of issues, then the teams that go to D.C. know exactly what to present to legislatures.

John Cantlon – We want priorities and issues in the state, where you would spend the money.

Jim Olivarez – Is HHC focused on just plants?

John Cantlon - No, all taxa are considered. The plan for the HHC is to build a core around our State Teams and work locally. It is too expensive to take a team trip to D.C.

Scott Marsh – What was the outcome of last spring’s HHC week in D.C.?

John Cantlon – Lots of good conversations began with various parties and our message was reinforced.

Hazardous Fuels Treatment at Red Rock National Conservation Area

Presenter: Mark Coca, Bureau of Land Management, NV

Mark Coca presented on new happenings in southern Nevada, on Bureau of Land Management lands. His powerpoint presentation is available on the WWCC website at: <http://www.weedcenter.org/wwcc/>; see “2011 Meeting Presentations.”

Background - The Red Rocks National Conservation Area (Mojave Desert) was established in 1990 to promote recreation, and conserve and protect the natural resources and beauty of the area. There are 198,000 acres of red sandstone geology and heavily-recreated land. Hikers, mountain bikers, and climbers all take advantage of the land. There have been invasive annual grasses in the area for a number of years, but they did not seem to affect the area until around 2005. Fires started to be a problem because they were fueled by the invasive grasses. Red brome, cheatgrass, and ripgut brome were becoming a major problem especially as a hazardous fuel source.

- 2005 – Loop Fire (858 ac.), Diamond Fire (119 ac.), Overlook Fire (61 ac.)
- 2006 – Scenic Fire (1,611 ac.)
- 2007 – Bonnie Springs Fire (389 ac.)

By mapping these fires, a correlation between use by people and increased fires became clear. People are spreading the grasses. This area is also only 5 miles away from Las Vegas.

They are starting an aggressive annual grass prevention project to address this issue. Mark outlined the project:

To reduce hazardous fuels we are utilizing:

- NEPA analysis
- Scoping
- Alternatives

Alternatives investigated for dealing with invasive grasses:

Mechanical Mowing:

- Dixie harrow, rotary mower, other mastication equipment
- Linear strips along roads & trails
- 150’ both sides of some roads, trails and washes
- 300’ east side Hwy 159
- Other terrain features to break up fuels
- 300’ inside perimeter of past fire areas
- High level of disturbance

Blading:

- Bulldozer, Bobcat or grader
- Linear strips along roads & trails
- 150’ both sides of some roads, trails and washes
- 300’ east side Hwy 159

- Other terrain features to break up fuels
- 300' inside perimeter of past fire areas
- High level of disturbance

Greenstrip:

Planting with forage kochia and crested wheatgrass (note: they also tried native seedings with little success).

- Nonconformance with Land Use Plans
 - Eliminated this alternative

Domestic Livestock Grazing:

- Non conformance with Land Use Plans
 - Eliminated this alternative

Wild Horse/Burro Grazing:

- 29-40 burros
- 16-27 horses
- Not enough to reduce infestations
- Unpalatable to animals

Herbicide:

- Imazapic and/or imazapic+glyphosate
- 150' both sides of some roads, trails and washes
- 300' east side Hwy 159
- Other terrain features to break up fuels
- Treat within burned areas
- Avoid washes and areas with penstemon species
- Followed by seeding within burned areas
- ~5,300 acres
- Aerial application along Scenic Loop Drive
- Other areas applied with ATVs/backpack sprayers
- 8 oz/acre (maximum) imazapic
- 32 oz/acre (maximum) imazapic+glyphosate
- BLM Veg EIS rates
- Fall/winter application
- Wildlife and recreation

Mark Coca then addressed project issues and concerns. He stressed that they must avoid T&E species (Desert tortoise habitat and burrow fouling periods) and people conflicts. They plan to map and treat 300' along trails, roads and burned areas; and will use this as research plots to show affects on Desert tortoise.

In the future, there needs to be an increase in responsible pesticide use and aggressive invasive annual plant prevention. The public understands how large a problem invasive plants are, so herbicides are favored by the public at the moment.

A brief discussion followed the presentation:

Are you educating the people who use the area for recreation?

Mark Coca - We recognize we need to do a better job educating the public in order to spread prevention systems.

Tina Mudd – Can you change the land use plan to allow non-native species use?

Mark Coca – Not likely.

Slade Franklin – You should do this regionally like the NAWMA to adapt for variability in different states.

Scott Marsh – Why limited 300' along the main roads?

Mark Coca - To protect the community, mainly.

Eric Lane – What is the public response to herbicide use?

Mark Coca - It has been favorable so far, at least in Blue Diamond and Las Vegas community. We need to get rid of the annual grasses.

Janet Valle – What type of infestation are we looking at? Density, spotty, etc.?

Mark Coca – Invasive grasses are spotty and their densities are higher in the burned areas.

Steve Ryder – What is known about the Desert tortoise forage preferences; how will treating the bromes fit in?

John Cantlon – Is there a budget?

Mark Coca - Yes, in the BLM's hazardous fuels budget; its' in the hundreds of thousands.

Janet Valle – Where are you in your timeline?

Mark Coca - 90-95% of NEPA is done. The decision is due to be signed in December/January, and treatments are scheduled to start in spring 2012.

Has there been any education for users?

Mark Coca - Yes and no. We need to do more.

Tina Mudd – Are adjacent landowners interested in greenstripping their side?

Mark Coca - We don't know.

Federal Agency Update #1 – Bureau of Land Management

Presenters: Mark Coca and Gina Ramos, BLM NV and Washington DC

Mark Coca and Gina Ramos recapped the highlights of 2011 and shared BLM program statistics:

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

In FY2011 the BLM completed:

2011	2011
Fiscal Year	Actual
Name	
Inventory for Presence Invasive Plants and/or Noxious Weeds (acres)	4,622,019
Apply Weed Treatments (acres)	249,114
Evaluate Weed Treatments (acres)	644,939

- After deploying small segments of the National Invasive Species Information Management System (NISIMS), BLM deployed Phase I this past year to all of the BLM states with at least one field office participating in collecting inventory, monitoring data and in some areas, treatment data.
- Phase I was to have the BLM field offices test the system to determine where errors were occurring and identified areas where the system would need to undergo technical refresh and modifications. The BLM will continue to collect information under Phase I, the date for the technical refresh is beginning in December with the selection of a contractor.
- BLM field staff will be working with the contractor to identify needs for the business side and the IT side. The contractor will identify a date for completion of Phase II, after field staff and the contractor meet.
- BLM has completed drafts of the risk assessments for new proposed active ingredients: Aminopyralid, Fluroxypyr and Rimsulfuron, and currently approved active ingredients Clopyralid and 2, 4-D. We also have begun working on the Biological Assessment and the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). Dates for completion will be determine upon coordination on the BA with both the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the NOAA Fisheries, primarily because of their workload.
- BLM is one of the sponsors, along with FICMNEW, of the 2012 Weeds Across Borders Conference, April 24-27, 2012 in Cancun, Mexico.
- BLM continues to coordinate with Wildlife Forever to develop ads and handouts for education and outreach, targeting prevention. Most of the ads this year are targeting aquatics.
- BLM is issuing policy on the NPDES permitting system. The EPA permits apply only to Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, and Washington states. The remaining BLM states will be under state permitting systems. BLM is coordinating policy with FICMNEW agencies so that policy is consistent amongst agencies.
- A Weed Free Forage Policy is in the works so that there will be only one policy for the entire BLM. There is no timeline as to when this will be created. There is a chance it will be completed in 2013. There needs to be discussion between states to insure that all the states are aware of the Weed Free Forage policy before it passes. Therefore, everyone is on the same page. We need to avoid a situation where some states are suddenly out of compliance. To avoid this, state and federal people need to work together. A federal

register notice should be issued, so that states can then work with the state government, which will be working with the BLM.

Tina Mudd – Regarding Weed Free Forage policy, let us help you sell this at the state level. BLM Idaho did an analysis.

Slade Franklin – How will you adapt for variability in different states? Using the NAWMA approach, or do it regionally?

Eric Lane – You should contact the states for feedback as you formulate your strategy. We need communication early on; please share this with Gina Ramos; we need direct consultation and clear steps; we need the BLM to be in touch with all the states to harmonize policies.

Gina Ramos joined the meeting at this point via cell phone.

Gina Ramos - What are your concerns? Is there not enough consultation? Are you doing a programmatic EIS?

Eric Lane – Do you have a lead for each state?

Gina Ramos – The PEIS starts with state offices then goes to federal level...

Eric Lane – From a Colorado perspective, who do we interface with?

Gina Ramos – States will only review a national environmental assessment, following internal BLM review. Once it's been reviewed internally, it will be out in federal review notice. States should be contacting BLM offices in the states. The states should be having conversations during the EA process along with some local interaction that is already going on in the EA. The EA goes beyond weed free forage – weed free forage, mulch, seed, propagation. We are conversing with minerals folks currently.

Eric Lane - Has Colorado and the BLM been in contact?

Gina Ramos - No, they haven't been in the loop yet – EA is being cleaned up – this should have gone out years ago...must get on to DOI docket and minerals folks need to comment. Will get out to program leads by December 2011.

Warren Ririe – Why not combine USFS and BLM risk assessments on new herbicides? They should coordinate on this expensive and complex effort.

Janet Valle – USFS has worked with NPS in the past. Sometime in the future we must go beyond EPA does (take it to site-specific applications), but no other reason for separate ones. We need to look at where USFS and BLM can come together.

Rita Beard concurred.

Scott Marsh and Slade Franklin – The states want to cooperate. They would support this. The USFS needs to revisit this topic in DC.

Warren Ririe – Can we establish a working group within the WWCC to help us work together across the country on risk assessment with herbicides. Let's look for opportunities why this will work, not why it won't.

Gina Ramos agreed that this is good idea. She has had discussions with the USFS about this already.

Mike Ielmini – How is it done?

Janet Valle - Risk assessments are limited by the funding received. It costs \$55,000 for each pesticide risk assessment and they have to keep up on tests on the old pesticides to stay up to date.

Mike Ielmini – Can we jack up the money to coordinate this effort? It seems as though the BLM and the USFS both do this, but they may not be working together. It seems like it would be much more effective if they could work together and have the FS push money to the BLM to get more done with new and old pesticide risk assessments.

Gina Ramos – There are differences to be worked out. The BLM, FS and NPS have different procedures for performing risk assessments. Therefore, risk assessments from the BLM cannot be used by the NPS.

Warren Ririe – The differences are not that great.

Gina Ramos – The USFS has a no-compete deal with consultants.

Mike Ielmini – Question for Gina: Are we limited by the amount of funds for risk assessments?

Janet Valle – We are limited due to updating existing herbicides.

Mike Ielmini – With partners contributing money, can we do more risk assessments without do-overs?

Janet Valle – We still need to keep old ones updated. We need to coordinate with USFS DC offices.

Mike Ielmini – The existing pot of money isn't getting us anywhere.

Gina Ramos – BLM risk assessments are tied to an EIS and are also doing biological assessments, etc. – there are some significant differences. The BLM updates are linked to budgeting.

Tina Mudd – Gina, how are you tied to an EIS?

Gina Ramos - In order to add herbicides, we must go through NEPA process (unlike NPS and USFS). We are tied to a three-year cycle. We can't do a supplemental EIS every year.

Warren Ririe – This process isn't that different. It would be more efficient if BLM had 6 to 7 herbicides and USFS do the same and would be more affordable.

Mike Ielmini – They have different procedures and can't compare results of outcomes. Risk assessments aren't interchangeable because of the difference in procedures. The BLM has a national process and the USFS has a western region EIS process.

Gina Ramos – EIS is specific to western lands, so it wouldn't work with eastern lands of USFS.

Tina Mudd – Why not use the most restrictive risk assessments?

Gina Ramos – SEIS results are in an updated record of decision.

Rita Beard - NPS steals from both, but more from USFS. I want to continue supporting the processes of the other two agencies and try to coordinate agency processes which will be ongoing due to significant differences.

Federal Agency Update #1 – US Forest Service

Presenters: Mike Ielmini and Warren Ririe, US Forest Service Washington DC and ID

Mike Ielmini reported that a new comprehensive policy for National Forest System Invasive Species Management (Forest Service Manual 2900) is soon to be finalized and issued in the field. The Federal Register Notice will be coming out as soon as it is approved at high levels. So far it's been well received. People are saying, "it's about time you did this." They should be on the ground by the end of 2011. The Forest Service handbook will be updated. There will then be a public review. Warren Ririe is involved in the "treatments" section. Warren will be revising the National Invasive Species Strategy and is well into the process. Their target is for the end of 2012. It should support the handbook.

Invasive species program funding has been gradually increasing from 2003 to 2010 with a constant flux in budget structure. The USFS is taking a broader spectrum approach to management, a landscape-level approach, emphasizing restoration and effectiveness, and measuring change. There are also many challenges. Invasive species management is part of other agency program budgets involved in restoration, so the gains will not be apparent due to the bundling. The USFS will see funding declines, but there is a lot of interest in Invasive species.

Warren Ririe distributed two USFS handouts: USFS lands 193 million acres and a noxious weed inventory showing 2.1 million infested acres (see <http://www.weedcenter.org/wwcc/>; see "2011 Meeting Presentations," USFS Handouts #1 and #2).

Mike Ielmini explained that the handouts from Warren are not completely accurate, but it is the best information that exists at this time. Some data is from timber management and other programs. There is still a lot of USFS land that has not been inventoried. Some species are so widespread that they have not assessed them to the fullest extent. The USFS has treated about 350,000 acres in 2011 with continuing partnerships with the states, local governments and CWMAs. They would like to work with other states at the forest levels. The handbook should give direction by addressing: the probability of weed spread (risk assessments); do more with prevention; identifying priorities for management; collaboration with partners (enhance communication and cooperation); and to continue strong working groups at the state level.

The Forest Service is starting to input inventory into the database. A critical element, though, is to have a way to confirm how accurate all the data is especially for future reference. There is a three-year review set in place as a national strategy to validate all the information in the database.

A brief discussion followed the presentation:

Slade Franklin – the new strategy, prioritization by species, that is good, well thought out.

Warren Ririe – the USFS is looking at EDRR at different scales, just like the states. We must be serving the county/CWMA level with priority species.

Eric Lane - There are many challenges to working at many levels such as harmonizing priorities. Not all views are consistent within the state or local governments.

Mike Ielmini – Even within the states, not everyone agrees: landowners, CWMAs, the counties.

John Cantlon – In Warren’s table, the cost per treated acre would be a useful number to mention and is a huge conversation.

Warren Ririe – It is difficult to provide those numbers; the USFS is not able to provide that in an adequate way.

Jim Olivarez – Are there any plans to modify the database reporting to include the amount of acreage that has been inventoried?

Warren Ririe – The database does include inventoried acres, but most of the existing inventories have not been put into it as yet.

Jim Olivarez - Is there any continued review of data validity? Periodic review and checking is useful.

Warren Ririe – There is a big problem with many errors found in the data. The USFS is doing a three-year-long review of the data.

30-Minute Break

During the Break

Presenter: Adrienne Peterson, Sublette County, WY spoke for a few minutes about the Weed Free Forage Program. Adrienne’s husband (Eric Peterson) helped her create a model (Excel spreadsheet) that calculates the benefits of early control of perennial invasive weeds over time. The model is available for anyone’s use at:

<http://www.weedcenter.org/wwcc/>; see “2011 Meeting Presentations”.

Federal Agency Update #2 – US Fish and Wildlife Service

Presenter: John Jones, Interagency Restoration Coordinator, US Fish and Wildlife Service

- John Jones works for the Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Las Vegas. The Complex includes four refuges in southern Nevada. The biggest of these, Desert National Wildlife Refuge, is 1.5 million acres and is the largest National Wildlife Refuge in the lower 48 states. His position is interagency restoration coordinator for the Southern Nevada Restoration Team (SNRT), one of several teams under the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership, a collaboration of four federal agencies (FWS, BLM, NPS and USFS) working together to share ideas, resources and solutions to issues across agency boundaries.
- Invasive weeds management is a major part of the restoration program, and much of the work is accomplished with the help of NPS Exotic Plant Management Team (Curt Deuser is a key SNRT member) and with contracted labor for restoration specialists and crews. SNRT is also developing an interagency database for inventory and assessment of disturbances, documentation of restoration actions, and monitoring success.
- Most of the restoration work is funded by SNPLMA, the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act, through which a portion of monies from the sale of federal lands in the Las Vegas valley is made available for conservation actions to benefit desert tortoise and other native species. This funding has helped us accomplish a lot over the past few years, but with the crash of the real estate market, lands sales also plummeted, and our funding is disappearing, so we’re looking for other ways to keep the program going.
- On the national level, the USFWS recently completed a new vision document for the National Wildlife Refuge System. The final document, which includes a number of recommendations, is available on line at www.americaswildlife.org.

Additional Information: Curt Deuser mentioned recent research by Dr. Scott Abella at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He was referring to this study on weed-resistance of native plants:

Abella, S.R., D.J. Craig, L.P. Chiquoine, K.A. Prengaman, S.M. Schmid, and T.M. Embrey. 2011. Relationships of native desert plants with red brome (*Bromus rubens*): toward identifying invasion-reducing species. *Invasive Plant Science and Management* 4:115-124.

<http://faculty.unlv.edu/abellas2/files/Abella%202011%20natives%20for%20reducing%20brome%20invasion%20IPSM.pdf>

Dr. Abella's most recent paper is titled "Vegetation recovery in a desert landscape after wildfires: influences of community type, time since fire and contingency effects" was published in the current issue of *Journal of Applied Ecology*:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2664.2011.02057.x/abstract>

Below are a couple of more websites to his Applied Ecology Research Group newsletters (UNLV) and more research.

<http://www.unlv.edu/staff/cengel/Newsletters.htm>

<http://faculty.unlv.edu/abellas2/>

Federal Agency Update #2 – National Park Service

Presenter: Rita Beard, National Park Service

Rita Beard presented an update for the NPS.

- Overall, the NPS has treated 54,000- 64,000 acres, which is only ~1% of the known infestation. These numbers are calculated differently than other agencies and the NPS is proud of this number.
- It is the 10-year anniversary of the *Miconia calvescens* intervention project in Hawaii. It has been a cooperative effort with a lot of aerial application as well as ground application. They have stopped the spread of *Miconia* in Maui.
- In order to stop the spread of disease and insects across the country, the NPS needs to implement a new policy with guidelines for park management of firewood. We should eventually have national guidelines specifically for moving firewood that can go park to park with the new policy and vending machines for uninfected wood.
- The NPS has spent \$2 million on the education, outreach, and decontamination procedures regarding the zebra and quagga mussels in Lake Mead. Boats need to be decontaminated before they are allowed to leave the area.
- The NPS is working with EDDMapS and UCLA on an iPhone app that can be used in every national park. iPhones can be used at the national parks to report invasive plants. The app is still in its beginning stages, but should be up and running soon.
- Because the NPS has such a significant number of urban area holdings across the country, a steering committee has been created to come up with guidelines for managing urban environments. They will host a meeting at the 2012 NISAW to address this issue. City planners and urban architects will all be involved and this will hopefully spread to homeowners nearby.
- The NPS Exotic Plant Management Team program was formally assessed this past year by a national panel. The program got high marks in this assessment and is effective and much liked by its many partners.
- Two parks have completed Invasive Plant Management Plans. There have also been Environmental Assessments (EA) done in the national parks on a state basis. The NPS wants a strategic approach, nationwide, for all national parks and will provide guidelines and guidance for invasive species management.
- All Alaska parks can now use herbicides.
- An EA was done in Yosemite National Park and one will be done in Yellowstone National Park soon.
- Less money was spent this year on invasive species agency wide.

Questions:

Has there been any biocontrol work done for *Miconia*?

Rita Beard – Preliminary work has been started at the University of Hawaii.

Jim Olivarez – How are you dealing with budget cuts?

Rita Beard – We reduced the money for invasive species management agency wide. I suspect it will be challenging if we get budget cuts these next few years, leading up to the 2015 budget.

Regulatory Approval for Weed Biocontrol Agents in the U.S.: A Scientist’s Perspective

Presenter: Brian Rector, USDA-ARS Great Basin Rangelands Research Unit, Reno, NV

Brian Rector presented a summary of the approval process for biological control agents in the U.S., from the perspective of a scientist. In addition to his own experiences, Dr. Rector also presented responses from scientists and regulators, whom he had surveyed about the process. His powerpoint presentation is available on the WWCC website at: <http://www.weedcenter.org/wwcc/>; see “2011 Meeting Presentations”.

Brian Rector started by summarizing the “classical” process for getting biocontrol agents for weeds approved:

- Alien invasive weed is targeted
- Scientists discover, evaluate biological control candidates (BCCs)
 - Foreign exploration
 - Host-specificity, impact testing
- Petition for BCC release

Regulatory Process:

- Petition to Technical Advisory Group (TAG)
 - Multi-agency, international panel
 - EPA, USFWS, BLM, BIA, ARS, USFS, USACE, Canada, Mexico
 - Members make recommendations to APHIS-PPQ
 - Petitions recommended by TAG proceed to APHIS-PPQ for further evaluation
 - EA, FONSI, F&WS assessment for T&E Species
 - Petitions rejected by TAG can be:
 - supplemented with more data and resubmitted discontinued
 - submitted to APHIS-PPQ as is
- Environmental Assessment (EA)
 - Prepared by APHIS-PPQ
 - Input from petitioner (draft) welcome
 - Is BCC a plant pest?
 - Data from submission to TAG
 - Additional data may be considered
- FONSI (under NEPA)
 - “Finding of no significant impact”
 - Evaluated according to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - If FONSI not achieved, an environmental impact statement (EIS) is required
 - Accept or reject petition based on EIS
- USF&WS concurrence on listed species
 - APHIS-PPQ works with USFWS, focusing on potential impacts to listed T&E species
 - Data from submission
 - Additional data may be requested
- Release permit

Brian Rector gave a history of petitions (or a “Scorecard”):

- Total petitions to TAG (1992-2011): 89
- TAG petitions still pending: 10
- Petitions rejected by TAG: 24/79 = 30%
- Petitions accepted by TAG: 55/79 = 70%
- APHIS-PPQ agreed w/TAG: 52/55 = 94.5%

- APHIS-PPQ disagreed w/TAG: 3/55 = 5.5%
 - 1 “plant pest”
 - 1 FONSI not achieved
 - 1 impact to listed species (USFWS)

He then surveyed scientists and regulators (who had gone through the process) to ask for their feedback on their experiences.

Five questions for the scientists:

- Satisfactory experience?
- Any petitions rejected? Satisfied with explanation?
- If rejected, could more data help?
- Could petition be rejected for nonscientific reasons?
- Overall impressions; reforms needed?

He shared several direct (anonymous) quotes from the survey, which showed different perceptions from scientists and regulators.

Brian Rector went over his Synthesis of the process and perceptions.

- The system is working, albeit slowly.
- Trends in release permit regulations:
 - Likely to be more strict
 - No cost-benefit analyses
- What does the future hold?
- Retrospective assessment of six released agents (Hinz et al.)
 - E.g. *Chrysolina quadrigemina* on St. John’s wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
 - Fed & reproduced on native *Hypericum* spp. and non-native ornamental
- *Hypericum* sp. in pre-release testing.
- Would it be approved for release in 2011?
- *C. quadrigemina* post-release monitoring
 - Severely defoliated non-native ornamental, *H. calycinum* and reduced size of native *H. concinnum*.
 - A second native, *H. anagalloides*, was attacked in tests but not in the field.
- SJW reduced by 99% in Calif., increased forage production, etc.
- Scientists argue for balance between risk and benefit of agent releases.
- Regulators’ responsibility to protect against agents gone bad.
- Way forward?
 - EIS rather than FONSI?
- Don’t fall in love with your BCC
 - Beauty is in the eye of the beholder
- We live in a political world
 - Politics is a double-edged sword
- Adapt bioassays to data demand
 - ID potential commodity/special interest issues early
- Whither risk-benefit analysis?
 - How accurate are such predictions?
- More transparency, communication needed.

Discussion following the presentation:

There was a lot of discussion back and forth about the regulatory process: who should have a say, and who should be allowed to make decisions? What makes sense using cost-benefit analyses and what does not make sense? An example was given for a promising biocontrol agent (a root weevil that attacks yellow starthistle) that likely will not be released because it also attacks the non-native bachelor button (which is seen as a valuable ornamental by the horticulture industry, thus making it a “crop” plant). How do we get past some of this confusion? How do we send a message to APHIS that more people should have a say?

Jim Olivarez – It is a challenge to maintain the program work, infrastructure, and expertise with reduced budgets. We should tap existing, cheaper resources such as universities, NPS-EPMT and the private sector.

Day 1 of the Meeting Adjourned

Wednesday (November 30th)

Federal Agency Update #3 - APHIS

Presenter: Al Tasker, National Program Manager, Biological Control/Noxious Weeds, APHIS PPQ, Emergency and Domestic Programs, Plant Pathology and Weed Programs

Al Tasker called into the meeting and showed a powerpoint presentation. His powerpoint presentation is available on the WWCC website at: <http://www.weedcenter.org/wwcc/>; see “2011 Meeting Presentations.”

Al Tasker announced that his position is in a new APHIS shop; he then presented updates for his APHIS PPQ weed program:

2012 Program Estimated Domestic Funding

Witchweed	\$1.5 million
Fed Noxious Weeds	\$0
10201 Funds	?
Biological Control	\$8 Million?

Intended requests to PPQ management for FNW program funds:

- Benghal Dayflower in MS, AL, and NC
- Onionweed in AZ and NM
- Hogweed in IN, NY, OH, OR, PA, and NC
- Pulling Together Initiative (CWMA/CISMA Matching Grants)

APHIS program authority and funding sources:

- Regulations (listing or delisting); authority: Agency
- Imports; authority: Ag Quarantine & Inspection (AQI) User Fees
- Interstate movement; authority: AQI User Fees if tied to illegal import and Agency
- Intrastate movement; authority: AQI User Fees if tied to illegal import, Agency and State

APHIS Weed Categories:

- A1 (Quarantine/Exclusion Targets); 55 taxa
- A2 (Quarantine/Exclusion with limited distribution and/or Official Control); 36 taxa
- C (broader distribution); 20 taxa
- B (Reg. Non-quarantine - Noxious Seed List); 9 spp.

A Weed Risk Assessment Workshop was held on September 21-23, 2011 in Raleigh, NC, where they worked on developing a new risk assessment strategy.

APHIS WRA History - Beginning in 1993, APHIS began basing decisions about noxious weed listings on formal weed risk assessments, consistent with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) standards for pest risk analysis. (Current versions: IPPC, 2009: ISPM Nos. 2 and 11; NAPPO, 2008: RSPM No. 32).

Recent Weed Risk Assessments for possible addition to FNW List

Taxon	Requestor	Reason for Initiation	Conclusion
<i>Alpinia modesta</i>	AI Tasker (APHIS - F	Query about its risk potential	Low Risk
<i>Artemisia austriaca</i>	PERAL	Assess to remove from the draft NAPPRA list	High Risk
<i>Artemisia japonica</i>	PERAL	Assess to remove from the draft NAPPRA list	Evaluate Furth
<i>Praxelis clematidea</i>	Margaret L. Smither-	Repeatedly intercepted as a commodity contaminar	High Risk
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	PERAL	Assess to remove from the draft NAPPRA list	High Risk
<i>Limnobium laevigatum</i>	AI Tasker / Lars And	Query about its risk potential. Present in California	High Risk
<i>Oplismenus hirtellus ssp un</i>	AI Tasker	Assess to support federal noxious weed listing	High Risk
<i>Nymphoides cristata</i>	AI Tasker	Query about its risk potential. An aquatic species,	High Risk
<i>Mikania micrantha</i>	Tony Koop	Part of a pathway analysis	High Risk
<i>Zyzygium australe</i>	PERAL	Assess to remove from the draft NAPPRA list	High Risk
<i>Vitex rotundifolia</i>	PERAL	Redo WRA using the new APHIS WRA procedure	High Risk

APHIS Federal Noxious Weed Estimated Net Funding

AI presented a table that showed program funding levels over the past 10 years. He reported that Witchweed funding is currently \$1.5 million, but federal prevention of noxious weeds has no funding. Biocontrol has an estimated \$8 million for 2012. They are hoping to receive funding for startup grants. There is still a regulatory program for weeds that is continuing to support listing and delisting of weeds, imports, and custom and border protection. Estimates for 2012 funding showed major reductions or zeroed-out budget lines for the FNW, Funded Earmark + Other, and Contingency funding categories; and steady funding for the Bctl FNW and Witchweed funding categories. The overall budget was estimated to be cut by >30% from 2011 to 2012.

Witchweed 1957 to ...

- Witchweed (*Striga asiatica*) has the potential for HUGE impact in the entire corn belt; could decrease yields by 30%.
- Witchweed is an obligate parasite that attaches to at least 60 different species of plants, mainly in the grass family. Written references evident in Asia, Africa and Australia since 1790. First identified in 1956 in NC and SC.
- NC Acreage Summary 2010 - total acres regulated: 1,867
- SC Acreage Summary 2010 - total acres infested: 0

Note: There was an area, about 50,000 acres, that infested a few counties in NC and SC in 1956. Today there is a much smaller area that is infested. There is only about 1800 acres still regulated or in quarantine today.

APHIS Biocontrol on Federal Noxious and Other Weed Program Activities for FY2011-12

List of species that APHIS is working on via biocontrol projects that are in the works. Some of the projects are funded by APHIS and some they are only working with the permitting of biocontrol. Also trying to pull together grants.

Biocontrol

Giant Salvinia (A2) - FNW	Whitetop (Hoarycress) (B)
Hydrilla (A2)	Dalmatian Toadflax
Tropical Soda Apple (A2)	Multiflora rose
Canada thistle (B) - (Fed Seed Reg, Non-quarantine)	Purple Loosestrife
Field bindweed (B)	Rush skeletonweed
Leafy Spurge (B)	Saltcedar
Russian knapweed (B)	Diffuse, Spotted knapweeds
	Yellow starthistle

Other Program Initiatives

Biological Control Technical Advisory Committee	Pulling Together Initiative Matching Grants for Weed Management (CWMAs - FICMNEW)
Nez Perce Biocontrol Center	Q-37 Revision (NAPPRA)
Early Detection and Rapid Response (CAPS et al)	
Innovative Methodology development (CPHST)	

Insects of Biocontrol Interest to PPQ

Emerald ash borer	Japanese beetle
Glassy-winged sharpshooter	Red palm mite
Sirex woodwasp	Pink hibiscus mealybug
Imported fire ant	Cycad scale
Olive fruit fly	Vine mealybug

Not Authorized for Importation Pending Pest Risk Assessment/Analysis (NAPPRA)

Tie-In to Weed Program

- NAPPRA list will dramatically increase the number of plant taxa regulated as potentially invasive
 - about 288 in Phase 1; 110 in Phase 2
- Regulate potential pest plants prior to full PRA and formal listing as FNW
- Demand for weed risk assessment will increase
- Demand for permits will increase
- Official control must be addressed (Federally Recognized State Managed Program - FRSMP)

APHIS 2011-0072 Plants for Planting Whose Importation Is Not Authorized Pending Pest Risk Analysis; Notice of Availability of Data Sheets for Taxa of Plants for Planting that are Quarantine Pests or Hosts of Quarantine Pests: Comment Period ends: Sept 26, 2011 (Now Extended)

Note: NAPRA is not authorized for risk assessment. There are 288 plant taxa that are regulated and potentially invasive in Phase 1 and 110 in Phase 2. These weeds are not formally recognized on the Federal Noxious Weed List even though they are regulated. This is because they are listed by notice instead of regulation. Posting a notice is much quicker than adding the species to the noxious weed list. APHIS is currently working on list one and list two.

- List 1a: List of NAPPRA Candidates for Quarantine Pest Plants (41 spp.)
- List 1b: List of NAPPRA Candidates for Host Plants of Quarantine Pests (13 pest; 116 hosts)
- List 2 in draft

List 1a: List of NAPPRA Candidates for Quarantine Pest Plants (41 spp.)

<i>Acacia hackii</i>	<i>Eleocharis kuroguwai</i>	<i>Picnoman acarna</i>
<i>Alstroemeria aurea</i>	<i>Gladiolus undulatus</i>	<i>Potamogeton distinctus</i>
<i>Andropogon gayanus</i>	<i>Gomphrena celosioides</i>	<i>Potamogeton schweinfurthii</i>
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	<i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i>	<i>Praxelis clematidea</i>
<i>Artemisia austriaca</i>	<i>Hakea gibbosa</i>	<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>
<i>Artemisia japonica</i>	<i>Hakea salicifolia</i>	<i>Rumex sagittatus</i>
<i>Berberis glaucocarpa</i>	<i>Hakea sericea</i>	<i>Senecio angulatus</i>
<i>Berkheya rigida</i>	<i>Impatiens parviflora</i>	<i>Wikstroemia indica</i>
<i>Bromus pectinatus</i>	<i>Launaea cornuta</i>	
<i>Cassinia arcuata</i>	<i>Limnobiium laevigatum</i>	
<i>Celtis sinensis</i>	<i>Litsea glutinosa</i>	
<i>Cestrum elegans</i>	<i>Ludwigia hyssopifolia</i>	
<i>Cestrum laevigatum</i>	<i>Ludwigia prostrata</i>	
<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	<i>Nymphoides cristata</i>	
<i>Cineraria lyratiformis</i>	<i>Oryza barthii</i>	
<i>Cordia curassavica</i>	<i>Phyllanthus maderaspatensis</i>	
<i>Echinochloa pyramidalis</i>		

<http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2011-0072>

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/weeds/newregs.shtml

Al Tasker also mentioned that the National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) will be held February 26-March 2, 2012 in Washington DC.

A brief discussion followed the presentation:

Slade Franklin - Where is the list coming from (List 1a: List of NAPPRA Candidates for Quarantine Pest Plants)? Was the horticulture industry involved in putting this list together?

Al Tasker - (Slide 17) People brought the species to their attention. The list is botanically based. We aim for species that are not already well established in the horticulture trade. They were not involved in putting the list together, but they can provide feedback by visiting the APHIS website.

Janet Valle - How does APHIS deal with the situation when the horticultural industry brings in new ornamentals?

Al Tasker - NAPRA's intended aim is to look at new species people bring in and determine whether what is coming in is allowed or not. People don't always ask APHIS before they bring a new plant into the country.

Janet Valle and Tina Mudd – There are many local area CWMAs in NV that want to help with saltcedar monitoring and riparian area restoration and they want to work with APHIS on these issues.

There were then questions and discussion about groups on the ground helping APHIS with regulation and monitoring, etc.

Brian Rector – ARS is doing post-release monitoring of biocontrol agents. Monitoring is written into the permits so that they are required to do post-release monitoring as part of the program. There are a few problems: it is very expensive and we have no restoration ecologists on staff, so we would have to hire someone to do that.

Eric Lane – CO has pre- and post-release data available. Tamarisk Coalition also has research going on in western CO.

There was discussion about the issue of restoration of saltcedar and how using biocontrol agents is a complicated and expensive issue.

Dean Kelsch - There are many groups in California who want to help with this restoration.

Federal Agency Update #3 – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Presenter: Albert Mulder, Resource Conservationist, USDA-NRCS, NV

Albert Mulder gave the NRCS update:

The biggest thing in the last couple years is the pest management budget. The NRCS can only use the noxious weed funds on range and pasture land. Each state operates differently as far as developing its own cost lists. The pest management cost list for Nevada is the same as for New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado. They are spraying tamarisk for juniper and sage grouse habitat, and also spraying whitetop. They have also received a contract for spraying Russian knapweed. They are spending money on state and federal land, but it's difficult.

Question: Is there a list of species for NV that can be used as replacement for restoration?

Albert Mulder - No, Nevada does not have this. It was mentioned that Wyoming has a list of alternative planting that worked really well to replace Russian olive as a windbreak plant.

Federal Agency Update #3 – Bureau of Reclamation

Presenter: Andrea Minor, Bureau of Reclamation, NV

Andrea Minor provided the following information on behalf of the BOR:

Being an agency whose mission is "Managing water in the West", emphasis is (generally) on aquatic weeds and species, such as quagga and zebra mussels, that can impact water storage and delivery structures (i.e. dams and canals) and interfere with the delivery of water and power. Offices will also treat lands along canals, reservoirs, and lands that were withdrawn or acquired for project purposes.

Reclamation also has more relationships with irrigation districts and cooperating agencies, such as state parks, in the management of its facilities. Control of invasive and noxious species often is the responsibility of these managing partners.

Joe DiVittorio, Invasive Species/IPM Program Coordinator, Policy and Administration

- Prepared (with assistance from the Army Corps of Engineers) the Reclamation Inspection and Cleaning Manual for Equipment and Vehicles to Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species. This manual covers 5 equipment classes for both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species prevention, see link: www.usbr.gov/mussels/prevention

Reclamation member on the multi-agency Federal Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for Biological Control of Weeds. Provides scientific review of petitions submitted to the USDA Animal-Plant Health Inspection Service for proposed bio-control agent introduction.

Quagga and zebra mussels:

- conducting monitoring for mussels at nearly 400 western water bodies;
- conducting facility vulnerability assessments (where structures are likely to be impacted);
- risk assessments of water bodies (boater activities and water chemistry);
- working with other entities in outreach and education;
- research projects include treatment with UV light, materials and foul-release/anti-fouling coatings research, filtration systems, and zequanox

Aquatic Plants

- Species reported as problems include: Eurasian water milfoil, hydrilla, giant salvinia, pondweeds, filamentous algae, and coontail
- LC Region is engaged in the successful control of giant salvinia with multiple partners (federal and state) in the Palo Verde Irrigation District in the Colorado River-connected waters.
- MP Regional Office has a contract with California Department of Food and Agriculture to support their hydrilla program;
- Outreach and inspection programs in several offices

Riparian/Terrestrial Plants

- Species most often reported being treated include: salt cedar, Russian olive, pepperweed, Canada thistle, musk thistle, Phragmites, eastern red cedar, Siberian elm. Yellow starthistle and medusahead are also a concern;
- Acquisition and restoration of riparian habitat as part of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) in the Pacific Northwest;
- The Bismarck (North Dakota) office performed two releases of *Ceutorhynchus litura* (stem mining weevil) individuals to combat Canada thistle at both Jamestown and Dickinson Reservoirs. A total of 2,000 weevil individuals were released as part of this effort; 1,000 at each reservoir;
- In the Lower Colorado office, the Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP) has begun work on the Laguna Restoration Project. This project will remove approximately 1,200 acres of tamarisk and convert the project area to a mix of upland native vegetation, open water, and marsh habitat in support of the MSCP goals;
- Thousands of acres have been treated for terrestrial weeds;

Other Notes

- Most offices work in conjunction with a variety of partners, including state, local and other federal agencies, Indian Tribes, weed districts, irrigation districts, and watershed groups. Some offices handle treatments with in-house staff
- Some office use Pesticide Use Proposals and Integrated pest Management Plans to manage use of treatments. These plans may be broad scope to include other species beyond vegetation.

Question:

Slade Franklin – Is it worth using the BOR SMART grants for weeds?

Andrea – I don't know. Will have to ask Joe DiVittorio about that.

State Program Updates #1 - Nevada

Presenters: Scott Marsh, WWCC Chair and Tina Mudd, NV Department of Agriculture

Scott Marsh:

- The NV Department of Agriculture is reviewing all of its statutes and regulations this year and sending many of them to the legislature because they feel the need to update them. The Weed Law is one that will be reworked to make it stronger and more concise; to provide clarity.

- A committee from all over the state is being pulled together; it is being created to help with the updates. The hope is to be done rewriting the Weed Law by the end of 2013. We are looking at other state weed laws for models that will work in NV.

Tina Mudd:

Note: Jamie Green distributed a NV Noxious Weed Program Handout (<http://www.weedcenter.org/wwcc/>; see "2011 Meeting Presentations").

- The new director has asked people to do a complete program review of all the programs in the state. Their goal is to eliminate redundancies and become more streamlined both within the department and throughout the state.
- There will be a symposium meeting with state legislatures in February 2012 to help educate the citizens of NV on how detrimental invasive weeds are to the range land.
- Education programs are being set in place for the state and tribes. The education campaigns and trainings are very successful at getting accurate data across the state.
- They are also using EDDMapS and "What's In Your World" to train teachers to spread the message to the schools. Jamie Green is leading the mapping and inventory effort using EDDMapS. NV DOT is also helping with road mapping.
- They also have a weed free forage program, 6 gravel pits certified, and a biocontrol monitoring program with CWMA's.
- Data is continually being uploaded into the biocontrol database so they can continue to monitor the situation. Out of their 32 CWMA's, half of them are really active and doing a really good job.
- They want to help to do more with the CWMA's.
- Basic funding for noxious weed is through the USFS State and Private Forestry Program, but they are trying to find new sources of funding due to the lack of overall funding. Most legislatures from urban areas such as Las Vegas have no agricultural experience, which makes it difficult to explain the problem of invasive species. Between that and the economy, NV is really hurting.

Janet Valle – This could be a great opportunity for change. The Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund was established during the economic downturn, so Nevada should not give up in their search for funding.

Tina Mudd - Due to the lack of funding Nevada cannot add more weed management districts as they would like to.

Scott Marsh – There are a few weed districts in Nevada, but we are considering adding more. Consistent funding is a large problem.

John Cantlon – You must frame weeds in the "cost." Look for one time, big money like the MT NWTF.

Tina Mudd – Conservation districts are interested in becoming a weed districts. There are opportunities out there that we need to explore.

Sandi Baniaga-Brown – Do you do school work in the Las Vegas area? She knows of a great science and engineering magnet high school that would love to work with you on invasive species issues. She told Tina Mudd to contact her about these details. It was suggested that next year they could do a field trip to see that facilities.

State Program Updates #1 - Colorado

Presenter: Steve Ryder, WWCC Secretary, CO State Weed Coordinator

Steve Ryder gave an update for the CO Department of Agriculture. His powerpoint presentation is available on the WWCC website at: <http://www.weedcenter.org/wwcc/>; see "2011 Meeting Presentations."

In General:

- Patty York, a new EDRR specialist joined the team this year. She works mostly along the front range.
- They have been trying to provide grants to county weed management programs primarily in counties, but they have also provided grants to some conservation districts that do weed control as well.

Grants to local entities:

- CO created a State Weed Fund in addition to another funding source within the Department of Agriculture. This primary funding source is to keep funding at a constant annual level of about \$200,000. They focus on List A and List B species.

- They also rely on joint funding with the Forest Service to provide grants to counties who border with the National Forests. There was a 5% reduction in that funding this year.
- USFS S&P funding looks bleak for FY2013 and on.

EDRR program:

- CO's old quarter-quadrant mapping system was cumbersome, but they now have a much better system in place. They have put their EDRR Program system online, which makes it much easier to understand and enter data. They expected to go live this week (see: <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/Agriculture-Main/CDAG/1204322434735>). The county weed managers were asked to update the system.
- The system contains a reporting side and the public mapping side. The reporting side is county weed manager led. Phase two of the mapping program system is to make it more user friendly by mapping certain infestations.
- They are trying to allow a future merge of this system and the EDDMapS program.
- This system is also helping to establish the EDRR program.

Amendments to rule:

- Annually, they make amendments to the noxious weed rule and how they enforce weed management rules. They are adding 5 weeds this year, one of which is very prevalent in the zoo where the gorillas like to eat it. It is becoming a huge problem.
- A new Watch List was created this year with 20 species. The current lists are not up to date and their distribution across the state is unknown, so we are asking counties to report where they see it, how much, etc.
- 37 species currently have management plans. The counties were asked to help expand this. They then went over specific species and how things are looking across the state.
- The tamarisk weevil is finally establishing in the Arkansas River Valley. Tamarisk is one of the worst infestations there.

Plants to note:

- Garlic mustard
- Hairy willow-herb spreading along Front
- Newcomer – Yellow flag iris
- Lenspod whitetop
- Field scabiosa
- Possible sighting of squarrose knapweed in Boulder County
- Yellow starthistle – IPCC-funded project with WY
- Purple loosestrife – Platte River and western front
- Tamarisk leaf beetle establishing in Arkansas River Valley, after years of no success

Ongoing:

- They are trying to get the state level agencies to work together like the MOU, with 13 agencies, that was created in 1996 and reinforced in 1999. They would get together quarterly to discuss what they are doing to work together. There is more of an interest from federal agencies in this group than fellow state agencies.

Future plans, prospects, issues:

- They would like to add a third position to assist with List B management plans, restoration efforts, and coordination across boundaries – mostly state-federal relations
- Continue developing “site led” focus in concert with EDRR
 - Weed prevention areas
- They are finding that some county weed programs are really struggling because of people retiring or employee turnover in addition to the financial woes (caused by property taxes dropping) they are experiencing.

Questions:

Scott Marsh - What is Colorado's process for listing a species?

Steve Ryder - Colorado State University helps with the process. There is an assessment form which then goes to a state weed advisory board/committee. A decision is made over time whether or not to list the species.

Slade Franklin – Wyoming just rewrote the weed law and decided not to use tiered listings. How does Colorado deal with lower tiered species?

Steve Ryder - The ranking was a way to prioritize what species were causing the largest problems. Counties have to deal with their largest problems using their own resources, where at the state level, the state takes on the largest statewide problems.

Used to prioritize:

- A species are EDRR Statewide
- B species we love to fund – important to counties; can be rare in some places and present in other places
- C species are on your own

Eric Lane – We tiered the list in order to prioritize and develop our strategy plan.

There was discussion about tiers in the noxious weed lists. Discussion was mostly a response to the need for priority species. If there is just one long list, how do they know what species get priority and where the money goes?

30-Minute Break

State Program Updates #2 - Utah

Presenter: Rich Riding, Utah State Weed Coordinator

Rich Riding recently took over the state weed coordinator position from Robert Hougaard. He gave a brief state report:

- Utah’s weed system is county based.
- They receive/use \$5 million a year on weed control and work closely with the county weed supervisor.
- They are currently reworking their weed list and moving weeds from different levels.
- The largest problem they are facing is the interaction between the conservation districts. They want to focus on the CWMA’s and have them work with conservation districts at the county level. Then the counties would be put in charge.
- Hopefully by 2012, \$1 million in ongoing funding will be passed through the legislature.

Comments:

Tina Mudd and Scott Marsh, NV

- Funding for NV is mostly from the USFS State and Private Forestry program
 - Conservation districts sponsor most CWMA’s in Nevada
- These small amounts of money do not allow us to do much; we must focus on EDRR species and high-value areas (riparian)
- Funding is a problem in Nevada

Rich Riding – We are looking to landscape-scale management and treating “rested areas”.

State Program Updates #2 - Washington

Presenters: Greg Haubrich, State Weed Coordinator and Alison Halpern, Washington State Executive Secretary, Noxious Weed Control Board, WA

Greg Haubrich gave an update on his state’s weed program and Alison Halpern (on the phone) presented a powerpoint presentation. Her powerpoint presentation is available on the WWCC website at:

<http://www.weedcenter.org/wwcc/>; see “2011 Meeting Presentations.”

- Washington’s budget has fared well with only a 5-10% reduction, but they will lose the knotweed program. It may shift to Aquatic Land Enhancement (DNR) funding.
- Funding from the State and Private Forestry is used for biocontrol projects and the remainder goes to ground projects.

Warren Ririe – The USFS needs to hear this good feedback about our programs.

- WA's state database gets varied quantity and quality of data from the counties.
- They are very concerned about the flowering rush; we can't kill it.
- There is lack of enforcement by USFS regarding weed free straw for restoration. They need to educate USFS personnel about how to deal with this.

Note: Nevada is developing a video about weed free forage issues, for grower and managers.

- WA has a strong state noxious weed program. The director was on the phone. They reduced the acreage of *Spartina* (an invasive salt marsh grass) from 9,200 down to 10 acres. \$26 million was spent on this project plus more from other agencies, which sets the total to around \$36 million. This is why EDRR is so important. This money does not need to be spent if EDRR is utilized.

Slade Franklin – We need to help sell the idea of weed free forage to the growers. They can still make money on this. We have requests for it, but not great enforcement.

Tina Mudd – Should the states have laws to use weed free forage on state lands?

Slade Franklin – No.

Steve Ryder – It should be up to the different agencies; all state and federal agencies have adopted this as policy. We have no state law.

Tina Mudd – There is not enough demand for the product. They don't get \$1 per bale.

Bob Parsons – We are exporting to Texas. Selling point: you may not get more money for the product, but yours will be the first to sell.

Allison Halpern presented a “Changes to 2012 Noxious Weed List and Other Updates” powerpoint:

There is a new Class A noxious weed for WA: oriental clematis (*Clematis orientalis*). The Class A noxious weed listing requires all landowners to eradicate existing populations of oriental clematis.

- Only found in Yakima County
- First discovered in 2006, infestations controlled
- Monitor list
- Additional populations found in 2010 and 2011
- Limited distribution in Yakima County
 - Successful control so far
- Naturalized in the Intermountain West
- Listed noxious weed in Colorado
 - Difficult to control once established
- Rarely, if at all, sold as an ornamental plant in Washington, now

There is a new Class C noxious weed: Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). Control of Class C noxious weeds is not mandated by the state, although county noxious weed control boards have the option of selecting Class C noxious weeds for mandatory control at the local level.

- Established in many counties in eastern and western WA
- Native to China and Taiwan
- Ornementally planted
- Tall, deciduous tree
- Trunks with smooth bark

There is a proposed Class C noxious weed: Japanese eelgrass (*Zostera japonica*), on commercially managed shellfish beds only. Control of Class C noxious weeds is not mandated by the state, although county noxious weed control boards have the option of selecting Class C noxious weeds for mandatory control at the local level.

- Intertidal marine waters
- Colonizes open tidal mudflats and sandflats within sheltered bays and inlets
- Generally occurs higher in the intertidal (0.1 to 1.5m mean lower low water [MLLW]) than native *Z. marina* (generally 0.6 m MLLW and below)

- Reproduces vegetatively via rhizomatous (root) growth and also produces seeds

Impacts:

- Japanese eelgrass has numerous positive, negative, neutral, and unknown ecological impacts
- Japanese eelgrass is causing negative economic harm to the shellfish industry
 - significantly reducing yield of shellfish, particularly hard-shell clams increasing costs to manage and maintain the shellfish beds
- Slows water flow by up to 40% relative to unvegetated mudflat
 - Changes in water flow can affect how organisms use mudflats
- Appears to provide habitat functions similar to native eelgrass (*Zostera marina*), a protected species, that are likely beneficial to some organisms
 - It also appears to be a food source for migrating shorebirds
- Many unknowns: not yet understood if biotic and abiotic interactions result in positive, negative or neutral effects at this time, or what the cumulative impact is
 - May alter abiotic properties of intertidal flats, particularly in comparison to unvegetated areas
 - May alter nitrogen cycles through its use of nutrients
 - Unknown if it impacts benthic microalgae
 - Both negative and positive effects to macrofauna, though the limited number of studies prevents a definitive assessment of patterns.

Noxious Weed Listing Process:

WAC 16-750-022 Noxious Weed List, listing process. The noxious weed list is adopted annually by the WA state noxious weed control board. The listing process is open to the public, and there are several opportunities for participation. The process of considering changes to the list begins with the board's noxious weed committee. The weed listing process consists of the following steps each year:

- (1) The board accepts proposals to make additions, deletions, or changes to the weed list between January and the end of April.
- (2) Starting in May, the committee reviews and evaluates the proposals and may conduct additional research including literature reviews, surveys of counties, discussions with other states, and field investigations during its deliberations, which continues into September.
- (3) The board considers the committee's recommendations in September and votes on which proposed changes to include in a public hearing, typically held in November.
- (4) The board solicits public comment at the public hearing and makes its final decisions on proposed changes to the weed list after considering the testimony received.
- (5) The new revised noxious weed list becomes effective in January.
- (6) Proposals to add new species to the weed list that were not adopted by the board will not be reconsidered for future listing unless additional information is provided, including additional data from scientific sources regarding any invasive and noxious qualities of the species, as well as existing positive economic benefits.

New Noxious Weed Website to help identify a plant was finally launched! www.nwcb.wa.gov.

The Dept of Agriculture took over the weed free forage program. USFS personnel have stated that they will not enforce the weed free forage program. Closures.

Warren Ririe – Are other states seeing this?

WA, NV, SD, ND, WY – Yes.

Warren Ririe – We need to know where this is happening and the USFS will deal with it. The State Depts of Agriculture could write letters to the Regional Forester that addresses the issue. This is the most effective way to deal with this.

John Cantlon – Do the fines need to go up?

Jim Olivarez – No, this is not the problem. They are not checking - that's the problem.

State Program Updates #2 - Wyoming

Presenter: Slade Franklin, WY State Weed Coordinator

Slade Franklin began his presentation by showcasing a new movie project that some WY weed districts created on the weed control program for Russian olive and saltcedar. (*The movie was shown later in the day and when the final draft is approved, it will be posted on the WWCC website at: www.weedcenter.org.*) He then gave his program update:

Budget

- The budget for Wyoming is funded by property taxes and each county has to have a weed district, by law.
- Their baseline funding must come from taxes and not from grants.
 - Each county receives a portion of a total of \$17.7 million as a baseline
 - An additional \$350,000 annual funding is for state lands management.
 - \$325,000 goes to weed district in grants, which is focused on EDRR and the less wealthy districts
 - WY DOT also contracts out \$422,000 to spray along highways and interstates.

WY is currently doing well as far as funding is concerned despite being down \$1 million from last year.

Regulatory

WY is updating the regulatory aspect of the 1973 Law.

- Revisited weed list and did not go with tiered listings.
- One change from last year is the new cost share on chemical (past) and labor (new) – on almost anything – that involves weed management.
- There is also emergency listing (funding) mechanism for a new species; this is because weeds that have not hit the list cannot receive direct funding. This allows the Director to implement a temporary listing to take immediate action and to get money for new weeds. Then, after the crisis, the weed must go through the full listing process.
- Regulatory elements were removed from the law because it could not be agreed upon.

Pipelines across Wyoming

- The Weed Pest Council wants to come up with better guidelines for landowners regarding oil and gas pipelines. They are worried about new invasive species coming in with these new pipelines and causing problems for landowners. A good example was the yellow starthistle infestations in MT this past year.
- They might need to add regulations about equipment cleaning and maintenance that would empower the landowners.

Railroad

- Railroad companies are doing a fairly good job hiring people to spray for weeds, but they are having a difficult time with the timing of spraying. They also need to spray more than once each year. The weeds need to be sprayed at certain times during the year, not just on the sprayers' schedule. The size of the right-of-ways is problematic.
- Weed districts are working with RR weed applicators but communication is poor.
- Quality control is problematic with RR applicators.

USFS State and Private Forestry funds came in so late that WY will use this year's funding in the spring of next year. We simply infused state funds to cover this year's short fall.

Question: How do we work with the railroads?

Slade Franklin - Burlington Northern has one person in charge so the districts usually work with the actual weed controllers that spray.

The State Noxious Weed Plan is in place for WY. It is very general, simple and uncomplicated because the counties have so much authority, it would not be good to restrict them through the state plan.

Center for Invasive Plant Management and Missouri River Watershed Coalition Update

Presenters: Liz Galli-Noble, Director, CIPM and MRWC Executive Committee; and Chuck Barger, Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health, University of Georgia

Liz Galli-Noble gave two powerpoint presentations on the CIPM and MRWC. Her combined powerpoint presentation is available on the WWCC website at: <http://www.weedcenter.org/wwcc/>; see "2011 Meeting

Presentations.” She then gave the last 15 minutes of her time to Chuck Bargeron to report on the new MRWC-EDDMapS app.

Liz Galli-Noble provided background on CIPM, its mission, staff, funding, projects, services, and partners. She reported that CIPM is doing very well financially (~100% grant funded), has cut its program expenses by >50%, and has very high productivity.

Liz then gave a quick overview of the Missouri River Watershed Coalition program. She provided background on the MRWC, and its mission and goals. She highlighted its keys to success: (1) leadership and commitment from the 6 states; (2) diverse membership; (3) effective communications; (4) effective and professional program coordination and administration by CIPM; (5) a focus on awareness, prevention and education; (6) innovative and worthwhile projects that benefit the region; and (7) adequate funding. She also showcased their recent projects, one of which was the launching of the MRWC-EDDMapS program.

Chuck Bargeron gave an update on the MRWC-EDDMapS program and gave a demonstration of the brand new app that was developed for the MRWC. To download the free MRWC-EDDMapS app, go to:

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/missouri-river-watershed-coalition/id481009243?mt=8&ls=1> .

1-Hour Lunch Break

Land Treatment Digital Library – Assisting Land Managers and Researchers in Identifying Weed and Vegetation Treatments

Presenter: Justin Welty, Research Ecologist, USGS, Ecosystem Science Center, Boise, ID

Justin Welty presented on the Land Treatment Digital Library (LTDL), which is a centralized digital library for federal agencies to store and retrieve data about land treatments for the western region of the U.S. His powerpoint presentation and handout is available on the WWCC website at: <http://www.weedcenter.org/wwcc/>; see “2011 Meeting Presentations.”

Justin Welty gave an overview of the LTDL:

- Why is the library needed?
 - To assist managers to conduct queries and compile data for data-calls, produce maps, and generate reports
 - To assist researchers with experimental designs and analyses
 - To allow synthesis and analysis across administrative boundaries and landscape scales
 - To archive data on land treatments
- Background – USGS Partners:
 - USFS Great Basin Integrated Landscape Monitoring Project (2007)
 - Joint Fire Science Program (2009-2010)
 - BLM (2010-2014)
- LTDL Big Picture – it integrates planning and implementation information, seed information, monitoring data, and GIS data with original documents and photos associated with a project or treatment.
- Main Steps
 - Step 1: Paper files are scanned and computer files are copied at field offices and stored as PDFs with project GIS data.
 - Step 2: Data are entered into the LTDL, treatment polygons are imported, and links are created to original documents.
 - Step 3: Data and maps are checked for accuracy with field office personnel.
 - Step 4: Project and treatment data are be viewed, queried, or exported as tables or maps.

LTDL Features:

- LTDL is designed around a single project record with one or more treatments
- Basic Organization... uses an electronic Navigation Page; allows for Project Concerns; and mapping has ability to draw and edit polygons
- All treatments are entered and can be summarized into tables based on a number of fields
- How to access the data? Secure login feature ensures only BLM personnel and other individuals authorized by the BLM can access data. Must contact: Justin Welty at: jwelty@usgs.gov for permission.

- Use an interactive map to query location; summarize information on projects and treatments; view detailed project data; download GIS data, hyperlinked data and photos; advanced mapping functions available
- Linking to Other Systems: DIMA, Landscape Toolbox, Existing BLM Databases (NIPS, NFPORS, NISMS), Future BLM Databases (AIM), UPCD, NPCD, ENLC, and other system.

Question/Comment:

John Cantlon – Is information such as the site selection process going into this database?

Justin Welty – It depends on the project. We have EAs and EISs for some projects and a one paragraph summary for other projects.

Chuck Bargeron – The NISMs data will be publically available.

State Program Updates #3 - Oregon

Presenter: Tim Butler, State Weed Coordinator, OR (on the telephone)

Tim Butler joined the meeting via telephone and gave an update on the OR state weed program:

Staff:

- Oregon’s weed program has 12 staff members in 6 different regions throughout the state.
- Staff are responsible for EDRR, education and outreach, coordination, and implementing on-the-ground, control work.
- We have had some recent retirements, which hopefully will bring in new ideas.
- About half of Oregon is public land (USFS, etc.)
- Biocontrol has been a large part of the program, with 72 bioagents on 36 weed species. A full time staff member is in authority of this program.
- We are concerned about budgets. We have been instructed by the Governor to prepare for 10.5% in budget cuts on the biannual budget. The State Noxious Weed Program receives \$1.9 million every 2 years, \$600,000 in federal funds every year, and \$2.5 million is available through lottery funds, which is put out by the state weed board in grants to stakeholders/cooperators around the state.
- Treatment work for 2010 consists of 646 treatments in the state and 292 projects that are monitored. There have been 154 biocontrol releases and 142 noxious weed surveys covering 82,000 acres.
- We have 118 state-listed noxious weeds.
- There have also been a number of educational outreach programs.
- Concern: People want to grow *Arundo donax* (giant reed grass) to be used as a biofuel source.
 - In the Columbia Basin they want to develop 60,000-80,000 irrigated acres of production.
 - We have discussed listing it, but it is not currently listed as a noxious weed in Oregon, and is allowed to be grown under strict management.
 - It must also be grown far away from any water sources so it does not become a large problem. There is a million-dollar bond in place in case it becomes a problem.
 - There will be updates on this topic.

Greg Haubrich – There are 1.5 acres planted in Washington, want to see how things go in Oregon.

- Concern: EPA Permitting. OR is working with the state DEQ to work out the details.
- Concern: A new grass, *Ventenata dubia*, is competing with other plants, even medusahead.

Comments:

It’s present in California.

It’s also present in Idaho.

It’s also in Washington, but it’s not listed.

Jim Olivarez – How are things going with the new EPA permitting process on federal lands?

Tim Butler – Permitting on federal lands will be done by the Feds.

Warren Ririe – The feds will have to work with NOAA in areas of concern for fisheries.

He is not sure how this will work. How this is done depends on the state.

Greg Haubrich – Was had already been doing this for the past few years; out permit is on line. WA has provided coverage for counties, tribes and even the Feds. With the new permit process, the Feds and tribes will go through EPA; but it will stay the same for counties, private contractors, etc. We typically have about a 10-day turn around for the permit.

30-Minute Break

During the Break

Watched N. Platte River Watershed video produced by Wyoming. Once this video is finalized, Slade Franklin will make it available to the WWCC membership and CIPM will post it on the WWCC website.

State Program Updates #4 - California

Presenter: Dean Kelch, CA Department of Food and Agriculture

Dean Kelch gave a presentation on weed control by the CA Department of Food and Agriculture (DFA). His powerpoint presentation and handout is available on the WWCC website at: <http://www.weedcenter.org/wwcc/>; see “2011 Meeting Presentations.”

Budget

He reported that the funding situation is not good in California. She showed the CA WMA weed expenditure allocation for 2010 equals \$776,000. With the funding being allocated in the following categories: crops, range, roads, health, natural, rare, yard, forestry, waterway, recreation, export and nursery.

The CA DFA is asking for large budget cuts for the next fiscal year. They typically get \$60 million annually and have been asked to cut \$30 million this coming year. Most of the weed control in CA is done by county weed managers. They are struggling because county budgets are being slashed and money that they normally received from the DFA is also being cut. Grants cannot be funded anymore, so people are losing their jobs. The CA biocontrol program is being eliminated due to the budget cuts. There is an 85% reduction in programs and the weed coordinator position may not be funded either.

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
WMA (GF):	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0
USFS (FF):	\$212,000	\$229,000	\$123,000
Weed (GF):	\$885,000	\$0	\$0
ARRA (FF):	\$3,748,500	\$2,748,500	\$1,000,000
PPDB (GF):	\$400,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
PPDS (GF/IS)	\$400,000	\$200,000	?
Bioc (GF)	\$450,000	\$0	\$0
Totals:	\$8,400,500	\$4,212,500	\$1,323,000

Goals of the CA DFA Programmatic Emergency Impact Response (EIR)

- Provide CEQA coverage for existing programs
- Allow for project-specific implementation
- Quickly integrate new pest programs & control techniques

The CA DFA has, fortunately, partnered with the nonprofit Cal-IPC to develop a new mapping dataset and tool – CalWeedMapper – that supports regional planning based on current distribution and potential for spread. They collected expert knowledge data by USGS quad from local experts around the state on where each weed is found, where it is spreading, and where it is managed. That data is all displayed at <http://calweedmapper.calflora.org>, where it also connects to point data. Users select a region and generate a report of management opportunities: eradication (species found only in lone isolated quads), surveillance (species not present but found within 50 miles) and containment (species more widely spread). For some species, Cal-IPC has also modeled suitable range for the present and for 2050. They are currently setting up regional meetings to begin generating plans from the data, and

will campaign to have data updated each year. They are working with partners (so far, Nevada Dept of Ag, AZ Game and Fish, plus EDDMapS and iMap Invasives) to get funding to take this approach beyond CA. Contact Doug Johnson at dwijohnson@cal-ipc.org for more information. Calflora also has a plants database.

Dean mentioned that they have had success on their “yellow starthistle leading edge project.” The project is working to stop the spread of yellow starthistle and includes 5 counties in the Sierra Nevada. It seems to be working really well and have kept it away from Lake Tahoe.

There is also an issue with false brome, which was not a problem for many years in CA, but is now exploding.

Dean Kelch then highlighted a few species of concern for CA:

- Canary Island starthistle (*Volutaria canariensis*) – an endemic to Canary Isles, which is related to yellow starthistle. It was just found in San Diego County. They are looking into its potential threat, pathways for spread, methods for control, and is eradication possible.
- Winged water-primrose (*Ludwigia decurrens*) – It was found in a rice field in Butte County (in 3 locations). It is a wetland plant, native to southeastern US and S. American. It is known to be noxious in Japan, so they are not happy about this find; it is related to other weeds.

State Program Update #4 - Nebraska

Presenter: Mitch Coffin, NE State Weed Coordinator

Mitch Coffin gave an overview of the weed program in the NE Department of Agriculture:

- 1873 Weed Law, called the Canada Thistle Law, gave the right to neighbors to go onto other properties to treat Canada thistle. The current law requires each county to have a weed control person, but it isn't working really well. The counties are self-sufficient.
- We saw major general fund budget cuts in 2007.
- A bill was passed in 2007 to get \$2 million per year to work on river systems. Some senators really pushed for it. A grant program provided for money to be spread to the state and county levels for projects such as removing log jams and high sandbar infestations. The US Army Corps of Engineers helped provide funding, so for two years the weed management areas had money for these projects. They got a lot done in that time, but now the money is gone. NE was almost sued by Kansas for not providing them with enough water from the Republican River. NE granted out \$2 million and full staff support for water-saving projects. Got a lot of good work done, including phragmites control projects.
- Lottery money goes to an Environmental Trust, which then funds many of our projects. The CWMA's also move a lot of their own money.
- We have done great phragmites control work on the Republican and Platte rivers.
- By the end of 2009, the rest of the general funds were cut. Now we are completely cash funded; field staff was cut from 5 down to 3. This was a good time for us to reflect on how we were doing business.
- NE's weed management areas have been very productive. Most of the weed programs are single-person operations that work together across the state.
- NE has done a lot of helicopter spraying in recent years, which costs ~\$80 per acre. In 2007 it cost us ~186/acre. We mostly treat phragmites and purple loosestrife. Helicopters also go back later to do touch up and to create aerial photos to check for regrowth specifically along riverways.
- In the last year, we have worked with APHIS to come up with a risk assessment for NE. We are taking a new approach and observing what other states have been doing. APHIS has helped tailor this to their specific geographic area. Risk assessment is allowing them to look at other plants and add them to a watch list so that other counties know what to look for. We tend to wait too long to be right.

**Mitch Coffin was asked to provide his risk assessments to the WWCC, so other states can learn from them. He provided this link to NE's Japanese knotweed risk assessment:

http://www.agr.ne.gov/noxious_weed/japanese_knotweed_risk_assessment.pdf and it is also available as a handout at: <http://www.weedcenter.org/wwcc/>.

- NE has an informal Invasive Species Council, which we are trying to get recognized by the legislature. The Council is creating a list of non-native plants to give to homeowners, so they know what not to plant or seed on their properties. They also created a listserv for reporting sightings. The list is available online on the Invasive Species Council website: <http://snr.unl.edu/invasives/>.
- NE has an emergency designation for 18 months that has been used a few times for saltcedar, phragmites, the knotweeds and other weeds. During that period, they go through the standard listing process.
- In 2011, we have changed how we manage; we are constantly monitoring and surveying; we focus on winning little battles rather than fighting big battles all the time.
- Leafy spurge, purple loosestrife, and Canada thistle biocontrol agents are still in play. We are thinking about redistributing the biocontrol.
- NE's Environment Trust grant program is in its sixth year with ~\$80,000 funding for the year; it goes out to WMAs and requires a 50% match. It is not certain whether the grant will go through next year because of the amount of work.
- Concern: We have a 10% turnover in our staff every year; we have to train these people and invest a lot of time to do that. We do annual training of our staff.
- NE is looking for a dynamic speaker to talk about CWMAs at our upcoming meeting.
- Scotch thistle has been added to a few counties weed lists; it's mostly found in the panhandle and central part of the state).

Provincial Program Updates – British Columbia, Canada

Presenter: Colleen Hougen, Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia

Colleen Hougen, IPC-BC Project Coordinator, gave an update and overview of their program.

- The IPC-BC is a registered, non-profit charity that brings together all of the invasive plant organizations to encourage them to work together and be coordinated. They have an 18-member Board of Directors, which was created in 2003. The IPC-BC has 10 staff: 1 executive director, 1 program manager, 1 financial manager, 4 project coordinators, and 3 part-time administrators. They develop a work plan each year and set their priorities. They have an open membership of 1,000 and their five working committees focus on specific projects and produce the bulk of their products.
- 5 Committees:
 1. Communications and Awareness Committee: implements a strong provincial-level invasive plant awareness program with the necessary resources for both external and internal communication, such as newsletters, the Council's website, and a range of print materials. They also work on key projects to increase the number of people watching for weeds and reporting invasive species – for example, the “spotter” network; outreach tool development for workshops and trainings; community pulling together events; reporting hotline; children’s education materials and curriculum for grades 1-4; giant hogweed media blitz; and this year, a forum on EDRR.
 2. Regulation, Compliance and Enforcement Committee: improves compliance with existing policy and to recommend legislative and regulatory changes where compliance has been unsuccessful. They have developed a First Nation’s tool kit and a legislative guidebook.
 3. Technology and Operational Support Committee: supports the work of tenure holders, contractors, local weed committees, and others by providing useful field-based resources and information. It supports the development of a shared approach to inventory, monitoring, and listing of invasive plants. They allow all parties work together to build effective lists of key plants of concern, share current inventory information, and work towards a common management approach. They have developed the Targeted Invasive Plant Solutions (or “T.I.P.S.”) publication, which focuses on best management practices, and IPM principles. They are also very active in trainings for contract managers.
 4. Finance and Fund Development Committee: works to ensure long-term and stable funding for the IPC-BC. The IPC-BC has an annual budget of \$6 million and gets an additional \$3 million from other sources. ANS messaging is a key focus for this committee.

5. Research and Development Committee: develops a shared understanding of key research priorities and increases awareness of current and proposed research in BC. They have a research database showing all research being conducted in BC and also host a research forum.

Colleen then made a few more announcements:

- The IPC-BC is launching a new website with a different name in a couple weeks: <http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca/>.
- November 22 announcement: change to new BC Invasive *Species* Council.
- IPC-BC staff attended a great training focused on Doug McKenzie-Morh's social marketing work (book: *Fostering Sustainable Behavior: An Introduction to Community-Based Social Marketing*; <http://www.ecospeakers.com/speakers/mckenziemohrd.html>).
- A provincial invasive/alien plant database is available and is being currently updated.

A short question-and-answer session followed this presentation.

State Program Updates #4 – Idaho

Presenter: Warren Ririe, USFS, on behalf of Matt Voile, Invasive Species State Coordinator, Idaho Department of Agriculture

Warren reported the following update from Matt Voile:

- Amount funded to CWMA's last season = \$1.46 million.
- The BLM is no longer participating through funding to the CWMA's this next season, just through in-kind equipment, assistance "non-monetary".
- ARRA projects are going well and will continue through 2013.
- BLM ARRA projects are all completed and closed now; there will be no more next season.
- Our program has officially been made an "all taxa" program and we/I am in charge of all weeds/invasive species (aka "orphan species" or those not covered under any other state regulation).
- 17 invasive species check stations completed >47,000 inspections, intercepted 25 infested watercraft coming from, almost evenly split between, the Great Lakes Region and the Lower Colorado Region (Lake Mead and Havasu).
- The EWM program treated 670 acres.
- Hydrilla in Bruneau - this year's results and final survey showed a 76% population reduction as compared to last year.
- Fireweed awareness "buy it where you burn it" has been very successful and continues to develop across Idaho and the PNW.

Day 2 of the Meeting Adjourned

Thursday (December 1st)

Roundtable Discussion – WWCC Interactions with Other Weed Management Organizations

How and in what way does the WWCC want to start interacting with other organizations out there?

Parking Lot Issues:

Issue #1: New EPA Permitting - There is confusion about the new EPA permitting process. Who does what? Which states and agencies are doing what? The national office for the Forest Service is creating a policy on permitting. The permits will be split up into regional and district level permits. Washington's policy says a regional forester must sign off on a permit to regulate who can apply for a permit. There was discussion about who needs to apply for a permit, who would be liable if someone was to sue, and making sure the process is being handled properly. There should also be a process for authorizing pesticide application.

Suggestion: *Would help to summarize this information and put it up on the WWCC website?*

Scott Marsh – There is a debate in NV as to whether or not the state or CWMAs should hold the permit, however they may be able to get exemptions.

- Exemption: 50 linear miles along stream banks per year.

Janet Valle – We have to be careful in desert states, permanent, perennial or intermittent streams or “washes” that could discharge into the “waters of the US”.

Warren Ririe – There are a lot of criteria and ramifications to take into account.

Slade Franklin – The EPA does not have a full grasp on this at the present. The process should eventually be smoothed out. The “what ifs” (civil lawsuits) are the problem.

Warren Ririe – The Feds have already identified their areas of concern. NOI, NMMS, the Feds tried to explain how this process will vary greatly for them from the national level to the local area interpretation of the situation.

Greg Haubrich – Washington had to develop an IPM plan. We added species and descriptions of pesticide treatments then add new species specific to fresh water emergents and other ANS species. It’s online.

Slade Franklin – Wyoming wanted to develop a state wide, broad plan.

Jim Olivarez – Do we need a working group from the WWCC (with a few states and Feds), so we can be consistent?

National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) Update

Presenter: Mike Ielmini, USFS (on the telephone)

Mike Ielmini gave an update for NISAW. He mentioned that FICMNEW cannot put on this event alone. They need and want partners.

The NISAW schedule is for the week of February 26 – March 2, 2012:

Sunday, Feb 26

Kids day at the National Botanic Garden; an educational program

Monday, Feb 27

Travel day; no activities

Tuesday, Feb 28

NISAW kickoff; opening at Dept of Interior auditorium; National Invasive Species Council meeting; top officials from Congress will attend. Plus, federal agency updates might happen in the afternoon — still not set on schedule OR

Do a Tuesday afternoon, NPS session on urban area issues/urban invasives

Wednesday, Feb 29

Morning - FICMNEW session on prevention, facilitated discussion; trying to answer questions about where we’re going with prevention in the country, how to build a national campaign; with breakout sessions to address the issues. Hopefully will get a tangible product by the end; where we are in the US with regards to invasive species. Afternoon - Focus in on specific issues, new legislation, and regulatory issues.

Evening - Reception at Rayburn House, hosted by Congress.

Thursday, March 1

Morning – National Awards Ceremony, hosted by the USFS at USDA building.

Afternoon - State and local issues; led by Chuck Bargeron (National EPPC President), webinar focused on local and state level issues

Friday, March 2

Travel day, no activities

**Throughout the week, participants will be visiting their Congressional representatives and agencies partners about major issues such as budgets.

Scott Marsh – I prefer the NIWAW approach over the invasive species approach.

Mike Ielmini - If we want more focus on weeds at NISAW, individual organizations need to push forward. If nobody comes forward pressing certain issues, nothing will get done.

We are trying to do most of the work ourselves, but sometimes it is better to hire contractors to keep prices low. We need people helping to coordinate the event; for years, 3 to 4, FICMNEW has carried the event. There has not been any news from WSSA in regards to NISAW this year.

Slade Franklin - NISAW's time frame overlaps with the state legislation weeks. Maybe it needs to be a different week. How is the timing working for other Congressional activities?

Mike Ielmini – I was told by NISC and state fish and game directors that this week will work; that the states do lobbying at this time.

Chuck Bargeron – It can be for both fish and game and weed.

Mike Ielmini – Agreed, keep the emphasis on invasives.

Chuck Bargeron - The National EPPC wants to put together a white paper from the stand point of the private sector (jobs); when you cut weed money from the budgets for invasives, you cut green jobs; you are taking jobs from contractors. Florida is a good example.

Mike Ielmini – We have produced a white paper on job creation through the “contract approach,” in order to keep up with invasive species spread; using contracting with the private sector and universities.

Note: Liz Galli-Noble asked Mike Ielmini to send her that white paper, which she posted on the WWCC website at: <http://www.weedcenter.org/wwcc/>; see: IS Stimulus Pkg Update Handout (USFS) and NIWAW STIMULUS Handout (USFS).

Mike Ielmini - The invasive species issue has so many facets that have to work together, in order for this country could create jobs around it. The Federal government could help facilitate growth by funding projects to stimulate growth and create jobs, which then will put money into the private sector. Contractors do not have a shortage of work, but it would not hurt to give them more. There is a great opportunity here, because there is already an established infrastructure in place; we just need the money to combine efforts and get more work done. There are many federal agencies and weed people doing what they can, but it is not enough. It makes sense to contract the work to get the job done more efficiently and probably for less money as well.

Chuck Bargeron - The largest NISAW problem is that no one is willing to take action. The WWCC could get more involved. We could get involved as much as we want.

Jim Olivarez – Perhaps we should send a message to the western WSSA to help with this.

Slade Franklin - NISAW has a problem because it costs \$2,000 to have a meeting. The meeting needs to be short and sweet, 2 days with a consistent message. The weed organizations are not unified in their approach. NISAW needs to be a smaller group. This is why people are buying into the HHC, because they have a unified approach and consistent message. The HHC may not work, but we could use it as a starting point.

Tina Mudd - What if we spend the money on a national ad campaign or getting work done rather than flying out to NISAW? I would rather spend money more effectively.

Liz Galli-Noble - I was supposed to be involved in the planning, but nobody followed-up with information. I gave up, because it seemed so unorganized.

Comment - Maybe Chuck could help tell us how we can help.

Chuck Bargeron - The National EPPC does not fully support the HHC because it is led by the chemical companies. This makes the EPPC group reluctant to be involved. In addition, NISAW's schedule is so packed that there is no time to see the legislators. We have not seen the Weed Science Society of America take a lead on the event.

Eric Lane - Going to DC is way too expensive, so we might as well have the meeting in a different city. I get more accomplished staying in state and lobbying my state legislators. I would rather support a group like the HHC with a focused lobbyist with avenues for communication that we do not have. It seems like a better use of our resources. Why can't the federal weed people come to us to learn our issues and take them back to DC?

Tina Mudd - Could we do webinar type work with the DC people? We know they don't have travel money, so could we video-conference with these people and get our issues heard.

Comment - Webinars were too expensive.

But, there are free videoconference sites we could use.

Slade Franklin – Face-to-face meetings are valuable.

Liz Galli-Noble – I have always been told that in the past NIWAW had two components: educating people about invasives and the states going to DC to visit their Congressional representatives and agency partners. Has the educational component been lost?

Slade Franklin - My personal feeling is that we are educating the same people every time we go. Budgets are not there to take the educational components there. The educational component is important but you do it differently and more cheaply.

Bob Parsons and Adrienne Peterson – There is a different candor then in the past; the political environment has changed. It has become a “feel good” meeting.

Scott Marsh – John, would you like to have the WWCC represented on the HHC Executive Committee? Someone like Dave Burch, but it looks like Dave is on that committee already. Who is Dave representing? Could he represent WWCC?

Slade Franklin – No, the WWCC has federal partners, so they cannot be involved in the HHC. The state weed coordinator alliance is moving, so that might be a better fit on the HHC executive committee.

Scott Marsh – Agreed. We need to ask Dave Burch to represent the state weed coordinators on the HHC.

National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)

Presenters: Slade Franklin, WY Department of Agriculture

Slade Franklin gave the NASDA update (<http://www.nasda.org/>):

- NASDA most recently met in Salt Lake City, UT.
- They laid out an action plan with a formal resolution involving invasive species. What could we do to get state funding through the Farm Bill? There have been great comments about the NASDA needing to do more.
- They want to create a committee of states to work on action item based on the HHC “asks.” You should ask your directors about this. They were not sure what states are on the committee.
- Sounds like work will begin in February, but we need to get state weed coordinators involved. NASDA has great DC voice. Everyone should keep their eyes open for news about this.
- Slade Franklin is worried that with the National Plant Board in the lead, because their focus will be on prevention rather than control.

Slade Franklin passed out copies of the NASDA Action Item (see NASDA Handout, which is available on the WWCC website at: <http://www.weedcenter.org/wwcc/>; see “2011 Meeting Presentations”). Slade will keep people informed on the progress of this action.

Warren Ririe – Watershed restoration is a big deal for the USFS director.

Janet Valle – State Foresters did the same thing a few years ago and presented it to the western governors.

30-Minute Break

Biocontrol Consortia

Presenter: Mark Schwarzlaender, University of Idaho

Dr. Schwartzlaender summarized why and how we would use biological weed control and gave examples of certain biocontrol agents and their success rates.

Classical Biological Weed Control

- Directed against: plants that invade areas outside their normal distribution range
- By: introducing natural enemies (arthropods, mites, fungal pathogens) from native range of the plant
- With the objective: to reduce and permanently stabilize the density of the invasive plant
- The natural enemies (biological control agents) are expected to multiply and disperse by themselves
- Prerequisite for introduction: narrow host range

First project in North America: St. John’s wort

- Exotic rangeland weed introduced from Europe
- In 1940s-1960s, seven insects introduced as biological control agents
- Especially the leaf beetle *Chrysolina quadrigemina* contributed to the successful control of St. John’s wort
- Exotic rangeland weed introduced from Europe

- In 1940s to 60s, seven insects introduced as biological control agents
- Especially the leaf beetle *Chrysolina quadrigemina* contributed to the successful control of St John's wort
- St. John's wort reduced to 1% of its previous level in California
- 4-fold increase in forage production in Ontario

Successes we would never have had: a retrospective comparison of predicted versus realized host range of weed biological control agents in North America

Chrysolina spp. for St. Johnswort

Apthona spp. for leafy spurge

Longitarsus jacobaeae for tansy ragwort

Galerucella spp. for purple loosestrife

Mecinus janthiniformis for Dalmatian toadflax

Success Rates

- Success = substantial to complete control of target weed
- Substantial control: other methods are needed but the effort required is reduced
- Complete control: no other control methods required or used
- 25-30% of agents released are successful
- 50-83% of projects are successful

Costs and Benefits

- Excellent cost-benefit ratio: 1:23 for each \$1 invested

Safety Record

- >350 organisms released
- 15 attacked non targets
- Attack either transient or predicted
- Mostly on natives closely related to the target weed
- No evidence for host shifts
- Conclusion: risk remains, but overall safety record very good

Publications:

New Invaders of the Northwest

Contents - The next thing to look for; EDRR tool for land managers; 63 species; distribution maps, images, close-ups; peer reviewed; 117 pages; free, more than 5,000 copies distributed

Roadside Revegetation Utilizing Native Species

Description: Based on previous ITD publication; expanded in all aspects, scope and range; climatically based recommendations for native plant revegetation; 117 pages; free

Classical Biological Weed Control

- Is a target specific, cost effective, environmentally-friendly, and sustainable method to control invasive weeds
- Is a valid alternative where other options have been exhausted
- Or are ecologically/environmentally unfeasible

Costs and Time to Develop Biological Control Agents

- Foreign exploration (FE) and testing of new biological control agents requires
 - 7 - 10 years before 1st agent can be released
 - \$120,000 per year
 - Regardless of number of potential agents found overseas
 - Nowadays exploration for both insects and pathogens simultaneously
 - Total FE project costs \$750,000 - \$1.5 million

Developing New Weed Biological Control Agents

- Foreign exploration efforts for new biological control agents
 - Funding amount independent of whether target weed is old or new
 - For new targets likelihood of finding multiple agents greater
 - New programs typically more cost effective (simultaneous testing of several candidates)

Who Conducts Foreign Exploration?

- USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS) federal agency charged with foreign exploration
- USDA-ARS has dedicated research labs on several continents
- CABI (UK and Switzerland) for U.S., Canada, and New Zealand
- Network of collaborators in numerous countries essential
- USDA-ARS and CABI split up target weeds or agents for synergisms
- Some projects collaboratively

CABI

- Established in 1910
- International, intergovernmental, not for profit
- Owned by 46 member countries
- Six overseas centers worldwide, headquarters in UK
- 400 staff in 9 countries working in >70 countries
- Three main areas of activity:
 - Publishing: CAB Abstracts, databases (e.g. Crop Compendium), books, eBooks etc.
 - Microbial services
 - Development projects and research

CABI and BWC

- CABI's 1st weed biological control project in 1946
- Surveys in Trinidad to study and supply biological control agents for the shrub *Cordia curassavica* (*Boraginaceae*) in Mauritius
- Beginning of the 1950s the weed was successfully and permanently controlled
- Since, CABI was involved in >150 releases of biological weed control agents worldwide

Weed Biological Control at CABI Switzerland

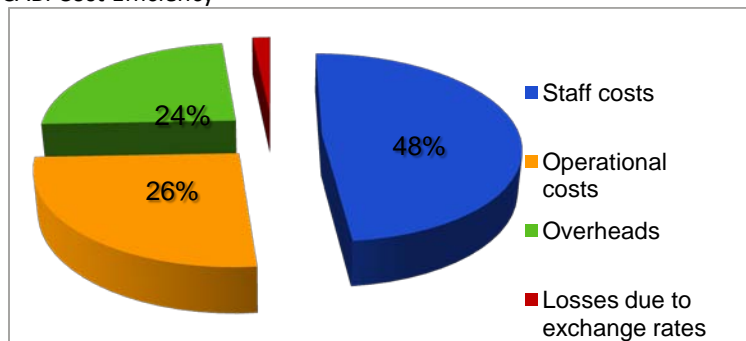
- Currently 17 projects exclusively for North America
- Currently work with about 50 potential agents (insects and mites)
 - Yellow toadflax
 - Russian olive
 - Field bindweed

17 Weed Projects

Acroptilon repens, Russian knapweed
Alliaria petiolata, Garlic mustard
Cirsium arvense, Canada thistle
Convolvulus arvensis, Field bindweed
Cynoglossum officinale, Houndstongue
Elaeagnus angustifolia, Russian olive
Hieracium spp., Hawkweeds
Isatis tinctoria, Dyer's woad
Leucanthemum vulgare, Oxeye daisy

Lepidium draba, Hoary Cress
Lepidium latifolium, perennial pepperweed
Linaria spp., Toadflaxes
Phragmites australis, Common reed
Potentilla recta, Sulphur cinquefoil
Rhamnus cathartica, Buckthorn
Tanacetum vulgare, Common tansy
Vincetoxicum spp., swallow-worts

CABI Cost Efficiency



Foreign Exploration Project Phases

- Literature and field surveys
- Prioritization of potential biological control agents
- Studies on their:
 - Biology
 - Host-range
 - Impact
- Petition for field release
- Mass rearing and shipment

Host Range Testing Methods (see powerpoint presentation for details)

From no-choice tests under confined conditions to multi-choice tests under field cage or field conditions

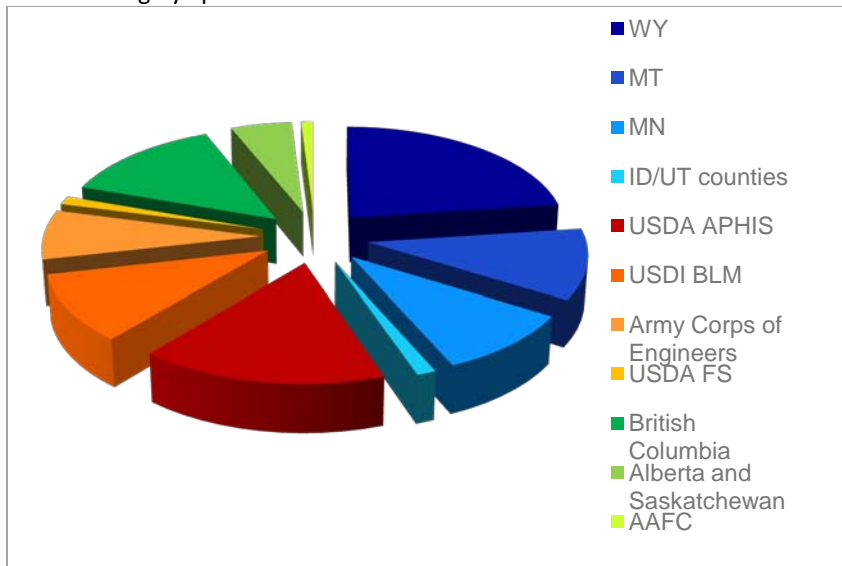
Consortia

- Informal groups
 - Private landowners/individuals
 - Agencies (state or federal)
 - Researchers (university or federal)
 - Any other interested party
- Largely trust-based
- Typically elect a coordinator to facilitate communication, summarize funding flow
- Ideal as steering committees for larger research /management efforts beyond foreign exploration

Consortia Leverage Funding

- No one entity can commit to \$¾ to \$1½ million
- Consortia attempt to leverage annually \$100,000 to \$120,000
- Proactive recruitment of new sponsors/partners buffers/provides continuity of funding flow
- All inclusive: any partner/any \$ amount welcome
- Funds are:
 - Contracted directly to overseas partners
 - Contracted through coop/federal assistance agreements to universities (who forward \$)
 - Consortia use RC&Ds as bankers

CABI Funding by Sponsor in 2011



Total: \$1,106,450 (\$US)

USA: 79%

Note large contributions from the states of WY and MT

Canada: 21%

Participating in Consortia: A Seat at the Table

- Consortium partners are the first to receive insects once approved
- Often states invest in some, other states in other consortia but exchange agents once available
- Entities not involved wait until insects are well established/ universally abundant

Example 1 – Hawkweeds

- Since mid-1990s
- Initiated by Northern Idaho landowner in collaboration with U of Idaho, Idaho Dept. of Agriculture
- Today: MSU, USFS, Agriculture Agri-Food Canada, Ministry of Forest British Columbia, CABI, etc.
- Also New Zealand entities
- North America: Difficulties due to many native North American *Hieracium* species

Example 2: Hoary Cress *Lepidium draba*

- Initiated 2001 by Idaho Dept. of Ag. and University of Idaho
- Today: USDA ARS, WY, Montana State University, AAFC, CABI, BLM, BIA, USDA APHIS, etc.
- Currently 6 insects studied
- Much research on weed ecology beyond foreign exploration (2 Ph.D. & 3 M.S. students)
- 1st insect petitioned

Hoary cress Funding 2001-2011

Total: \$1,055,711

Average: \$95,974/year

WY >50%; ISDA 25%, MT 10%, BC/USDA APHIS/BLM/BIA/ARS remainder

1st Hoary cress biocontrol agenda petitioned – *Ceutorhynchus cardariae*

Example 3: Dyer's woad *Isatis tinctoria*

- Initiated by Franklin County, ID Weed Superintendent
- Southeastern ID and northern UT counties, Idaho Dept. of Ag., University of Idaho
- Today: USDA APHIS, BLM, Wyoming
- Since 2004
- Currently 3 insects studied
- One insect advanced progress, petition maybe in 2013

Dyer's Woad Funding 2004-2011

Total: \$543,283

Average: \$67,900/year

1st Dyer's Woad Priority Agent, *Ceutorhynchus rusticus*: Root-mining weevil, tested since 2005, permit for introduction into quarantine issued by USDA APHIS PPQ to University of Idaho.

Example 4: Houndstongue *Cynoglossum officinale*

- Project initiated in 1987
- AAFC, Montana State University
- Today: Wyoming, USDA APHIS, University of Idaho
- 1 insect released in Canada but prohibited to distribute in U.S.
- 1 insect studied by CABI and in quarantine by University of Idaho

Houndstongue Seed Weevil, *Mogulones borraginis*: Seed-feeding weevil, tested since 1994 by CABI and under quarantine conditions by University of Idaho. Petition planned for 2012.

Mogulones crucifer Pallas (formerly *Mogulones cruciger* Herbst; formerly *Ceutorhynchus cruciger* Hbst.)

- Native to central/eastern Europe
- Adults feed on foliage, larvae mine in roots
- Based on literature *C. officinale* sole field host
- Host range investigated since 1988

M. crucifer inadvertently introduced into US

- 2007/08 confirmed reports of weevil presence in WA and MT
- Opportunity to monitor weevil movement in absence of redistribution programs
- Need to systematically monitor potential non-target impact

Methods – plants

- Mapping of houndstongue and confamilials
 - Surveyed plant patches in northern WA and ID between May and July 2010 and 2011
 - Min. patch size: >10 plants within 5m
 - Patch borders geo-referenced (1 pace = 1m)
 - Patch density estimated using 1, 2, or 4m² quadrats
 - Sampling density increased with patch size (approx. 1 quadrat/20m²)

Mark then showed maps of distribution sites.

Summary

M. crucifer probably environmentally safe and certainly effective biocontrol agent in Canada

M. crucifer's physiological host range includes T&E species and is generally broad

Currently difficult to predict which native species are going to be (temporarily) attacked

How problematic would transitory attack of certain confamilial species be?

Summary Actions and Parking Lot Issues

Issue #2. Letter from WWCC to WSSA

There was concern that the WSSA is not working on weed-related issues like NISAW.

Slade Franklin – Should we ask WSSA to tell us what they are doing on the lobbying front to move the weed mission forward. No one knows what they are doing.

Scott Marsh – We should write a letter to WSSA and ask them to work with FICMNEW and NISC on NISAW. Or maybe we should just step away from NISAW.

Slade Franklin – They should give us an explanation of what WSSA is doing with regard to NISAW and moving objects and goals to Congress/DC.

Tina Mudd – Can we bring this up during the meeting?

Jim Olivarez – WSWS does have a liaison to WSSA. You can use this as a method of communicating?

Tina Mudd – We need a consistent message that we all take to all of these meetings.

Decision – The decision was made to have Jim Olivarez write a letter to WSSA on behalf of WWCC. The letter must be reviewed and approved by the WWCC Board. They will then send the letter out to the full WWCC membership so the message is consistent. The final letter will be sent to the WSSA and other federal agencies.

2012 Meeting Ideas and Officer Elections

Review and Approval of the 2010 WWCC Meeting Minutes

Scott Marsh requested that the 2010 WWCC meeting minutes be reviewed. Once the minutes were reviewed, he called for corrections or comments. Several corrections were made to the minutes, all name misspellings or incorrect titles or meeting participants. Those corrections were made by Steve Ryder, WWCC Secretary. A motion was then made to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded and was passed unanimously.

WWCC Support to CIPM

Scott Marsh discussed this idea with other WWCC members and wanted to bring it up during this meeting: that the WWCC provide a small amount of funding to the CIPM to help compensate them for hosting the WWCC website and WWCC listserv, and providing assistance with the WWCC annual meeting. He explained that this would not affect the registration fees for this year's meeting.

Slade Franklin made a motion to give \$1,000 for this year, and possibly an increase next year, to show appreciation to the CIPM for all the work they do for the WWCC. The motion was seconded by Rich Rider. No one opposed the motion, so it was unanimously approved.

WWCC Officer Elections

Scott Marsh announced that he is unable to fulfill the second year of his two-year term as WWCC Chairman, so there is a need for a replacement. Greg Haubrich agreed to fill in for the final year of Scott Marsh's two-year term as WWCC Chairman.

Slade Franklin made a motion to approve Greg Haubrich's replacement of Scott Marsh as WWCC Chairman for the final year of Scott's term. Tina Mudd seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Steve Ryder will continue serving as the WWCC Secretary and Eric Lane will continue serving as the Treasurer.

2012 Meeting Ideas

Greg Haubrich - Suggested that the WWCC could meet in conjunction with other, similar meetings such as the WSWS or NAWMA meetings. He also suggested that the meeting could possibly move to other locations, perhaps the WWCC chairman's home state, rather than always meeting in Las Vegas. This may be much more expensive, however.

Warren Ririe – Federal Washington offices are invited to attend many meetings. It would help to bundle meetings.

Bob Parsons – Next year's NAWMA is in Branson, Missouri. This may help the Feds.

Slade Franklin – We need to survey the Feds to see what would work for them.

Mitch Coffin – The problem is that those meetings are generally all-week meetings; if we tagged another two days onto those meetings, it may be too much.

Eric Lane – It's a good idea to combine meetings. **We need to get feedback through a survey, and see what people think.** The fact that it is Thursday afternoon and most of us are still here, shows how much we all like coming to the WWCC meeting.

Webinar –

- We need webinar capability at next year's WWCC meeting. How can we do this cheaply?
- Perhaps people who are call-in participants could pitch in say \$100 - \$150 to help subsidize the cost of a weblink. They would be saving a lot of money on travel and time away from work.
- Bottom line: Vegas is cheap and easy to fly to.
- Even \$2,500 to pay for a weblink does not seem like too much.
- We could also look into using a state or federal office for the weblink. The host state could provide a shuttle to and from the airport.
- This idea to move the meeting to a new location was tabled. It was decided to stay in Vegas for next year with the possibility of one day being offsite.
- **Eric Lane will survey the WWCC membership about the dates for next year's meeting. CIPM can help with that survey very easily.**

WWCC Meeting Adjourned

State Weed Coordinator Alliance Meeting

CIPM did not attend this meeting, so minutes from the State Weed Coordinator Alliance meeting are not provided here.