



**DOUGLAS COUNTY  
COOPERATIVE WEED  
MANAGEMENT AREA**

## ***SUMMARY OF MEETING*** ***December 10, 2018***

In attendance:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Joe Sprauer	South Douglas Conservation District
Carolyn Rely	South Douglas Conservation District
Tim Behne	Landowner
Paul Malone	Producer
Aaron Rosenblum	Foster Creek Conservation District
Kim Veverka	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Melinda Hughes	Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Rich Finger	Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Robert Ramm	Landowner
Bonnie Orr	WSU Master Gardeners

- Overview of Steering Committee tasks and timeline
  - Aaron provided a brief review of the steering committee purpose, tasks and initial timeline. The Steering Committee will: guide Douglas County CWMA activities – they are decision makers and the lifeblood of the CWMA; develop and implement the Douglas County CWMA Comprehensive Strategic Weed Management Plan (CSWMP), develop and implement annual operating plans consistent with the CSWMP, meet regularly to implement Douglas County CWMA activities.
  - The following timeline was presented to complete the above mentioned tasks:

<b>TASK:</b>	<b>COMPLETED BY:</b>
Establish the Douglas County CWMA	Fall/Early winter 2018
Develop the Comprehensive Strategic Weed Management Plan for the CWMA	Fall 2019
Develop and implement an annual operating strategy	Winter/Early Spring 2020 (Develop) Spring/Summer/Fall 2020 (Implement)
Implement Early Detection Rapid Response on select species	Ongoing

- Ground rules and decision making
  - The group looked over a template of ground rules. Clarifying questions were asked and minor edits made. The ground rules will be included as an exhibit to the MOU.
  - The group agreed upon “consensus” as the way that we will make decisions. Consensus is defined as a decision that falls within the “endorsement” to “formal disagreement but will go with majority” continuum.
  - The steering committee will hold meetings in accordance with the Washington Open Public Meetings Act.
  
- MOU – Purpose and initial review/discussion
  - The group discussed the current version of the MOU. Minor edits in language were made. A request was made to add an Indemnification clause.
  - Aaron encouraged the group to take the MOU back to their respective agency/group contacts and propose any changes that need to be made. Changes will be made to the MOU online so that all members are able to see them. The committee has the link to the MOU online.
  
- Group discussion: What are challenges we face, individually or as a whole? How can the CWMA help?
  - Funding and capacity: everyone is limited; we will need to rely on grants, which require time and effort to apply to. The DOT only has capacity to spray 1/3 of county roads each year >> perhaps the CWMA could help them focus effort on where to spray
  - Many different land uses and land ownerships: leads to many different management strategies; there are several absentee and seasonal landowners that may not be aware or may not care about issues;
  - Land users are a dispersal vector: including recreation misuse; Education will be key
  - Disturbance: see recreation misuse creates openings for weeds; wildfire opens niches for weeds; altered wildfire cycles lead to increases weed abundance;

- Communication and trust between landowner and government: the CWMA is an opportunity to improve this; since the CWMA does not have any regulatory authority, will it have cooperation?; the CWMA will have to reach a diverse audience throughout Douglas County;
  - CRP rules about when you can and cannot control weeds do not line up with the ecology of the weeds and when they need to be sprayed.
  - There is a dependency on Round-up;
  - Resistance to herbicides being seen in some weeds.
  - More people are moving to rural areas and may not be aware of weed issues.
- Group discussion: What are the gaps in weed management currently in Douglas County?
    - There is only 1 person in the county to notify of weed issues; people may not know who to contact for help.
    - Lack of resources: see above; no social media/online presence for weed identification and control recommendations specific to Douglas County.
    - Lack of coordinated communication
- Group discussion: What are the weed management priorities for the CWMA? How do we prioritize them?
    - Education: weed identification; who to contact for technical assistance; provide links to resources and/or where to find resources; timing of control methods >> crucial; perhaps putting signs up around the county; identify locations to put printed materials; why it is important to control weeds >> \$; target land developers
    - Child education: piggyback with organizations that already do child education such as libraries, museums, and perhaps schools; you could do a child treasure hunt;
    - Biological Controls: providing cost-share to landowners/operators; education/assistance to put the right bug on the right weed; perhaps get interns to assist with collection and dispersal; could the CWMA develop an insectary?
    - importance of integrated weed management: education about time and cost associated; timing of control; doing not only weed control but native revegetation.
    - Focus on new weeds invading the county

- Weeds identified as priorities included: ventenata, medusa head, cereal rye, bulbous bluegrass, invasive grasses in general, yellow starthistle, rush skeletonweed; houndstongue; purple loosestrife (targeting garden centers/nurseries), Canada thistle, Scotch thistle, spotted knapweed, hoary alyssum, English ivy, black headbane, perennial pepperweed (tall white top), white top, Baby's Breath.

Next Meeting Dates and Times:

- March. Exact date to TBD through Doodle Pool. Time, and location TBD.
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NOTE: The entirety of this meeting was open to public comment

Questions or Comments,

contact Aaron Rosenblum 509-423-5990 or arosenblum@fostercreekcd.org

<http://www.fostercreekcd.org/programs/douglas-county-cooperative-weed-management-area/>