



Douglas County Cooperative Weed Management Area Steering Committee Meeting

October 17th, 2019 at 1PM
Hearing Room at the Superior Court of Douglas County Building
203 S Rainier St, Waterville, WA 98858

SUMMARY OF MEETING

Meeting Objective(s):

- ❖ Steering committee members continue to develop a working relationship
- ❖ Form the basis for the Comprehensive Strategic Weed Management Plan, to be completed by the end of 2019
- ❖ Review Integrated Pest Management Strategies

In attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Kim Veverka	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Scott Reiman	Douglas Co. Transportation & Land Serv.
Dale Whaley	WSU Douglas County Extension
Paul Malone	Land Owner
Tim Behne	Land Owner
Bonnie Orr	Home Owner
Robert Ramm	Land Owner
Daniel Hammond	Land Owner
Elizabeth Jackson	Foster Creek Conservation District
Alex McLean	Land Owner
Carolyn Kelly	South Douglas Conservation District
Melinda Hughes	Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Mary Fee	Washington Noxious Weed Control Board
Ryan Lefler	FCCD/ CWMA Coordinator

- Partner/Committee Member Updates
 - Mary Fee:
 - The State Noxious Weed Control Board has Requests For Proposals planned for posting in January for grants to control Class A weeds. Grants will likely be for less than \$5,000 each.
 - South American spongeplant is being added to the Washington State Class A noxious weeds list after a discovery in Long Beach.
 - Poison hemlock is being added to the Douglas County Class B noxious weeds list.

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- WA State Noxious Weed Control Board has FREE resources available online to download or order from their website at <https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/publications>.
- Dale Whaley:
 - WSU Extension is partnering with Washington Departments of Agriculture and Ecology, as well as Chelan County P.U.D. to control a flowering rush infestation at Turtle Rock.
 - Control efforts continue for yellow star-thistle infestation in Moses Coulee. WSU Extension has been coordinating chemical control measures throughout the spring and summer. Efforts are expected to continue next year.
 - Yellow star-thistle can be confused with native blazing star, and rush skeletonweed can be confused with native skeleton plant. Communicating the difference is important in outreach efforts.
 - Native skeleton plant (*Lygodesmia juncea*) has purple flowers and lacks the downward pointing brown hairs at the base of the stem. The invasive rush skeletonweed has the downward pointing "spines" and is easily distinguishable by its bright yellow flowers.
 - Learn more about the early detection, rapid response weeds at <http://www.fostercreekcd.org/programs/douglas-county-cooperative-weed-management-area/priority-weed-species/>.
- Bonnie Orr:
 - Group activities, as well as noxious weed education and outreach, can be reported in the Wenatchee World.
- Daniel Hammond:
 - There is a Make A Difference Day event planned for Saturday, October 26th to cut back weeds that have grown up in a Foster Creek Conservation District restoration site. This could be a good opportunity to talk about the CWMA and to learn more about weeds found in riparian sites in Douglas County.
 - Landowners would like more information about who to contact for priority weed species sightings and options for control.
- Discuss Comprehensive Strategic Weed Management Plan (CSWMP)
 - The CSWMP is due by December 31, 2019. The group discussed the requirements for the plan content, and looked at an example from the Okanogan County Aquatic Plants CWMA.
 - Side topics:
 - Landowners do not feel comfortable having a map of weeds on their property which may be accessible to the public.
 - Landowners worry about notification letters turning to enforcement actions.
 - The CWMA is a tool for cooperation and education, and has no enforcement authority.
 - Taxpayer and County Commissioner approval is required to form a noxious weed board.
 - Representatives from the State Noxious Weed Control Board and Douglas County Weed Management Task Force described their notification processes.

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- The Weed Management Task Force has issued 9 notifications to landowners, all of which have resulted in positive dialogue and fixing of the problem. Many of these incidents are avoided or alleviated through weed identification and management technical assistance. Washington law, [RCW 17.10](#), requires Weed Boards to send three notification letters before an enforcement action can be carried out.
 - The Douglas County Weed Management Task Force mission is to provide noxious weed education and outreach. More information about the Task Force can be found [HERE](#).
 - The CWMA is a cooperative group with the purpose of pairing stakeholders with technical assistance and coordinated grant funding.
- Integrated Pest Management Strategies
 - Ryan Lefler posed to the group whether a bio-control education program centered on harvesting and redistribution of Dalmatian toadflax beetles would be of interest.
 - Carolyn Kelly and Dale Whaley briefly explained Mike Lesky's, South Douglas Conservation District board member, involvement with a bio-control program at Wenatchee Valley Community College to distribute purple loosestrife bio-controls in Crab Creek in Grant County.
 - The group supported field tours and workshops on weed identification and management.
 - Carolyn Kelly and Bonnie Orr proposed development of an education and outreach strategy for urban environments and a map of CWMA partner jurisdictions as a local resource

ACTION ITEMS:

- Ryan to study grant materials to determine whether a CWMA website is budgeted.
- Ryan to reach out to Steering Committee members regarding the CSWMP, to be completed by December 31, 2019.
- All members to continue searching for education and outreach opportunities.

Next quarterly meeting: January or February 2020.

❖ The entirety of this meeting is open to public comment

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