



**DOUGLAS COUNTY  
COOPERATIVE WEED  
MANAGEMENT AREA**

# **Douglas County Cooperative Weed Management Area Steering Committee Meeting**

January 6th, 2020 at 1PM  
WSU Extension Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Douglas County Courthouse  
203 S Rainier St, Waterville, WA 98858

## **Meeting Objective(s):**

- ❖ Steering committee members continue to develop a working relationship
- ❖ Review Comprehensive Strategic Weed Management Plan (CSWMP) and introduce 2020 Annual Operating Plan
- ❖ Discuss Activities for 2020

In attendance:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Ryan Lefler	Foster Creek Conservation District (FCCD)/CWMA Coordinator
Dale Whaley	Washington State University (WSU) Douglas County Extension
Bonnie Orr	Home Owner
Amanda Ward	FCCD
Rich Finger	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Melinda Hughes	WDFW
Daniel Hammond	Private Land Owner Representative
Alex McLean	Land Owner
Carolyn Kelly	South Douglas Conservation District
Clarinda Wilson	United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

- Partner/Committee Member Updates
  - Ryan Lefler:
    - The Scotch thistle control project near St. Andrews is underway. FCCD, USFWS, and WSU Extension met with the Farm Services Agency and obtained clearance to move forward with planned chemical treatments on Conservation Reserve Program land. FCCD will hire a contractor to do the majority of the treatment.
    - Ryan plans to send Early Detection Rapid Response information cards to land owners within species management zones during the period when each species is blooming.
    - Ryan plans to continue the “Weeds to Watch” series in the Empire Press during noxious weed blooming periods.

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- Clarinda Wilson:
  - Clarinda is a new employee with BLM, specializing in noxious weed control and rangeland management.
  
- Bonnie Orr:
  - Growing Degree Days (GDD) can be used in conjunction with locally available weather data to precisely estimate when noxious weeds are most likely to bloom in a given year.
  - Bonnie has written an article in the Wenatchee World in consultation with Ryan Lefler and Dale Whaley on flowering rush. It will be published in two weeks. Ryan will share the article with the group and post to the CWMA web page.
  
- Dale Whaley:
  - WSU will publish information on puncture vine control in 1 week. Dale will share with the group and Ryan will post on the CWMA web page.
  
- Discuss CSWMP, including planned projects
  - Ryan will be coordinating on-the-ground projects outlined in the CSWMP.
  - Ryan will work with a small group of land owners and land managers in northern Douglas County with adjacent Russian knapweed problems to meet and come up with a plan to collectively control the species.
  - There are large populations of Russian knapweed in the Palisades area and in East Wenatchee. Carolyn will work with land owners and land managers in the Palisades area with adjacent Russian knapweed problems to meet and come up with a plan to collectively control the species.
  - There is a land owner who is potentially interested in targeted grazing using goats. This could be a cost effective way to manage yellow star-thistle. Dale and Ryan will research effectiveness of targeted grazing and whether there is potential for the seeds to survive digestion.
  - Rush skeletonweed is a major issue in the northern part of the county. The best way to tackle the issue is through education and by targeting smaller outskirt populations, such as those in McNeil Canyon and the border between Douglas and Grant County before moving to larger populations in the northeastern part of Douglas County.
  - Ryan will look to see whether there is room in the NFWF grant budget for cost share for rush skeletonweed treatment.

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- Ryan gave an overview of the plan to work with land owners in northern Douglas County to design a treatment plan for houndstongue.
- Dale gave an overview of the current status of biological controls for houndstongue and Russian knapweed, and the current status of Russian knapweed biological control trials in Douglas County.
- 2020 Planned Activities
  - Ryan is actively seeking new funding sources though, to date, has not found many compatible to the CWMA's needs. The group discussed a variety of different funding opportunities, and agreed to send Ryan any new CWMA funding opportunities they identify.
  - The group discussed potential field tours and outreach events, including a potential tour on the McLean property. The group will search for potential field tour and workshop ideas, including potential future invaders.
  - The CWMA will pursue having a booth at the North Central Washington Fair, potentially forming a noxious weed display at the Fair. Bonnie Orr can create dried noxious weed specimens for demonstration purposes. There is potential to hold a poster competition in partnership with 4-H and Future Farmers of America.
  - Bonnie Orr and Ryan Lefler will work together to get the word out about the organization, using NCW Life and other local news organizations.

#### ACTION ITEMS:

- Dale will share the new WSU publication on puncture vine with the group, Ryan will post on the CWMA web page
- Ryan will post Bonnie's Wenatchee World article on the CWMA web page
- Ryan will look into the use of Growing Degree Days to predict noxious weed species blooming
- Ryan will continue to work with land owners and the group to facilitate on-the-ground projects as specified in the CSWMP
- Ryan, Alex McLean, Dan Hammond, Rich Finger, and other relevant representatives of WDFW will meet, along with any other willing land owners in the West Foster Creek area, to plan collaborative management of Russian knapweed
- Carolyn, Clarinda, and other willing land owners in the Palisades area will meet to plan collaborative management of Russian knapweed
- Ryan and Dale will explore the possibilities and potential risks of targeted grazing of yellow star-thistle
- Ryan will analyze the NFWF grant to see if cost share for rush skeletonweed is feasible
- The group will make Ryan aware of any grant funding opportunities for the CWMA they find

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- The group will identify field tour and workshop opportunities, sites, and speakers
- Bonnie Orr and Ryan Lefler will work together to get the word out about the organization using NCW Life and other local news organizations
- The group will hold an event for National Invasive Species Awareness Week, May 16<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

Next Quarterly Meeting: March or April 2020.

- ❖ The entirety of this meeting is open to public comment

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