

WWCC in Boise, ID, December 3-4, 2024

AGENDA -Day 1

*Note all times in Mountain Standard Time Zone

Tuesday, December 3rd

8:00 am WWCC Meeting Convenes

- Welcome BLM ID State Office
- Introductions Aaron Eager, Chair
- Approval of 2023 Meeting Minutes Joey Milan, Secretary
 - Motioned by Pattie York to approve, second by Scott Erthrem, minutes approved by unanimous vote
- Financial Report Jasmine Chaffee, Treasurer
 - Jasmine Chaffee went through the ledger
- Agenda Review Joey Milan, Secretary
- WWCC Board Report – Grants, LOS, etc. Aaron Eager, Chair
 - Board report – update to the WWAP – we will be doing some small group work to move this along. Carol Randall has been leading the charge. The other big lift is the Healthy Landscapes Hub.
 - WWCC put in for BIL funding in 2023 and we received that money last year - \$195k (\$70k for WWAP development, \$125k set aside for 5 states to set up dashboards of their own. MT is the only state that has done that so far, but several states are working on this. Applied for \$103,093 in funding for 4 additional states to establish a dashboard. CO, WY, NV, MN (might be the 4th). Hybrid meetings?

8:30 am Survey Discussion of Trends Dan Tekiela, Vice Chair

- Compared 2023 to 2024. Big shifts. Challenge the group for lessons learned going forward. Recommended to change “NEPA” to environmental compliance. Please fill out the surveys ahead of time.

9:00 am National EDRR Framework Hilary Smith, Senior Advisor, DOI

- EDRR Framework – WWAP gives lots of opportunities for coordination and cooperation. Vision and Mission. Decision support tools, right species, right place. Emphasis on eDNA and other early detection tools and services. A RR funding and capacity. Putting together an InSRRT team. Siren V1 soft launch at NAISMA. Driven by users. Streamlined process for moving funds. Using the ANS fund for a model for addressing terrestrial species. Environmental compliance is important and needs to be done in a timely manner. Use of Categorical Exclusions where possible – adopting the NPS method. Looking at establishing a federal/non-federal forum.

9:30 am Western Weed Action Plan Updates Carol Randall, USFS, WWAP
Chair

- 2024 updates and expanded the scope of the WWAP. Retained 4 pillars, developed pillar “actions” and added new sections to the action plan designed to be “living” to include Chapter 2 – Implementation – priority biomes, projects, and activities and Chapter 3 – Promoting Healthy Landscapes through reporting, assessment, and evaluation. Potential entries for Chapter 2 – priority biomes, regional projects, state projections, action items. Put a template together. WWCC progress would help with funding down the road.

10:15 am Break

10:45 am WWAP Facilitated Discussion Moderator- TBD

- Will report out later.

12:00 pm Lunch- On your own

1:30 pm WWAP Utilization-State Perspective Troy Abercrombie, OR DOA

- Touched on the authority mentioned that the policy is the backbone, but collaboration is what gets the work done. Oregon State Weed Board is the most powerful tool OR has because they are active in the Oregon State Weed Board Grant Program. They prioritize, fund, facilitate collaboration, and monitoring. Funded by the state lottery (3.25m/biennium). Incentivize funding of county positions by requiring any grant applications be submitted by county positions. Data is collected in a required format. Feds collect the data in the same way. Average 152% leverage. Rely heavily on CWMAs. The new plan is more actionable and flexible without being too nebulous. Leverage what they have in OR, look at existing policy, utilize collaborative networks, and identify funding streams.

2:00 pm EDDMapS Rebekah D. Wallace, Program Coordinator

- Connect is what unifies all of the programs (single sign on). Focuses on collaboration. Website: <https://connect.bugwood.org>

All docs are searchable on EDDMapS pro now. iNaturalist – not a permanent archive and missing an educational component. EDDMapS pulls in iNaturalist research grade data every two weeks. Bulk data uploader – can have their own database for their own needs, but can also contribute to EDDMapS. Future range, future certainty, future abundance, and INHABIT map. Wild Spotter – update and more user-friendly interface.

2:30 pm Break

2:45 pm NGO Updates – 5 min each

- Matt Bower – Western IPM center – 4 centers. Efforts are collaborative to address regional pest management issues. Lawsuits with EPA and ESA. Funded a project that was well-received and was used as a template for other areas. About to release a manuscript that will be pertinent to the group.
- ENVU – labeling for rejuvre. Going into production will increase the labeling rate. Impacts on xyz species for technical information. Working to bring True Range to rangeland (currently Method). EPA is finalizing now. Broadleaf weed control.

3:30 pm Invasive Hotspots Surveillance Seth Flanigan, Senior NRS

- EDRR hot spot surveillance pilot project in the west. Listed species that we'd like to keep out: KS and Plains – Ventenata, Medusahead rye; MT, OR, ID – Palmer Amaranth; ID, OR – Turkish thistle;
- Or – test the methods for efficacy (INHABIT, hot spots, etc.)
- What is the goal?
- What is the thing we don't know about?

4:00 pm Dashboard Utilization Jasmine Chaffee & Dan Takiela

- MT dashboard. Align fed and state program objectives. Ability to partially fund 3-26 additional projects each year. Ability to fund materials and education programs. Increased collaboration between concerned land managers and agency partners. EDRR task forces. Local cooperative projects meet MEPA requirements. Use of tech – EDDMapS, standard

monitoring protocols, federal/state project dashboards. Healthy landscapes Hub can be accessed off the WWCC website.

4:30 pm Adjourn for Day

AGENDA- Day 2

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Wednesday, December 4th

8:00 am Welcome Back- Day 2 Aaron Eager, Chair

- Vote for Chair & Vice Chair
- True Grit Award
- Parking Lot Issues
 - Post-fire weed infestations – sometimes the fires get away from the response. The DOI is working on a national seed strategy, a national fire response, and working with NAISMA on fulfilling supply for seeds. Hay donation is a potential issue. Live inventory for hay might be an option to avoid dirty hay. NAISMA has asked states how they're doing it.
 - Work with BC for EDRR. There is an EDRR Forum coming up in Washington, DC May 12-15.

8:45 am WWAP Debrief & Committee Selection Lindy Garner, USFWS

- Biomes: (n=6) Grasslands (3), Sagebrush (2), All
- Dan presented pillar highlights and lowlights. We hope to hand them off to the next committee, but the idea was to hold off on what the group found useful and not useful with the group exercise because it was such a small sample size. Lowlights aren't lowlights, but just not good fits.
- Pull out policy and have it be separate?
- Economic analysis is in 3 of the 4 pillars. Would it be best to keep it in one for emphasis? It makes sense to have the economics in the funding pillar. Carol agreed to stay on and Paul will recruit a USGS scientist.

9:15 am Biocontrol Update Carol Randall, USFS R4, Joey Milan, BLM ID

- Updates on BC. Will fill in later.

10:00 am Break

10:30 am State Agency Updates – 5 min each

- NM – working on strengthening relationships with other state agencies and federal partners. Will think about working on the dashboard. Statute requires a noxious weed list that is updated periodically and make data available to the public. Outside of that, there might not be authority to do anything. Trying to secure funds and pass them through to local managers.
- KS – stakeholder meeting to attempt to add 5 species to the noxious weed list. First change in 20 years. Old world blue stem was added as a prohibited seed. This is Scott's last WWCC – retiring in October.
- Colorado – state winter training next week. Working on a rule update. Adding Ventenata. Draft of new plant assessment form for all 84 species. Sent out 475 informational packages to counties. Running an EDRR field crew for almost 2 decades for extra boots on the ground. Working on becoming a part of NAISMA's weed free program. Might have to revisit the statutes. Entered into a 5 year agreement where they can work on FS lands. Finalized NEPA for the America the Beautiful grant. Getting a new division director.
- OR – OR state weed board voted for a rule change. Weed list is down 10 species. Entire list is streamlined. Changed species that have biocontrol listed and changed those that didn't have agents that had effective biocontrol. IAG position – OR state legislature added funds to work on invasives. Funded two positions. Providing capacity for existing and emerging problems. Native plant conservation program to push for restoration with grants. Biocontrol assistant and rearing CEBA. More investment in the knotweed program. Joel just accepted a position with USDA APHIS. Vacancies among core staff with the BC position and eastern OR positions. Looking at restructuring the program away from federal funds. Less regional specialists and more seasonal staff. For IAG a ton of BIL funds they can't get on the ground. Providing capacity to existing and emerging issues to defend and grow the core.
- ND – 5 year review on the noxious weed list this year. 13 weeds on the list. HT is on the rise. Palmer sites have been controlled. Nervous about Ventenata – scouting for that. State grants \$1.4m for county projects. Want to facilitate better local weed board involvement. Updating all noxious weed technology. Biocontrol on LS and more counties is going well.

- WY – focused on grasses. \$9m for invasive grass work. Spraying 100s and 1000s of acres. In NE WY they did aerial treatments along the interstate. CG is halfway listed. Half a million acres burned and grass treatment was pushed as a result. The places that burned were heavily invested in IAG. Looking at imagery and fire intensity data. Moving towards a lot more agreements between WY ag and other agencies that are understaffed. 100% fully staffed at the moment. Economic analysis done on CG was grazing specific. Will look at rec as an angle. That economic analysis will be publicly available.
- WA – Greg is now the assistant director of WSDA. Spongy moss, Japanese beetle, and murder hornet is drawing a lot of resources away from the weeds. With budget constraints they won't be hiring until next July. Weed listing process – state noxious weed control board. Listing is a year long process. Added two class A weeds. 2025 will have 161 or 162 weeds. 40 A (eradicate), 70 B, 51 C (holly would be 52). Hired a new GIS position. Receives funding from FS and BLM and that goes to counties and projects and biocontrol. FR will be out of quarantine in spring. MT and WA will be reared in outdoor ponds, working with Knotweed and did see some damage. Working with APHIS/ARS on crupina and working with Joel (OR) for gorse.
- NV – new federal funding through shared stewardship program. Group of federal and state agencies. Applicants don't have the same requirements they have had in the past. Funded a biocontrol program with an effort to grow that program to do their own monitoring and releases. RK, LS, and CT along with some pre-release for HT. Rearing RK agents to redistribute throughout the state. EDRR – moving forward with a state program. Do a state meeting in February. Will prioritize efforts and that helps focus those priorities. Moving forward with the NDOT position. Revisiting their noxious weed list.
- NE – updated seed regulations. Added Ventenata, medusahead, and old world blue stem. Riparian vegetation improvement plan. Funding was cut, restored, and then the administration decided not to distribute it. Looking at finding alternative funding sources for WMAs. New invasive species council member. WA or Teton County, WY might be able to do some genetic work on native vs. non-native phragmites.
- MT – EDRR – DOT has been stepping up with great contractors. Mapped a lot of Ventenata, RSW, and blue weed. Started an AmeriCorps program. There are 3 employees doing various projects. Took over the invasive

species education program and it is all taxa, but now focused on noxious weeds to get information out. Working with the Canadians to look at Ventenata and RSW. Weed listing has not been revisited since 2019 but looking to move 5 or 6 and looking to move aquatic species out of the enforcement part. One Palmer site showed up. Biggest success has been the EDRR strike teams. Hiring a contractor to work on woody invasives. SC, RO, and common buckthorn.

- ID – sugar beet company has asked to add Palmer. Japanese beetle eradication going on in Caldwell. 2000 traps statewide and those are going well. 129 beetles in Caldwell and 7 beetles in Pocatello. 1000s of traps. Hoping to cut those numbers in half. Also a quagga mussel issue in Snake River. Found more mussels below the treatment area. Preparing for a treatment in December. Cogon grass has been an issue in the past. Found 413 boats out of a million inspected.
- AK – no enforcement of noxious weeds. Lots of different ecoregions and species concerns. A lot of coastline. Largest get together now includes the full gamut. It's the Alaska invasive species partnership. PL in Anchorage along with CT were the first species. In AK it's public awareness. Tying it to salmon, fishing, or wildlife habitat. Elodea is a major concern for salmon rearing habitat. Surveying for that now. Not sure who their state weed coordinator is.

12:00 pm Lunch

1:30 pm Federal Agency Updates – 5 min each

- BLM – spend just shy of \$16m last year on invasive species. This does not include the fire and fuels management program has. Tracking down how much we spend on these efforts will be a priority. In 2024, just over 1m acres of treatment were done. Probably triple that number in inventory. Invasive species is a throughline for most of the work we do. How many CWMAs we are a part of is 95 across the country. Program changes – update of the pesticide approval process. Completed the PEIS and we now have 28 active ingredients available for use on BLM lands. Step down EAs are occurring. Vacancies in OR/WA, NM, CA, and IPM. We have a list of drones we can use, but the tech is not ready for us to apply.
- DOI – 3 in 3 for the WIN. Lots of islands and invasive species, the EDRR Framework has been a focus. CX has been something they've been working on. Past year has been a focus on BIL and how to invest those dollars. Setting priorities and offered a NOFO (\$3m). Directed BIL dollars

to invest in on the ground tools. Bureaus are identifying targets. Have a 5 year DOI Invasive Species strategic plan. Looking at how they've done and seeing if there are gaps. Transition is the next big thing and Hilary will be an advocate for invasive species.

- FICMNEW – North American Invasive Species Forum May 12-15 in DC. Policy and management focused on a tri-national level. In-person only.
- NRCS – IRA and farm bill dollars they are maintaining the course. FY23 \$140m worth of work on public lands covering 1.75m acres. Covers all of their states and counties and all them had at least one project. Doing climate adaptation/mitigation. Replenishing carbon that has been mined in the soil. Working with cheatgrass/cheatgrass challenge. EPA's new rules and compliance has been a partner. Invasives work is tied to producer land management with an effort to get private lands as productive as possible.
- USGS – working with IAGs. Boot brush stations – will be doing a synthesis on what's been published and gray literature for effectiveness to act as a starting point. Working closely with NAISMA – this will be a nationwide study with a focus on public lands. INHABIT with BIL funding will feature some advancements with relative abundance. Airborne eDNA. Phragmites work is happening in the Great Lakes with implications for around the country. RNA interference work with CSIRO in Australia. Looking at the relationship between fire and tamarisk.
- USFS – \$2m in the invasives program. FHP some lines had to be cut, but invasive plants remained stable. National Biocontrol program – Forum in Annapolis, MD April 14-17. Looking at increasing the time for panel discussions. NISC will have a component in the program for the framework for biocontrol. \$350k line item – host the Forum, partnership with CABI for rearing candidate species, partnership with DOI, working with NAISMA and MIA for factsheets. Help with the Summit, 101, and Kids in Action. STDP projects are \$1m and biocontrol is \$500k.
- Regional FS – Carol is retiring end of December. There is a tentative detail behind her. Risk assessments at the regional level. Feels redundant since EPA is doing the same thing. Aerial application approval has been done for WY. National forest does not have funding for invasive species. Cooperative plans are occurring with CO.

2:30 pm WSWs Tim Prather, President

- Science and research – weed risk assessment: susceptibility models in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, priority plants, habitat suitability and

others. Looking at risk to invasion. Classical biological control – WSWS does discuss integrating different methods. WSWS could commandeer entire sections if there is an interest. Prioritization – an IPM approach. Restoration – looking at herbicide impacts on T&E species and habitat restoration projects. WSWS addressing both science and policy – interfacing with national effort to establish practices that will apply to wildland use and what practices need to be listed in bulletins. Fostering new ideas and collaborations in WSWS through discussion groups – several project discussions.

3:00 pm USGS – Matt Germino

- USGS research in support of adaptive management of the annual grass fire cycle. FIREss (Fire, Invasives, and Restoration Ecology of sagebrush steppe). When the pot boiled over and desertification. Most erosion is wind erosion. Most of the specializations do not come from desert environments.

3:30 pm Meeting Close & Wrap-up

State Weed Coordinator Alliance Meeting