

**Mid-Willamette Cooperative Weed Management Area  
Spring Meeting Minutes**

**April 13, 2015**

Location: Marion County Public Works

Date: April 13, 2015

Time: 9 am to 12:00 pm

**Attendance:**

Jenny Meisel, Marion SWCD (Mid-Willamette Chair)

Lucas Hunt, Polk SWCD (Mid-Willamette Vice-Chair)

Rebecca McCoun, North Santiam WC (Mid-Willamette Secretary)

Ken Layburn, City of Salem

Mario Reyes, City of Salem

Mark Akimoff, City of Salem

Claire Hibler, Bureau of Land Management-Salem

Kristen Larson, Luckiamute WC

Beth Myers-Shenai, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture

Tanya Beard, Marion County

Chris Wagner, Willamette NF – Detroit Rd.

Glen Miller, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture

Mike Crabtree, Yamhill SWCD

**9: 10 am      Logistics & Introductions**

**9:15 am      Participant Updates**

Tanya Beard, Marion County Update:

Marion County has been focusing their efforts on yellow flag iris just outside of Stayton. They are focusing on the Mill Creek system and hope to prevent further issues. Marion County is also working on spurge laurel along the Willamette River near Keizer. They have also been following up with false brome at the county parks. Marion County is starting a roadside county inventory program involving mapping noxious weeds.

Rebecca McCoun, North Santiam Watershed Council Update:

Rebecca noted she is working with Jenny Meisel, Marion SWCD and Tanya Beard, Marion County on an invasive species outreach campaign. They will be sending out to a select group of landowners (located in a given radius from BLM land) the following: a letter informing the landowners about five invasive species: knotweed, knapweed, purple loosestrife, Yellow flag iris and Traveler's Joy and a copy of the Marion County Weed Guide. The mailing will go out in May during Oregon Weed Awareness Week.

Lucas Hunt, Polk Soil & Water Conservation District Update:

Lucas is working with Todd Whitmore with Polk County on identifying and mapping roadside weed infestations. Lucas noted Todd was worried about spending time on locating weeds without the funding to treat the areas. The SWCD does have \$2,500 set aside for EDRR treatment. Also, the Polk SWCD is working on addressing knotweed in urban areas. There are a few known populations in Independence & Monmouth. It is possible the Luckiamute WC, Polk SWCD and the Ash Creek Water District will be able to combine resources and ultimately get the knotweed sprayed.

Chris Wagner, Willamette NF – Detroit District Update:

Chris Wagner noted her budget has been reduced substantially this year. She will not be able to hire any seasonals. She will have to conduct the timber sale surveys and as a result will not have time to do any spraying. The Oregon Dept. of Agriculture is going to come up and help her address the weeds along the highway. Chris noted there is false brome present on private land along the lake. The USFS would be able to provide a boat if they could get permission from that landowner to have it treated. She has talked to the watershed council about it. Also, several private landowners have knotweed in their yards in both Idanha and in Detroit. Knapweed is also an issue and is coming up from the other side of the district (east side of the pass). Chris also noted that PGE and BPA have done a really great job addressing the Scotch broom under the power lines. Overall, Chris stated that with regards to treating her known weed sites she could use any help she can get.

Claire Hibler, Bureau Land Management – Salem:

Claire noted she was providing an update on behalf of Heidi Christiansen, who was unable to attend the meeting today. The BLM Salem District does a weed inventory every 5 years. They will be starting in Linn County and heading north (Linn, Marion, Clackamas, east of I-5). They will be focusing on treating false brome in high priority areas. They are no longer looking to eradicate it and are now in the “control” mode. High priority will be given to areas in and out of proposed timber sales to prevent spread. BLM is continuing to treat knotweed & knapweed sites. Heidi is working on putting together a district wide contract for inventory and control. The false brome issue at Fisherman’s Bend was brought up. Claire noted it is a very difficult site to treat given that high water events result in re-infestation of treated areas.

Mark Akimoff, City of Salem:

Mark noted they are working on a small mitigation projects near the Claggett & Pudding area. The Butte Creek golf course is another project. Yellow lotus was their biggest problem. They are also working on treating knotweed at the headwaters of Pringle Creek. They treated reed canary grass at the golf course last week.

Karen Larsen, Luckiamute Watershed Council:

Kristen noted they are continuing to work on knotweed treatment with 60 landowners on the Little Luckiamute. They still have about a dozen landowners still not interested in participating that have knotweed on their property. The LWC started their efforts in 2011 and have about 1 or 2 more years of work to go. They are also working on reed canary grass and blackberry follow up. In addition, they are also working with Benton County with Yellow flag iris on private property.

Beth Myers-Shenai, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture

Beth noted they are going to be starting Phase II of the ludwigia surveys. They will be doing another round of flights in late August. ODA will be helping Chris Wagner with some work on the Detroit District. Hogweed has been found in Polk County. If you see it contact Beth or Lucas. If you want a list off weed mapper call Beth. She can do a quick query and get you a list. She is working on getting weed mapper more user friendly. They are also working on getting an ArcMap App that would be more user friendly. Beth is still working on getting last year’s data into the system. Beth also brought Play/Clean/Go campaign materials to share. She noted anyone can sign up for the campaign and get outreach materials for their organization. It would be good if we all had a unified stop invasive species spread message.

Jenny Meisel, Marion Soil & Water Conservation District

Jenny stated the Marion SWCD has partnered with the Santiam Water Control District to do weed surveys along their irrigation canals. The Santiam WCD was able to get them access to the areas. The Santiam WCD will then treat the weeds found. She also noted they are targeting yellow flag iris in the Duck Flat Area. They are also working on ground truthing the ludwigia aerial surveys.

Jenny also announced the Marion SWCD will be starting an Urban Backyard Habitat Program called BHIP in Salem. The pilot program will begin in the fall. Some of the things the program will focus on include planting natives, treating invasives, stormwater management and wildlife and pollinator habitat. Jenny noted she would like

to recreate the very successful program the City of Portland has been implementing. It would be a volunteer self-certification program where landowners would have to complete a list of requirements and then submit their form to the Marion SWCD. A conservationist from the Marion SWCD would then go out and field verify. They recently sent a survey out to see if Salem residents would be interested in this type of program. Jenny has already received a lot of calls from people interested.

Jenny noted a new organization called the “Salem No Ivy Coalition” started by one passionate resident has taken off in Salem. They recently had an ivy pull in Waldo Park.

#### Glenn Miller, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture

Glenn noted he has been working a lot on the aquatic WAIN program, which currently has strong participation. He has been helping with the organizational structure. They have divided tasks up (outlining plans, goals, purpose). He is working on refining their Ludwigia aerial survey so they have less false positives. Glenn noted weeds are early this year. They are getting on the knapweed. George with ODA will be helping Chris Wagner up on the Detroit District. Glenn noted he had read an article about a potentially easier way to treat yellow flag iris. He will try to get the article out to the group.

#### Mike Crabtree, Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District

Mike noted they are working on treating spurge laurel right now. He also noted they have been working with Wilco to get articles out in the paper about treating species like tansy, knotweed and ivy. Mike also discussed the oak restoration activities they are working on. They have treated a lot of Scotch broom and black berry. They have been managing the oak habitat for Kincaid’s lupine and as a result have been using specific herbicide treatments that protect their desired species like lupine and fescue.

**10:20 am      Break**

**10:45 am      Willamette Steering Committee Update**

Kristen Larson, who is on the Willamette Action Plan Steering Committee, shared with the group the following information:

The Willamette Steering Committee is working on developing a Willamette Action plan focused on priority areas on the main stem Willamette and tributaries above Willamette Falls. This is a process largely spurred by OWEB’s transition from a Special Investment Partnership (SIP) funding program to the new Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) program. The action plan can serve for many other functions and uses, but this OWEB process has helped to motivate it, fund the project manager leading the process (Kathleen Guillozet of Third Stream Research and Consulting) and is defining the deadlines we are operating under. For more information, please feel free to contact Kristen Larson or Marci Krass, who are Mid-Willamette CWMA members participating on the steering committee for the action plan.

Regarding our work to outline priority restoration geographies and actions for the mainstem Willamette portion of the plan, we have overlaid the Slices Framework (<http://ise.uoregon.edu/slices/background.html>) pragmatic floodplain over The Nature Conservancy’s Synthesis 2.0 Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs) (<http://databasin.org/datasets/9f79ce2035b7402fb60ef70e63c72142>). Where these 2 intersect, we are looking at diving deeper and defining more information about potential locations / project sites for work within the COAs - for example riparian planting, EDRR work, channel complexity, or floodplain reconnection projects that address key limiting factors habitat and water quality.

Kristen passed out two maps. The maps showing this overlay (Slices in pink, COAs in blue hatched areas). Their focus is along the mainstem Willamette - any COAs that overlap with the Slices down to the Willamette Falls, which are then listed in the attached table. The Slices Framework breaks the Willamette up into Upper, Mid and Lower based on geomorphic characteristics and those are the segments we’ve used here.

A table was also passed out with the mainstem COAs broken into the Upper, Mid, and Lower (to the Falls) reaches. Marci and Kristen are asking the Mid-Willamette CWMA to please help them fill in this table - knowing that many in the group know the various areas better than they do. Kristen requested using the list in the table (and refer to the map to understand where those COAs are located) help filling in the table with your local knowledge about potential project areas, restoration actions (solutions) and other characteristics about the area (opportunities, challenges, risks, etc.) we should know about. Has your organization identified priority project areas within a COA? Is there a group of partners already poised to work in an area? Have you tried but run up against landowner resistance or permitting problems? Do you have a design ready to implement (making this "ripe" for work)? Or even if you don't know that level of detail but are familiar with particular sites in some areas, that would be helpful for them to know. Or if you can refer us to someone else not involved in the CWMA - that is helpful, too.

**11:15 am      Goats**

Jenny and Claire brought up the recent articles in the newspaper regarding using goats to manage weeds. The articles contained inaccurate and misleading information. Jenny and Claire will both work together to put together an article with the facts and to help educate the public about the true costs and benefits associated with using goats to manage weeds. They will then send out the article to whole group to review it. When it is submitted it will be from the Mid-Willamette CWMA group. The group did discuss ways to prevent this type of misinformation getting out to the public. A majority present thought it wise for us to submit full articles to the newspaper rather than rely on newspaper staff writers to put the articles together.

**11:45 am      Mid-Willamette CWMA Weed List**

Jenny passed around the most recent Mid-Willamette CWMA weed list. Her additions/changes were in red. She asked for members to look it over and send her any comments or suggestions by email. The group discussed possibly displaying the information differently, possibly adding new columns and removing others. Claire and Lucas will put a draft together and bring it back to the group.

**12:00 pm      Meeting Adjourned**

Minutes submitted by Rebecca McCoun