

Oregon State Weed Board
Minutes
September 7-8, 2006
Enterprise, Wallowa County, Oregon

ATTENDANCE:

Weed Board Members Present

Bill Hansell, Chairman	Jim Harris, Co-Chair
Ken Bare	Dan Hilburn
Don Richards	Jerry Erstrom
Patti Milne	

Others

Tim Butler, ODA	Allen Schnetzky, Wallowa County
Jo Davis, ODA	Gary Dade, Union County
Glenn Miller, ODA	Greg Winans, Tri-County CWMA
Bonnie Rasmussen, ODA	Leigh Dawson, USFS, Enterprise
Beth Myers, ODA	Matt Rippee, OPRD, Wallowa County Weed Board
Tom Forney, ODA	Arnie Grammon, Baker County
Dave Langland, ODA	Phil Shephard, TNC-Enterprise
Eric Coombs, ODA	John Williams, OSU Extension Service
Sandra Frost, OSU-CBARC, Pendleton	Carl McFetridge, Wallowa County
Rick Gillette, Wallowa County	Russ McMartin, Wallowa County
Dan Sherwin, Deschutes County	Pat Wortman, Enterprise
Brad Knotts, OR Dept of Forestry	Melvin Lathion, Wallowa County Weed Board
Andrea Mitchell, TNC	Larry Aschenbrenner, Wallowa Co Weed Board
Lynne Rice, Wallowa Valley Weed Warriors	Liz Cunningham, Wallowa Valley Weed Warriors
Mat Zupich, Wallowa SWCD	Charlie Warmoch, Wallowa SWCD
Mike Hayward, Wallowa County Commissioner	Mark Porter, Wallowa Resources

September 7, 2006

Bill Hansell – called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

Commissioner Mike Hayward, Wallowa County

Commissioner Hayward welcomed everyone to Wallowa County and thanks the Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB) for choosing Wallowa County for the meeting site. He mentioned about the forest fires surrounding Wallowa County at the moment. Noxious weeds proliferate on disturbed areas such those hit by forest fires. The fight for the control of noxious weeds is a never-ending battle and he recognizes the weed board and others for their support and hard work.

Approval February 23 & 24, 2006 Meeting Minutes:

There were no questions or concerns regarding the minutes from the Oregon State Weed Board meeting on February 23 and 24, 2006. Minutes were approved as submitted.

ODA Updates:

Tim Butler, ODA, Noxious Weed Control Program Manager:

Tim Butler started with a budget update. The OSWB has more funding to allocate this grant cycle than originally anticipated. Tim showed the spreadsheet representing the current budget and projections.

2005-2007 biennium	
\$ 1,551,340.00	total budget
\$ (179,240.00)	fall 05 cycle
\$ (434,305.00)	spring 06 cycle
\$ (180,000.00)	carry-over
\$ 757,795.00	sub-total
\$ (217,700.00)	recommended fall 06 cycle
\$ 540,095.00	left to allocate
\$ (55,000.00)	position
\$ 485,095.00	remaining

Butler then gave the OSWB a background of the Program Option Package (POP) that ODA requested in the Governor's budget. The proposed POP if approved would provide the OSWB grant program an additional \$1.2 million of Lottery Capitol funds. This amount will increase the program funding by approximately \$1.0 million available to be allocated for weed on the ground weed grants during the 2007-2009 biennium. The demand for noxious weed grant funding for on the ground watershed projects continues to exceed the available resources. Additional funding will allow the OSWB to allocate an estimated 40 additional projects per biennium and assist both private and public land managers statewide to implement and continue projects that help meet the objectives of the Oregon Noxious Weed Strategic Plan. The remaining \$200,000 will increase the program's personal services budget that would allow on-the-ground projects for early detection and weed containment projects, with increased efforts in bio-control. There is also a new 1.0 FTE position included in the POP. This position would increase the monitoring of on-the-ground grant projects to ensure compliance and to better document successes and failures of treatments in reports to policy makers. This person will also do outreach and would help cooperators develop viable grant projects. The workload on program staff for tracking and monitoring grants continues to increase. Annual audits from the Secretary of State's Audits Division require more and more performance based accountability of this funding source. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board added additional tracking and reporting requirements this biennium. Jim Harris asked if the additional funds requested in the POP would expand to other invasive species? Tim Butler replied that since it is the same source of funding, the same restrictions apply and funds would be used for control of state listed noxious weeds. Leigh Dawson asked if the additional funding could make bio-control research move faster. Tim Butler replied that OSWB funds cannot support strictly research projects but can be used in bio-control implementation. Bill Hansell encouraged the public to ask questions. Arnie Grammon asked if the counties could lobby for this funding or how to go about endorsing the POP? Tim Butler answered no lobbying should be done at this stage of the budgetary process and if counties or others want to endorse this funding proposal, they could write a letter to Katy Coba (ODA, Director) to show their support of the POP.

The Noxious Weed Control Program is requesting the OSWB to authorize ODA to spend up to \$55,000 from the current available funds for the 2005-2007 biennium to hire a limited duration Weed Program Grants Administrative Analyst position this biennium. Patti Milne added that there is a need for this position. Ken Bare asked if the grants are not being taken care of. Tim Butler answered that ODA weed staff are doing a good job considering the workload they have especially in Salem but increasing accountability and reporting requirements from OWEB is making it more and more difficult to keep up the grant administration without a

full-time person dedicated to the grants. He also added that analyzing success and achievements is crucial for the success of the OSWB grant program. Patti Milne showed full support for this position but would like to see some demonstration later to the board that there is a benefit for this position. Ken Bare asked if this new position would report to the board. Tim Butler answered yes. Bill Hansell asked what is the annual cost for this position. Tim Butler said it is an estimated \$62,000.00 annual salary, benefits and travel included. Dan Hilburn reiterated that audits requirements are getting more and more complex and a specialist is needed to meet those requirements. Bill Hansell asked what is the process in hiring this new position. Tim Butler answered the first step is the approval funds from the board, the request to recruit will be taken to the ODA director's office for final approval. Bill Hansell asked what would happen if the department veto the boards decision. Jerry Erstrom added that it is the responsibility of the OSWB to allocate the funds. Bill Hansell asked if there are any questions. Patti Milne moved to approve the request for funding for the grant analyst position, Jerry Erstrom seconded the motion. Bill Hansell moved the motion. Motion was carried unanimously.

Weed Free Forage— Weed free forage certification program prevents the spread of noxious weeds, increased markets and value added product prices and allows for improved interstate movement and export. In 2006, ODA started a Forage Certification Pilot Program. Standards and procedures were established, certified noxious weed-free products became available and a list of participating growers will be made available on the ODA web site or upon request. ORS 632.900-990 gives the department the authority to set grades and standards for forage products. This is a voluntary program with the intent of certifying forage as part of noxious weed prevention efforts. These procedures meet or exceed the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) standards. There were fields inspected in Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Deschutes, Linn and Polk Counties. These include hay and straw with the total of 900 acres under 6 growers.

Oregon Weed Awareness Week- Oregon Weed Awareness Week was celebrated in Salem by a signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between ODA, USFS-PNW and BLM. This will strengthen the agencies cooperative efforts on integrated weed management activities for the protection of natural resources throughout Oregon. The weed awareness week was also used as an education and outreach opportunity by releasing *Bruchidius villosus*, a beetle used as a bio-control agent on Scotch broom.

OINW -The 2006 Oregon Interagency Noxious Weed Control Symposium will be on December 5 to 7 this year. It will be held at the La Sells Stewart Center at OSU in Corvallis. More information will be available to the public and cooperators in the near future.

Weed Watch List- Discussion

Miscanthus is an ornamental grass causing concern to Portland Parks and Recreation Department. ODA visited the sites in Portland where several varieties of this grass were planted, however only one variety is causing the problem. It is popping-up on riparian sites. Giant reedgrass (*Arundo donax*) is another invasive grass that is causing concern where it is a major problem in California. Other varieties of grass species were discussed including Japanese bloodgrass, and ribbon grass. Bill Hansell asked what action should be taken at this time. Tim Butler replied that starting this dialogue is the first step in the process. ODA staff will collect information and will do risk assessments for species that have merit. Don Richards commented that the *Miscanthus* grass is spreading by seeds in south Water Front Park in Portland and is suspected that it is cross-pollinating. The Nursery trade is hybridizing ones with unique features. Ken Bare commented that reed canary grass is being used in Coquille Valley as forage crop. Tim Butler said that it has beneficial uses but also can be very invasive and that's why a dialogue with everyone involved must be part of the process. Don Richards stated that if the OSWB decided to list any of these grasses, there is time for the industry to deal with it and exclude it from production before they would be placed on the state quarantine list where they would be prohibited from being sold. Research has been done on the hybrids of butterfly bush that has shown signs the hybrids are reverting to the parent genus and species after a time. There could be consideration of listing the species as a whole based on the research at some point in the future. James Altland, an OSU Researcher of butterfly bush has done this research and could be invited to come to the February 2007 OSWB meeting to provide the board with an update.

A discussion of perennial peavine also started as it is creating a problem in eastern Oregon. ODA will do a risk assessment on the perennial peavine.

Dan Hilburn informed everyone of a field study of the establishment of transgenic herbicide-resistant creeping bentgrass populations outside a control area. Research shows pollen will move up to 13 miles. Monitoring of wild populations will continue. USDA is doing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and will come out as a draft. Folks who are interested can make comments on the draft EIS.

Dan Sharratt: *ODA, Noxious Weed Control Program, Eastern Oregon Update*

Common bugloss exploded in the Imnaha River canyon. The lower canyon infestations are currently limited to river and adjacent areas. The potential to spread throughout the lower canyon and into the Hells Canyon Wilderness is great. A group of agencies and landowners are targeting to remove this weed from the river corridor in order to stop the spread downriver. Blackberry patches around the canyon are proliferating and have the potential to be a serious issue. Various weed control districts, ODA and other agencies are aware of the situation. Rush skeletonweed project is continuing in eastern Oregon. ODA is trying to facilitate the uniform treatment of all infestations. Partnership with county weed districts, BLM, landowners and volunteers is ongoing. Biocontrol agents are also being used. A new agent *Bradyrhoea gilveolella* are being released and monitored. Tansy ragwort monitoring and survey took place again this summer. Biocontrol agents remain to be elusive in eastern Oregon. Giant knotweed infestation on the Snake River continues to be a challenge. A project is being put together by USFS and other partners to treat knotweed sites. It is a very challenging undertaking as the site can only be reached by boat. Fifteen net acres of plants will be injected and foliar treated. The area is very remote and swarming with poison oak and rattlesnakes.

Pat Wortman: *Local Weed Management Perspective*

In Wallowa County, hunters and campers are not allowed to bring in hay unless it is certified weed-free. Wallowa County built a Hay Station in the early 1980s. It is an on-going successful program with cooperation with USFS, BLM and ODF&W. Donations from Rocky Mountain Foundation of \$5000 helped build a facility. Station was set in Minam doing education and outreach to hunters. Education and outreach is the most important tool because 90% of the people want to do the right thing. It is important for hunters that the county is interested enough to control weeds. Also involved is Tri-County CWMA. People get together to discuss common problems. Wallowa County gave away \$3500 worth of hay done by volunteers. There is a county ordinance that mandates hay farmers to use certified weed-free forage only. Pat Wortman thanked the Weed Board for their support on noxious weed projects in Wallowa County.

Allen Schnetzky: *Wallowa County Weed Control District Update*

Wallowa County has a 14-member weed board. The board advises the county commissioners on weed control issues. There is a coordinated weed management between the board, public works, county vegetation and road department as well as local and regional partners. The Wallowa County Weed Control District has been active since 1921. Wallowa County has a 5-year weed levy that generates \$92,000. The levy is up for renewal in November 2006. The weed district has contracts with ODOT right-of-ways, Joseph Airport, Umatilla Forest, BLM, and Wallowa Union Railroad. Partners of the district includes Wallowa Resources, USFS, TNC, SWCD, ODA, Oregon State Parks, Wallowa Valley Weed Warriors, OSU Extension, private landowners, Tri-County CWMA, Tri-State CWMA, Forest Capital, Nez Perce Tribes, BLM, ODFW, timber managers and loggers and cities of Enterprise, Joseph, Lostine and Wallowa. The OSWB granted Wallowa County Vegetation Department with almost \$70,000 in grants money. Funding has been used for herbicide cost-share program to help landowners combat their weeds. Hundreds of acres of weeds have been treated with OSWB grant dollars. Top weed concerns in Wallowa County are: spotted knapweed, whitetop, common bugloss, leafy spurge, yellow starthistle, meadow hawkweed, Medusahead, sulfur cinquefoil, pheasant eye, common crupina, *Berteroa incana*, dalmatian toadflax and Japanese knotweed. Wallowa County passed an ordinance in 1989 making all Wallowa County a Hay Quarantine Area. Hay cannot be lawfully imported in

the county unless it is fed by landowners on their own land or land they lease. A Hay Station was set up making weed-free hay available to hunters, campers and landowners.

Mark Porter: *Wallowa Resources Lower Grande Ronde Noxious Weed Program and Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership Update*

Wallowa County has a lot of short success stories on weed control. The foundation for these success stories is the partnership that works together in keeping Wallowa County as weed-free as possible. They are private landowners, USFS, Wallowa County, TNC, Wallowa Resources, Asotin County, Union County, Oregon Dept. Of Agriculture, Oregon and Washington State Lands and Fish and Wildlife, Nez Perce Tribe, Tri-county CWMA, Tri-State CWMA, Oregon State Parks and Recreation and Tri-County CWMA. The effort the partnership does is coordinating seamless treatment of noxious weeds. It involves inventory and mapping, development of integrated treatment strategies, fundraising, implementation of agreements and participations, monitor effectiveness and education and prevention. Lower Grande Ronde Noxious Weed Program believes in integrated weed management. Early detection of new invaders like the annual bugloss, Japanese knotweed, Myrtle spurge, common bugloss, orange hawkweed, Russian knapweed, whitetop, and perennial pepperweed. Wallowa Resources has also been testing a digital aerial sketch-mapping device that is very cost effective per acre of weed survey. “Noxious Weed Bounty” is an education and outreach method used to educate people using monetary reward as a motivational tool. It offers hunters and others a reward of \$200 for the first 10 people who find a new weed site in the Lower Grande Ronde. Funds received in 2005 were broken down to 58% for consultation and contractual services, 29% for payroll and salary expense, 5% both for indirect expenses and project supplies and equipment, 2% travel and 1% office expense.

Weed Tour: Imnaha Canyon Common Bugloss Sites

September 8, 2006

Bill Hansell (Chair, OSWB) – called the meeting to order and read the “Potential Conflict of Interest” statement.

“As Chairman of the Oregon State Weed Board, I make the following statement on behalf of the entire Board. All members of the Board agree, if there is an item the Board is taking action on which is a potential conflict of interest to that member, such member will abstain from voting on such action. When a member believes there is a potential conflict of interest, said member shall indicate to the Chairman and will be officially recorded in the minutes. State Law defines potential conflict of interest as: "Any means of action or any decision or recommendation by a person acting in a capacity as a public official, the effect of which could be to the private pecuniary benefit or detriment of the person or the person's relative, or a business with which the person or person's relative is associated. In addition, to ensure that there is equal opportunity to all grant applicants, the Oregon State Weed Board has adopted the following guidelines: During grant award discussion, the public present at the meeting shall not address the Board unless specifically asked for input, comment or clarification on a particular item. ODA staff is present to provide input to the Board on information that was used in making a particular grant recommendation. The discussion between staff and the Board is intended to assist the Board in making an informed decision to fund or not fund a particular grant. The Board expects that the applicants present will refrain from lobbying for grants during breaks and other interactions with the members of the Board. The intent of these guidelines is to help ensure that one applicant does not have an advantage over another because they are present at the meeting to lobby for their grant(s). This statement is read and entered into the minutes of the State Weed Board on September 8, 2006”.

GRANT AWARDS

The Oregon State Weed Board decided the grant applications would be separated into four categories: Fund in full, Partial funding, Denied, and to be reconsidered. Reconsidered grants will be indicated and will follow the list of funded and denied grants.

Grant#	Project Title	Requested	Recommended
2006-14-01	Hogweed and Gorse Control 2007	\$1,720.00	\$1,720.00
2006-14-02	Wildhorse Canyon Weed Abatement Program	\$10,000.00	
2006-14-03	Sandy River Gorge Garlic Mustard Treatment	\$13,600.00	\$13,600.00
2006-14-04	Benton County Weed Control	\$3,000.00	
2006-14-05	Restoring Medusahead Infested Grasslands (Phase 1)	\$18,040.00	
2006-14-06	Lincoln County French Broom Control	\$9,782.00	\$9,782.00
2006-14-07	Lincoln County Gorse Control	\$11,796.00	\$11,796.00
2006-14-08	West Willamette Corridor Restoration Collaborative	\$29,700.00	\$10,000.00
2006-14-09	Lower Willow Creek Weed Management Area	\$14,680.00	\$10,000.00
2006-14-10	Luckiamute Watershed Knotweed Control Phase III	\$13,585.00	\$13,585.00
2006-14-11	Marion County Weed Control District	\$25,000.00	
2006-14-12	Clematis Vitalba Control	\$27,749.00	
2006-14-13	LBRWMA Weed Project 2006-2007	\$28,577.00	\$28,577.00
2006-14-14	Floras Creek Gorse Management	\$15,972.00	\$15,972.00
2006-14-15	Umatilla County Spotted Knapweed	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
2006-14-16	MRWC Noxious Weed Management Partnership	\$33,182.00	
2006-14-17	Spotted Knapweed – Baker County 2006	\$12,694.00	\$12,694.00
2006-14-18	Rush Skeletonweed in the Foster Fire	\$26,200.00	\$26,200.00
2006-14-19	C2 Ranch Noxious Weed Eradication	\$24,810.00	\$2,000.00
2006-14-20	Buford Park False Brome Control-Phase I	\$26,636.00	\$21,136.00
2006-14-21	Fox Creek Restoration Project	\$1,603.00	\$1,603.00
2006-14-22	Yellow Flag Iris of Jefferson County	\$7,425.00	\$7,425.00
2006-14-23	Beaver Creek Weed Management 2006	\$26,965.00	
2006-14-24	Upper Crooked River Weed Management 2006	\$42,460.00	
2006-14-25	Partnering Up to Control Garlic Mustard	\$17,880.00	\$17,880.00
2006-14-26	North Malheur Skeletonweed Project	\$16,830.00	\$16,830.00
2006-14-27	Fields Creek Restoration Project	\$4,254.00	
TOTAL		\$469,140.00	\$225,800.00

Reconsidered Grant(s):

2006-14-03: Increased to full funding due to the opportunity to use this as a demonstration project in an urban recreation area that has potential for a good education and outreach to the public.

2006-14-08: Partially funded. Potential for good education and outreach to public in recreation area.

2006-14-20: Removed \$5000 for on-site seed production.

The board approved to allocated \$225,800.00 for 14th cycle grants. Motion carried unanimously.

Public comment:

Discussion regarding the NRCS, CREP program on restoration riparian areas. Noxious weeds are being fenced in the waterways by not allowing treatment on CREP restoration sites. An interaction with NRCS will be necessary. Brad Knotts of OR Dept. of Forestry will work with Tim Butler, ODA to coordinate with NRCS for the OSWB. The Board agreed to invite NRCS to the next meeting to do a presentation.

Next Meeting and Location: Tentative date is February 21-22, 2007 in Salem, Oregon

MEETING ADJOURNED