

Oregon State Weed Board

Minutes

September 10 - 11, 2009

Astoria, Oregon

ATTENDANCE:

Weed Board Members Present

Bill Hansell, (Chairman)

Dan Hilburn

Patti Milne

Jim Harris (Vice-chair)

Mark Krautman

Amy Peters

Attendees

Tim Butler, ODA

Jo Davis, ODA

Bonnie Rasmussen, ODA

Eric Coombs, ODA

Shannon Brubaker, ODA

Dan Sharratt, ODA

Glenn Miller, ODA

Bob Barrett, ODA

Will Lackey, ODOT

Mark Hansen, Crop Production Services

Dan Sherwin, Deschutes County

Robin Taylor-Davenport, BLM

Carla Cole, National Parks Services

Kelly Amsberry, ODA

Charlie Stenvall, USF&WS

Mark Systema, PSU

Dave Ambrose

Ken French, ODA

Dave Langland, ODA

Jay Nelkin, Viridian Resources

Randy Wiest, State Lands

Diana Kimberling, ODA

Steve Buttrick, TNC

Vanessa Morgan, PSU-CLR

Dave Ambrose, Clatsop SWCD

Margaret McGruder, Columbia County

Merle Keys, Wasco County

September 10, 2009

Bill Hansell (OSWB, Chair) called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

Approval of February 2009 Meeting Minutes

Minutes were approved as presented.

ODA Noxious Weed Program Update, Tim Butler, ODA

In July 2009, a 9-gross acre of purple/Iberian starthistle was discovered in Wheeler County. The site was treated the very next day by ODA staff and Don Farrar of Gilliam County. Vanessa Howard of PSU and Dave Ambrose of Clatsop County SWCD detected *Spartina alterniflora* while doing an aerial survey on a Coast Guard helicopter on Young's Bay in Astoria in July 2008. The 800 square foot colonial patch was treated in September 2008, will continued to be monitored this fall, and treated as necessary. An infestation of African rue in Harney County was detected on September 2008. Harney County completed treatment of all known sites using OSWB grant funding. OSU has test plots in the area to observe the efficacy of herbicides on African rue. Nineteen landowners are cooperating to treat African rue. Public reporting of orange hawkweed infestations in Bend continues to grow as flyers from ODA and media coverage by Deschutes County reach more and more residents. Additional sites were detected in the Lapine area. An intensive survey will be done in 2010. The *Metolius* River yellow flag iris and ribbon grass infestation continues to spread. Currently no treatment is being done on the Deschutes National Forest part of Deschutes River due to a hold-up of the USFS DEIS.

ODA Noxious Weed Program Website, Shannon Brubaker, ODA

An update on the ODA, Noxious Weed Control Program website was given to the Board by Shannon Brubaker who leads the program's website design and maintenance with Bonnie Rasmussen. <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/>

Willapa Bay Spartina Control Project Update, Charlie Stenvall, USF&WS

The infestation of Spartina in Willapa Bay poses ecological, economic, and social threats to the area. It affects 100,000 to 1,000,000 shorebirds migrating on the Pacific flyway in spring. There are 22 species of shorebirds that use Willapa Bay in their migration earning the bay the inclusion in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Network. Dunlin and Dowitchers are two of the species being studied. Key findings show Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor are the most important stopover site for Dunlin & Dowitchers after the Copper River delta in Alaska. In Britain, research shows that Spartina infestations in estuaries resulted in the decline of Dunlin stopover and when Spartina was reduced in an effort to restore the estuaries, Dunlins did not return to previous numbers. Public and political understanding and support of Willapa Bay Spartina control project was important. Agencies and industries involved have a stake on the outcome of project. The public support level was high and elected public officials were informed and supportive. The group that are instrumental in this project are the oyster industry, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), elected government officials, Washington State University, Friends of Willapa Bay NWR, UW Olympic Natural Resource Center, Coastal Resource Alliance and the Audubon Society. Spartina eradication partners are the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Washington State Dept. of Agriculture, and Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources. Viable implementation strategy was put in place. In summary, several control strategies were tried in Willapa Bay to control Spartina. This included chemical control with Rodeo, mechanical, tilling, mowing and biological control. These methods were expensive with mixed results as far as efficacy. The significant control of Spartina in Willapa Bay started in 2004 with aerial applications of the herbicide Imazapyr. One example of this success was on the Palix River site that included about 600 acres of solid Spartina. This site was treated by air in the fall of 2004, boom sprayed in 2005, spot sprayed in 2006 and 2007. As a result, shorebird population went from about 10 in 2005 to 300 in 2007.

Alyssum Update and Discussion, Ken French, ODA

Ken French gave an overview of the Illinois Valley serpentine soil that supports some of the most floristically diverse native plant populations on earth. Viridian Resources did Phytomining on Illinois Valley by growing non-native hyperaccumulator Alyssum plants on leased fields in the area. Potential for spread is much higher because high mineral/metal soils are endemic in the area and are often adjacent to planted fields. Local citizens began reporting escaped Alyssum in the valley soon after. An Alyssum management plan between ODA and Viridian Resources was signed in March 2009. In April, treatment of Alyssum started with cooperation from landowners, Viridian Resources, USFS, BLM, Crop Production Services, ODA staff, Josephine County Airport, TNC, ODOT, and local volunteers. Summer treatment continued using the most effective herbicides. Alyssum best management plans must involve early harvest before seedset.

Testimonies on *Alyssum murale* and *A. corsicum*

Testimonies supporting the request to list *Alyssum murale* and *A. corsicum* as a state noxious weed were Robin Taylor-Davenport, representing the BLM Medford; Steve Buttrick, representing TNC; Iris Chinook, private landowner along the banks of the Illinois River in Cave Junction; Kelly Amsberry, Native Plant Conservation Program. Opposing the request to list Alyssum were Jay Nelkin, Viridian Resources, who presented a letter from Roger D. Reeves, School of Botany, University of Melbourne, Australia stating disagreement with the statements in the risk assessment prepared by the Native Plant Conservation Program. Also testified against the listing of Alyssum is Mark Weist, employee of Viridian and a former OSU Experimental Station staff.

After hearing the alyssum discussion, OSWB Chairman Bill Hansell moved to list *Alyssum murale* and *A. corsicum* as a state noxious weed under “A” rating. The motion was carried unanimously.

Aquatic Weeds Update, Mark Systma, PSU

An update was given on projects by the Center for Lakes and Reservoir. Including is the survey of aquatic invasive species in the Columbia River. <http://www.clr.pdx.edu/projects/columbia/>. *Phragmites australis* has been detected in Trestle Bay in the Columbia Basin. *Phragmites* displaces native species, alters hydrology, degrades wildlife habitat, and increases fire danger that can be catastrophic to the lower Columbia basin. Columbia River is an excellent habitat for *Phragmites* due to its brackish water and moderate temperature. High winds of the Columbia help disperse seeds. High-energy environment leads to bank erosion and creates disturbance. Tidal fluctuations, there is an upstream source of propagules. Lower Columbia has valuable habitat that *Phragmites* can damage substantially. Hydrilla update: California spends \$5–20 million a year controlling hydrilla. Washington spends about \$1 million to eradicate hydrilla. In the Bruneau River (affluent of Snake River in Idaho) and Boise populations, they are doing manual and herbicide control. Idaho is also restricted on measures to use to control hydrilla because of endangered snails in the river system. Flowering rush update: In 1949, flowering rush was found in the Snake River in Idaho. Found in Flathead Lake, Montana in 1964 and in the Oregon Garden in Silverton in 2009. Spartina update: The *Spartina patens* in Cox Island in the Siuslaw estuary in the TNC preserves were covered with plastic tarp by TNC. There has been progress on Spartina control. Recent survey found persisting small infestations around covered areas. ODA and Centers of Lakes and Reservoir is recommending to TNC to do chemical treatment on off-island patches. Cover or spray newly found patches as soon as possible and monitor efficacy and conduct annual survey and treat (spray) at the same time. Small site of *Spartina alterniflora* was found in the Skipinon River, about 75 sq feet. It was treated with herbicide the week after and seedheads were trimmed, a perfect example of EDRR. An update was given on West Coast Governor’s Agreement on Ocean Health signed by the governors of California, Oregon, and Washington. <http://westcoastoceans.gov/>

Clatsop County Project Update, Dave Ambrose, Clatsop SWCD

The Clatsop SWCD has the role of project managers for targeted weeds, coordinates weed management activities in the area, and does noxious weed workshops. Clatsop SWCD partners with federal and state agencies, non-profit organizations, and private entities to accomplish their goals. Clatsop SWCD also is a member of the North Coast Weed Management Area Committee and coordinates with Columbia and Tillamook counties on weed control efforts. Clatsop SWCD is actively pursuing weed control projects such as gorse, giant hogweed, purple loosestrife, and spartina. Some of the education and outreach projects done by the SWCD in 2009 are EDRR workshop in July and a display in the 2009 garden show. Unfortunately, due to lack of funding, Clatsop County has uncontrolled number of weeds like the large infestations of yellow flag iris, common reed, spurge laurel and garlic mustard. Weeds threatening to infest Clatsop County are shining geranium, policeman’s helmet, false brome, *clemtis vitalba*, and herb Robert. Future projects of Clatsop SWCD is the EDRR initiative (NFWF) that gives the ability to respond to new invaders as soon as possible, the flexibility in dealing with newly discovered weeds, and continuing education through workshops. Also the current focus of the SWCD is revegetation of knotweed complex treated sites and the formation of a county weed control board.

Weed Tour, Dave Ambrose, Clatsop SWCD, Vanessa Howard-Morgan, PSU, and Glenn Ahrens, OSU Extension

September 11, 2009

Bill Hansell called the meeting to order and conflict of interest was read.

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 Oregon State Weed Board on September 10, 2009.

Tim Butler, ODA – Grant Budget Update and Portland State University (PSU) Funding

Total Budget for the 2007-2009 Biennium	\$ 2,672,216.00
PSU aquatic project funding	\$ 80,000.00*
Previous awards remaining to pay	\$ 172,216.00
Total remaining to allocate (depending on availability of funds)	\$ 2,420,000.00

20TH Cycle

Total requested	\$ 599,585.00
Funds available this cycle	\$ 500,000.00
Advisory committee recommendation	\$ 442,568.00
Board discretionary funds	\$ 57,432.00

Tim Butler, ODA – Portland State University (PSU) Funding*

*ODA Noxious Weed Program requests the Board to set aside \$80,000 of secured funding for the biennium to PSU’s aquatic work projects. The project proposal from PSU will be submitted to the Board during the February meeting and the Board will vote at that time. Meaningful review and approval by the Board will be required from PSU. Details of this allocation will be discussed on the February meeting as well.

Shannon Brubaker, ODA – Grant Monitoring Projects for 2009 Season

- Ivy Hills Gorse Eradication, Ivy Hills Homeowner’s Association: Funded for \$3,988. To date, net acres treated .75 by cut stump treatment combined with foliar application.
- Floras Gorse Management IV, Curry SWCD: Funded for \$22,264, total OSWB investment in watershed for species is \$87,310. Net acres treated 10 by cut into windrows, burned, seeded, and replanted.
- Valley of the Rogue Garlic Mustard, Seven Basins Watershed Council: Funded for \$5,786, target species garlic mustard & Armenian blackberry. Acres treated not known at time of visit.
- Yellow Starthistle Cost Share, Douglas SWCD: Funded for \$25,268. Treatment will start in mid June. Method will be herbicide, biocontrol, and manual. Test plots were established in 2008.

- Woolly Distaff Thistle Control 2009, Douglas County SWCD: Funded for \$30,098, total OSWB investment for this area & species \$313, 598. To date treated 4.1 net acres over 3700 gross acres. Method is herbicide application.
- Paterson's curse, Douglas SWCD: Funded for \$8,517. Treated less than 2 net acres. Method is herbicide.
- Tansy Ragwort Control, Umatilla Weed Department: Funded for \$8,400. Treated 39 gross acres to date. Method of treatment is herbicide and Swiss biotype biocontrol beetle.
- Upper Grande Ronde Spotted Knapweed, Tri-County CWMA: Funded for \$6,750, total OSWB investment in area & species \$36,750. Less than one acre treated at time of visit. Method is herbicide.
- Union County Whitetop Control, Tri-County CWMA: Funded for \$15,000, total investment by OSWB in this area and species is \$21, 500. Treated 75 acres this cycle by herbicide.
- Union County Yellow Starthistle Survey & Control, Tri-County CWMA: Funded for \$15,500, total OSWB investment in area and species is \$17,500. Treated 1,334 net acres to date. Method is herbicide and seeding for competition on 505 acres.
- Indian Creek Meadow Hawkweed: Funded \$20,000, total investment by OSWB in area and species is \$47,500. Acres treated not known at time of visit.
- Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership Common Bugloss II, Wallowa Resources: Funded for \$15,141, total OSWB investment in area & species \$74,041. Total net acres treated 11.83. Method is herbicide.
- Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership Rush Skeletonweed II, Wallowa Resources: Funded for \$42,530. Total net acres treated 41.39. Method is herbicide.
- Wallowa Canyonlands Weed Control, Wallowa Resources: Funded for \$42,350. Target species meadow hawkweed, tansy ragwort, spotted knapweed, yellow starthistle, and leafy spurge, sulfur cinquefoil. Net acres treated to date .11. Method is herbicide.
- Medusahead Treatment & Restoration at Rimrock Ranch, Deschutes Land Trust: Funded \$7,729. Net acres treated 46. Method is herbicide.
- Jointed Goatgrass & Mediterranean Sage Survey & Control, Crooked River CWMA: Funded for \$8,090. Treated 7.5 acres to date. Method is herbicide.
- McKay/Allen Creek Spotted Knapweed Control, Crooked River CWMA: Funded \$14,784, total OSWB investment for this area and species \$27,704. Treated to date 267 acres. Method is herbicide.

The following are grant projects that were proposed, discussed, and funded during the 20th Grant Cycle:

Grant #	Project Title	Requested	Funded
2009-20-01	Hells Canyon Area Rush Skeletonweed Control	\$43,000.00	\$42,200.00
2009-20-02	Grassy Knob Gorse Eradication Watershed Habitat	\$12,107.00	
2009-20-03	Crooked River Watershed Canada Thistle Biocontrol	\$14,897.00	\$14,897.00
2009-20-04	Corvallis Forest Roadside/Riparian Weed Control	\$ 8,030.00	\$8,030.00
2009-20-05	Lincoln County Gorse Control	\$11,993.00	\$11,993.00
2009-20-06	Lincoln County Clematis Control	\$11,738.00	\$11,738.00
2009-20-07	Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership Common Bugloss III	\$15,141.00	\$14,941.00
2009-20-08	Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership Rush Skeletonweed III	\$27,720.00	\$27,220.00
2009-20-09	Yellow Flag Iris Phase 2	\$20,130.00	\$19,530.00
2009-20-10	Dabney Area Keystone Restoration: Phase 3	\$22,550.00	\$22,550.00
2009-20-11	Buford Park False Brome Control & Restoration	\$16,500.00	\$16,500.00
2009-20-12	Spurge Laurel Control	\$1,620.00	\$1,620.00
2009-20-13	Ferry Canyon Watershed Weed Control Project	\$5,145.00	\$5,145.00
2009-20-14	Garlic Mustard EDRR	\$1,850.00	\$1,850.00

2009-20-15	Coos Watershed Riparian Weed Control Phase III	\$24,213.00	
2009-20-16	Union County Yellow Starthistle Survey & Control	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00
2009-20-17	Malheur Rush Skeletonweed Containment Project	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
2009-20-18	Hells Canyon Yellow Flag Iris	\$10,600.00	\$10,350.00
2009-20-19	Wallowa County Water Ways Phase I	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
2009-20-20	Trout Creek Watershed Scotch Thistle Management	\$24,529.00	
2009-20-21	Lower Willow Creek WMA Floodplain Restoration II	\$17,050.00	\$17,050.00
2009-20-22	Interior DC Gorse Control-2010	\$29,754.00	
2009-20-23	Portuguese Broom Control 2010	\$44,601.00	\$44,601.00
2009-20-24	Barton Priority Invasive Control 09-10	\$13,200.00	\$13,200.00
2009-20-25	Fort Rock Valley EDRR Project	\$9,564.00	\$9,564.00
2009-20-26	Warner Valley Cooperative Weed Control Project	\$29,225.00	\$29,225.00
2009-20-27	Phragmites Survey and Control	\$1,375.00	\$1,375.00
2009-20-28	Rowe Creek Scotch Thistle Control	\$26,520.00	
2009-20-29	Floras Gorse Management V	\$11,030.00	\$11,030.00
2009-20-30	McKenzie River Clematis Project	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00
2009-20-31	Middle Fork John Day Sulfur Cinquefoil	\$24,974.00	
2009-20-32	Pass Creek & Fox Valley Whitetop	\$7,282.00	\$7,282.00
2009-20-33	Jefferson County Ecosystem Enhancement Project	\$10,070.00	
2009-20-34	Wallowa County Japanese Knotweed Phase I	\$2,500.00	
2009-20-35	Tansy Ragwort Control Umatilla County	\$7,840.00	\$7,840.00
2009-20-36	Russian Knapweed Knockout	\$24,337.00	\$24,337.00
	TOTAL	\$599,585.00	\$442,568.00

Bill Hansell moved the total amount allocated on funded projects for the 20th cycle to be \$442,568.00. The Motion is carried unanimously.

Action Items:

The Board will write a letter to USFS Regional Forester supporting the expedition of the implementation of the Deschutes-Ochoco National Forest Invasive Plant DEIS with primary concern on the control of yellow flag iris and ribbon grass that are threatening riparian areas along the Metolius River.

Public Comment:

Dan Sherwin of Deschutes County officially invited the Board to Deschutes County for it's September 2010 meeting.

Next Meeting and Location:

The next meeting is scheduled on February 18-19, 2009 in Salem. ODA staff will finalize the venue at a later date. The motion is carried unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED