

Colorado Noxious Weed Advisory Committee
April 29, 2008 11:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m.
Sterling, CO

Attendees: Kelly Uhing, Jonathan Rife (Chair), Sarada Krishnan, Scott Nissen, Margaret Paget, John Taylor, Jay Jutton, Heather Knight, Chris Ness, Eve Pugh, Jimmy Dunn, Roc Rutledge, Jim Walker, Wendy Figurora, Eric Lane, Randy Buhler, Fred Raish

Introductions (Jonathan/Margaret)

- **Review/approve minutes from January**
Page 3 - a whole paragraph repeated. Minutes were approved with the amendment.
- **Review/amend agenda**
Add Jim Walker of CDOT to agenda around 3:15. With this addition, agenda approved.

Review progress on past action items from committee (Jonathan/Margaret)

- **Myrtle spurge sub-committee**
The committee met. El Paso county was present at the meeting as well as Boulder, Jefferson, and Garfield (Steve Anthony). City of CO Springs has been working on this species. It was decided that down listing at this time is premature. Myrtle Spurge is a landscape plant that has escaped cultivation. It is predominant in subdivisions older than 20 years old. Not as aggressive as leafy spurge. It has escaped into Boulder county open space. Consists of tap root system, not horizontal. Forest Service - School of Mines "M" - is starting to encroach there. Committee should tour that site. It has taken over an area north of Steamboat. 66 parcels in a subdivision in Douglas County. There was discussion at that meeting on how it should not be on List A. Suggestion made that Crystal (EDRR) map all the areas infested. Scott recommended that we put this in an article in the home and garden section of the newspaper. Kelly will work with CoNPS chapters and encourage members to monitor and report. Douglas County has listed this as 10 most wanted weeds on website. City of Boulder has started developing good maps marking infestations, which will be a good template for other cities to adopt. Goal is to get counties and municipalities get started. This committee could help them get started by providing guidance. Areas close to natural areas should be first priority. Run through assessment tool to assess if it is list A or B. Educate the private industry. Get buy-in from a couple of nurseries by offering incentives. Kelly reported on a competition at the Reno conference where participants who brought in the most got an alternative. This project was a tremendous success.
- **Letter to CDOW (invite to Weed Team) and CDOT (encouragement)**
CDOW - they just hired to fill the Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator position, who will start July 1st. Includes all taxa. Committee could draft a

letter to Tom Remington to encourage partnership. Jonathan will draft the letter.

CDOT - Letter was sent to them last year asking them for involvement with noxious weeds. Jim Walker was hired. Letter will be sent thanking their response to this. Kelly and Jonathan will draft the letter.

- **Letter to county weed supervisors to emphasize better communication**
Tabled until Fred arrives.
- **Letter to county commissioners on Canada thistle and need for input and support to advance weed management efforts**
Tabled until next meeting.

Review status of Department request to reinstate funding to Weed Fund (Kelly)

Copy of bill passed out. Unclaimed property bill. HB 08-1399. Seeking funding from unclaimed property by Dept. of Ag. Dept has proposed using 65% for Agricultural initiative, 25% for state fair and 10% for Ag tourism. For weed fund request is for \$300,000 to restore the fund. Requesting for 2 FT position to support Early Detection & Rapid Response and mapping programs. Crystal is funded by Forest Service fund. This is in jeopardy by 2010. The program will be redesigned by opening up this funding to weeds and all other invasive taxa. Responsibility will be to state forester and not Dept of Ag. Once moved to forest service, Crystals position will be in jeopardy. Will wait for funding to build until next fiscal year. Will send out RFP's for forest service grant. In the house - passed house Ag committee. Also passed house appropriation committee, 12 to 1. The bill went for 2nd reading last Friday morning - conservation districts to receive \$200,000 - amendment stating direct assistance rather than cost share. Amendment was tweaked yesterday - moneys from Ag initiative fund may be used by conservation districts by grants or direct support. Third reading this morning - after assignment will go to the senate Ag committee. Legislative session ends May 7th. Kelly will send out e-mails to contact senators.

- **CWCB Projects Bill**
Colorado Water Conservation Board - Provision in the bill for \$1 million for Tamarisk and Russian olive control. Funding taken out of severance tax. Will pay back in 25 years w/ 2% interest. Kelly is working with Water Conservation Board in developing protocols. Looking good.
- **Aquatic Nuisance Species Bill**
DOW and State Parks - grant authority to inspect any conveyances in state waters to rangers, other employees. If inspection is refused and if invasives are found there will be penalties. \$7.2 million from severance tax.
- **Federal legislation update**
Jonathan - has been to the legislation since 2001 to reprioritize funds to address noxious weeds. Met with staffers, NRCS presentation. Brought up

issues - Elongated mustard - found 5 years ago and quickly spreading. Needs to be on the radar list to do EDRR. Knowledge base in diminishing - need to have expertise in a multi-state area. EPA - noxious weeds and how they impact endangered species. Eric - need to make the meetings in Washington D.C. more productive. Kelly was in Washington a few weeks ago to discuss Russian Olive and Salt Cedar control Act and funding with commissioner of Bureau of Reclamation. Emphasized working with local managers of Bureau of Reclamation. Water 2025 - Water for America - alternative funding source for Russian olive and salt cedar control.

Municipality outreach project (Margaret)

Attempting to get municipalities involved. Started with a survey...has not gone beyond county level. Would like to engage all the municipalities in State this fall either through phone or e-mail. Hasn't gotten too far. Looking for input on how to engage municipalities. John - talk to county weed people and find what their successes are. Not all counties have websites. Encourage everyone to have a website. Kelly - County Weed Management Association is creating a website that all counties can put information into. Low survey response. Use on line Survey Monkey in future. Scholarship for municipalities - waive registration fee for some of the conferences - get educated. Bring this to CWMA. Rather than contact on the ground people, better to contact the bosses. July 30th is the next CWMA board meeting - bring this up then. Heather setting up a session for municipalities suggested at the CWMA conference.

FSA regulations for noxious weed management on CRP (Kelly)

Kelly attended the NRCS state technical advisory meeting. Received a complaint letter from a rancher. According to the complaint, CRP on neighboring property is infested with noxious weeds but the response from the local FSA office was that weeds have to be visibly choking out the grasses on CRP land before they can do anything.

FSA - Farm Service Agency

CRP - Conservation Reserve Program

Routt county is not very strong with their enforcement program.

Determine replacement for Ken Lair who resigned as of April 08 (Kelly)

Ken Lair resigned early this month due to busy schedule and cannot devote time to this committee. He is very regretful. Need to find replacement. Ken was on his 1st term and represented conservation / resource specialist. John - someone from CDOT or CDOW. There is specific representation requirements. Jim Walker will try to attend as many meetings as possible, though winter will be tough. What happens when someone goes off the committee? Eric recommended that Kelly can make a recommendation to the commissioner. Kelly will look through previous applications. Send all suggestions to Kelly.

Review and discuss efforts to develop management plans for: (Kelly)

Statewide weed management plans have been sent to commissioner's office. These plans, if approved by commissioner, will be the final approval. Should be effective Sept. 30th.

- Leafy spurge

- Dalmatian toadflax
- Tamarisk for the Upper Arkansas, San Miguel, Yampa, and Green watersheds
- Spurred anoda, Venice mallow, and yellow nutsedge
 These Ag species were the toughest to get a good estimate on distribution and develop management plans. Used a couple of crop consultants. Developed elimination plans for these species. There needs to be a change when it comes to Ag species because the process is not working. One of the ideas that has been thrown out is to create a specific Ag list. Canada thistle and Field Bindweed are the 2 species with cross-over distribution in Ag and rangeland. Yellow nutsedge - easy control strategies from a chemical standpoint. Predominant in irrigated areas. Easy to move propagules around.

The current listing is based on management outcome. Jim Walker - Too many lists - lets not create another list. Heather - what we need is BMPs to deal with weeds in crop areas. Management and information is the main issue rather than a list issue. Agronomic weeds - preventative measures - develop early on. Target audience and geographic areas. Perfect new things from becoming a problem. Take experience from one part of the state to all over the state. Crop consultants are a good group to get information to disseminate information to producers. Chemical dealerships, co-ops, sprayers are also good sources to disseminate information.

Eve will help Kelly in developing materials for outreach to producers.

Restructuring Goal 4 of the Strategic Plan to reflect “Prevention Areas” (Kelly)

Page 16 - goals of the strategic plan

Goal 4 - Restoration of exceptional lands - to identify and facilitate the restoration of Colorado’s lands of exceptional agricultural and environmental value.

Recommendation is to restructure to reflect prevention as one of the objectives rather than restoration. Volunteers to figure out what the exceptional lands and prevention. Terry Schultz was involved in this project and is willing to help. Heather will talk to Terry. TNC has mapping already done and will be a start.

Change classification of Jointed goatgrass from List C to List B (Fred Raish)

Fred Raish from Yuma County joined for this portion. Jointed goatgrass is a huge problem in Yuma County. Routt, Montezuma, Platte, Garfield, Ouray also have problems. Encroaching Pawnee National Grasslands as well as range and CRP in Yuma county. Bigger populations in right of ways and ranch in many counties. Need management plan put together to help counties with smaller populations. At this point only Roundup. Needs to be moved to B list.

John - has this species been run through the matrix? No. Letter from Bruce Bosley, county extension agent to move to B list. Scott - need something more definitive. Does not have the dispersal mechanism as cheat grass. Tolerates shading better than cheat grass and hence cannot be out-competed easily. Not much can be done agronomically. Pawnee

- population has moved from 6 years, but area is not too much larger. Scott - contact Darrel Havener for support. It could become a cheat grass, but no one is sure when. Heather - what is the response of landowner in Yuma County? Producers are for control. They are already controlling, but need to be controlled on roadsides. Very well identified - managers know where they are at. Not hard to control, but is an issue of time. This weed is capable of being controlled. There is a potential for it to get spread by CDOT, who use straw, which could contain seeds.

What are the ramifications of upgrading a species? List B will be eligible for statewide weed management plan. This will appease the wheat farmers. Can get some education to the wheat association and the growers. Different areas qualify as containment or eradication areas. Since there is an understanding of where it is, this could be a B. Jerry - agrees about changing to list B. Of 64 counties, well over 1/2 don't have this species. To stop from spreading, should move to List B. Scott - need to think of resistance management. Developing resistant biotypes is a possibility. Roundup during dormant season will bring another mode of action, which will be a good option. Put Roundup could be used as primary mode of action for roadsides. There are ways to control that will give different modes. Jonathan - would support moving to list B.

Ken Lair's e-mail - what is the purpose of list C? Should List B & C combined. Eric - reason for list C - way for us to say that it is a noxious weed and leaving management and control to local communities. From an agronomic perspective, there is value in putting it in the state list.

CDOT attempting to keep it out. Another reason of moving up will show coordinated effort between producers, roadside and natural areas. Roc moved that the committee move jointed goatgrass from list C to B. Heather seconded. Make sure all the pieces are coordinated together. Fred can help provide information to other counties. Support from all counties will be helpful for future change in listing. Motion passed.

Fred will run this through the matrix. The matrix is a pain to run through.

Discussion on red-stemmed filaree. Kelly will put this on the mapping list when we get the mapping person on board. Mostly in the San Luis valley. List as C rather than B. Majority of counties don't pay attention to it.

Motion was made to move Red stemmed filaree from B to C list - motion passed. Scott and Heather abstained. Scott - need more information. Fred can get more information. Heather - would feel more comfortable if more information was presented. More information will be sent via e-mail.

Update on northeast Colorado weed management issues/projects/etc. (Fred Raish/Randy Buhler/Chris Ness/Wendy Figuerora)

Randy - Preview of tour. Town of Hillrose, Cooperrose. Noxious weed guidelines - attack small areas first and then come into big areas, except tamarisk. Russian Olive - has worked its way up seepy areas. Is becoming strongly established in ditches. New plants

are building up numbers in exponential rate. Seem to build up in areas during high water periods.

Chris - Data only as good as the people who run it. CRP is his nightmare. Many counties don't even have a weed program - at least 20 counties.

Wendy - Morgan County - Committee interested in noxious weed control especially Tamarisk. Control - start one end of property and move forward. This year \$30,000 added to their budget to control noxious weeds. Russian Olive pilot project. Leafy Spurge goat grazing. High leafy spurge infestation this year.

Fred - Riparian restoration project. Diffuse and Spotted knapweed is a problem. Finding more and more white top. Would like this board to push counties that don't have a weed program to have one, e.g. Morgan County, Washington County.

Morgan County - 2 commissioners were receptive, but will be done with their terms this election. Decided to send letter now. Draft generic letter and send to all counties that do not have a weed program. Margaret will draft letter with Jonathan's help.

Agenda and arrangements for next meeting (Jonathan/Margaret)

June 18th & 19th.

Meeting on 18th and tour on 19th.

Trinidad is possible location.

4:20 Adjourn