

Invasive Species Management
March 6, 1014, 9:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Jeff Begovich, Douglas County Parks and Weed
Craig Burnside, Douglas County Parks and Weed
Tony Beauregard, Nevada State Parks
Margie Evans, UNCE/Carson City Weed Coalition
Jamie Greer, Nevada Dept. of Agriculture (NDA)
Brenda Hunt, Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD)
Ed James, CWSD
Kim Clawson, Nevada State Parks (Buckland Station)
Toni Leffler, CWSD
Joe Locurto, Nevada Conservation Districts Program
Bob Mergell, Nevada State Parks (Lahontan State Park)
Nancy Upham, Churchill Mosquito, Weed & Vector
Karen Vargas, Nevada Dept. of Wildlife (NDOW)
Rich Wilkinson, Dayton Valley Conservation District (DVCD)
Scott Egy, Nevada State Parks (Ft. Churchill)
Quinn Nuffer, Churchill Mosquito, Weed & Vector
Ann Bollinger, Carson City
Peter Knight, Douglas County Parks & Weed
Courtney Walker, CWSD

1. Nevada State Parks grant funding award – CWSD received the Nevada State Parks Recreational Trail grant for signage along motorized trails at Soda Lake in Churchill County and at five sites in Carson City. This grant will be used as a template to expand to the entire watershed. There will be signs and rumble pits to catch seed weeds at each of the trailheads. The signs for motorized trails will be a picture of a tire with weeds growing out of it; the signs for the non-motorized trails will be a picture of a boot with weeds growing out of it. Margie will monitor the effectiveness of the rumble pits. The rumble pits will only be installed in Carson City. Work begins July 1, 2014.

2. Invasive Species Awareness Month - Margie explained that for several years there has been an Invasive Species Awareness (ISA) week. This year it was decided to go with the whole month of June. Margie plans to inundate the Carson City community with invasive species awareness using posters and weed bouquets in several places, and EDDmapS instruction and reporting. Margie mentioned using the "Play Clean Go" campaign from Minnesota as a template. There is a 40' banner which is usually put across Carson Street for weed week, but it can't be scheduled to be put up there this year. Since it is general to the watershed and addresses invasive species, not just weeds, she asked for suggestions of other places to hang the banner.

Courtney noted that we want to make this a coordinated effort throughout the watershed. Brenda explained that CWSD will be giving each CWMA an additional \$1,000 for outreach in June and asked the CWMA representatives from each county if they felt it was feasible to participate in June.

Nancy responded that she felt it is very doable in Churchill County. She puts on calibration clinics with ranchers and can put "weeds of the week" in the newspaper, etc. Craig responded that Douglas County can also participate in June. He liked the idea of calibration clinics for ranchers, and noted that the

information is useful for all communities. Tony responded that he can focus on aquatic invasive species at Lahontan Reservoir and could have a fishing derby and free fishing day. Rich responded that DVCD can participate in Lyon County with support from this group to have a landowner workshop. Jaime said she can help anyone at events or in any other way. She can make available NDA shovels and water jugs for work days. **Action: Ed suggested that each county determine what they would like to do so this group can determine how to assist.**

3. EDDMapS presentation (Jamie Greer): Jamie explained that EDDMapS is an online data base. Useful capability includes public online EDDMapS and EDDMapS GIS which is not public. The website is EDDMaps.org. CWMAs are doing the mapping, but this will allow submission of data to a clearinghouse developed by the University of Georgia (U of G), where the university can manipulate the data and enter it. It provides for online mapping of invasive plant distribution, one database for both local and national data, and an Early Detection and Rapid Response tool. Weed location can be reported by GPS or by logging it to an on-line map. The website has species information for identification. Jamie is having trainings. The site keeps all your records for you. There is a mobile app which connects to online. Some privacy settings are built in. The CWMA can customize layers and have the ability to manipulate map view/scale, zoom in and click on certain point to get information associated with that point. There are multiple base maps and data sorting/queries. The mapping works for all invasive plants so it can be used by different agencies for various purposes. It has the ability to measure areas and the distance between one point and another on the map.

U of G wants to have it developed by this fall so they need the data input. Excel template and bulk data upload instructions are available from Jamie or online under Tools and Training. Jamie also has a step-by-step guide she will send to Brenda to distribute. Each time a report is made, the state and all verifiers for that county are notified via email. Reports must be verified before they are released. U of G is working on having the capability to verify information as inaccurate and giving the verifier the ability to delete instead of sending an email to the reporter to remove or correct. Margie suggested also being able to comment things like “treated” or “removed.”

EDDMapS is receiving funding from many federal agencies because it is so important. U of G wants the application to reflect all invasive species, but right now it is for only invasive plants. Margie noted that Joy Patterson is manipulating Margie’s data to do a bulk upload. Jamie suggested just sending data and letting U of G interpret the data. The program creator would like to coordinate with many mapping sources.

Craig noted that the biggest issue for Douglas County is sharing data which has been given to them as an issue of trust, without identifying information about the specific informant. Jamie pointed out that it can be marked as private. Having private information can help in getting grants. Quinn commented that even privatized information can give those in weed management the general area so they can keep an eye out for it. Jamie explained that the program can set up email alerts for any given species. She also noted that grants from NDA require use of EDDMapS.

4. NDA County Commissioner Meeting – Noxious Weeds Presentation (Jamie Greer) – Jamie and Robert Little are giving presentations to county commissions regarding noxious weed statutes. Counties need to be involved to do abatements. A county can put a lien on the property if the landowner doesn’t comply with a request to treat weeds on their property. The State has an abatement fund of \$100,000. There is now a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) program where NDA will enter into an MOU with a county to do abatement. Douglas County is the first county to participate in this program. Jamie and

Robert have set dates for presentations to each county board before the weed season begins, and would like local support/attendance: Douglas County – 3/20/14; Churchill County – 4/3/14; Carson City – 5/1/14; Lyon County – 4/17/14; and Storey County – 3/18/14 tentative. They will explain what noxious weeds are, what is being done, what the statutes say with regard to regulatory procedures, highlight the county's involvement, and review future directions, such as funding weed management, creating weed management districts, and the cost share program. Currently there are not specific landowner fines. Craig noted that he will be at the presentation to the Douglas County Board of Commissioners to encourage a MOU for the noxious weed abatement cost sharing program.

Brenda mentioned that the weed districts have authority to do abatements. Nancy asked if they do an abatement on federal lands, where can they get reimbursement, since the federal government is reluctant to reimburse. Jamie suggested that they may be able to use county MOU, and Ed verified that they may use the \$15,000 from CWSD for whatever the need is.

5. Update on Aquatic Invasives (Karen Vargas/Bob Mergell) – Tony reported that last year they started doing the boat inspections at Lahontan, Rye Patch, and Wild Horse Reservoirs. They didn't find any live species. Between May 1st and Labor Day, 62 boats needed to be fully decontaminated, but mostly by flushing the engines. They are expecting the same thing this year. In April, they will conduct staff training. Beginning on May 1st, the inspection stations will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, and 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on weekends. They are working to get the word out with flyers at Spring Wings, etc. Purchase of decals will be enforced and failure to obtain a decal can result in the user being fined up to \$100. The non-motorized decal costs \$5; it can be obtained either from NDOW's office or online. Lahontan, Rye Patch, and Wild Horse Reservoirs are still on list of suspect waters. Karen reported that since April, 2011 there have been no positive reports. BOR does testing every month during the summer.

The USFWS plans to identify invasive plants around the south beaches of Lahontan Reservoir and talk to NDF about a burn fire on dry lake bottom, mostly for cockle berry. This year they will clean boats when leaving Lahontan and document species that may be coming out on the boats. They will open ramps when the reservoir reaches 100,000 ac ft.

Nancy reported a scare in Indian Lakes for milfoil, but it turned out to be a native plant. They are doing continuing tests to see if it might be a hybrid.

Karen explained that California boaters are exempt from having decals at Tahoe and Topaz Lakes. Utah boaters are exempt at Lake Mead and the Lower Colorado River. The Truckee River has a grant for treating New Zealand Mud Snail. The NDA is installing signage with coordination of cities, counties, and hopefully the Tribe. They are working with a marketing firm on a public service announcement (PSA). The PSA won't be Truckee River specific so it will also benefit the Carson River watershed. AIS prevention and the "clean, drain and dry" message is also focused on rafters, kayakers, etc. Brenda asked about the potential to put up signage at boat ramps and was told that 13 kiosks are being assembled for boater safety, the "clean, drain and dry" message, and decal information.

Karen mentioned that NDOW management has two decontamination stations at Lake Mead and one at Lake Mohave. They are free of charge to public. They will also be hiring more staff in May for outreach. It is not mandatory to go through stations. They are not concerned about day users but vessels which have been in the water for several days. There are also two traveling rovers with decontamination facilities. The Northern Nevada rover will be going to special events for five days in each area. Email

event suggestions to Karen for the rover to attend. March 14-15 it will be at the boat show. Ann suggested having a triathlon event which includes boating.

6. Posters for CRC Meeting (Brenda) – CWSD is having a CRC forum on April 3 at Ruvo Hall next to Governor’s Mansion. CWSD wants CWMAs and conservation district to make posters to explain what’s been going on. There will be a raffle prize of a "Get on the Bus" Tour ticket for the best poster information.

8. Bus Tour Update (Brenda) - Brenda outlined the bus tour locations for June 11-12 (Wed.-Thurs). She will be contacting potential speakers. The flyer is out for this two-day tour, the fee is \$100. Lunch and snacks will be provided each day.

9. Other – Brenda – 1) CWSD is updating/redesigning its website and will be asking folks what should be on the website about invasive species. 2) EPA is working with NDEP to put up signage about not eating fish with potential mercury contamination along the Carson River and at Lahontan put-ins. 3) Margie – weed warrior training on May 21-22 for \$50 with Sue Donaldson in Reno and remotely available in Carson City and Douglas County. Nancy will check with UNCE in Fallon to join the video conference.