



Carson River Watershed
Invasive Species Working Group Meeting Agenda
Thursday, November 16, 2023
Time: 10:00AM – 12:00PM

Location: CWSD Office Conference Room, 777 E. William St. Suite 209 (Upstairs), Carson City, NV 89701

Contact: Brenda Hunt, 775-887-9005, brenda@cwsd.org

Please note: This is an in-person meeting. If you can only make it via Zoom, please request a link two days in advance. Thank you!

Meeting Purpose:

To meet with invasive species manager and partners to discuss planning, funding, and implementation of invasive species management in the Carson River Watershed.

Agenda Items

1. **Welcome and brief review of Sept. 6 meeting (5 mins)** – Brenda called this meeting to get a sense of what’s happening on the ground
2. **Partner Round Robin (40 mins)**

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Email
In Person			
Brenda	Hunt	CWSD	brenda@cwsd.org
CJ	Seado	El Dorado Ag Dept.	cj.seado@edcgov.us
Christy	Sullivan	Lahontan/Storey Conservation Dists.	christy.sullivan@nv.nacd.net
Nancy	Upham	CCMVNWAD	director@ccmosquito.org
Lyndsey	Boyer	Carson City Parks, Rec and Open Space	lboyer@carson.org
Bret	Allen	NDA	bret.allen@agri.nv.gov
JD	MacKay	Churchill County	jdm@ccmosquito.org
Rebecca	Smith	Douglas Co. Weed Control	rsmith@douglascountynv.us
Rachel	Kieffer	Alpine Watershed Group	awg.rachel@gmail.com
Ed	James	CWSD	edjames@cwsd.org
Rob	Holley	Dayton Valley Conservation District	rolley.dvcd@yahoo.com
John	Warpeha	Washoe Environmental Protection Dept.	john.warpeha@washoetribe.us
Brianna	Kooreman	USFS	brianna.kooreman@usda.gov
Courtney	Ghiglieri	USFS - Carson Ranger District	courtney.ghiglieri@usda.gov
Jake	Dick	NDA	jdick@agri.nv.gov

Marlee	Jenkins	Conservation District Program, DcNR	mjenkins@dcnr.nv.gov
Marena	Lovejoy	Carson City Parks, Rec and Open Space	mlovejoy@carson.org
Christian	Taylor	El Dorado Ag Dept.	christian.taylor@edcgov.us
Debbie	Neddenriep	CWSD	debbie@cwsd.org
On Zoom			
John	Paoluccio	Inventive Resources	info@iriproducts.com
Kristina	Burnette	Washoe Environmental Protection Dept.	kristina.burnette@washoetribe.us
Tori	Cernoch	NDOW	victoria.cernoch@ndow.org
Richard	Black	Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe	richenviro@fpst.org
Ileana	Valenzuela	Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe	ileanaenviro@fpst.org
Rich	Wilkinson	Carson Valley Conservation Dist.	Richard.Wilkinson@nv.nacdnet.net

Brenda Hunt, CWSD – She will be the invasives contact moving forward because of staffing; CWSD just hired a Water Specialist I, an environmental engineer who will start 11/27.

El Dorado County (CJ and Christian): Species of concern are Dalmatian toadflax and Canadian thistle, and they are conducting surveys for these weeds. Treatments are dependent on permissions and weather. They are working on hiring a third person. During treatments they use the “buddy system” to ensure proper mixing and compliance for PPE and application. There have been a lot of regulation changes in CA, including type of eyewash, quantity, and health and safety issues. They are currently focused on permitting, but the burden of that falls on the Department of Pesticide Regulation, which prescribes treatments and which species to look out for. The department has plenty of chemicals and equipment.

Marena Lovejoy, CCPROS: For the upcoming season they are dialing in monitoring efforts and efficiencies.

Marlee Jenkins, NDCNR: She is focused on supporting conservation districts with grant writing and project coordination. She has been working in Washoe and Storey Counties, specifically in the Lockwood area. Elsewhere, the [weeds-to-hire program in Smith Valley](#) has been doing very well.

“The Smith Valley Conservation District began a weeds for hire program in 2017, since there are no commercial weed treatment businesses in southern Lyon County. The program started slowly, but since 2019 Smith Valley Conservation District (SVCD) has been treating private properties, supply ditches, and drains for the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) and several ditch companies to reduce the transportation losses in the canals and enable more efficient movement of the water due to fewer obstructions. This year, word has spread, and we have treated 36 private properties in Mason and Smith Valley. This program increases in popularity every year through word-of-mouth and Facebook advertising.”

Jake Dick: Spoke of using bio controls on the following: Would like to expand Canada thistle treatment but is waiting for word from the USEPA. There are Russian knapweed sites in Carson and Fallon. Treating Leafy spurge and Spotted knapweed. With Hoary cress he’s two or three years out, but they’re monitoring sites. The treatment for puncture vine isn’t suited to the Northern Nevada climate. Has had success treating Tamarisk with a type of beetle. The program isn’t doing anything with Russian olive. There will opportunity to continue that discussion at the state EDRR meeting on Feb. 28 and the Western Region EDRR meeting on Mar. 6.

On the regulatory side, NDA sent out 300 letters asking for responses from landowners in the Spring Creek area, and the majority answered and initiated plans for weed control. Yellow starthistle was identified at Mt. Rose and they have been addressing it in conjunction with NDOT and the Forest Service. Early Detection/Rapid Response (EDRR) is handled regionally by county. It will be discussed at the state meeting in February and at the spring meeting Mar. 6. There has been success using it in conjunction with Eddmaps (<https://www.eddmaps.org/>). If a species comes in from Southern California and Arizona, these tools can help find it so it can be eradicated. NDA can help with regulations. They're really pushing Eddmaps as a useful tool to pull up date and it can be downloaded to a phone so you can see treatment history of an area. A training will be held during National Invasive Species Awareness Week, which is the last week of February.

Courtney Ghigleri, USFS, Carson District: Forest Service has been working on an incursion of yellow star thistle in the Carson Ranger District and she thanked NDA for their help. They have been working on the wildfire crisis strategy implementation. There has been no regrowth from a tamarisk treatment in the spring; they used the cut-stump method and will continue into 2024. They have also been working with BLM on yellow star thistle. Hoary cress is out of control along the river and they're looking for a biocontrol solution. For crews, they will have some people from Great Basin Institute for FY 2024. They are also hiring a GS 5/7 Biological Science Tech. They have set up agreements with NDOW for \$1.5M and with NDA for \$1M to fund projects as part of Nevada Shared Stewardship. The Forest Service can work with early applicants to apply for these funds.

John Warpeha, WEPD – Tamarisk and Russian olive control is handled through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Haven't found any on tribal land but it's been seen at the fish hatchery. They found a patch of Russian Olive during a recent survey. Manually cut and remove; they grow in clusters. A grant for removal has been extended. The tribe reports to the BIA Phoenix office twice a year for the grant. They have a cooperative agreement with Fish and Wildlife for aquatic invasive species in the Tahoe region through the Tahoe Conservancy; that reporting happens every two weeks. The area of focus is Skunk Harbor because the Asian clam offshore is causing algae blooms in that area. The Tahoe Environmental Research Center through U.C. Davis is doing a study on the New Zealand mud snail, and the Environmental Department provided a letter of support for it. In Meeks Meadow WEPD has been working with the Forest Service with milfoil removal. This past spring, WEPD staff were training in diving. Outreach efforts included Washoe Earth Day event in first week of May 2023.

Rob Holley, DVCD: He deals primarily with riparian habitat on agricultural lands as far out as the Pinenuts and Virginia City. For the last three years has had no crew but hopes to get a conservation tech in the spring. Integrity is DVCD's contract sprayer, and their crew supports Six and Seven Mile Canyons. Higher reports of more perennial pepperweed and Scotch thistle. Yellow starthistle has been reported in Mound House, and Dalmatian toadflax in Gold Hill. Dayton Valley is becoming more suburban, and it's a challenge for weed management because the conservation district has no authority, and there are few if any homeowner associations for oversight. He's looking for the best way to relay information to a lot of people. Feels the key is good soil management and plow reduction to reduce dust and weed distribution throughout the region.

Rachel Kieffer, AWG – They don't have any weed progress report. They have done EDRR surveys at Grover Hot Springs.

Rebecca Smith, Douglas Co. – She has been working with Douglas residents and HOAs. They have applied pre-emergent for cheatgrass in the spring. They worked with NDOT and Washoe County in the early spring and summer in Washoe Valley. They've also worked in Topaz Estates and for Douglas County roads with Public Works. She has had good results with abatement letters and with Rich Wilkinson of CVCD. They have worked on Charlotte's Ranch every year to address Medusahead at the NV/CA state line. There has been an increase in weed-free hay, with a corresponding increase in enforcement.

Bret Allen, NDA – Works with the extensive regulations for the pesticide program, incorporating licensing, certification and supervision of applicators.

Lyndsey Boyer, CCPROS – Oversees natural areas/open space in Carson City. Activity includes spraying along river corridor. Problem invasives have been Hoary cress, Perennial pepperweed, and an influx of poison hemlock with the floods. They've been working with NDA on Canada thistle and a small population of Yellow starthistle. Eurasian milfoil has been knocked back by flooding. For nuisance weeds they get calls about goosefoot and bursage. With the high waters there was a short treatment window and they've been playing catch up with two full-time maintenance workers.

Nancy Upham, Churchill Co. – They have a new staff of techs. With the heavy water year there's been more mosquitos. They've been applying annual preemergent along roadsides. Puncture vine has gotten huge, and they have been mowing for damage control. Nuisance weeds include African rue and Syrian bean-caper. They work on both county and tribal grounds. The high water has prevented spraying in many areas, but biocontrol has worked well. They have done some work with an aquatic preemergent but it's too early and are trying a post-emergent on the puncture vine.

Kristin Burnette, Env. Scientist, WEPD – She deferred to John Warpeha.

Tori Cernoch, Habitat Biologist, NDOW – NDOW can bring funds to the projects previously mentioned, through the conservation districts. If a project intersects with wildlife touch base. She works primarily with cheatgrass.

John Paoluccio, Inventive Resources Inc. – The company has been working on Lake Tahoe for five years and has treated 15 acres with UV light. Has developed an autonomic boat for treating milfoil. Can treat up to an acre a week. There isn't a system for ditches or small areas yet. Next year he's scheduled for 60 acres in Tahoe, to start in May.

Ileana Henry, FSPT Environmental – There has been biocontrol for Russian knapweed.

Richard Black, Environmental Manager, FSPT Environmental – Efforts have focused on mosquito abatement. They got a seasonal worker from April-October for weeds and mosquitos. They need training for weeds. They got BIA funding for tamarisk in the wetlands.

Rich Wilkinson, CVCD – The district focuses on Ag. producers and weed-free forage. There has been an increase in Perennial pepperweed, Yellow starthistle, and Canada thistle.

3. Outreach Focus: Noxious Weed Training and Outreach to landowners – Churchill County (25 mins)

- a. Christy Sullivan/Nancy Upham – Present their method for training and providing weed spray to private landowners.

Their program started a number of years ago and works well with smaller properties whose owners are unfamiliar with weeds or product. It's held on Wednesday mornings and has a maximum of 10 people. The 20-minute class goes over PPE, how to read a label, how to fill their tanks, how much to use, and explicit instructions for measuring, ratios, and the surfactant. The program emphasizes the homeowner's responsibility for weed control as well as the importance of timing and weather. The increased price of herbicides has been an excuse for non-treatment, so they are receptive to receiving free product, which is distributed in small quantities. The program includes returning the empty or near-empty containers (which is encouraged) and counters the "more is better" mentality of many of the agricultural producers.

- b. Discussion on applicability and implementation elsewhere (Storey/Lyon?) – The landowners in these areas would benefit from a hybrid approach because some of them are technical and some are not. Elements of the program – such as pesticide disposal - are already in place at public events. Information about these is via word of mouth and the NDA website.
 4. **Nevada Department of Agriculture Updates (25 mins)**
 - a. Jake Dick - NDA Noxious Weed and funding updates

There are three state regions for invasives. Because there have been fewer CWMA meetings and several CWMAs are essentially defunct, regional meetings have worked well. More designated leaders are needed to consolidate funding for cooperative cost share programs; there will be an announcement soon for the next RFP. He’s seen a general increase in funding, and the most effective way to obtain it is through narrowing down projects; something to keep in mind is that a past focus on protecting sage grouse habitat has shifted to EDRR and riparian habitat. He is waiting to see how the Nevada interim Finance Committee will distribute funds for the Sierra/Elko Front, and that meeting is 12/13; he’s pretty sure those funds will come through but can’t confirm. There is a basic need to bring more funding into Nevada; one possibility is a program such as [Idaho’s cheatgrass challenge](#), and he’s waiting for federal partner feedback on this. For many funding opportunities landowner programs can be used as in-kind match; CWSD funds can be used as match as well.
 - b. Bret Allen - Licensing and legal issues, training requirements/opportunities – NDA made several changes to their state plan for pesticide applicators in response to EPA revisions to its own regulations. State changes included fewer and combined applicator categories, updates to field preparedness and updated testing. Exams are on the NDA site versus through Extension. For applicators, drones have been popular. One needs a drone pilot’s license; revisions to the Nevada State Code defer to all [FAA clearances for spraying](#).
 - c. CWMAs
 - i. Meeting Schedules
 - ii. Status of Strategic Plans

Brenda is hopeful that Carson Watershed CWMA meetings can be scheduled at least biannually if not quarterly as were done previously. Strategic Plans and MOUs need to be updated and are so helpful when seeking outside funding. Can CWMA leads please schedule meetings and discuss updating your strategic plans?
5. 2023-24 Weed Abatement Funding Agreements - Ed James and Brenda Hunt, CWSD (10 mins) – The form has been updated and is retroactive to July 1. CWSD is requesting more data capture to show results. These should be received by the end of November. CWSD is in the process of the webviewer/partner portal for projects; perhaps these could be integrated with [EddMaps](#) so data is entered only once. **Editors note: We are not sure if this is possible but will check.**
6. Needs analysis discussion/brainstorm based on Round Robin (15 mins) – Brenda and Kelly will create a survey and send it out
 - a. Next Steps. **Editors note: CWSD will work with NDA as they conducted a survey previously. We will see if the results of that survey apply in the Carson Watershed....stay tuned.**
7. Questions/Comments and End Meeting – Twice a year would be good for meetings; next meeting can be set for mid-March, the following one in October.
 - a. **Editors note: CWSD will send a Doodle Poll out with dates in Mid-March 2024. Specifically targeting 14-15, 21 -22.**