

Weed Mapping Working Group

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Previous Weed Mapping Working Groups focused on the need for mapping, mapping techniques, and the importance of using standard forms of data collection. **This year the working group focused on how we are going to share and access our data by setting up a “California Weed Data Collaborative and Information System”.** The working group discussion consisted of:

- Presentation of the plan for a California Weed Data Collaborative and Information System.
- An update on Team Arundo Del Norte’s new NSDI grant.
- How to contribute spatial data.
- A brainstorming session about what we want and need out of our “information system”

California Weed Data Collaborative and Information System – We are the “California Weed Data Collaborative”, a community of people interested in sharing data, co-developing the data products we need to enhance our weed work and cooperating to solve problems and remove the barriers to data sharing and development. We will accomplish this through our Cal-IPC Weed Information System. This system has three components.

1. Communication services – This is how we organize our communications (ex. Listservs with archives, Bulletin boards, News and event postings, a virtual meeting place for our information community).
2. Digital library – This is where we contribute and access our data. Think of it as a digital version of a conventional library where all the data relates to weeds!
3. Map services – These are our map servers, facilitating the interface of how we want our data displayed, searched and shared.

Update on NSDI grant – Team Arundo Del Norte received an NSDI grant to get the “California Weed Data Collaborative” started. The NSDI grant was specifically meant for building datasharing communities. This grant will help us create a framework to build our Weed Information System around. Cal-IPC staff will provide Web design and programming. Cal-IPC Mapping Committee, UC Davis and CERES will provide guidance. There are many other grants we can go after to work on our network once we design it. **Everybody working on weed related issues in California are urged to join this “Weed Data Collaborative” and help us build and design our own information sharing network!**

Contributing Data – We can start sharing data now! We have a Cal-IPC Weed Data Catalog on CERES. To contribute data go to <http://ceres.ca.gov/catalog> and select ‘Contribute Entries’ from the left hand column. Our catalog name is ‘Cal-IPC Weed Data Catalog’ and our password is ‘deth2weedz’. We can also use CERES to search for data by subject.

Brainstorming session – In the brainstorming session everybody had a chance to contribute ideas for the Information Sharing Network. It was emphasized that the information shared is not restricted to spatial data. Suggestions included;

- An automated Red Alert system
- ASPNET was suggested for the programming language used. This would help with the future viability of the system.
- Have a listing of known keywords used in listing data.
- Have links to other databases
- If generating metadata already be able to contribute data with this metadata and not have to fill out CERES form for metadata again.
- Make bulk loading of large GIS datasets possible.
- Assistance to weed programs that don't have GIS, a way to collect what they know.
- There's lots of data out there already, why isn't it incorporated in this system?
Answer: Because the Weed Data Collaborative needs to decide which system we want to use so we can start dumping data in there.
- We need to dispel the "Build it and they will come" myth. We need a campaign to go along with it. We have to couple a sales and enticement component so people will use it. Must have someone to spend time calling people and collecting data.
- WMA's (Weed Management Areas) would be a good venue for tracking down local data and funneling it to the network.
- We need a system to overlay historical data so we can see rate of spread.
- Incorporate an observation capture system.

The working group concluded with the thought from Deanne: Programming is expensive, if all our energy goes into one product we are steps ahead. If we all adopt a system we will be able to have a large user community and be able to contribute and access data easily.

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