Early Detection and Rapid Response - a Western Regional Approach?

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Overview

- The rationale for local, state and regional efforts to cooperate and coordinate weed management efforts.
- The foreseeable impediments to and infrastructure necessary for regional coordination and implementation of EDRR.
Why cooperate and coordinate efforts?

- Enhanced cost-effectiveness through shared equipment, knowledge, and personnel.
- Better communication among landowners and partners to eliminate redundancies and set common expectations and objectives.
- “Many hands make light work” – the notion that more can be achieved together than by working separately.
Consequently, local cooperative efforts, often called weed management areas (WMAs), have flourished as a means to achieve these benefits at a county or small watershed level.

Such efforts have broad appeal as indicated by the explosion of efforts to create WMAs as well as the recognition and codification of such ideas in federal legislation.
Why cooperate cont’d . . .

- While WMAs are typically created to enhance management across jurisdictional boundaries locally, larger landscapes can also be served well by cooperative efforts.
  - Greater Yellowstone Area
  - Upper Arkansas Regional Weed Management Cooperative
  - Middle Colorado River Watershed CWMA
Why cooperate cont’d . . .

To achieve common, statewide priorities for weed management and facilitate more cost-effective management efforts, a number of states have set species specific goals for all jurisdictions within their boundaries.

- CA – statewide eradication for all “rare” noxious weed species (50 species)
- WA – statewide, coordinated efforts to stop the spread of specific species (66 species)
Why cooperate cont’d . . .

- If cooperative, coordinated efforts have been successful at each of these scales, then why not apply the concept to the western region in order to:
  - Enhance cost-effectiveness through shared equipment, knowledge, and personnel;
  - Improve communication among landowners and partners to eliminate redundancies; and
  - Achieve more collectively than can be accomplished individually?
Why cooperate cont’d . . .

Additional advantages of regional cooperation and coordination may include:

- Engaging new partners like the Western Governor’s Association, The Nature Conservancy, American Farm Bureau.
- Enhanced access to financial resources and influence at the national level that will benefit on-the-ground efforts to manage weeds.
- Greater leverage to influence less active partners and improve jurisdictional performance.
Distribution of Yellow Starthistle

Counts
- Responded
- Not Responded

Abundance of Yellow Starthistle
- 1 - 80 Acres (<1%)
- 91 - 180 Acres (1% - 2%)
- 181 - 450 Acres (2% - 5%)
- 451 - 900 Acres (5% - 10%)
- 901 - 2250 Acres (10% - 25%)
- 2251 - 9000 Acres (>25%)
Many jurisdictions (local, state, and federal) must be willing and able to focus detection and eradication efforts on a common set of invasive species. Among the several hundred invasive species of interest in the West, which can we agree upon?

- Economic impacts, environmental impacts, public health threats, and other public values
Local jurisdictions must be able to implement educational and survey efforts that increase detection probabilities.

A common set of species should enable:
- The development of standard educational materials that meet needs across the West.
- The application and enhancement of predictive capacity regarding the spread and establishment of targeted species.
Local jurisdictions must be able to implement eradication efforts that eliminate existing plants and future recruits. Requires dedication and persistence that is often beyond the means of local programs alone. Regional cooperation can help focus sufficient resources to ensure local programs succeed.
To protect our own individual, jurisdictional interests, it will be necessary to collaborate with others in surrounding jurisdictions.

Fortunately, the infrastructure to manage invasive plants successfully across a broad, multi-jurisdictional landscape exists in the West to a great extent.
Concluding remarks

- However, to collaborate successfully at a region level, there are costs. Managers at all levels will have to:
  - Yield some authority to achieve common goals
  - Redirect some resources toward shared objectives and priorities
- Developing and implementing regional EDRR strategies will help unite and focus local, state, and federal efforts.