

The California Noxious Weed Projects Database: a Project of the California Interagency Noxious Weed Coordinating Committee

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Abstract

The California Interagency Noxious Weed Coordinating Committee (CINWCC) is a group of sixteen state and Federal agencies that meet quarterly, with stakeholders, to coordinate noxious weed control activities. A formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed from 1995 to 1997. A central project of the group has been to create an Internet accessible database that will act as a clearinghouse for noxious weed control projects in California. The database will contain information on who is controlling which noxious weeds in California and what methods they are using. This information will be searchable by keywords.

The project has been led by the MOU-group Database Subcommittee, and California Department of Food and Agriculture Staff. A grant from the Bureau of Land Management enabled the contracting of the technical Internet database development work to the Information Center for the Environment at UC Davis. Development of the database and website structure is nearly completed. A call for data is being issued at this time (October, 1997). When a critical mass of the data is received and reviewed, the website will be open for access to all.

Introduction

The California Interagency Noxious Weed Coordinating Committee (CINWCC) is a group of sixteen state and Federal agencies meeting quarterly, in conjunction with stakeholders, to coordinate noxious weed control activities. A formal Memorandum of Understanding was signed from 1995 to 1997. The stakeholder groups are the California Exotic Pest Plant Council, the California Native Plant Society, the Cattlemens Association, the Nature Conservancy, the California Nurserymen's Association.

The six subcommittees of the CINWCC are:

1. Noxious Weed Control Project Database
2. Education
3. Research & Monitoring
4. Funding & Grants
5. Regulatory Streamlining
6. Regional Working Group

The Noxious Weed Control Project Database Subcommittee was comprised of the following members:

- Steve Schoenig - Calif. Dept. of Food & Agriculture
- Pat Akers - Calif. Dept. of Food & Agriculture
- John Randall - The Nature Conservancy
- Diana Hickson - California Dept. of Fish & Game
- Frank Fryman - Bureau of Indian Affairs

The Website and Database

The database is called the California Noxious Weed Control Projects Inventory (CNWCPI). It is an Internet-accessible database that inventories the current noxious weed control projects in California. It is searchable by target species, control methods, project locality, agency involvement, habitat, and many other keywords. The website will also contain an on-line encyclopedia of weed biologies and control methods, as well as links to other relevant weed control Internet sites.

Major benefits of the database and website are:

- 1) managers and planners can see weed control project effort levels on a statewide and regional scales,
- 2) creates the potential to compare your project with other projects in your region and network and share information on related efforts,
- 3) ability to search statewide on target species, control methods, cooperator, project focus or location, and
- 4) ability to gain access to basic data on weed biology and control methods.

Weeds suggested for inclusion in the database, are those found on (1) the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Noxious Weed List, and (2) the California Exotic Pest Plant Council's list of Plants That Are a Threat to Wildlands. Each individual weed species, under control on a piece of land, constitutes a separate project. Projects are carried out by governmental, private and non-profit employees, land-owners, volunteers, etc. There is a special interest in projects attempting (local) eradication, or sustained suppression

The Internet delivery system is being developed by the Information Center for the Environment (ICE) at the University of California at Davis. The website URL is: <http://endeavor.des.ucdavis.edu/weeds/>. The Noxious Weed Project Inventory is part of a wider project inventory called the Natural Resource Project Inventory (NRPI). This larger inventory is capturing project information about all natural resource management efforts in California, and is compliant with wider efforts at the Federal level including the Government Information Locator System (GILS).

Submitting Data to the Inventory

Weed control project information can be submitted to the Inventory by filling out a project data form. A paper data form can be filled out (a blank form follows the main text of this paper), or they can be submitted electronically by filling out one of the electronic versions in a word processor. The electronic forms can be downloaded from the website (specified above) or can be obtained by mail or by e-mail from the author on diskette. The author can be e-mailed at sschoenig@cdfa.ca.gov.