



Invasive Plant Workshops in the Pacific Region: Benefits, Challenges, and Adaptations

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Challenges:

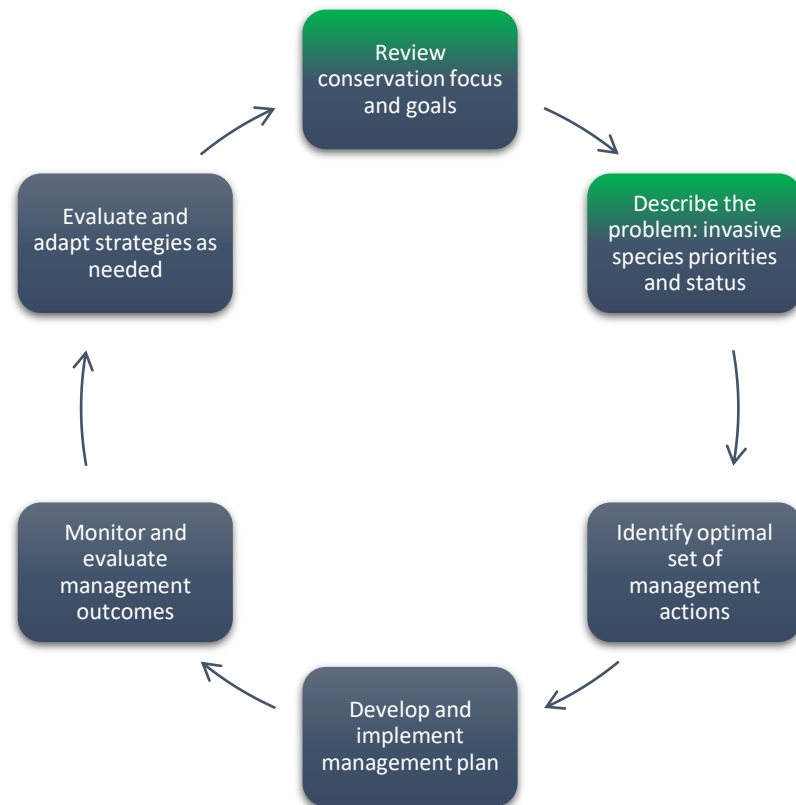
- Many invasive threats and not enough resources to manage all of them everywhere
- Well-established habits of focusing on the same species, in the same areas, in the same ways - *doing what we have always done*
- Rarely give ourselves time to collectively reflect: *are we focusing on the right things in the right places?*
- Sometimes **lack expertise** in invasive species ecology or management





Invasive Plant Workshops:

- ❑ 2-day: refuge staff, partners, local landowners, invasive species experts
- ❑ Review invasive plant management history
- ❑ Prioritize species and areas
- ❑ Meets critical elements of a strategic and adaptive approach to invasive plant management



The Prioritization Process

Compile Species and Areas

- Compile list of species: current and potential future
- Identify management areas (geographic, thematic)
- Gather site-specific info: sensitive resources, hydrology, infrastructure, +

Rank Species and Areas

- Engage others: staff, partners, local and regional experts
- Invasive plant inventory and early detection prioritization tool

Review and Document

- Review and refine results as needed
- Document methods and results

Species Ranking Criteria

Larger Landscape Invasiveness Ranking

- Existing larger landscape risk assessment rankings
- Cal-IPC Inventory, Alaska, Virginia, NatureServe, +

Site-specific Invasive Species Status and Habitat Suitability

- Species proximity
- Current abundance and distribution (perceived)
- Potential to spread

Site-Specific Ecological Impacts

- Current or potential impacts to natural resources of conservation concern

Legal Mandates

- Larger landscape management importance

Area Ranking Criteria

Site Characteristics

- Ecological integrity
- Innate resistance to invasion
- Conservation importance

Invasive Plant Status

- Infestation level
- Number of invasive species
- Survey knowledge

Invasion Risk

- Vectors and vector pathways
- Public use
- Anthropogenic disturbance

Malheur NWR

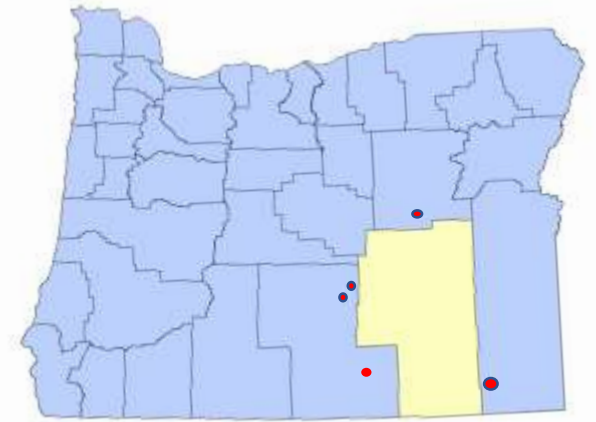
- 187,000 acres
- No volunteer pool
- Close invasive partnership with other agencies
- Workshop attendees:
 - County Weed Board
 - County Weed Control
 - CWMA
 - BLM and Forest Service
 - Commercial applicators
 - Oregon Department of Agriculture



Malheur NWR

- Workshop Results:

- ✓ Regained institutional knowledge
 - New staff and lost data
- ✓ Renewed coordination (county/state)- EDRR
- ✓ Prompting to investigate suspicious/alarming EDDMapS reports within the county





Workshop Benefits

- Share knowledge and increase collaboration among refuge staff, partners, and experts
- Promote a more strategic and adaptive approach to invasive species management
- Operational continuity (results are documented)
- Often leads to follow-up inventory or early detection survey effort



Learning and Adapting the Process:

- **Manageable list of species to prioritize**
 - Suggest <50 (ideally <30), pre-workshop filtering
- **Partner/expert participation is critical:** diverse representation – invasive species, ecosystem/sensitive species experts, IPM experts
- **Be flexible!** Each situation is different: adapt prioritization process to meet local needs >document
- **Facilitation: a balancing act** between great discussions and achieving workshop objectives

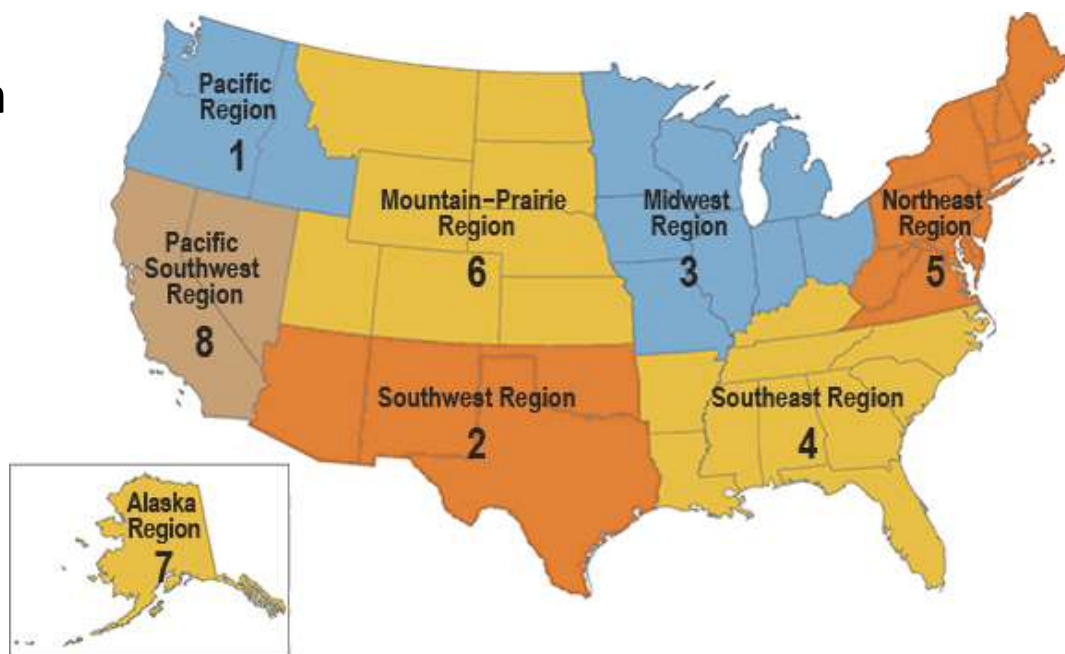


Workshops across the NWRS:

- Pacific Region
- Pacific Southwest Region
- Mountain Prairie Region
- Northeast Region

Coming Soon:

- Alaska Region
- Southwest Region



Want to learn more?

- ❑ *Land Manager's Guide to Conducting Invasive Plant Workshops*: web available

- ❑ *Invasive plant inventory and early detection tool*: web available November 2019

- ❑ Shadow a workshop

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