**HWMA Meeting**

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Zoom meeting

Arcata BLM/Zoom Hybrid Meeting

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

**Meeting Minutes**



1. **Welcome – Introductions/July Minutes Approval**

Carl Klarner- Concerned citizen; Trail Stewards, Volunteer

Stephen Underwood - CNPS

James Ray- CDFW, Sr. Environmental Scientist

John Hackett- CalTrans, Vegetation Specialist District 1

Laura Julian- NPS Redwood National Park, Botanist

Michelle Forys- CSP, Environmental Scientist, Invasive Species Mgt Program

Laurel Goldsmith- USFWS, Botanist

Crystal Welch- BLM, Ecologist, Botany Range Needs Program

Patrick Hoffman- CAC, Sr. Ag. Inspector

Steven Underwood- CNPS

Morguine Sefcik- City of Arcata, Environmental Services Dept.

Christine Cortez- MRC, Projects Coordinator

Jane Dexter- MRC

Tanya Chapple- MKWC, Plants Program Director

Candace Reynolds- RCAA, Projects Coordinator/GIS Specialist

July minutes were approved.

1. **Biological control – agents used and member experience**

Patrick Hoffman- For tansy ragwort control: Direct release starting in mid-90’s; 2000s maintained rancher’s list requesting beetle colonies that released every few years on their property for last 20 years; largely Bear River ridge area, but also farther south toward Petrolia. Beetles were observed to survive the first year, with population reduction the following year. Beetle survival success on ~~in Del Norte and~~ Woodley Island. Cinnabar moth also introduced in 90’s and 00’s but were never found again in following years. Both biocontrol agents are generally collected in Del Norte County.

Used the same apparatus Michelle discussed for beetle collection, but also used aspirator which can be purchased online. Beetles generally collected this time of year/fall. Fall rain/moisture followed by communications with Del Norte County Ag to determine status of beetle populations.

Important to note that biocontrol introductions with ranchers have been used since 1940s. Never public pushback, excited not using herbicide. Also, only USDA approved biocontrol and already released in other CA counties.

There are multiple biocontrols for star thistle, collecting from inland counties where established and releasing here in Humboldt Co. for decades, but stopped about 10 years ago because they weren’t establishing. New biocontrol for star thistle, but not ready for release yet. Biocontrol attempt on knotweed, but after three attempts didn’t establish. Klamathweed beetle introduced in 1940’s for St. John’s-Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), very successful. For plants that are commercially available (e.g., iceplant, ivy) no biocontrol. Cape ivy biocontrol was released in Trinidad but was not established. Discussion of more releases, but no update on that yet.

Michelle Forys- Helped collect in Del Norte and release in Sinkyone Wilderness, but population already present on tansy ragwort; prescribed burns in prairie have reduced tansy, therefore drop in beetle population. Beetle collection through backpack vacuum apparatus on plants, released on a tarp, then trap in glass vials and transfer to paper bag to estimate count and finally transfer onto plants. Not sure what the appropriate number is. Information was not provided to the community about the release, but beetles were already on plants at the time of release. Del Norte County has an ordinance to get rid of tansy ragwort, so on board with biocontrol/beetles. When Oregon silverspot butterfly at Tolowa Dunes a few years ago, tansy was a nectar source and USFWS advised not to remove in certain areas of the park but has changed after butterfly populations dropped dramatically. Mendocino and SoHum don’t want herbicide so expect they will be on board with biocontrol. Important to note that biocontrol only goes after tansy ragwort so won’t have a negative impact on native asters.

Patrick Moran contact for test and releases on biocontrol for cape ivy with CA Dept of Food and Ag.

Crystal Welch- Asks about other biocontrol agents used to control invasive plant populations. Notes that BLM tried reach out and get biocontrol for pampas grass but not USDA approved yet.

(Patrick Hoffman)- Scotch broom gall mite biocontrol, unintentional introduction, found in SoHum, Orleans. Only attacks scotch broom, not French broom. Can kill or just reduce growth. Documented in Del Norte and Trinity County. Coming to Humboldt County…

(Tanya Chapple)- Scotch broom gall mite common in Orleans, Happy Camp. Accumulates on scotch broom and after about 7 years plant begins to die. Some biocontrols coming over from Oregon.

(Maybe this was Tanya, I am not sure. Tanya did ask about availability of biocontrol. We could remove this section?)- Biocontrol for puncture vine or goathead? What’s currently available isn’t effective due to northern climate. Successful in SoCal, but with climate change, could be a possibility for release?

1. **Round Robin**

Patrick Hoffman- (1) Annual knotweed treatments with County Ag. Started with 17 sites four years ago, down to two sites with any remaining knotweed, one of which protected by blackberry, but nearly gone. Continue to get knotweed reports, one in Hoopa, a couple in Eureka. (2) Spotted knapweed pulling on Mad River and Mattole Road this summer (3) Tansy ragwort removal from Woodley Island, RCAA providing support

Crystal Welch- (1) Working on interagency agreement with Bear River Band to develop interpretive displays to showcase native species from indigenous perspective (2) Working with Friends of the Lost Coast to develop new citizen science, interpretive displays in Shelter Cove area near trailheads; scan QR codes and collect data without cell service to help ID non-native species and facilitate restoration work. (3) Coordinating with CCC on work in addition to dune treatment (4) Natural Resource Club at Cal Poly involved to remove beach grass on the weekends. (5) Coordinating with Trinidad Rancheria on collaborative contract to pull invasive weeds. Crew opened space at head, notably the iconic pampas grass at lighthouse, cape ivy, Himalayan blackberry, English ivy. Native planting will follow by Samara Restoration

Christina Cortez- (1) Working with BLM on invasive removal program. Spending time backpacking to sites to reach invasives before flowering on Lost Coast (2) Removing beach grass on South Spit by hand, mechanical removal in Spring 2024 planned (3) Another 5-year agreement awarded, plans on Lost Coast to remove tansy ragwort, pampas grass, yellow star thistle, French and scotch broom, knotweed, and others.

Laurel Goldsmith- Not a lot of on the ground projects, but (1) tracking star mustard/Coincya monensis on FOD and private properties off Lincoln Ave. An annual mustard identified by Andrea Pickart and Linda Miller in the 90’s as invasive found on other side of Mississippi (2) Refuge north Lanphere parcel just received funding, so invasive removal will begin there soon.

Morguine Sefcik- (1) Worked with RCAA to remove 9 ac Spartina on I St Marsh near Klop Lake (2) S. American sponge plant identified at marsh, also found at CR and private property with small pond. Would like to attempt treatment without herbicide if possible. Need to figure out how to prioritize, but on radar. (3) Coastal Program funding for invasive removal, open-ended, grant agreement with Dan Gale; reed canary grass removal a possibility in local creeks, and one area off Jacoby Creek off-channel pond

Asked about purchases of large quantities (10-20 lbs) native seed supply locally. Use Pacific Coast Seed, out of Tracy.

Christine Cortez- collected 120 lbs of native seed for State Parks but had enough time for collection before planned project implementation. Michelle Forys gives precautionary note regarding seed collection out of the area. RNSP Prairie Creek collected in Oregon, and cheat grass introduced to Humboldt County. Laura Julian makes correction that cheat grass found on Bald Hills prior. Can ask for seed test beforehand but need to ask specifically for cheat grass because not considered noxious weed.

Steven Underwood- (1) Ivy removal at Rohnert Park continues on 3rd Saturday of month, looking for volunteers (2) CNPS put letter out to legislators about CalTrans and ability to use herbicide and IPM, want to limit what CalTrans can do.

John Hackett- Won’t matter for herbicide use because agreements with counties (1) Working with Cal-IPC on shiny geranium control in Humboldt and Mendocino, limited in abilities to treat. Steam weeder an option discussed. (2) Fuels reduction project that will remove broom aboveground, potential for reprouts (3) Some invasive work planned with CCCs this year in Humboldt, then Mendocino

Question from Laura Julian about active shiny geranium control or in experimental stage. CalTrans did some mulching on 299. Confirmed in experimental stages for Humboldt Co. Doug Johnson sent letter about weed control, lead to discussion of steam weeding came about. CalTrans is trying to move in the right direction.

Another question about stinkwort and CalTrans efforts. In SoHum needs to be pulled, but John is only one doing this invasive work.

Patrick Hoffman brought up Dyerville loop where stinkwort hand pulled last year by County Ag and HRC treated on their property as well as CSP, and where pulled, huge reduction in population. A lot of gravel was removed in nearby area, don’t know where it ended up. Found stinkwort also at Garberville airport all over, along road nearby on neighboring property that appears to have been on site for multiple years, additionally spots between Redway and Garberville, plus 299 locations as well. Michelle Forys confirmed active management on State Parks property and noticeable reduction in population; HRC keeping up with removal on their end as well

Candace Reynolds- RCAA managing many invasive plant removal projects, largely Spartina. Increased size of field crew to 25-30 members (1) Tuluwat Island Spartina removal, initial treatment on north side complete (2) HBNWR Jacoby Creek Unit spot treatment (3) Eel River Estuary Preserve Spartina removal, initial treatment of ~40 acres completed in June. NRCS, HCRCD, and TWC discussing completion of remaining Spartina with herbicide. (4) Arcata Marsh Spartina (5) County Ag Knotweed removal at Trinidad Rancheria, Trinidad, Orick, and Eureka sites. Giving talk on Knotweed at Cal-IPC conference coming up (6) hand pulling Ammophila at FOD as part of NFWF funded grant (7) SCC funding awarded, $5 million for Lanphere north dune restoration. Removal of yellow bush lupine, Ammophila, with mechanical, chemical and hand treatment methods. Will begin soon, with RCAA field crew and others performing on the ground work (8) Canada thistle treatment at Prairie Creek using herbicide in early and late summer for second year now.

Laura Julian- (1) Spring this year dealing with spread of shiny geranium on 101 (2) Successful year treating invasives on Bald Hills. Mapped Canada thistle. (2) ACE crew worked in Hiouchi treating acacia on National Parks land only not State Parks (3) Continuing treatment of Himalayan blackberry on NPS lands.

Michelle Forys- (1) State Parks working on CEQA and cultural for acacia up north, still working, but hope to treat in near future. (2) For Humboldt, time to treat on beach now that snowy plover breeding season over, hitting Gold Bluffs Beach, retreating 200-300 restoration area Jan-Feb 2024 (3) Humboldt Lagoon, hitting beach grass and ice plant, twice a year planned (4) Little River crews currently treating habitat restoration area, maintenance. Noted that with winter storms that occurred, scarping tossed beach grass onto restoration area, dealing with new infestation, and couldn’t retreat during summer due to snowy plovers (5) Exciting news that pre-veg surveys, rare plant surveys, getting heavy equipment scheduled to start bulldozing south of HRA at Little River in Jan-Feb 2024. Not sure if enough funding to bulldoze at Clam Beach State Park southern boundary. (6) Summer prairie restoration at Humboldt Redwoods SP, called grasshopper prairies; prescribed burns and follow up in spring using herbicide to treat thistle, teasel, blackberry, and jubata grass. Recently, at nearby campgrounds a lot of broom, and got burn plan that includes herbicide, and did first burns in last two years. Staff member spent summer treating broom with herbicide, doing wiping, cutting. Not all prairie sites burned, but in toolbox, and reducing herbicide use. (7) Small projects, including English ivy at Trinidad, spiderwort at Humboldt Redwoods, Humboldt Lagoon IMP – working with tribes and CalTrans.

James Ray- (1) Restoration at Ocean Ranch Unit at Elk River Delta. Couple components including restoration of connectivity to tidal marsh formally diked tideland, restoring hydrology by treating Spartina. Using IPM approach, mechanical and herbicide combinations. Using Marsh Master-like equipment, hand tools, backpack spraying. In total about 45 acres of mechanical and about 11 acres herbicide (Imazapyr) and going back to hand treat areas. Created high marsh areas where rapid Spartina colonization, treated with brushcutters and flaming. CDFW monitoring this year, have contract with the CCCs to treat more Spartina. Next year, plan to add more fire in Spartina management to clear thatch in high elevation marsh areas. (2) Treatment on dunes at Ocean Ranch Unit, 200 acres. Largely Ammophila with combo fire and herbicide treatment, about 50 acres. Will continue treatment with CCCs next year. (3) Eel River Wildlife Area 4wd sand road, high public recreation area. Working on monitoring and treating Arctotheca populations. (4) Poison hemlock treatment at various restoration sites, mowing down.

Carl Klarner - (1) Treating ivy, focus on treating fruiting trees. On private land will treat if possible. Leaves note sometimes offering to treat ivy up high. Most of the time, ivy up 100 ft…Lots of volunteers involved (2) Working on broom treatment as well.

Discussion of formal calendar for treating invasive species at optimal time of year before fruiting. Example of ground ivy treatment before rapid growth of native plants. Laura Julian offered to share her calendar for example.

Think about ROI with invasive removal, record keeping. Confirmation from most present that records are being kept.

Highlights need for funding to treat scotch and French broom. What about PG&E? Is there economic benefit for them? Crystal Welch comments that sometimes agencies in the hot seat and although there is a need, feeling may not be reciprocated.

Wants to put on Zoom meeting to highlight English ivy best practices.

Tanya Chapple – (1) Mid-Klamath Watershed Council working in Humboldt, mostly Siskyou County, some of plants that are high priority: knapweed, silver cinquefoil, Italian thistle, spurge. A lot of work on star thistle as well working with Six Rivers and Klamath NF. Most work lately tied with wildfire, post fire weed removal, prescribed fire. Hiring new positions to tie invasive weed management together.

1. **Closing announcements**

Michelle Forys- Confirmation of 2024 volunteer event list with many ivy removal opportunities, sent to Patrick. Patrick will email list to group.

Crystal Welch- Arcata BLM Resource Management Plan revision with Redding Field office, open for public comment, on ePlanning website (NCIP).

Candace Reynolds- Spartina talk at Cal Poly tonight, old Sci D building, Rm 157

Patrick Hoffman- Another Spartina talk by Andrea Pickart in November hosted by CNPS.

Biddy biddy (*Acaena novae-zelandiae*) found on property in Arcata, reported to County Ag. Invasive, noxious weed ground cover found decades ago in FS nursery in McKinleyville, had been treated with herbicide. Not sure if was considered eradicated, but for a long-time residents knew about large roadside population. In UK a concerning dune invasive, so keep eyes open for it.

* 1. 2023 Statewide WMA Meeting

9:00 am to 12:00 on October 25th

At CSU Chico and online

FREE [Register here](https://www.cal-ipc.org/solutions/wmas/)

Part of the wider Cal-IPC Symposium.

* 1. 2023 Cal-IPC Symposium

October 25th – 28th

At CSU Chico and online

Cost varies [Register here](https://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/symposium/)

* 1. Next HWMA meeting is set for Tuesday, January 9, 2024

from 1 – 2:30 p.m. Arcata BLM/Zoom Hybrid Meeting