



## Columbia Gorge CWMA General Meeting

August 28<sup>th</sup> 2019, 1:00-3:00 pm

**\*NEW LOCATION\***

Hood River Fire & EMS—Ty Taylor Fire Station (Leonard Hay Community Room)  
1785 Meyer Parkway, Hood River, OR 97031

**Attendees:** Courtney Gattuso (CSWCD), Emily Stevenson (Skamania County), Lucas Nipp (EMSWCD), Christina Mead (USFS-MHNF), Sam Leininger (CSWCD), Marty Hudson (KCNWCB), Jennifer DeShong (USFS-GP), Katie Santini (USFS-CRGNSA), Katie Payne (USACE), Mason Scharfe (USACE), Kelly Wallis (TNC), Heather Hendrixson (HRSWCD), Mika Barrett (FOTCG), Kate Conley (CLT), Sara Woods (FOTCG)

### 1:00 Welcome & Introductions

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### 1:05 Coordinator Update

Courtney Gattuso

- **New Meeting Location**
  - The Hood River OSU extension recently raised their prices for renting their conference room, even for governmental organizations. Availability was becoming an issue and it's uncertain if we can continue to meet there after June 2020.
  - The Hood River Fire & EMS Community Room is a great fit for the group and the CWMA will continue to meet at this new location.
- **New Teleconference Speaker**
  - Courtney shows the group the new teleconference speaker, shared with the 4-County CWMA.
  - The CWMA will start having the option for our members to start calling in and attending our meetings remotely.
  - If you're interested in using this new call in option, Courtney will include teleconference instructions in each meeting reminder.
- **2020 CWMA Calendar**
  - Courtney announces that the 2020 CWMA Calendar is finalized and will be posted on the CWMA website in the next couple weeks.
  - We have a date lined up for the Invasive Species and Exotic Pest Workshop which will be held on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- **2019 Field Day Recap**
  - We had our annual Field Day event on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with about 30 people in attendance.

- We traveled to different trailheads on the Oregon side of the Gorge to see how different areas were affected by the Eagle Creek Fire.
- Big thank you to our incredible speakers and our attendees for cooperating with rockslides, trail closures, and wearing hardhats all day.
- **Website Updates**
  - Courtney will be devoting more time to the website this Fall/Winter, updating content, fixing broken links, and she hopes to start routing members to the website for meeting materials instead of emailed PDFs.
- **Organizational Documents**
  - The CWMA organizational documents (MOU and Management Plan) are expiring at the end of December. Steering Committee has been reviewing the documents and making revisions if needed to make sure we have those in place for 2020.
  - Steering will be sending the updated documents out to our current and hopefully future signatory partners, so keep an eye out for that in a couple weeks.

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**1:15 Leave No Trace**

*Mika Barrett*

- Leave No Trace is a nonprofit organization that provides trainings and outreach materials to land managers, friends groups, volunteers, and tourism groups on how to “leave no trace” and provide a stewardship ethic for preserving our natural areas.
- Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area was nominated as a “Hot Spot” for the week-long Leave No Trace workshop that was held in July, and Mika attended on behalf of the CWMA.
  - Attendees discussed different recreational impacts that affect the Columbia River Gorge, and invasive species were definitely highlighted as a huge impact to the region.
    - There was lots of conversation with a ton of different partners. There was a hoof pick featured on the swag table!
- [Columbia River Gorge Leave No Trace Hot Spot Final Analysis](#)

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**1:25 WIN Update**

*Lucas Nipp*

- Lucas Nipp and Christina Mead both serve on the Western Invasives Network Steering Committee.
- Lucas Hunt has recently taken another position and the new WIN Coordinator position was posted, deadline to apply was Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Interviews for the position will be conducted soon and the WIN Steering Committee hopes to have the candidate start sometime in September.

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**1:35 Farm Bill Grant**

*Emily Stevenson*

- Emily is working on next Farm Bill grant and she just submitted proposals for FY2020 and will know if they received funding in January 2020.
  - Funding will be given by USDA APHIS, which has been the funding source for Invasive Species Exotic Pest Workshop (requires an invasive “pest” emphasis).
- Stop the Invasion is no longer included in the Farm Bill for 2019 or 2020.

- Suggestions for Farm Bill grant include:
  - Reprint another round of Worst Weeds of the Gorge booklets?
  - Ordering packable boot brushes for outreach purposes outside of Boot Brush Kick-Off?

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#### 1:45 Houndstongue Removal Project

*Christina Mead*

- In the early 1990s, there was a fiber optic installation that possibly brought in houndstongue and cattle moved it around.
- Cleaning equipment and pre-treatments are highly important to reduce the spread.
- Matching funds grant was requested to hand remove houndstongue over 200 acres (used as a pilot area study).
  - Need to do a NEPA analysis of the area before posting fencing.
- Houndstongue is highly toxic to mammals; cows don't eat it but will eat everything else.
- Past weekend had 30 boy scouts hand pulling hound tongue, hand removing seed heads to reduce the biomass.
- Feel free to email Christina ([christina.mead@usda.gov](mailto:christina.mead@usda.gov)) for more information or pictures.

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#### 1:55 Partner Discussion: Successes & Mishaps of Field Season

*All (5 min limit)*

- Lucas Nipp (EMSWCD)
  - Has been working on garlic mustard and false brome treatments, and eventually knotweed this Fall.
  - Landslides and bridge closures have been challenging for access in the Gorge.
- Mika Barrett (FOTCG)
  - FOTCG volunteer found garlic mustard at Ponytail Falls, was reported to EMSWCD and got treated. Perfect EDRR success story!
  - Pulling herb Robert with ORPD on the Eagle Creek Trail, it's invading the rocky slope areas. Also working with ORPD along the 400 Trail
  - Working near Beacon Rock with Skamania County on blackberry removal with volunteers.
- Sam Leininger (CSWCD)
  - Puncturevine outreach has led to more reports of the plant.
  - Outreach efforts went viral in Clackamas County, people hate it! The plant that ruined Sam's childhood...
  - Recently found garlic mustard at the Abernethy Grange at the 4-County CWMA General meeting, was probably brought in by a weed specialist.
  - Just received PGE grant for CRISP, encourages the group to apply for grants.
- Marty Hudson (KCNWCB)
  - Working on puncturevine, skeletonweed, and devil's weed.
  - Is interested in root weevil for yellow star thistle populations, Marty offered Klickitat sites for biocontrol release.
- Jennifer DeShong (USFS-GP)
  - Skamania County and Klickitat County have been kicking butt!

- Working with Forest Engineer on rock pit treatments, found a rare thistle in a rock pit.
- Moving to a new home and trying to retire this winter (you go girl!)
- Milestone just got added to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest; Mt. Hood National Forest got it added last year.
- Kate Conley (CLT)
  - Skeleton weed is biggest concern currently.
  - Using aerial photography to map grass communities; would like to map skeletonweed populations as well.
- Sara Woods (FOTCG)
  - Been working on yellow star-thistle at Cherry Orchard with Marty and volunteers for years and results show that work has been successful.
  - Biocontrol sites don't seem like a possibility since they have been conducting treatments; need to have untouched populations.
  - Turtle Haven (western pond habitat) received a grant from USFWS, to remove blackberry, bull frogs and their egg masses.
  - Puncturevine on the Deschutes River is insane!
- Heather Hendrixson (HRSWCD)
  - Garlic mustard treatments with Christina Mead from retained receipts fund
  - Received NRCS grant to build pollinator habitat along pipeline (2-3 mile stretch); had some great radio coverage about the project.
    - Xerces Society and OSU Extension are big partners in the project.
- Kelly Wallis (TNC)
  - Tom McCall Preserve fall application of rush skeletonweed and first year treatment on ventenata, working with OPRD to collaborate on treatments.
  - Looking for restoration contactors in the Boardman area.
  - Was recently a victim of email scam from the Columbia Gorge CWMA email list; the hackers attempted to target TNC funding. Kelly warns the group about very convincing emails that look legit, but aren't.
  - Please report any suspicious emails or potential viruses sent through the CWMA listserv to Courtney ([columbiagorgecwma@gmail.com](mailto:columbiagorgecwma@gmail.com)).
- Katie Santini (USFS-CRGNSA)
  - Gathering information on sites in the Scenic Area to see what weeds are out there, what their extents are, and where to apply for grants.
  - Sarah Callaghan was sorry that she was not able to attend today's meeting.
- Katie Payne and Mason Scharfe (USACE)
  - Urban Nature Partners invasive species "rodeo" for blackberry and ivy in the Fish Hatchery and Dam area was successful.
  - Pollinator garden for Earth Day was also a big success!
  - Mishap: received soil that was not weed-free, brought in puncturevine.
    - Skamania County has helped remove plants, but found more at the parking lot.
- Courtney Gattuso (CSWCD)

- Most notable project this summer was the Lolo Pass hawkweed project on Mt. Hood National Forest within the BPA powerline corridor.
  - Worked USFS, ODA, PWB, and contractors to treat nearly 400 acres of orange and meadow hawkweed in really “gnarly” terrain, filled with lots of ticks!
- Emily Stevenson (Skamania County)
  - Found more puncturevine at Ball Park in Home Valley
  - Good year at the Skamania County Fair, there were lots of people talking about Tree of Heaven and spotted lanternfly.
  - They have a new demonstration pollinator garden!

**3:00 End**

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## **Next General Meeting**

**October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019, 1:00pm-3:00pm**

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