



## Columbia Gorge CWMA General Meeting

January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, 1:00-3:00pm

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

**Attendees:** John Cowan (OPRD), Sam Leininger (CSWCD), Marty Hudson (Klickitat NWCB), Mika Barrett (FOCG), Will Lackey (ODOT), Katie Santini (USFS-CRGNSA), Mary Fee (WSNWB), Kelly Wallis (TNC), Claire Addis (USACE), Mitch Bixby (COP-BES), Sarah Hall (USFS-MHNF), Christina Mead (USFS-MHNF), Courtney Gattuso (CSWCD), Sara Emrick (USACE), Mason Scharfe (USACE), Kate Conley (CLT), Jeanette Burkhardt (Yakama Nation Fisheries), Francis Ambrose (FOCG), Sara Woods (FOCG); Teleconference: Molly Jennings (WADNR), Troy Abercrombie (WIN), Kenya Bugner (WADNR)

**1:00 Welcome & Introductions**

*Lucas Nipp*

**1:05 Coordinator & CWMA Updates**

*Courtney Gattuso*

- **CWMA Election Results**
  - The CWMA held “official” elections for our 2020 Steering members this winter and are excited to have all of our previous members continue on the Committee for the coming year. We’ll be getting better at holding elections to allow for new participation if there’s outside interest.
  - **2020 Steering members include:**
    - Emily Stevenson (Co-Chair) – Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board
    - Lucas Nipp (Co-Chair) – East Multnomah SWCD
    - Mika Barrett – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
    - Christina Mead – US Forest Service (Mt. Hood National Forest)
    - Marty Hudson – Klickitat County Noxious Weed Control Board
    - Sam Leininger – Clackamas SWCD
    - Troy Abercrombie – Western Invasives Network
  - We’ve added 2 optional At-Large Representatives as interests allows, and both positions are currently vacant. If you’re interested in serving in one of these positions, please let Courtney know.
- **Memorandum of Understanding**
  - The CWMA recently renewed their 5 year Memorandum of Understanding, which serves as the agreement between us and our partners supporting each other’s noxious weed control efforts.
  - We’ve had a good chunk of partners resign our MOU, as well as some new partners.

- Currently, we have:
  - Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development
  - Columbia Land Trust
  - Clackamas SWCD
  - East Multnomah SWCD
  - Friends of the CG
  - Hood River SWCD
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service (Multnomah and Clackamas)
  - Oregon Dept. of Agriculture
  - Oregon State Parks (OPRD)
  - Portland Water Bureau
  - Skamania County
  - The Nature Conservancy
  - US Army Corps of Engineers
  - USFS – Mt. Hood National Forest
  - Washington Department of Natural Resources
- If your organization is not on that list, but would like to sign on to our MOU, please let Courtney know.

### 1:15 Invasive Species & Exotic Pest Workshop

*Emily Stevenson*

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- CWMA is co-hosting the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Invasive Species and Exotic Pest Workshop on February 27<sup>th</sup>, alongside the WISC, WSU Extension, USDA-APHIS, and Skamania County.
  - It's an all-day conference with multiple speakers, focusing on invasive species management that will better serve the Columbia Gorge.
  - Registration is open; snag your spot at [2020isepworkshop.eventbrite.com](https://2020isepworkshop.eventbrite.com). You'll find the agenda and more details.
  - Lunch will not be provided, please eat at a local restaurant in Stevenson during the break.
  - We'll have WSDA, ODA, ISA Arborist, and Oregon Landscape Contractors Board recertification credits.
  - It is \$50 per person, plus fees.
  - If you're traveling from Goldendale, WA, WSU Extension is hosting a carpool van leaving at 6am that morning. You have to reserve your seat by calling their office at 509-773-5817.

### 1:25 Boot Brush Kick-Off—Trailheads

*Mika Barrett*

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- Last year's trailheads include (highlighted ones had volunteers staged at them):
    - Angels Rest
    - Bridal Veil
    - Cape Horn
    - Catherine Creek
    - Coyote Wall
    - Crawford Oaks
    - Dabney State Park
    - Dalles Mountain
    - Dog Mountain
    - Fort Cascades
    - Gaddis Park
    - Hamilton Mountain
    - Horsethief Butte
    - Klickitat River Trail
    - Latourell Falls
    - Lyle Cherry Orchard
    - Mosier Plateau
    - Multnomah Falls
    - Rooster Rock
    - Rowena Crest

- Starvation Creek
- Table Mountain
- White Salmon Bike Park
- Wind Mountain
- Women's Forum
- Suggestions at General Meeting include:
  - Narrowing last year's list, maybe just the busiest trailheads?
  - Adding Tom McCall Preserve
  - Adding Eagle Creek (if open)
  - Adding John B. Yeon (if open)
  - Adding Onotcha Gorge Trail (if open)
  - Adding Northwestern Park
  - National Invasive Species Awareness Week – advertise during this time!
  - Having signs about the event!

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**1:35 Suggestions for Field Day**

*Courtney Gattuso*

- Last year, the event was held on May 29<sup>th</sup> on the Oregon side of the Eagle Creek Fire Burn Area. Super interesting to see the regeneration of species and the different projects going on before and after the fire.
- We want to start brainstorming for Field Day this year, and wanted to know if there are any projects that you're dying to see or share with the group.
- Suggestions at General Meeting include:
  - Turtle Haven-West of Dog Mountain, Girl scout group
  - East side of the Gorge – Marty
  - Revisiting Old sites – old dam sites?
  - US Forest Service – reed canary grass
  - Convoy Ponds? Comparing bull frog treatment sites to Turtle haven
  - Pond in Hood River off Hwy 35

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**1:45 Discussion: Disposal of Weed Seeds**

*Mika Barrett*

- Are there more sustainable options other than plastic bags for weed seed removal?
- Suggestions include:
  - Kraft paper – kill trees instead of oceans
  - Burning on site – no always feasible, need a burn trailer
  - Composting on site
  - Weed steamer – mobile steam unit
  - Piling weeds on site and spraying out the pile

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**2:00 Partner Discussion & Updates**

*All*

- **Sam Leininger (Clackamas SWCD)**
  - District recently moved to a new building – big changes, new life!
  - Hiring a new General Manager – throw your hat in the ring!

- **Marty Hudson (Klickitat NWCB)**
  - Klickitat office will be moving.
  - Found a new weed – longbeak stork’s bill, red-stem filaree (*Erodium botrys*) found on Major Creek.
- **Mika Barrett (Friends of Columbia Gorge)**
  - Planting project with Cape Horn Conservancy and USFS to decommission a trail.
  - Prioritization matrix with the Friends of CG within Public Lands Stewardship Program— Narrowing in on sites to have the biggest impact, taking climate change into account.
    - Using TNC’s Climate data to help guide that effort
- **Kelly Wallis (The Nature Conservancy)**
  - Hiring a couple seasonal positions.
  - Tom McCall ventenata control, working with OPRD, also have native grasses so they’re looking at grass specific herbicides.
- **Will Lackey (Oregon Department of Transportation)**
  - New director in 16 years! Also going through reorganization, lots of turnover. Applicators are moving into manager positions.
  - Still catching up from Fire, guardrails and fallen trees.
- **Katie Santini (USFS-Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area)**
  - New mountain bike trail system at Cascade Locks.
  - Increase of funds for native plant grow-out in partnership with Clark College.
  - Hiring new seasonal for the summer.
- **Mary Fee (Washington State Noxious Weed Board)**
  - Beautify seed packets (eastern and western WA versions) handing them out.
  - South American sponge plant was added to the WA list, there was one treatment on the known patch, but treatment wasn’t effective, keep a lookout for this weed.
- **Claire Addis (US Army Corps of Engineers – The Dalles Dam)**
  - Bank stabilization project, focusing on reseeding efforts.
  - Flowering rush control, partnering with John Day to treat when it makes its way to their area, just a matter of time.
  - Native plant nursery for their restoration project.
- **Mason Scharfe (US Army Corps of Engineers – Bonneville Dam)**
  - Working on getting cooperative agreements in place, learning a new system on the fly.
  - Down to one position, hiring new seasonal positions.
  - Invasive Species Management Plan is being updated.
- **Kate Conley (Columbia Land Trust)**
  - Focusing on invasive grass, cereal rye grass, treating it for the first time.
  - Asks the group for information on jointed goatgrass.
  - Yellow flag iris in the bull frog pond, access is tricky, asks group for “floaties”.
  - Help organizing Green Jobs full year internship.
- **Jeanette Burkhardt (Yakama Nation Fisheries)**

- Led school kids from Whitson Elementary (4<sup>th</sup> graders) to the park in White Salmon, Marty helped teach about native plants, but they didn't see many weeds.
- Columbia Gorge Fisheries event is April 21 at Discovery Center in The Dalles—looking to have a flowering rush talk.
- Master Naturalist Program volunteer opportunities – need a weed focused model.
- **Francis and Sara (Friends of the Columbia Gorge)**
  - Weed list development for their preserve, focusing on the EDRR and Class A species to narrow control efforts on.
  - Dirt huggers – clean compost?
- **Troy Abercrombie (Western Invasives Network)**
  - Brainstorming a WIN-wide newsletter with CWMA submissions.
  - Officially a new OISC Board Member!
  - Working on some weed grants, working with Angie (PWB) on curating an outreach video for mountain bikers (Northwest Trail Alliance)
- **Mitch Bixby (City of Portland – Bureau of Environmental Services)**
  - Starting to find more puncturevine in Portland.
  - Focusing on goatsrue and oblong spurge.
  - Trying to get three species of impatiens nominated for ODA.
- **John Cowan (Oregon Parks and Recreation Department)**
  - Tree work this time of year, having no crews has been a struggle.
  - Andrea Berkley recently left OSP; John is figuring how to spend even more money.
  - Garlic mustard in the Gorge, biggest enemy, trying to get in retreatments each year.
    - Glenn Miller assisted with treatments Women's Forum with aminopyralid, no resprouts yet.
  - Challenges in the burn area, specifically herb Robert in John Yeon, hoping tree canopy will be the silver lining.
- **Courtney (Clackamas SWCD)**
  - Gearing up for spring mailing to encourage new landowners to sign up for our WeedWise Program.
  - Finding more garlic mustard in the upper Sandy Basin, need to wrangle more permissions for spring treatments.
  - Helping plan a Mt. Hood NF Partners meeting that is happening next week, we get together once a year and talk about past work and upcoming plans.
- **Beth (Oregon Department of Agriculture)**
  - The WeedMapper call for data is now open. Deadline to turn in data is February 28th, 2020. Contact Beth Myers-Shenai for detail on sharing your data.
  - The OISC Outreach and Education grants close January 30th. Contact Tristen Berg with questions or more information.
  - The Oregon State Weed Board meeting will be in Salem on February 20-21. Agenda is still to be announced, but key items of business will be reviewing state noxious weed listings and finalizing grant awards.

- **Lucas Nipp (East Multnomah SWCD)**
  - Contractor crews are getting harder to use this time of year because of planting season currently in effect.
  - Been spraying blackberry in winter when natives have gone dormant.
- **Molly and Kenya (Washington Department of Natural Resources)**
  - We are in the process of hiring a new Natural Areas Steward (Carolyn's position).
    - The person we hire will be conducting weed control in our Klickitat County Sites and working on projects like our Reed Canary Grass control at Trout Lake NAP.
  - We also have a grant to do weed management at both Columbia Hills NAP and State Park, and are excited to continue that partnership and work on managing weeds across ownership boundaries! One of our most pressing concerns at that site is the impact rush skeletonweed is having the rare obscure buttercup.

**3:00 End**

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## **Next General Meeting**

**March 25<sup>th</sup> 2020; 1:00pm-3:00pm**

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