



Columbia Gorge CWMA General Meeting

March 25th 2020; 1:00pm-3:00pm

Teleconference

Attendees: Marty Hudson (Klickitat NWCB), Lucas Nipp (EMSWCD), Christina Mead (USFS-MHNF), Courtney Gattuso (CSWCD), Mika Barrett (FOCG), Emily Stevenson (Skamania NWCB), Beth Myers-Shenai (ODA), Claire Addis (USACE), Heather Hendrixson (HRSWCD), Sarah Callaghan (USFS-CRGNSA), Molly Jennings (WADNR), Sarah Hall (USFS-MHNF), Chris Aldassy (EMSWCD), Ashley Smithers (Clark CD), Kelly Wallis (TNC), Angie Kimpo (PWB), Jeanette Burkhardt (Yakama Nation), Mason Scharfe (USACE), Michelle Delepine (WMSWCD), Kate Conley (CLT), Mitch Bixby (COP-BES), Katie Santini (USFS-CRGNSA), Evan Olson (USFS-Mt. Adams), Lin Kyan (USFS-MHNF), Troy Abercrombie (WIN)

1:00 Welcome

Lucas Nipp

1:05 Invasive Species & Exotic Pest Workshop Recap

Emily Stevenson

- Emily gives the group a quick recap of the recent ISEP workshop, which happened on February 27th. The most favored presentation, based on the survey results, was the Boise Goathead Festival, but all of the speakers and presentations were fantastic. There was lots of great feedback through the survey and the group really enjoyed the interactive outreach materials provided by Washington Invasive Species Council.
 - Emily opens up the discussion for feedback for next year's event.
 - Suggestions include: bigger venue (growing out of the current one at Hegewald), more lighting on speakers, comfortable seating.
 - The Education & Outreach Committee will be discussing the event in further detail at the next meeting.

1:15 Boot-Brush Kick-Off Status

Mika Barrett

- Status of Boot Brush Kick-Off (April 25th & 26th)
- Should the CWMA cancel/postpone the event due to COVID-19?
 - There are a lot of uncertainties with COVID-19, the group is playing it day by day and waiting to hear from our federal partners. Logistically might not be feasible with park closures in both Oregon and Washington.
 - All of the Friends of the Columbia Gorge events have been postponed until April 18th, where the majority of the BBKO volunteers are derived from.
 - The CWMA will keep the group posted on when the rescheduled date will occur. More information to follow

- Kelly – Tom McCall Preserve is closed there is a barricade the Rowena trailheads.
- Molly – Events closed until April 8th, camping closed until end of April.

1:25 Field Day Ideas (continued)

Courtney Gattuso

- What topic(s) interest the group most?
 - Bull frog sites tour
 - Turtle Haven
 - Conboy Ponds
 - Collins Slide Pond
 - Revisiting old dam sites/restoration sites
 - Mt. Adams planting site – Trout Creek Hemlock Dam
 - Flowering Rush – East side of John Day Dam
 - US Army Corps, ODA,
 - Infestations might be too patchy
 - The Education & Outreach Committee will be working on a tentative lineup of speakers in hopes sites will reopen this summer/fall.

1:40 Partner Updates

All

How are we handling spring treatments with current COVID-19 outbreaks?

- **Ashley Smithers (Clark CD)**
 - First time with the group
 - Working with their local farmers to distribute their products, created a website to help get products in consumer hands while staying safe.
- **Beth Myers-Shenai (ODA)**
 - OWEB Meeting – new listings (giant reed “B, T”, one seed hawthorn “B”, new thistle in Oregon “A” only in NW Oregon)
 - Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium is the first week of December (December 3rd-6th)
 - *The event has since been postponed until December 2021.*
 - Beth would like partners to keep ODA updated on park and recreational closures.
- **Sarah Callaghan and Katie Santini (CRGNSA)**
 - Forest management and protection including weed treatments and field work still part of the needs operationally, deemed really critical if we can do safely.
 - This includes human health, firefighting, other projects on a case by case basis (such as GM work inside closed area of gorge).
 - Acknowledged requests to share her field safety protocols. She can share parts of the risk assessment (relevant parts directed from leadership and safety staff) – regards to field safety protocols.
- **Christina Mead (MHNH)**
 - In the same boat as Scenic Area folks, hopes it smooths out soon.
- **Chris Aldassy and Lucas Nipp (EMSWCD)**
 - Chris Aldassy – While on a holding pattern and waiting to see what all shakes out, they are looking at ways to proceed. One little positive: we did a spray on all the shiny geranium in scenic area. Prioritizing what we will be able to hopefully taken on. Figuring it all out internally with staff and contractors.

- Lucas Nipp – A lot of collaboration from SWCDs on how we are going to get contractor crew work. Those that can maintain 6’ distance, designate someone to enforce 6’ distance can and are working. Set up guidelines on how to work in contractors. Aiming to complete field work.
- **Courtney Gattuso (CSWCD)**
 - We are continuing field work operations. All contractors we work with are working. We are compensating additional vehicles needed to take to sites. Some contractors are experiencing turnovers—be patient.
 - We are still gearing up for garlic mustard treatment and carry on with best that we have. Staff is continuing field work, via separate vehicles.
 - Utilizing already developed door hangers so they don’t need to perform any door knocks.
- **Claire Addis (USACE)**
 - All of their public lands are closed.
- **Emily Stevenson (Skamania County)**
 - Business as usual for her and Cyndi. One limitation is number of vehicles we have. Figuring it out. Hiring seasonal staff May 1. Already done some treatments.
 - Garlic mustard: For at least 5 years had not had any flowering plants go to seed. Treating for 10 years. Still had 30 rosettes. But are seeing good results. I do think there is hope for garlic mustard people.
 - WA Parks: Some units are not allowing outside contractors. PNW-IPC is looking to get online trainings up!
- **Heather Hendrixson (HRSWCD)**
 - Appreciate all of the updates within partners, very helpful information.
 - Wrapped up our native plant sale a week and a half early.
 - Gearing up for garlic mustard early May. Going really well/looking much better. If we can’t get contractors out, staff will do it ourselves.
 - Working with an OSU Entomologist about how English holly attracts the marmorated stink bug.
- **Jeanette Burkhardt (Yakama Nation)**
 - Essential staff at hatcheries is at work, but planting projects are postponed--cancelled events before stay at home order was issued.
- **Kelly Wallis (TNC)**
 - Tom McCall not doing field work. But hired seasonals. Not sure what to do with them but want to try to keep them working so don’t have to lay them off.
 - Mika - Friends of Columbia Gorge has projects they can do.
- **Marty Hudson (Klickitat NWCB)**
 - Still working since easy to do so independently. Getting roadsides sprayed and cherry orchard trail. Backyard spraying starthistle. Weeds haven’t given up because of the coronavirus for us.
- **Mika Barrett (FOCG)**
 - Works with volunteers who do manual weed work. Currently postponed volunteer events until end of April, but staff can still do field work provided that they take individual cars and sanitizing tools/gloves/ourselves. Weeds don’t care that we have a pandemic and will be “one-woman-show” so we don’t get too far behind.

- Taking advantage of building out our volunteer event participant capacity (all fill up really fast) by building up resources for more volunteer crew leaders for more work parties.
- **Molly Jennings (WADNR)**
 - No fieldwork for the time being.
 - Continuing slow transition to AcrCollector and getting our WeedMapper data organized, using quarantine as a silver lining.
- **Troy Abercrombie (WIN)**
 - Working on the WIN newsletter, if you have any announcements, send over to Troy and he will get it in there.
- **Mason Scharfe (USACE)**
 - Currently working with upper management for the time being on how to proceed, it's going to be continue process.
- **Michelle Delepine (WMSWCD)**
 - Assessing field work needs and capabilities at the District. Working with partners and contractors to gather information and best management protocols for conducting field work safely—hearing from partners on this call has been very helpful.
 - NAISMA has herbicide statement published. NAISMA abstracts due March 31—good opportunity for Gorge CWMA partners to spotlight regional collaborations (the theme for this year).
 - Email Courtney if you want to get on the PNW-GMWG.
- **Kate Conley (CLT)**
 - In Oregon we are allowed to do field work. WA different order so field work is allowed when work is needed to protect inventory. There are exceptions even with the more strict WA order.
 - Doing solo weed work and hiring contractors for maintenance work, and working with them for safety protocols.
- **Mitch Bixby (City of Portland—BES)**
 - Discussing fieldwork options. Hope to begin April 15.
 - Working on 4-County CWMA IPM calendar and getting it published.
- **Evan Olson (Mt. Adams)**
 - Similar to Katie, Sarah and Christina, we are prepping for season. Getting forest pest funnel traps and fraxinus seed stock prior to EAB arrival.
 - Working on maps for Skamania County.
- **Lyn Kyan (MHNF)**
 - Working on some rare plants surveys and prepping for garlic mustard work.
- **Angie Kimpo (PWB)**
 - Continuing field work, but driving separate vehicles. Disinfecting tools daily. Writing formal justifications for necessary field work (i.e. ensure we don't lose ground on weed control work).

3:00 End

Next CWMA General Meeting

August 26th 2020, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Hood River Fire & EMS – Leonard Hay Community Room