



Columbia Gorge CWMA General Meeting

October 28th 2020; 1:00pm-3:00pm

Teleconference

Attendees: Sam Leininger (CSWCD), Emily Stevenson (SCNWCP), Claire Addis (USACE), Sara Woods (FOCG), Mika Barrett (FOCG), Lucas Nipp (EMSWCD), Sarah Hall (USFS), Troy Abercrombie (WIN), Katie Santini (USFS), William Wamsley (Lewis County), Joel Price (ODA), Noel Plemmons (WADNR), Kelly Wallis (TNC), Michelle Delepine (WMSWCD), Jeanette Burkhardt (YNCTN), Evan Olson (USFS) **plus unidentified phone callers

1:00 Welcome & Introductions

Lucas Nipp (East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District)

1:15 Organic, Cage-free Knotweed Psyllid Production

Joel Price (Oregon Department of Agriculture)

- Biological control entomologist, with ODA for 3 years and works closely with Oregon State University on Knotweed biological control.
- Has been a lull with biocontrol for a while, for last several years, have worked on more target species with invasive plants for biocontrol insects. In 2020, continued in a major way with biocontrol. Historic agents out there are still working. EX: Tansy Ragwort in Portland at Powell Butte was overtaken with Tansy, biocontrol agent wiped it out. Tansy is still gone and perennial grasses are moving in. These projects require patience but are still working year by year.
- Biocontrol: challenging with climate matching, Foreign exploration. In the first year of release, 2020, job was to walk through jungle of knotweed and to find the few insects that were released to start the population.
- Also ramping up for yellow starthistle, garlic mustard, houndstongue, and others.
- This agent was in a quarantine facility and being researched for over 10 years.
- Aphalara itadori, adults resemble mini-cicadas. Sucks saps from phloem cells. Produce 600 eggs per female and 33 day lifecycle.
- A lot of testing started at OSU. So far has been very host specific. Safety testing results: 92%-98% host selection fidelity. Impacts in lab during preliminary research: big reduction in biomass right away, leaf curling reduces photosynthesis and shields psyllids from predation.
- Challenge: permitting (hold up from honey bee producers)
- Emergence time of April 15th. Population ramp up in greenhouses. Limited local caged releases year 1.

- Released 34,650 psyllids at 27 release sites in 8 states
- 5 sites where psyllids completed at least one full generation. At most, found 14 adults in 30 minutes of search on July 28th (after releasing thousands).

1:45 CWMA Updates

- Steering Committee update – *Emily Stevenson (Skamania County)*
 - Courtney has been working on annual report, will be released next week once she returns. Includes partner updates from collaborative projects.
 - Elections for Steering Committee:
 - 2 Reps from OR, 2 from WA
 - Fiscal Admin
 - Education & Outreach Committee Chair
 - WIN Coordinator
 - Election last year have a mix of 1 year terms and 2 year terms that are now up for re-election. 1 Rep from OR, 1 Rep from WA, and 2 At-Large Members. 2 year terms.
 - Everyone can do a self-nomination. Email Courtney before December 1st if interested in being on the steering committee.
 - In January meeting will reveal candidates for positions. Courtney will follow up with an opportunity to vote for candidates.
- Financial update – *Sam Leininger (Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District)*
 - Covering the past year and will be shared in the annual report.
 - Had quite a bit of contributions from CWMA members to support the CWMA Coordinator position.
 - \$26,100 in cash contributions from partners.
 - CWMA is in good shape after stocking away money for a rainy day fund despite COVID-19. Have about \$8K in funds for the coming year. Open to ideas on how to use the funds for the CWMA in 2021. EX: Small partner grant program idea? Bike washing stations in the Gorge? In past years we purchased individual, packable boot brushes with these types of funds.
- Education & Outreach Committee update – *Mika Barrett (Friends of the Columbia Gorge)*
 - Always looking for members to join the committee (share at the Ed & Outreach meeting that I will be stepping away). We usually meet at the end of the General Meeting, so quarterly.
 - Focus is to coordinate outreach opportunities and educational events for our CWMA members, partners, and interested public residents. The committee is responsible for planning events, hosting public committee meetings, updating and creating educational materials, and brainstorming new ways to engage communities in our collaborative weed management efforts.
 - ISEP 2021: (Tenth Annual)
 - February 25th, 2021
 - Meeting later today to plan at 3:10 if you'd like to stick around

- Some changes this year:
 - virtual, half day event since it's a lot to sit through 8 hours of webinars. 30 minutes with Q/A.
 - Two segments in one day. 1st: 10am – noon, one hour lunch, and 1-3pm.
- Talk about the status of speakers. So far have confirmed a talk on eDNA technology, the Bradford pear bounty, First foods and culturally important habitats.
- Marty will be leading a Virtual Kahoot Quiz!
- Other topics that are pending speakers are: climate change topic, spotted lantern fly, and new and upcoming weeds

2:00 Partner Discussion: Post-treatment season updates

- We have survived yet, another treatment season!
- Let's recap our successes and hardships during what may have been one of the most challenging years we've ever seen.
 - EMSWCD: Had to prioritize what to work on this year. Focused on garlic mustard and false brome. Impatiens bicolor, new project in a small watershed in Corbett. Anyone have experience with this plant?
 - WIN: moving forward with bike brush stations. Working with Angie Kimpo. This idea spawned at a CWMA meeting. EMSWCD contributed to the project through a space grant for Powell butte in Portland. Sandy Ridge may be another site.
 - CSWCD: Recently built a new building and purchased a community forest over the last year. Impacted the county financially but got grant dollars to continue work in some areas. Continued policeman's helmet work, hawkweeds around Lolo pass. Wildfire in Clackamas County. Has been really taxing on district to put together a response. River Side Fire and Beechy Creek fires- BAER process- Clackamas has been put on point to put a plan together to support weed control post-fire on state and federal land. Getting into the E-chart prospective and BAER (done on federal land for Forest Service and BLM staff) process. E Chart: Erosion Threat and Response Team- (State and private lands). Trying to figure out a way to mitigate damages on both the federal, state, and private lands impacts. Engaging in plan development at this point. Need to allocate funds for post-fire work. There are multiple components to this, such as fisheries, engineering, and others who are putting this together and this is just the weed component.
 - Skamania County: Had a full crew in 2020. Reports turned in for policeman's helmet along FS and DNR roads.
 - DNR: Policeman's helmet along Washougal River and Doogan creek.
 - USFS NSA: Working on data upload for regional office. Looking at planting and seeding projects for fall. Seeding on a property west of Rowena Crest viewpoint, point of the Memaloose 2 fire.
 - Yakama Nations Fishery: White Salmon School District project, building a facility on campus that has fill and grown a diverse crop of weeds. Putting a grant together to work on a public space enhancement and weed control and vegetation enhancement.

- WADNR: Spot sprayed rush skeleton weed at Columbia Hills. For the first time, flew a drone over it to observe what it looks like right now and later. Can compare to another section not sprayed as comparison. Worked with WA State Parks and treated Tree of Heaven at Crawford Oaks. Hoping it won't do damage to local native plants, such as oaks.
- TNC Tom McCall preserve: heavily affected by COVID19. Field season was shut down. A lot of weed work did not get done. Ramping back up to hire a contractor to work at Tom McCall and Rowena point. Collaborating with USFS to spray area for Rush skeletonweed. Also dealing with ventenata dubia.
- Gifford Pinchot NF in Mt. Adams Ranger District: Doing data entry as well. Working on a KB request for a timber sale. Had about 400 lbs of native grass and forbs go out. Delayed dispersal of it, waiting for rain.
- Friends of the Columbia Gorge: Turtle Haven project and federal grant got stalled due to COVID-19. Working on removing Himalayan blackberry so turtles can move from pond to pond. Looking for ideas on soil solarization. Recent research out of Oregon State. Nursey in Clackamas County and sends into Multnomah County did a lot of experience looking at different plastic types. A lot of people use black but it's actually clear that works better.

3:00 End

Next CWMA General Meeting

January 27th 2021, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Teleconference