

Washoe-Pleasant Valleys Cooperative Weed Management Area

2009 Annual Operating Plan

General Operation & Planning

1. The Washoe-Pleasant Valleys CWMA was formed in 2004. The geographic scope of the CWMA is along within the Washoe Valley basin, including the eastern slope of the Carson Range and the western slope of the Virginia Range. The area known as Pleasant Valley, north of Washoe Valley, is also included within the CWMA boundary. The organizational structure is a working group with a coordinator, Robin Powell. All participants in the core WPV CWMA group are private landowners, federal and state agency, and non-profit organizations.
2. Meetings are held monthly to develop and coordinate activities focusing on the goals of the strategic plan. All meetings are held 4:00-5:30 p.m. at the Nevada Department of Forestry Building on East Lake Blvd, Washoe Valley, until further notice.
3. The CWMA Priority Management Areas (PMA) has been identified for the prioritization of project development. For CY2009, the two PMAs are Scripps Wildlife Management Area and the Winters Ranch Property. Adjacent lands to both high priority areas are included in the PMAs.

Funding

For CY 2009, the CWMA has one approved grants, BLM Challenge Cost Share grant. This grant will fund the retention of the CWMA coordinator to facilitate meetings and coordinate CWMA activities. The amount of the grant is set at \$5,500.00.

The Audubon Society Important Bird Areas Program has grant funding to implement volunteer-focused activities during the Spring of 2009. The amount of the grant is set at \$750.00.

The CWMA Coordinator will investigate other funding opportunities to continue the implementation of the CWMA strategic plan and to provide technical assistance to private landowners within the CWMA.

Pending Funding for CY2009 (as of February 2009):

- US Forest Service grant through Nevada Department of Agriculture for the coordination of the CWMA, chemical weed control applications on lands adjacent to Winters Ranch and Scripps WMA, and for biological control project targeting puncturevine.
- BLM Challenge Cost Share Grant for chemical weed control applications on Winters Ranch and adjacent lands.

Early Detection, Rapid Response (EDRR)

1. Focal areas for monitoring and inventorying will be at roadways and construction sites.
2. Focus on working with the following schools to educate students and their parents on the need to monitor the areas for the EDDR listed weeds.
 - a. Pleasant Valley Elementary School
 - b. Damonte Ranch High School
 - c. Galena High School
 - d. Pine Middle School
3. Coordinate with the planners for any livestock based events (e.g. trail riding or roping events) to educate the attendees on prevention and decontamination methods.
4. Create a link on the CWMA website (www.wpvcwma.org) specific for the EDDR project and create a link on the www.washoevalley.org website.
5. Put together a general list of Questions and Answers for the weed hotline to help the State Parks staff to assist callers.

Mapping

1. Coordinate with other CWMA's or entities on mapping events.
2. Host a GPS training for local landowners.
 - a. The CWMA currently has 4 GPS units.
3. Compile and summarize all existing GIS/GPS data for historical reference. CWMA Coordinator will be responsible for housing existing datasets on an external hard drive.
4. Contract GIS specialist to produce useable maps for decision making and project planning.
 - a. Identify large infestations and identify target areas.
 - b. Compile all information into a dataset.

Education

1. Weed Control or Treatment Tours

Explore the possibility of hosting a treatment plot tour for the community residents.

- Must evaluate community interest level
- Contact Earl Creech, UN Cooperative Extension regarding possible test plot

2. Public Outreach

Mail out an annual newsletter or accomplishment report for 2008 activities to the landowners and participants of the group to keep them updated on current projects and successes.

Coordinate with the EDRR project to improve citizen monitoring of listed EDRR plant species.

Continue posting most current information on the CWMA website (www.wpvcwma.org).

Submit two (2) articles to the Reno Gazette Journal, News & Review, and The Nevada Appeal on the WPV CWMA efforts to bring awareness to the Truckee Meadows, Eagle Valley, Washoe Valley, and Pleasant Valleys.

Develop “freebies” as motivational tools for the adjacent landowners during BLM and NDOW treatment efforts (see Weed Management Projects below).

Weed Management Projects

1. Winters Ranch

- a. BLM will continue mapping in 2009.
- b. CWMA will work with adjacent landowners for coordinate weed treatments.
 - i. Contact and coordinate with adjacent landowners.
 - ii. Hand out information and provide additional technical support.
 - iii. Need to identify a mechanism for cost-share weed treatments if State Parks conducts the chemical treatments or foster the relationship between contractors and landowners.
- c. CWMA will coordinate with BLM sprayer (Gene Moore 775-885-6000).

2. NDOT Wetlands

- a. The treatments will depend upon the availability of the State Parks crew. If they are unavailable, then NDOT will utilize the CWMA equipment and conduct the spray treatments themselves. Optimal to hire a contractor to do the spraying.
- b. All spray treatments will have NDOT staff direct oversight.
- c. Goal is to treat 200 acres (full property).

3. Scripps Wildlife Management Area

- a. Mechanical
 - i. Burn the dead above ground biomass material on approximately 200 acres to improve efficacy of spray treatments.
 - ii. Final decision under NV Department of Wildlife Management consideration for formal approval.
 - iii. The proposed burn will be conducted by NDOW, NV Division of Forestry, and NV State Parks.
- b. Chemical
 - i. NDOW will be hiring a contractor for the chemical applications.

- c. The CWMA will take the lead on working with the adjacent landowners while NDOW is working.
 - i. Hand out information and have sign-ups for additional information.
 - ii. Recruit volunteers from CABs to go door to door.
 - iii. Need to develop a mechanism to cost-share with the landowners if the State Parks treats their property or foster relationship between contractor and landowner.
4. **Prevention**
- a. Coordinate with adjacent CWMA's and other land managing entities on weed management activities.
 - b. Advertise Weed Free Hay Program and weed free products for consumers.
 - c. Re-establish partnering relationships with large landowners such as the Thunder Canyon Golf Course.
 - d. Public Outreach on decontamination of equipment and livestock.
5. **Volunteer Projects**
- a. Thistle pull at Winter's Ranch
 - b. Public Lands Day event
 - c. Earth Day event