

Harney County Cooperative Weed Management Area

Accomplishments January 2009– December 2009

Overview

The Harney County CWMA has had a good year bringing education and awareness to the front of all projects and with in the community. There were a total of 10 different education events and opportunities where our weedy presence was in the spot light.

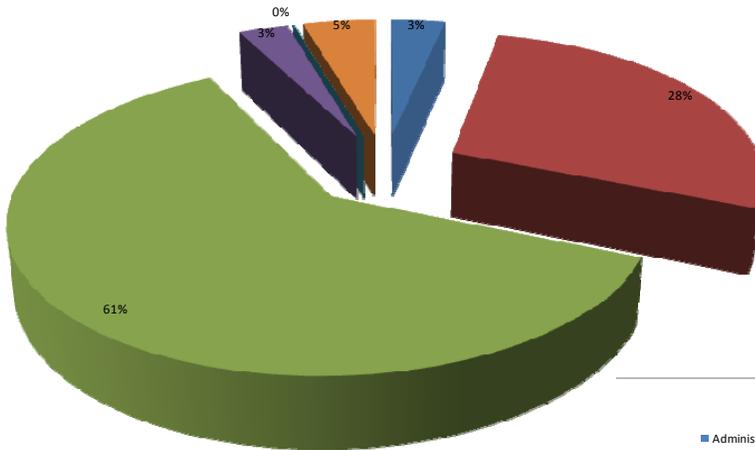
On the ground projects were limited as the CWMA partners are in the process of identifying a resource focus area. A resource focus area would allow for consistent monitoring, greater participation from landowners, defined boundaries, and a more measurable outcome. It would also allow for partnering agencies to focus more weed control efforts to a specific area. As a result, the partnership chose not to pursue new projects in 2009.

The Crane-Drewsey medusahead project was one project that the CWMA continued to focus on in 2009. After the failure of more than 60% of the initial medusahead control/treatment project in 2005, BASF replaced 130 gallons of product in the fall of 2008. Due to the lateness of the season and lack of application funds, all treatments were postponed until fall of 2009. As a result a total of 10 private landowners participated in this years project.

Financial Overview

Expense Distribution- CWMA General Funds

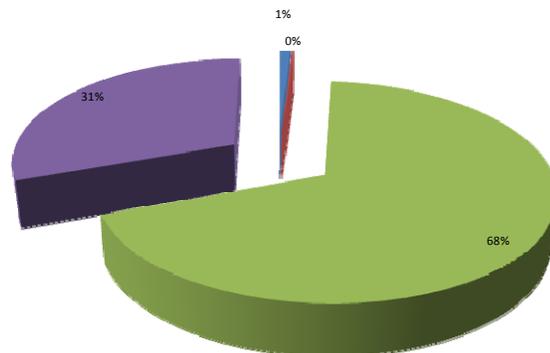
■ Administration ■ Alien Invasion Curriculum ■ Harney County ■ Education Materials ■ Fair Booth ■ Weedy Evening- TACA



Administration:	\$621.55
Alien Invasion:	\$5,235.51
Harney County:	\$11,500.00
Fair Booth:	\$5.85
Ed. Materials:	\$567.30
Weedy Evening:	\$845.00
Total:	\$18,775.21

Medusahead Expenses

■ Administration ■ Advertising ■ Contracted Services ■ Project Supplies



Administration:	\$223.39
Advertising:	\$52.25
Contracted Srv.:	\$18,574.01
Project Sup.:	\$8,325.00
Total:	\$27,174.65

Funds expended are only shown to be from the CMWA (not participating partners). Represents only funds expended from July 1, 2010 through December 30, 2010.

Partners

This year was the sunset year for the initial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was signed in 2005. A MOU was mail out to all partners for new signatures that will be good for another 5 years. A few grammatical changes were made, however none of the changes altered the authorities or meanings in the MOU. Below is a list of partners.

Harney County Weed Board
Burns District Bureau of Land Management
Harney County OSU Extension
Harney County Watershed Council
Harney Soil & Water Conservation District
USFW Malheur National Wildlife Refuge
Oregon Department of Transportation– District 13
*Oregon Department of State Lands**
*USFS Emigrant Creek Ranger District**
*Harney County**
*Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Station**
*Burns District Natural Resource Conservation District Office**
*Burns Paiute Tribe**
*Oregon Department of Agriculture**
*Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife**

**MOU not yet returned*

Pesticide Recertification Training March 5, 2009



The Pesticide Recertification class provides a means for licensed applicators in the area to maintain their licenses as required by the state and federal agencies.

In addition to providing the required credits, applicators also have a chance to hear and learn new information regarding new invasive plants, policies, and herbicides. It is also a chance for applicators to get together and discuss different IPM programs.

A total of 20 people attended the training from Harney, Malheur, and Grant counties. This event is always looked forward to by participants.

Speakers included Laurie Gordon-ODA, Jesse Barnes-Harney County Weed Control, Bob Eccles- Wilber Elis, Mark Hansen-Crop Production Services, and Aleta Nafus- Eastern Oregon Ag research Station. Topics included: Laws & Safety, Product updates, Weed ID, and the purpose of a surfactant- how they work.



The event was held at the Harney ESD office located at Fairview Heights.

Total Cost: Facility Rent- \$75.00
Time- 34 hours = \$519.86
Materials- \$45.00

Weed Corner Articles

Year Round!

Weed Corner articles are written and presented to the Burns Times Herald for placement in the newspaper as space comes available. While this service is free, it is not guaranteed that a weed corner article will appear in the paper. This year a total of 8 articles were in the paper. The articles were as follows:

African Rue

Weed Projects in Harney County– A full page highlighting the projects and events that the CWMA and Harney County Weed Board are involved with as well as accomplishments.

Free Spray Day

Cypress Spurge

New invader information from ODA (2 articles)

Equipment information

Harney County Medusahead– a 1/4 page article highlighting information on the medusahead projects in the county and contact information on how to get involved in the 2009 project.

Total Cost: Time– 15 hours= \$244.35



John Scharff Migratory Bird Festival

April 3-5, 2009

The festival is generally well attend, however the attendance comes from folks visiting from out of town. Over the past couple of years the attendance at the festival has gone down as well. Each year a different topic of weed control is put on display.

While it is a good opportunity to provide education and awareness, the crowd addressed is inappropriate. This year the weed booth consisted of the wooden kiosk. The kiosk was filled with information about invasive weeds and how they affect wildlife and their habitat as well as contacts and information on how to get involved. No materials were taken, as has been the pattern for the past 5 years. In the past, success at reaching visitors to bird festival about the importance of invasive species has been during a tour.

Total Cost: Booth– \$75.00
Time– 4 hours= \$61.16



Weeds in the Classroom

April 2009

A teaching experience at Slater Grade School. This was a successful project to bring some of the Alien Invasion curriculum in to the classroom. As a result two classrooms participated for the month of April, 1 day a week. One class was 3rd grade and the other was 5th grade. Each teacher was able to use the information and activities presented from Alien Invasion and apply it to the Oregon Teaching Standards as well as use the information for additional class projects.

Both classes began with planting their choice of a garden flower or vegetable to demonstrate what plants need to grow and how they grow. The 3rd grade class stayed to the basic concepts of plant parts, function, grass or broadleaf and what makes a plant good or bad. The 5th grade class looked more at what the role of a plant is in an ecosystem, how it can affect the soil, and how noxious weeds in turn affect the soil.

A special guest speaker, of the ARS, was able to give a presentation to each class on how professionals look at natural resources and how important it is that ecosystems remain healthy with little to no invasive weeds present. He also did a demonstration of a fire regime. The students were very involved and excited.

At the end of the month long program/session the students completed weeding and planting in front of the Slater gym building. The species planted were drought tolerant/resistant. Overall this was a successful program that brought weed education into the classroom and had 100% participation from the students. Both teachers were also excited and wanted to know if this program would be available next year.

Total Cost: Supplies- \$150.00

Time- 35 hours = \$535.15



Free Spray Day

June 6, 2009



The Free Spray Day event got the Burns-Hines communities involved in weed control. One of the major issues that the County and CWMA face is the ability to provide effective recommendations and avenues for residents to treat noxious weeds that are found in a yard.

Following in the footsteps of Baker County, this year it was decided to give pre-mixed herbicide away.

The herbicide of choice was Speedzone as it is labeled for turf/ornamental and is a non-restricted herbicide. Each participant signed a cooperative agreement releasing the County and CWMA from all liability and in return received 3 to 5 gallons of mix. They had a label taped to the container and received a MSDS.

The weed wagon and weed samples were also available for those interested in obtaining more information on invasive and noxious weeds. The day began at 9 am and ended at 3 pm. A total of 500 gallons of mix were given away with 100 participants.



The Speedzone was donated by Crop Production Services with surfactant donated by Harney County Weed Control.



Lesley Richman of the BLM, as well Dan Brown and Ed Ramsey from the Weed Board were instrumental to making the event run smoothly.

Total Cost: Advertising- \$400.00
Time- 40 hours= \$611.60
Materials- \$100.00

4-H Camp - Hippie Days

July 7, 2009

Lake Creek Camp!

Every year the 4-H camp invites professionals to join them and put on a demonstration, educational display, event, etc., for the campers. This was the first year that we participated at camp and found it to be a challenge. Not only is Lake Creek a fairly weed free area, but time is limited with each group of kids.



This year Dustin Johnson and Jesse Barnes utilized a couple of lessons from the Alien Invasion curriculum to present weed ID in an interesting way to the campers. Over all the campers enjoyed the clue cards and race with some of them being able to apply 'why we do not want the weed' to raising their 4-H animals. It is very time consuming and inconvenient to get houndstounge off of and out of your lambs wool.

The other invasive species that we were able to highlight were yellow toadflax, dalmatian toadflax, spotted knapweed, St. Johnswort, bull thistle, and black medic. We had to import most all of the invasive weeds except for yellow toadflax, bull thistle, and black medic.

At the end of each session there was a Q &A period where the campers were able to regurgitate the facts of each plant. Each camper also received a weed tattoo.



We were able to reach 85 campers ages 10 to 18. We have also been asked to come again next year.

Total Cost: Time- 16 hours= \$260.64
Materials- \$15.00

4-H Science Camp

August 6, 2009

The CWMA was invited to attend and present a project to the 4-H Science camp here in Burns. Once again Dustin Johnson and Jesse Barnes utilized lessons from the Alien Invasion curriculum to provide education to the campers. The lessons that were used included the Weed ID race, sock race, and a story problem for seed distribution and production. Each lesson was able to be combined with the other.



Listening for instructions, last minute ID for the big race.



On your Mark– Get Set...don't forget that you have to relay the socks!...go!



We were even able to provide education for exchange students.



Counting seeds that were collected in the sock during the great race. That information was used to do projection calculations....

There were a total of 35 kids that participated from both Burns and Crane. Everyone had a good time and learned weed ID as well as how plants can move and become a problem. Who knew that the old mill yard was so...icky! They are eagerly awaiting our return for next year!

Total Cost: Time- 10 hours = \$162.90
Materials- \$35.00

Harney County Fair, Rodeo, September 9-13, 2009 & Race Meet



We presented the projects from the past, present, and future. Information on who to contact, as well as informative flyers and promotional items: pens, note pads, etc. were also available. The overall attendance of the booth was ok with slightly more people wandering though than last year.



This year the theme for the fair was 'Country Fun for Everyone'. As usual, the CWMA teamed up with the Harney SWCD and shared the booth space and the responsibility of manning the booth. This year the booth received Reserve Grand Champion.



Total Costs:

Time- 32hrs = \$489.28

Materials- \$25.00

Booth- free

Teacher Workshop- 'Alien Invasion' Curriculum

October 16-17, 2009

This workshop was to bring the new Alien Invasion curriculum to the forefront of our education – awareness efforts in the school system by getting teachers involved.



The original intention was to hold a teacher workshop at Lake Creek Camp in August, however it was decided to hold the workshop in October for better attendance. The teacher workshop provided all participating teachers with a copy of the Alien Invasion Curriculum, materials needed for lessons, information on how to teach the lessons, hands on experience, and lists of resources for their respective areas/ environments.

There were a total of 14 participants. One teacher was local with others from the Lakeview, Long Creek, Bend, and the Salem areas.



This workshop was a collaborative project completed and brought to fruition by the CWMA, Oregon Natural Resource Education Program– OSU, Harney County Extension, Burns Dist. BLM, and Harney ESD.

Total Cost: Time- 40 hours = \$651.60
Materials- \$1,406.70
Conference Room- Free
Travel, reimbursement, Substitute teacher fee- \$3,620.81
Contracted Help- \$208.00

Weedy Evening- Potential New Opportunities for Control and Management of Cheatgrass & Medusahead.

NOV. 12, 2009

What a success! A total of 40 people attend, asked great questions and received valuable information. This event highlighted the advances that are being made in the biological control of medusahead rye. There are currently two different sources being looked at: Soil microbes and Smut (a fungi).

SMUT: Presented by Lesley Richman of the Burns District BLM.

Smut is a fungi that has been found to attack native populations of medusahead rye in Europe and Asia. As a result of tedious research a few varieties of medusahead rye have been identified as well as a few different strands of smut.

However, while the several different stands of smut do an excellent job of controlling the medusahead populations overseas, it is not yet allowed in to the US as it also attacks cereal crops and native elymus grass species.

Research will continue for a strain of smut that does not pose a threat to native grasses or commercial crops. Unfortunately it has taken approximately 20 years to get this information and may take awhile to identify and approve a new strain of smut for use in the US.

Fire & Grazing Disturbance on Rangelands: Presented by Aleta Nafus of the USDA-ARS.

This presentation focused on the benefits of managing rangelands to include grazing and infrequent—low intensity fire. An area that had been grazed and burned was compared to an area that had not been grazed, only burned. The results were that areas that have managed grazing were less likely to have a large infestation of cheatgrass after a fire. Adding more evidence that managed grazing and fire are beneficial in the control of cheatgrass.

Soil Bacterial: Presented by Dr. Ann Kennedy of the USDA-ARS.

Dr. Ann Kennedy has been looking at native or local soil microbes that discourage the growth of unwanted grasses in cereal crops in Washington. As a result she has discovered a strain of microbe that inhibits the growth of medusahead rye and cheatgrass.

Because of the success of the first trials over the past couple of years, Ann has been able to put more study plots out to look for soil microbes that are local to specific areas— like Eastern Oregon. One huge benefit to the soil microbes that she is testing is that they are native and do not require any USDA APHIS permits or paperwork.

While the microbes have been doing a great job on the test plots, they do not move or multiply and have a short life-span, but have a lasting effect for 5 to 7 years post application. It is anticipated that more information will be available next fall and the soil microbes may be available for practical use with in a year or two.

Total Cost: Building rent- \$250.00
Time- 10 hours = \$152.90,
Food/materials- \$865.00

Crane-Drewsey Medusahead

September 2009

This is a continuing project from November 2005. In 2005 the Crane-Drewsey Attack on Medusahead treated approximately 4,000 acres of medusahead using Plateau. The project failed due to a combination of applicator error, recommendation error, and the herbicide not performing. As a result in 2008 BASF replaced 130 gallons of herbicide. This was enough to re-treat 2,773.3 acres.

This year agencies, funds, and landowners were able to come together to get the product on the ground.



A total of 10 landowners of the original 15 participated. Three landowners preferred to complete treatments on their own by ground application. One landowner treated on their own using aerial application. The remaining six landowners partnered with the NRCS EQIP program to complete aerial applications. A total of 4,354 acres were treated this season.

The success of this project is due to the high amount of coordination with landowners, Crop Production Services, the CWMA, and the NRCS. This project is also guaranteed, if for any reason there is a failure, the project will be redone with no cost to the landowners.



Quality Control!

Total Cost: Time- 200 hours = \$3,250.00
Materials- \$3700.00
Application- \$95,788.00 (by landowner)