



## 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area 2017 Annual Report

### 4-County CWMA 2017 Pull-Together

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The 4-County CWMA sold over 120 tickets to this informational event for professionals working in invasive plant management. Because of a sudden snow storm, the original Pull-Together planned for January was re-scheduled at the last minute. The group hustled to line up version 2.0 in February. Even with the changes, we had a great day of learning and high attendance. Speakers delved into a variety of topics surrounding invasive plants, communication, and pesticides. We also hosted a networking Happy Hour and Poster Session following the event, with a no-host bar and hors d'oeuvres. Attendees included urban and rural land managers, restoration and invasive plant specialists, environmental educators, local, state and federal government agency representatives, and private landowners.

### 4-County CWMA 2018 Pull-Together Planning

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The Pull-Together Planning Committee met three times in 2017 to plan the conference in early 2018. For the upcoming conference, the venue was moved to better accommodate networking after the event, a host of great speakers have been scheduled, and registration is open. Seven committee members from a range of organizations pulled together to develop what we hope will be our best event yet.

### CWMA 2017 Field Day

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36 registrants signed up for the 4-County CWMA Field Day in Washington County this year, our biggest ever! Starting at Maroon Ponds, Rob Emanuel from CWS guided the group through a wetland restoration project. From there they headed to Penstemon Prairie to see a seasonally flooded prairie with Elaine Stewart from Metro. Lunch was at a restored wetland at Fern Hill, with exploration led by Rob and Elaine. After lunch the tour headed to a project where multi-year controlled cattle grazing was being utilized to improve site conditions. Nicole Roggerio from Ash Creek Forest Management, Dean Moberg from NRCS, and Aaron Shaw from Tualatin SWCD all spoke about the project.

## **Spring Home & Garden Show**

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On February 23-26 the CWMA hosted a table at the Spring Home & Garden Show at the Portland Expo Center. Volunteers reached out to over 200 people with CWMA Fact Sheets, Garden Smart booklets, native and invasive plant posters, and a wealth of information!

## **General Meetings in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Clark Counties**

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The CWMA held three 2-hour general meetings in spring, summer and autumn of last year. Meetings were hosted by member organizations, and each one highlighted work happening in a different county within the CWMA boundary. Speakers addressed a range of topics from the 'Shade our Streams' program and Backyard Habitat, to weed management at Cranes Landing. The meeting also provided the opportunity to update members about CWMA activities, plan future events, learn about partner projects, and network. Over 70 attendees representing a wide array of agencies and organizations participated in the meetings.

## **Steering Committee**

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The Steering Committee gathered for four 1-hour meetings in 2017. They elected two new co-chairs, laid down guidelines for CWMA advocacy, directed the activities of the various committees, made decisions about the website and financial expenditures, and coordinated partner support of the CWMA. The steering committee has 9 very dedicated members working hard to ensure that the CWMA is an active and relevant force in the community!

## **Education & Outreach Committee**

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The Education & Outreach Committee met four times in 2017. The committee worked hard to update and print all 10 of the CWMA Fact Sheets. We also adopted a project to revise 12 Best Management Practices documents which will be posted on the website and made available to the public. The group helped to plan the Pull-Together, updated their work plan for 2018, and began to plan an overhaul of the CWMA website. We have 1 more meeting planned in December to tackle this monumental task. We had over 20 attendees at the meetings over the year, not counting our hard-working chair!

## **Technical & Scientific Review Committee**

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The Technical & Scientific Review Committee met three times throughout 2017. The committee reviewed and updated the CWMA weed list, and created a new format, which will be added to the website soon. They also worked on a Weed-Free Gravel Certification process, which is still in the planning phase. The final task of the committee was to work on an annual plan for moving into 2018.

## **Mapping & Data Committee**

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The Mapping & Data Committee presented two posters at the 2017 Pull Together and met twice last year. The group initiated a priority weed data quality review, mapping, and management coordination project. They also hosted an annual open discussion on data collection challenges and successes for partners and continued to provide feedback and encourage data contributions to iMapInvasives Oregon's weed observation, survey, and treatment datasets. The annual work plan for 2018 was reviewed and updated.

## **The 4-County CWMA Newsletter**

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Six 4-County CWMA Weeder Newsletters were emailed to partners in 2017. The group has over 200 subscribers and the newsletters contain information about upcoming events, activities, grants, research, and media articles related to invasive species. They also include job listings by partner organizations and provide a venue for partners to ask questions and present findings to the group.

## **4CountyCWMA.org**

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The website was maintained with an events calendar for the CWMA, brochures available to the public and partners, and other informational materials. In 2017 the online versions of the Fact Sheets were updated and new Best Management Practices (BMPs) were edited. In 2018 they will be made available to partners to print and use, the new CWMA Weed List will be added, and the Education & Outreach Committee will create an overarching plan for the further development of the website.