



January 8, 2018

Dear 4-County CWMA member organizations and prospective member organizations,

The 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) is celebrating 13 years serving the Greater Portland Metropolitan Area. Over the years our membership has grown, as have our partnerships, events and products. Our growth has been made possible in large part through the work of a part-time Coordinator.

The CWMA has matured to become an invaluable resource for weed management professionals and organizations throughout the region. The CWMA provides a platform for partners to collaborate on the latest management approaches, analyze new technologies and science, and strategize to become more effective and efficient land managers. Member organizations are encouraged to serve on one or more of our committees. Currently, these include steering, technical and scientific review, mapping and data, event planning, and education and outreach.

In addition to holding two annual events—the *Pull Together* and *Field Day*—we offer numerous opportunities to engage in trainings and discussions throughout the year to convey and share new information. We also work together to build informative outreach products, such as our recently revised *Urban IPM Factsheets* and new *Best Management Practices* guides. Other recent products include an updated CWMA weed list and database, a collaborative map and dataset of high priority invasives in the 4-County area, and regular CWMA newsletters. In the coming year we look to make substantive improvements to our website for sharing technical resources with invasive plant professionals across the region. With these training opportunities and up-to-date informational products, participating members of the CWMA are benefited with tools to make better decisions with their limited resources.

As we continue to develop a strong support base for our organization, we are looking for current and prospective members to consider becoming sponsoring members of the CWMA. We are also asking current sponsors to consider increasing their contributions. Organizations are encouraged to support the 4-County CWMA through financial assistance or by providing staff time and resources. The funding level amount is voluntary and determined entirely by your organization. It is also possible for participating organizations to provide funding for specific CWMA products, such as factsheets, guides, website resources or other deliverables.

Donations by sponsoring organizations currently range from \$500-\$3000 and total \$11,750 annually. These resources allow the 4-County CWMA to support a part-time coordinator and to provide low cost trainings and benefits to the community, but currently fall short of total actual expenses. The numerous CWMA benefits to members and the local invasive species community can only be sustained with the financial support of our member organizations.

Current sponsoring member organizations include:

- *City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services*
- *Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District*
- *Clark Public Utilities*
- *Clean Water Services*

- *East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District*
- *Metro Natural Areas Program*
- *North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District - Clackamas County Parks*
- *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*
- *West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District*

If you are not a 4-County CWMA member organization, we encourage you to join our growing list of partners and help us help you manage the area's invasive weeds. We also encourage current member organizations to become sponsoring members of the 4-County CWMA. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a sponsoring member or would like to increase your financial contribution, please contact our coordinator Sarah Hamilton at (503)210-6015 or info@4countycwma.org.

Sincerely,

Michelle Delepine

4-County CWMA Co-Chair

West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

Casey Gozart

4-County CWMA Co-Chair

Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board