

INVENTORY OF WASHINGTON CRM/CWMA GROUPS

February 4, 2008

GROUP NAME: Olympic Knotweed Working Group
YEAR FORMED: 2004, 2005
REGION: Olympic Peninsula
COUNTIES: Clallam, Jefferson, Mason, Grays Harbor
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SIZE (Acres):

LANDOWNERS (to include estimates of acres or percentage of managed lands):

Private (not many sit at the table, but we work with them with what we do).
Clallam Co. manages 200+ landowner agreements. The Tribes manage their own.

Timber Companies (GreenCo, Rainier, Merrill and Ring), USFS, NPS.
Every Peninsula Tribe (Makah Tribe, Quileute Indian Nation, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Lower Elwah Klallam Tribe, Quinalt Indian Nation, Port Gamble and Hoh. State DNR, Wash DOT, State Parks, City of Forks.

OTHER PARTICIPANTS, STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERS:

WSDA, State Weed Board, WSU – CoOperative Extension (research -Tim Miller),

UW (doctoral research -Lauren Urgenson); 10,000 Years Institute in Clallam Co, NRCS – Tribal Liaison, USFWL (supportive role), Weed Boards of Clallam, Jefferson, Mason and Grays Harbor Counties. The Clallam Conservation District.

All the tribes are active participants, plus owners. Except for private, non-commercial landowners, almost all the landowners above have either treated lands, or directly partnered with us.

NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES: Knotweeds

STATUS OF PLAN (Please underline your choices):

No plan Help needed In Process Not Written
Written Implemented and functioning Completed
Planning Meetings every spring – to develop annual working plan
Follow-Up Meeting every fall – summary and review.
Clallam Co. produces an annual report with this information.

CWMA STATUS: (Please underline your choices).

Brand new group, potential new group, or resurrected group.
Mission accomplished and disbanded.
Unable to overcome obstacles, disbanded.
Reason?

Plans to regroup?

Self-sufficient and functioning for foreseeable future.

Some need for assistance, or resources need as indicated below.

Moderate need for assistance, as indicated below.

Immediate or major need for assistance or additional resources.

A number of the tribes are getting worried that their funding, much of which comes from BIA sources, will run out soon. (They have had grants 3 or 4 times the size of anything that the Clallam County Weed Board brings to the table.)

ASSISTANCE OR RESOURCES NEEDED:

Implementation Needs: Funding needed for identified projects.

Facilitation Needs:

Technical Needs: Need more research. The resources of WSU-Cooperative Extension (Tim Miller) and UW (PhD graduate research Lauren Urgenson) are needed for long term success and as a training tool to remind landowners that this is for their benefit.

Administrative Needs: Need staff to track and coordinate projects, to help members of this working group with field work.

This is a big group, and they rely on the Clallam County Weed Program to help carry out projects. The pesticide licensing training in 2007 was vital, and it was important for the training to take place on the northwest end of the Olympic Peninsula.

2008 MEETINGS: The spring meeting is for an annual plan – is there a need for training, what projects to tackle and at what locations. Who has what resources, what can we (Clallam Co. Weed Board) share, what do we need? Is there a need for a change in protocols, either in data collection, control methods, landowner contacts or permitting? The fall meeting is for an annual summary and review - what worked, what can be improved. This fosters great networking and reaches for higher level managers to attend.

COMMENTS: There is no formal paperwork to identify this as a CWMA. This started with four or five parties that sat down to discuss what was needed to control knotweed along the rivers. The Clallam County Weed Board was instrumental in organizing this early group, and they took the position of the neutral party, “How Can I Help?” It kept building, and now more parties want to get on board.

The CWMA projects are defined by how much funding is available. There is more work to do than available funds. They tackle projects as they find funding. Basically, they look for a champion to take hold of a project and find funding to get it accomplished. The Clallam County Weed Board’s job is to support those projects with each partner, to fill in any gaps and to work on closing loop holes – this takes time. They organize training and keep the group focused. As a result, this CWMA is gradually knocking out knotweed on all the big rivers in this area.

As this group matures and develops, they are starting to focus on other noxious weeds. The Makah Tribe is developing an IPM Plan for noxious weed control.

This is a first. They used to have a ban on herbicides, and that is changing. They are starting to use biological controls.

The Clallam Conservation District redesigned and produced an Olympic Knotweed Working Group (OKWG) brochure/mailer that was vital to educating the landowners about what this group does. 4000 brochures were mailed to the entire western portion of Clallam County. 6000 additional brochures were printed to supply partners in Jefferson, Mason, and Gray's Harbor Counties.

The OKWG has worked to develop some protocols to standardize data collection among partners. All partners submit their shapefiles at the end of the season so they can be collated into a comprehensive map. This information helps identify data/program gaps and helps focus work plans the following spring. Although the Clallam County Weed Board solicits and stores program data, the National Park Service has taken a lead role in reviewing and developing comprehensive Peninsula wide maps.

This CWMA was born out of practicality and its development has been organic.