

INVENTORY OF WASHINGTON CRM/CWMA GROUPS

February 12, 2008 D R A F T

GROUP NAME: Skagit CWMA
YEAR FORMED: 2000, recently signed the MOU
REGION: Skagit River Watershed
COUNTIES: Skagit (primary), Whatcom, Snohomish
CONTACT: Bob Carey, (360) 419-9825
bcarey@tnc.org

SIZE (Acres): The watershed covers a couple million acres, but the focus is on the Skagit river system. In order to be efficient, their focus is on the riparian invaders, the weeds that have the potential to impact the ecological system of the river system.

LANDOWNERS (to include estimates of acres or percentage of managed lands): Private (>100 landowners in project area, but some don't have the riparian weeds that are being worked on), DNR Aquatic Lands and DNR Trust, WDFW, State Parks, Skagit County Parks, USFS, NPS, Seattle City Light

OTHER PARTICIPANTS, STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERS:

TNC, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom County Weed Boards, Skagit Land Trust, Skagit Fisheries, WCC (they are doing majority of the field work, by contract), WSDA

NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES: knotweed -primary past 2 years. Now looking at yellow flag iris, clematis, possibly butterfly bush. Always looking for purple loosestrife (currently not present)

STATUS OF PLAN (Please underline your choices):

No plan	Help needed	In Process	Not Written
Written	<u>Implemented and functioning</u>		Completed

Have an Action Plan (to identify projects) and a Summary. Also have an overarching knotweed control strategy. They are in the process of developing an early detection rapid response plan for other invasive weeds.

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.

ASSISTANCE OR RESOURCES NEEDED:

Implementation Needs: Funding. The annual budget is about \$200,000 (\$150,000 – TNC and \$50,000 from NPS and Seattle City Light). This budget is used with a focus only on knotweed, but there are new weeds on the horizon, so this needs to increase. TNC can cover some of this cost through grants, but to be successful they need long term commitment, and this is tough with grant based funding. If they had another \$50,000 -75,000 they could come up with rest to make this a solid long term commitment.

To go to a watershed basin-wide control, the funding needs would be considerably higher.

Because they are trying to make this current CWMA successful, they are only working in the upper basin, going to the source of the knotweed. They do not have the capacity to work in the lower basin, where there are weed infestations.

TNC is providing most of the implementation needs. They have to fund raise for this, and every year it gets harder. Currently they have one FTE and they contract out to WCC to do field work. They are resource poor – they have partners, and TNC provides the leadership. They were hoping to pass the torch to the county weed boards, but they don't have the capacity or the technical expertise to take on this project with this type rigor.

Facilitation Needs:

Technical Needs:

Administrative Needs:

Help to Develop or Produce a Written Plan:

2008 MEETINGS: Spring – to set and finalize a work plan for the year.

Fall – to focus on reviewing the results, figure out what they learned and how they need to adapt their approach. Guest speakers are invited to meetings. TNC has a very rigorous monitoring plan that they put out there for review. They share any information gathered from elsewhere (OR meetings), and staff attends weed conferences.

COMMENTS:

Would like the information from this survey shared with others.

Would be interested in knowing how some CWMAs rely on the MOU.

It would be really nice to see the (Skagit) county weed board take up more of the work, to see them play more of a leadership role in the lower basin. The Snohomish and Whatcom County Boards are more involved, but most of the project area is in Skagit. (Snohomish and Whatcom come to all meetings, and they are taking the strategies, approach and tools of this CWMA to develop programs in other watershed in their counties.) It's a nice partnership.

Research needs – working with UW Lauren Urgenson. This type of research is needed for other aquatic invasive weeds, to be able to identify the real ecological threat, or impacts of this species. This is necessary to be able to make decisions

about which weed species to target for control. It also makes it easier to fund raise if you have proof. The biggest challenge for any weed manager is to prioritize the control efforts, since you can't do it all.

Research needs - control techniques. What is effective, what is not. More funding would let us take the time to do effective monitoring work, to be able to step back and run the numbers.

Research needs - to tie knotweed to salmon impacts.