

Meeting Minutes: Wallowa County Weed Board Meeting

Date: 4/19/22

Attendees: Casey Crum, Coy Riggs, Joe Simms, Andy Marcum, Ingrid Cook, Kelly Birkmaier, Chris Cunningham, Marci Schreder

Marci Schreder brought the meeting to order at 3:00pm. Review and approval of meeting minutes followed.

Agenda Item I: Review and Discuss Action Items

County Commissioners Meeting: Andy shared that he attended the County Commissioners meeting to provide a list of the new weed species. He shared information about the Sweetbriar rose, which is now prevalent around the county. This species has been added to the “B” noxious weed list.

Weed Levee Preparation: Every 5 years there is a weed levee, this will occur in May of 2023, in January the Weed Board will start reaching out to folks.

Educational Events: Andy discussed the need for all partners (WR, SWCD, NRCS, FSA, car show, etc.) to collaborate on upcoming Wallowa County events by setting up an educational booth at county fair, rodeo, and key gatherings. He mentioned the need to get pertinent information out to the general public as there are many new landowners in the county.

County Commissioners Presentation: Andy asked that each partner prepare 1-2 power point slides that highlight 2021 accomplishments and projected outcomes of 2022 for the County Commissioner meeting in May.

Agenda Item II: Partners Updates

Wallowa County Vegetation Department: Andy Marcum provided details on all the above action items. Additionally, he delayed the budget update until the May meeting as the April meeting was lightly attended.

- Andy relayed that he finished spraying the railroad area. He focused on treating the area from Joseph to Minam State Park and from Elgin to Minam.
- Jake Spar is spraying Dug Bar, pullouts and campgrounds this spring. His focal species is puncture vine.
- Andy also plans to reach the docks at Wallowa Lake State Park.
- The annual County Commissioners meeting is planned for the first or second Wednesday in May. Partners will be providing 1-2 Power point slides to outline their 2021 accomplishments and highlights for 2022.
- Andy relayed that there will be another hay station placed in Flora this fall in preparation of hunting season.

Wallowa Resources: Joe Simms

- Joe placed an article and picture in the Chieftain regarding the weed of the month “Common Bugloss”. He also placed this information on Wallowa Resources Facebook page and in the

monthly newsletter. The group voted that “White top” will be the focal weed of the month for May.

- Joe also shared that multiple projects are in the works for this field season. He is lining up contractors to accomplish ground and aerial spraying along with inventory for specific project areas. Work has commenced in the Elbow and Joseph Creek fire areas.
- WR applied for the BLM Infrastructure grant offered early April. This focuses on annual grass/other broadleaf species in the Elbow Creek/Joseph Canyon fire areas on BLM and private land.
- ODOT has also funded a recent spring grant for equipment. WR will purchase a drone and an intelli-hose for the ATV.
- A May float trip is scheduled for the Grande Ronde River – BLM.
- Marci shared that the IAG SAP draft document is currently under a heavy editing process. The strategic action plan is expected to be complete by late fall. The Partnership is also working on a GIS map that utilizes the Rangeland spatial mapping platform, local knowledge, and field verification to develop a working map for the IAG partnership to strategically plan and implement treatments in the future.
- The IAG Partnership is also submitting an OWEB Stakeholder Engagement grant May 2nd to pilot the IAG/Range management strategy in the near future.

Tri-County CWMA: Shanda Zettle

- Shanda and Andy worked together to submit a BLM Infrastructure proposal focused on addressing annual grasses and broad leaf species in the Joseph Canyon fire area. This will include aerial inventory and spraying over the next 5 years.
- The CWMA is also focused on treating hawkweed on Cricket Flat and the Minam River. ODFW state lands will also be treated.
- Shanda plans to assist Beckijo with spraying in Wallowa County as needed. She is also working with Umatilla County on Tansy and Meadow Hawkweed.
- Tri-County CWMA has a meeting scheduled for April 21 in La Grande, OSU office complex.

Private Range Consultant: Kelly Birkmaier:

- Kelly relayed to the group that her efforts are focused on the Zumwalt Prairie IAG projects. She has Mike and Dee Hammond hired to conduct a Medusahead rye inventory on 25,000 acres in the Zumwalt.
- Kelly is also working with Baer chemical regarding MH trials, using Rejuvra.

ODOT: Casey Crum

- Casey and Coy introduced themselves, as Casey recently started working in Wallowa County. He comes from a strong background in vegetative management. He worked in Baker County for ODOT for the past 12 years, he also has a private noxious weed contracting business.
- Casey provided the group with ODOT’s 2022 Integrated Vegetation Management Plan.
- For 2022 he is focused on treating stock pile sites (gravel pits), and roadway shoulders.
- He would like the Wallowa County board to keep him abreast of new outbreaks or existing noxious weed issues that are located within ODOT jurisdiction.

- Casey and crew will also be monitoring their treatments for effectiveness and to inspect for possible adverse incidents.

Ingrid Cook – Board Member:

- Ingrid spoke with Patricia at Wallowa Lake State Park about the recent listing of Briar rose as a species of concern.
- She and Patricia have a project date established for late spring/early summer to address weeds on State Park properties in the Wallowa Lake area. Kelly mentioned that there is a large Spalding's Catchfly site in the park, she suggested locating this site so that volunteers carefully work around this sensitive plant.
- Ingrid will also be scheduling a couple other events for this season.

USFS: Beckijo Wall

- Recently hired one seasonal employee. She is hopeful that an additional seasonal can be hired as well.
- River trip planned for April 25-28 to spray Turkish thistle in the Cache Creek area.
- River trip planned for Pittsburg Landing May 9-12th.
- Folks discussed the Medusahead rye issue located off of Swamp Creek – Miller Ridge area. This area may need to be contained.

SWCD: Cynthia Warnock

- Cynthia is working on an article around noxious weed management for private land, which will be placed in the SWCD newsletter.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:30pm