

CREATING A COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA (CWMA) FOR PRAIRIE-OAK HABITAT IN THE CASCADIA ECOREGION

Education – Prevention – Early Detection – Monitoring – Control Efforts

A Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) is a local partnership that coordinates efforts to address the threat of invasive plants across jurisdictional boundaries. Although multiple CWMA's exist in Washington and Oregon, none are focused specifically on prairie-oak habitat. The goal of the Cascadia Prairie Oak Weed Management Area is to provide a coordinated effort to prevent and control invasives throughout prairie oak habitat of the Willamette Valley-Puget Trough-Georgia Basin ecoregion. Although groups are already working together within their locales, this would increase collaboration throughout the range from Eugene to Vancouver Island and everything in between.

CHECKLIST

What makes a good CWMA? [And how we can check the box]

- 1. *They operate within a defined geographic area, distinguished by a common geography, weed problem, community, climate, political boundary, or land use.* [Common weed problem – Battling weeds within the ecoregion that invade prairie-oak habitat, including some that are low priority in other habitat types.]
- 2. *They involve a broad cross-section of landowners and natural resource managers within the CWMA boundaries.* [CPOP already has representation of technical people from a wide range of entities. This includes state, federal and local agencies; non-profit; volunteer; and private landowners. This has the potential to bring even more volunteers and private landowners who are interested in working cooperatively to fight invasives into the CPOP community.]
- 3. *They are governed by a steering committee.* [To be created. Will be facilitated and supported by CPOP.]
- 4. *They have a long-term commitment to cooperation, usually through a formal agreement among partners.* [Upon creation of a steering committee and community meetings, an MOU will be developed and signed on to.]
- 5. *They have a comprehensive plan that addresses the management of invasive species within their boundaries.* [There are already many documents that begin to address this and many people interested in being part of a baseline assessment and action plan.]
- 6. *They facilitate cooperation and coordination across jurisdictional boundaries.* [This CWMA would include three political boundaries including two U.S. states (Washington and Oregon) and one Canadian province (British Columbia).]

BENEFITS

A CWMA can...

1. ... increase funding opportunities and help secure funding.
2. ... increase longevity of efforts to combat invasives.
3. ... increase visibility, build community awareness and participation.
4. ... maximize resources (time, money and labor).
5. ... increase effectiveness by addressing the problem on a landscape scale.

ACTIONS

Potential actions for a prairie-oak weed management area.

1. Training for private land owners & agencies on combating prairie-oak specific invasives.
2. Publications that identify and provide removal and prevention tips for prairie-oak specific invasives.
3. Inventory and map infestation of specific invasives within prairie-oak habitat (baseline mapping).
4. Early detection, rapid response to new areas of invasion.

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WHY NOW?

Stated Interest There is expressed interest in an eco-region wide effort to combat invasives and there are existing established cooperative relationships between many of the individuals and organizations that would be desired partners in a prairie-oak CWMA.

Expressed Need There are extensive control efforts underway throughout the ecoregion, establishing a CWMA would not only improve control efforts but would allow for coordinated education, prevention, early detection and monitoring.

Economic Sense A prairie-oak CWMA would formalize existing efforts to combat invasives in prairie-oak habitat and by doing so would lead to more effective actions and better outcomes, ensuring that the best techniques are being employed in a coordinated fashion, maximizing resources.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Creating a CWMA...from the [Midwest Invasive Plant Network's 'CWMA Cookbook'](#)

1. *Getting Started/Brainstorming* [← *this is the step we're in now*]

- Identify a leader/champion. [Cascadia Prairie Oak Partnership, led by CNLM]
- Establish geographic boundaries. [WPG ecoregion – prairie-oak habitat of OR, WA, and B.C.]
- Identify potential partners and build support – don't forget to make note of who currently *aren't* involved and reach out to them. [That's you!]
- Determine common goals – species and issues (e.g., early detection, creating high-quality natural areas, recreation, and/or property values). [That is what today and future meetings are for!]
- Select a name – include location/focus. [Cascadia Prairie-Oak Weed Management Area]
- Select a fiscal manager/host organization.

2. *Making It Official*

- a. Hold a public meeting – invite county commissioners and media to build awareness.
- b. Select a steering committee – ensure broad representation, and officers.
- c. Develop an MOU, a strategic management plan, and an annual operating plan.

3. *Ready, Set, Go!*

4. *(Don't forget to celebrate success and get media attention!)*

If you work with invasives, we want your help. Share your ideas, needs and knowledge with us today [Step 1]. Soon, we will be getting public meetings together, forming a steering committee and creating an MOU [Step 2]. If you or your organization is interested in participating in any or all of these steps – let us know! Contact Elspeth Hilton Kim at ehilton@cnlm.org or Nate Johnson at njohnson@cnlm.org