

So many weeds, so little time:

Prioritizing work to make the
best use of limited resources

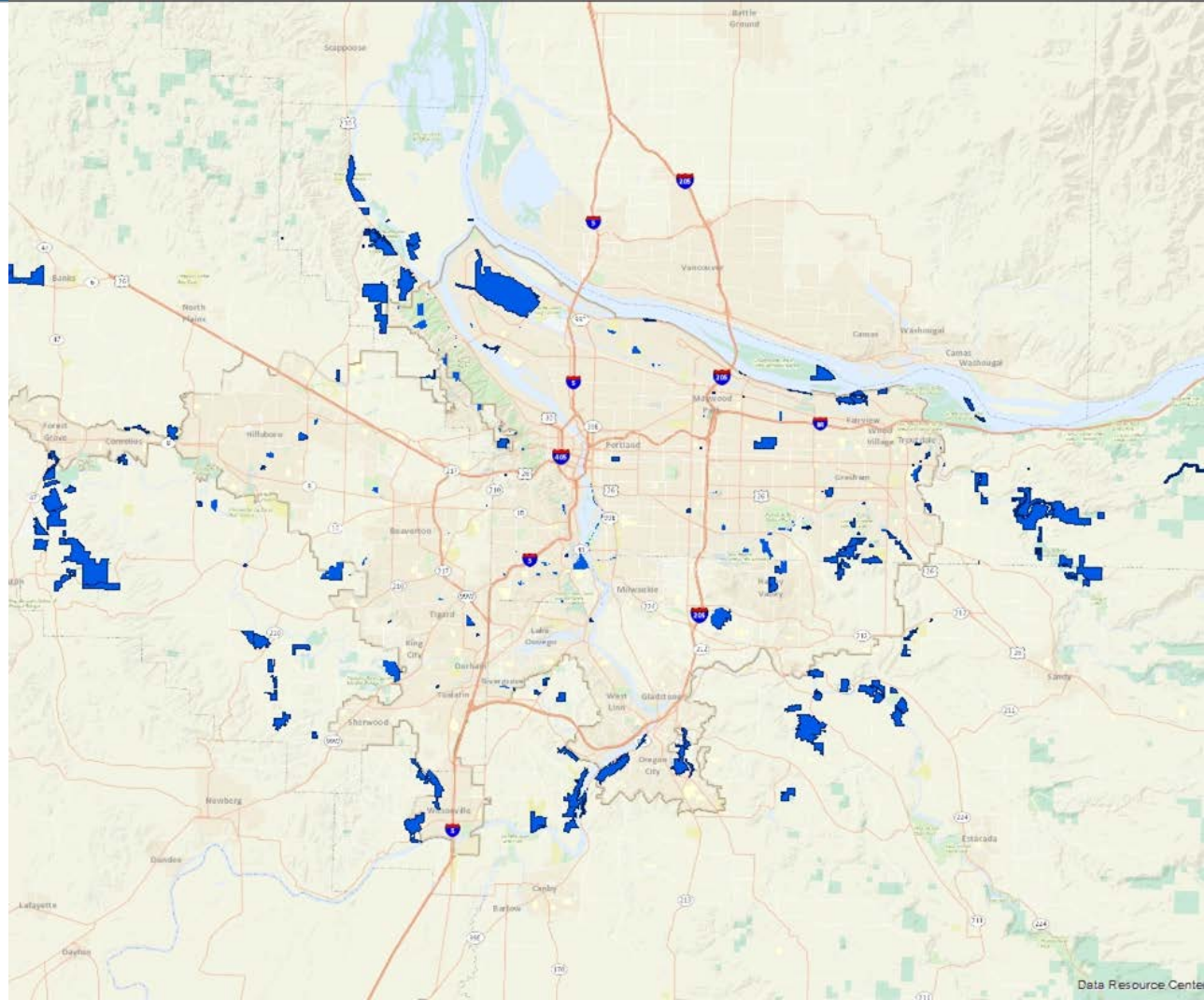
Elaine Stewart
Metro – Conservation Program

Metro's parks and natural areas

About 17,000
acres

Parks, boat
ramps, natural
areas

Common and
rare habitats



The Problem

Hundreds of exotic plants

About 140 sites

Dozens of active projects

Exotic plants provide services



Many pieces to the puzzle

Conservation Action Planning (CAP)



The Nature Conservancy achieves conservation results by designing and implementing conservation projects at multiple scales. Over the past 15 years, TNC has developed an integrated process for planning, implementing, and measuring conservation success for its conservation projects. This process is called the "Conservation Action Planning (CAP)" process. The CAP process has been tested with a wide range of projects from different parts of the world and is supported by a network of trained CAP professionals that make up the Ecosystem Coaches Network for Conservation Action Planning.

The CAP process guides project teams to identify effective conservation strategies. It provides an objective, consistent and transparent accounting of conservation actions and the intended and actual outcomes of conservation projects. It enables project staff to responsively adapt their actions to improve strategy effectiveness and achieve greater conservation impact. A brief summary of the CAP Process is provided below. For a full set of CAP and Ecosystem Coaches Network news, tools, training opportunities, examples, and guidance documents, visit www.conservancy.org/workspaces/cap

THE 10 STEPS OF THE CAP PROCESS

1. Identify People Involved In Your Project

This step asks you to identify your most valuable resource – the people who will be involved in designing and implementing your project.

Addresses questions like: • "Who will design our project?" • "Who will be responsible for ensuring the plan gets forward?" • "Who can give us advice?" • "Who will help us through this process?"



2. Define Project Scope & Focal Conservation Targets

With this step you define the extent of your project and select the specific species and natural systems that your project will focus on as being representative of the overall biodiversity of the project area. This step helps your project team come to consensus on the overall goal and ends of the project and your ultimate measures of success. Addresses questions like: • "What is our project?" • "What are we trying to conserve or restore?"



3. Assess Viability of Focal Conservation Targets

This step asks you to look at each of your focal targets carefully over time. And then to identify how the target is doing today. This step is the key to knowing which of your targets are most measurable over time. Addresses questions like: • "What is the current status of each of our targets?" • "What are we trying to conserve or restore?"

Oregon iMapInvasives Resources

[Home](#) [About Oregon iMapInvasives](#) [Guides and Resources](#) [Submit Data](#) [Request Data](#) [iMap Support](#)

About iMapInvasives



iMapInvasives is an online map and database for collecting, managing, and sharing invasive species data. Oregon iMapInvasives is available for free to all resource managers and anyone interested in invasive species. [About iMapInvasives](#)

Guides and Resources



Guides, references, and videos to help you navigate the iMapInvasives platform. [Data Guides](#)

Support iMap

Home

Welcome to the Oregon iMapInvasives Resources site!

View [newsletters](#) or [read our blog on iNaturalist!](#)

Here you can:

- learn about the iMapInvasives platform
- find out how to enter or share your data with iMap
- download guides and presentations
- request a webinar demo, Q&A, or training
- see how iMap data is being used for research, prioritization, and management
- learn who supports iMap and how you can become a supporter

iMapInvasives is a comprehensive tool for online invasive species data management, with many aspects to appeal to natural resource managers, volunteers, and the public. This site serves as a resource for learning about the platform.

To access the Oregon iMapInvasives site, you can view county or watershed distributions on the [public map](#), or [request a login](#) to view point locations and more detailed information through the [login site](#).

Before requesting a login, you may want to review the [levels of access](#) so you can request the appropriate user level.

About iMapInvasives

Need a quick overview of how iMap tracks a range of observation, survey, and

Become an iMapInvasives User

In order to access the full capability of the iMapInvasives site, you will need a free account

Share Your Data

Do you collect invasives records using another system? Send us a copy and we can upload your

Noxious Weed Policy and Classification System 2015



Oregon Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Control Program

828 Capital Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97301-3532, Tel: (503) 988-4031
<http://www.oregon.gov/OA/programs/Weeds/Pages/Default.aspx>



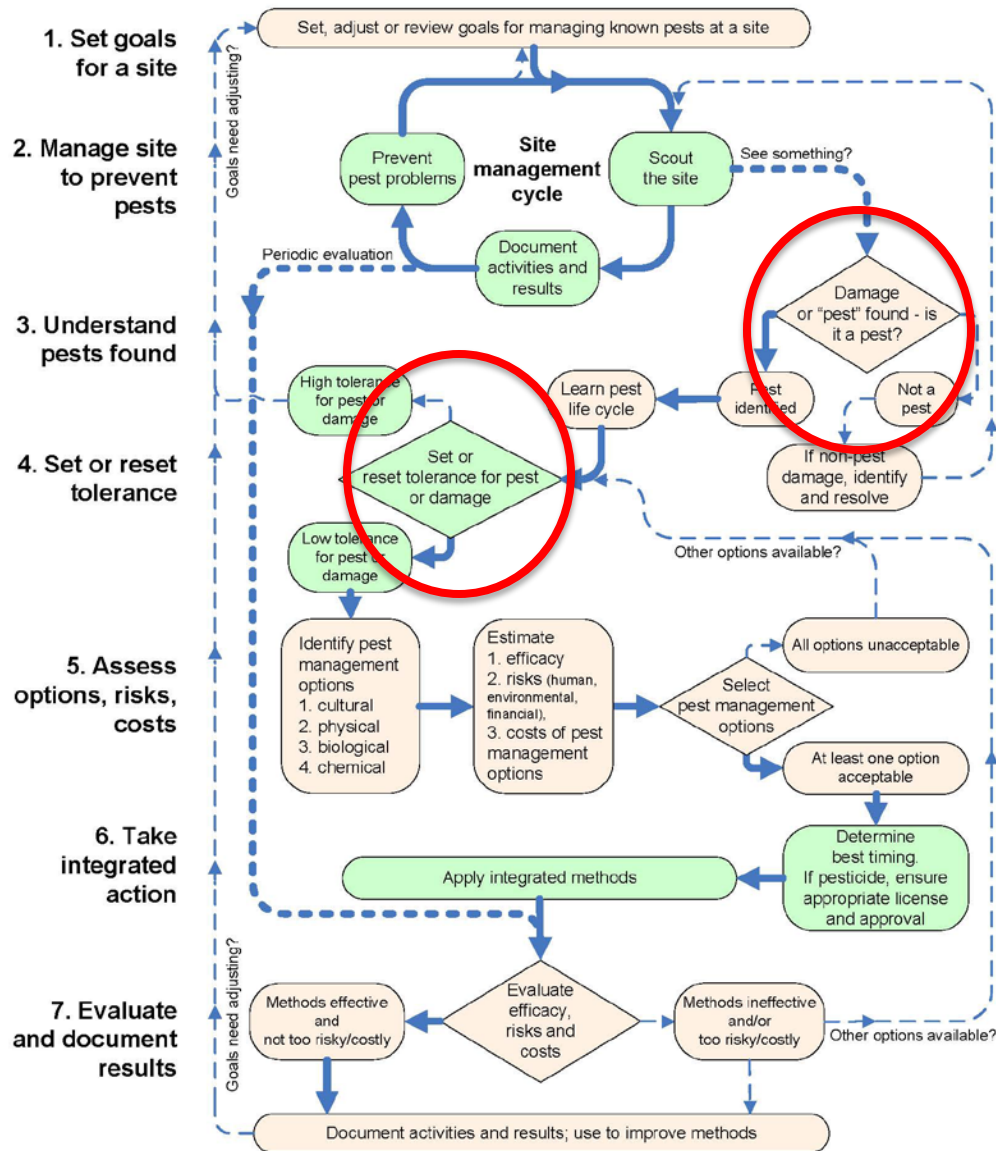
GUIDANCE FOR CONSERVING OREGON'S NATIVE TURTLES INCLUDING BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



the OREGON CONSERVATION STRATEGY

Metro Integrated Pest Management Process

Solving actual pest problems with the least collateral damage | 3/1/16



IPM is not just
how to kill
weeds

Straw Framework

- Discretionary – a tool for thinking
- Not all weeds are problems everywhere
 - Poisonous plants in public areas
 - Will they be shaded out?
 - Are they “system modifiers”?
 - Do they provide benefits sometimes?
- Demonstrate commitment to IPM

Potential Benefits

- Don't have to learn every plant
- Control efforts focused where needed most
- Allow exotics to provide ecosystem services in certain contexts
- ***Supports social contract that allows us to use herbicides***

1. Plants We Don't Have, YET

If found, report & control them

Examples:

- *Centaurea solstitialis*
- *Nymphoides peltata*



2. “A” List

Top priorities for control

Examples:

- *Arum italicum*
- *Alliaria petiolata*
- *Centaurea x moncktonii*



3. PA List – for public areas

Control in **public areas**

Examples:

- *Solanum dulcamara*
- *Conium maculatum*
- *Laburnum anagyroides*



4. Target ONLY in Certain Habitats

Examples:

- *Leucanthemum vulgare*
- *Cirsium arvense*
- *Hieracium* and *Leontodon* spp.



Cirsium arvense (Canada thistle)

Pollinator food

Bird food

No match for
woody plants

Threat to native
prairies



5. Target at Certain Sites

Example:
Nymphaea
odorata

No = Blue Lake

Yes = Smith
and Bybee
Wetlands



6. Target During Restoration

Site preparation,
establishment

Grasses and
incidentally dicots

Woody plants will
shade them out
eventually



7. Scheduled Maintenance

Ubiquitous

Initial investment

Treat every “X”
number of years

Examples:

- *Hedera* spp.
- *Rubus bifrons*



How Does It Look?

<i>Scientific Name</i>	Common Name	Watch list	"A" List	Target habitats only	Target sites only	Scheduled maint.	Target during restoration	Do not treat	Additional guidance
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic mustard		X						
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant reed	X							
<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	Rush skeletonweed			X				X	Target in upland prairie; seems limited to Columbia River area.
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory							X	
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle			X			X		
<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>	Golden Chain tree		PA			X			Pods are poisonous
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial ryegrass			X			X		Exotic grasses are targets primarily for high-quality prairie restoration.
<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	Pennyroyal				X	X			
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	Fragrant waterlily, White waterlily				X				Target at Smith-Bybee, not at Blue Lake.

How It Adds Up – 519 species

Some are in more than one category

Category	# Species
Watch	18
“A”	74
Public Areas	7
Target Habitats	81
Target Sites	16
During Restoration	122
Scheduled maintenance	54
Do not target	246

How to Use the List

- See a new weed? See where it might fit.
- Develop SOW for contractor – target weed list (and which to leave alone).
- *Don't let it make decisions for you*
- *It's all about the context*

A Work in Progress

- Plants in right categories?
- New arrivals
- 74 species on A List too many?
- Is it useful?

What is Your Framework?

- Is it a pest?
- What is your threshold?



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