Washoe-Pleasant Valleys Cooperative Weed Management Area

2010 Annual Operating Plan

➢ General Operation & Planning

1. The Washoe-Pleasant Valleys CWMA was formed in 2004. The geographic scope of the CWMA is along within the Washoe Valley basin, including the eastern slope of the Carson Range and the western slope of the Virginia Range. The area known as Pleasant Valley, north of Washoe Valley, is also included within the CWMA boundary. The organizational structure is a working group with a coordinator, Robin Powell. All participants in the core WPV CWMA group are private landowners, federal and state agency, and non-profit organizations.

2. Meetings are held monthly to develop and coordinate activities focusing on the goals of the strategic plan, unless otherwise noted. All meetings are held 4:00-5:30 p.m. at the Nevada Department of Forestry Building on East Lake Blvd, Washoe Valley, until further notice.

3. The CWMA Priority Management Areas (PMA) has been identified for the prioritization of project development. For CY2010, the two PMAs are Scripps Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and the Winters Ranch Property. Adjacent lands to both high priority areas are included in the PMAs.

➢ CWMA Funding

For CY 2010, the CWMA has two approved grants, BLM Challenge Cost Share grant and Nevada Department of Agriculture Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) grant. The BLM grant is an extension of the FY2009 grant and will fund the retention of the CWMA coordinator to facilitate meetings and coordinate CWMA activities.

The APHIS grant is focused on treating noxious weeds and restoration activities at the Washoe Wetlands. The approved grant work plan will fund for the hiring of a weed treatment crew and for revegetation efforts.

The CWMA Coordinator will investigate other funding opportunities to continue the implementation of the CWMA strategic plan and to provide technical assistance to private landowners within the CWMA.

Funding Opportunities for CY2010 (as of November 2009):

- US Forest Service grant through Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDOA) for the coordination of the CWMA, chemical weed control applications, EDRR, and biological control projects.

- BLM Challenge Cost Share grant for chemical weed control applications on Winters Ranch and adjacent lands within Washoe County.

➢ Early Detection, Rapid Response (EDRR)

1. Focal areas for monitoring and inventorying will be at roadways and construction sites.

2. Focus on working with the following schools to educate students and their parents on the need to monitor the areas for the EDRR listed weeds. Develop curriculum for indoor and outdoor education-based activities

a. Pleasant Valley Elementary School
b. Galena High School

3. Coordinate with Nevada Department of Agriculture on obtaining education kits for teaching in classroom. Follow-up with Scott Marsh with NDOA.

4. Coordinate with the planners for any livestock based events (e.g. trail riding or roping events) to educate the attendees on prevention and decontamination methods. The focal area will be the equestrian arena at Washoe State Park.

➢ Mapping

1. Coordinate with other CWMAs or entities on mapping events.

2. Lori Bellis, Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), will be the lead on mapping activities for the CWMA in 2010.

3. Continue with the compilation and summarization of all existing GIS/GPS data for historical reference. The CWMA Coordinator will be responsible for housing existing datasets on an external hard drive.

➢ Education

1. Weed Control or Treatment Tours
   • Explore the possibility of hosting a demonstration treatment plot tour for the community residents. Utilize Scripps WMA as the targeted demonstration area.

   • Obtain grant funding to develop a landowner incentive program with equipment rental fee schedule and equipment use policy. Focus will be on hiring a seasonal intern to assist with landowner contacts and project implementation.

2. Public Outreach
   • Mail out an annual newsletter or accomplishment report for 2009 activities to the landowners and participants of the group to keep them updated on current projects and successes.

   • Coordinate with the EDRR project to improve citizen monitoring of listed EDRR plant species.

   • Offer a one-day a month "Bring Your Weed" meetings to assist landowners with proper weed identification.

   • Continue posting most current information on the CWMA website (www.wpvcwma.org).

   • Submit two (2) articles to any of the following: the Reno Gazette Journal, the Reno News & Review, or The Nevada Appeal. Develop articles based on the WPV CWMA to raise awareness in the Truckee Meadows, Eagle Valley, Washoe Valley, and Pleasant Valley.

➢ Weed Management Projects

1. Winters Ranch
    a. BLM will conduct mapping, treatment, and restoration activities in 2010 using FY2010 Challenge Cost Share Grant funds.
    b. CWMA will work with adjacent landowners for coordinate weed treatments.
        i. Contact and coordinate with adjacent landowners.
        ii. Hand out information and provide additional technical support.

    c. CWMA will coordinate with BLM interns.

2. NDOT Wetlands
    a. Weed treatments throughout 200 acres will be contracted in 2010 as part of the NDOA APHIS grant.
    b. Post treatment areas will have active restoration activities conducted during the Fall of 2010 as part of the NDOA APHIS grant.
    c. All spray treatments will have NDOT staff and CWMA direct oversight.

3. Scripps Wildlife Management Area
    a. Mechanical
        i. Mowing by mechanical means to improve efficacy of spray treatments to more than 300 acres.
    b. Chemical
        i. The use of non-restrictive herbicides, for example Rodeo® in and around watered and wet areas, and Telar® in and around all dry and upland areas, within the management area for a minimum of three consecutive years.
        ii. The proposed treatment will be conducted by NDOW, NV Division of Forestry, and NV State Parks.
    c. Revegetation
        i. NDOW will take the lead role in a revegetation effort after the third year of consecutive herbicidal treatments in which multiple species of native forbs and grasses will be sown for reestablishment.
    d. The CWMA will take the lead on working with the adjacent landowners while NDOW is working.
        i. Hand out information and have sign-ups for additional information.
        ii. Recruit volunteers from CABs to go door to door.
        iii. Need to develop a mechanism to cost-share with the landowners if the State Parks treats their property or foster relationship between contractor and landowner.

➢ Prevention

1. Coordinate with adjacent CWMAs and other land managing entities on weed management activities.
2. Advertise Weed Free Hay Programs and weed free products for consumers.
3. Re-establish partnering relationships with large landowners such as the Thunder Canyon Golf Course.
4. Public Outreach on decontamination of equipment and livestock.

- **Volunteer Projects (potential list)**
  1. GIS Workshop
  2. Public Lands Day event
  3. Earth Day event
     a. WPV CWMA
     b. IBA Program
     c. Activities (i.e., birding hike)
     d. Equestrian involvement
     e. Compost promotion
  4. State Park & Washoe Wetlands field trip (weeds, birds, and wildlife)
  5. Weed Identification Workshop (possibly tied to GIS or geocache)
  6. Tree Planting
  7. Equestrian Event
     a. Social BBQ and presentation
     b. Weed free hay demonstration & discussion