

Minutes of the Mendocino Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area Meeting

General WMA meeting: Tuesday, Jan 26, 10AM-2PM

Location: Seaside Beach (Field Tour) and Jackson Demonstration State Forest Headquarters, 802 N Main St, Fort Bragg

Purpose: to allocate resources available to the WMA in 2010 and determine our response to the Request for Proposals for Supplemental WMA funding from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

In Attendance:

	Event	Field Tour	General WMA
	Time (hrs)	1	2
Name	Organization		
Tara Athan	MCWMA	1	
Bob Melendez	Caltrans	1	
Domenic Bongio	Caltrans	1	
Louisa Morris	Coastal Land Trust	1	
Rixanne Wehren	Coastal Land Trust	1	1
Carri Durkee	Coastal Land Trust	1	1
Lynn Webb	Cal Fire, Jackson Demonstration State Forest	1	1
Chuck Morse	Mendocino County Department of Agriculture	1	1
Joel Gerwein	Coastal Conservancy	1	
Mark Gerhart	Coastal Conservancy	1	
Walt Decker	forester, retired	1	1
Bill Maslach	California Department of Parks and Recreation		1
Robert Horvadt	Cal Fire, Jackson Demonstration State Forest		1
Total Attendance		11	7
Total Hours		11	14

The meeting was open to the public.

Agenda:

- I. 10:00 Welcome and Tour of Knotweed Project at Seaside Beach
 - II. 12:00 Brown-Bag Lunch and Overview of MCWMA Accomplishments in 2009
 - III. 12:30 Allocation of CCC Mobile Strike Team efforts (4 days of crew work are as yet uncommitted for Mendocino County)
 - IV. 1:00 Allocation of WMA Baseline Funding (\$16,758 annually for Mendocino County)
 - V. 1:30 Response to RFP for Supplemental WMA Funding.
- 2:00 Adjourn

Minutes: prepared by Tara Athan

10:00 Call to Order

I. Welcome and Tour of Knotweed Project at Seaside Beach

The weather cooperated by providing a sunny, calm day. Unfortunately, flooding from heavy rains over the past several days led to Highway 1 being closed at Navarro, so that some WMA Partners were unable to attend.

The Coastal Land Trust staff provided a detailed explanation of the background of the giant knotweed infestation at Seaside Beach, the treatment that has been performed, and the plans for future treatment, given the future Caltrans construction, which has an uncertain timeline. Pictures taken before the project began show the magnitude of the problem, while the current state of the site shows the remarkable progress that has been made.

II. Brown-Bag Lunch and Overview of MCWMA Accomplishments in 2009

Meeting attendees were asked to give a brief statement on their weed management activities in 2009.

JDSF:

Lynn Webb- monitoring of known/historical gorse populations, pre/post-harvest weed treatments, Astragalus mitigation, revision of management plan

Robert Horvadt- roadside brushing with inmate crews (broom, pampas grass), identifying weeds

Mendocino County Ag Dept: treatment of various A & B rated noxious weeds, Ray Harrie has details. Particular species include red sesbania, distaff thistle, spotted knapweed.

State Parks: follow-up treatment of gorse and European beachgrass, chainsaw removal of Eucalyptus

Tara Athan reported the activities that were managed directly by the WMA. These activities were directed against two species: gorse and distaff thistle.

Gorse: two supplemental projects were funded to manage separate populations of outlier gorse.

1. The Gorse Containment Project aims to establish a containment zone on the northern and southern limits of the gorse infestation at Caspar. A few outlier populations were identified, ranging from Point Arena to Mendocino and the vicinity of Russian Gulch State Park. These populations were all past the southern containment boundary at Caspar Creek. Treatment on all populations was initiated by either the land owner or County Ag, (except for the Point Arena population on private property whose owner refuses to acknowledge the existence of the gorse.) The greatest effort was put into clearing properties north of Jefferson Way and along Brookfield Drive. This was determined to be the "leading edge" of the core Caspar infestation. The official northern containment boundary was set as Mitchell Creek; however no gorse was found above this boundary. Follow-up along the north and south containment perimeters, as well as establishment of a new eastern perimeter is anticipated with baseline and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding.

2. Gorse Removal at the Caspar Waste Transfer Station. Efforts in 2009 included burning of the gorse debris that was mechanically removed in 2009 and follow-up herbicide treatment. All gorse on the property has been treated except for some highly visible plants near the entrance. An additional mechanical removal was performed at the end of 2009 on private property adjacent to the Waste Transfer Station. Follow-up with baseline and ARRA funding is anticipated, as well as assistance from the CCC Mobile Strike Team (see next agenda item).

3. Baseline funding supported treatment of distaff thistle on private property along Fish Rock Road.

Treatment was less than satisfactory due to a delay in receiving a supply of an herbicide (Transline) that would be most appropriate for the private property where a vineyard is planned in the future. Follow-up with baseline funding is anticipated, as well as assistance from the CCC Mobile Strike Team (see next agenda item).

III. Allocation of CCC Mobile Strike Team efforts (4 days of crew work are as yet uncommitted for Mendocino County)

C DFA received ARRA "Stimulus" funding to support the operation of two CCC crews dedicated to invasive weed management, called the Mobile Strike Teams. In November 2009, we requested the teams for two separate time slots for several days. The Team coordinator prefers to have the team spend a full week at a particular location, so we have these teams available to us for the full week. We already requested that the teams assist us with herbicide treatments of distaff thistle and gorse at the Caspar Waste Transfer Station. The Inland Mendocino WMA may request at most 1 days effort. After some discussion, the WMA partners recommended that the remaining efforts be directed towards gorse on the State Parks.

IV. Allocation of WMA Baseline Funding (\$16,758 annually for Mendocino County)

Two issues were discussed; priorities for 2010 funding, and modification of the Work Plan to be submitted for 2011 funding.

Priorities for 2010: in addition to follow-up on gorse and distaff thistle, the WMA agreed to provide \$500 to the Coastal Land Trust to carry out follow-up treatment on the giant knotweed. This will be matched with equal funds from the organization.

Work Plan for 2011: Only minor changes were suggested for the proposed 2011 Work Plan. A line item for conducting Annual Weed Tours (one for Coastal and one for Inland) will be added, with emphasis on visiting the sites of past and ongoing WMA projects. Contact information will be corrected.

V. Response to RFP for Supplemental WMA Funding.

The Mendocino WMAs may jointly submit a proposal for Supplemental WMA Funding for up to \$50,000 over a 2 year period. Projects proposed and discussed during the meeting include:

1. Giant Knotweed (proposal to be prepared by the Coastal Land Trust)
2. Arundo, to supplement the Russian River effort overseen by the Mendocino County RCD. Rixanne will send Tara GPS coordinates of a patch in Upper Dry Creek Valley. Chuck will contact the RCD to see if there is an opportunity for collaboration.
3. Spotted Knapweed, including existing infestations and a potentially new infestation at Inglenook Fen. Tara will contact Ray Harrie to discuss the need for this project.
4. Glass Beach, which would supply a significant level of matching funds, and would consist of targeting a suite of invasives that impact high-value T&E/rare species. Tara will contact Bill Maslach to prepare a proposal if this seems appropriate after the Inland WMA makes their proposals.
5. JDSF management of invasives in the vicinity of rare plant populations. The grant procedures for Mendocino County require that the application be before the County Board of Supervisors. The Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group (JAG) has not discussed herbicide use and JDSF Staff did not want to go to the Board without JAG interaction. Therefore it was decided that this year was not optimal for this project, but it may be appropriate for a future funding cycle.

2:20 Adjourn

Addendum: Setting the date and location of the next meeting was mistakenly omitted from the agenda. This will be discussed by email.