



## 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area 2019 Annual Report

### **New CWMA Coordinator**

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In May 2018, our previous coordinator, Sarah Hamilton, was presented an amazing opportunity with Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District that she could not refuse! In the meantime, the 4-County CWMA committees worked collaboratively to fill in the gaps while there was no active coordinator. It was not until October 2018 that our new CWMA coordinator, Courtney Gattuso, was hired! She serves a multifaceted role as the 4-County CWMA and Columbia Gorge CWMA Coordinator, as well as a WeedWise Specialist with Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District. Courtney has a diverse skill set in vegetation management, outreach and education, and data collection and monitoring that aligns well with the goals and objectives of the 4-County CWMA. She also processes experience in website building and graphic design that will be utilized with management of the website, newsletter, fact sheets, and event announcements.

### **4-County CWMA 2018 Pull-Together**

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The 4-County CWMA hosted the 2018 Pull Together at McMenamins Kennedy School and had 147 attendees, the highest attendance we've ever had! This informational event is targeted for professionals working in invasive plant management and offers ODA and WSDA pesticide recertification credits for attendees. Speakers delved into a variety of topics surrounding invasive plants, climate change, and weed management coordination. We also hosted a networking happy hour following the event, which included two discussion groups and over 30 participants engaging further in the topics. Attendees included urban and rural land managers, restoration and invasive plant specialists, environmental educators, local, state and federal government agency representatives, and private landowners.

### **4-County CWMA 2019 Pull-Together Planning**

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The Pull-Together Planning Committee has met four times in 2018 to plan the conference in early 2019. For the upcoming event, the venue will remain at McMenamins Kennedy School since participation was successful and the attendees were able to network more fluidly after the event. A host of great speakers have been scheduled and registration opened November 2018. This year, the Pull Together will offer ODA and WSDA pesticide recertification credits for attendees, as well as ISA arborist recertification credits. Our CWMA committee members from a range of organizations are "pulling together" to develop what we hope will be our best event yet.

### **4-County CWMA 2019 Field Day**

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The 4-County CWMA hosted the 2018 Field Day in Clark County this year and had 43 registrants sign up for this free event, being the largest Field Day ever! After leaving the starting point of Clark County Public Works, Dan Friesz with the Columbia Land Trust guided the group through Cranes' Landing, a 541-acre property located in the Vancouver Lake Lowlands, showing one of the only sandhill crane habitats within city limits in the United States. From there they headed to Plas Newydd Farm to see a 1,625-acre private, family-owned property with a 75-year history of successful land management and stewardship for its ecological diversity. The group then headed off to a private property adjacent to Ridgefield

National Wildlife Refuge where Jeff Lesh with Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District showed the group a population of the regionally rare, but invasive Cypress spurge (*Euphorbia cyparissias*). Overall, the 2018 Field Day was very informative and allowed attendees to get their boots on the ground and learn about the ecological diversity Clark County has to offer.

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### **2018 Spring Home & Garden Show**

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, the 4-County CWMA hosted a table at the 2018 Spring Home & Garden Show at the Portland Expo Center. Volunteers reached out to over 300 people with CWMA Fact Sheets, Garden Smart booklets, native and invasive plant posters, and a wealth of information! In 2019, the CWMA will once again table at the Spring Home & Garden Show and we hope to surpass the past year's outreach efforts!

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### **General Meetings in Clackamas, Washington, and Multnomah Counties**

The 4-County CWMA held three 2-hour general meetings in spring, summer, and autumn of 2018. Meetings were hosted by member organizations, and each one highlighted work happening in a different county within the CWMA boundary. Over the year, the general meetings highlighted a wide variety of speakers who addressed lots of topics ranging from East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District's "Weed Control and Survey Efforts in the Eagle Creek Burn to Assist Healthy Forest Regeneration", Oregon Department of Agriculture's "Weed-Free Gravel Recertification Program" and Oregon State University Extension's "Rural Weeds and Weed Control". The meetings also provide the opportunity to update members about CWMA activities, plan future events, learn about partner projects, and network with local organizations and agencies. Over 70 attendees representing a wide array of entities participated in the meetings this past year.

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### **Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee gathered for four 1-hour meetings in 2018. They laid down guidelines for CWMA advocacy, directed the activities of the various committees, made decisions about the website and financial expenditures, participated in the coordinator hiring process and coordinated partner support of the CWMA. The steering committee has 8 very dedicated members working hard to ensure that the CWMA is an active and relevant force in the community!

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### **Education & Outreach Committee**

The Education & Outreach Committee met five times in 2018. The committee successfully translated the revised CWMA Fact Sheets into Spanish and distributed them to our partners and the CWMA website for printing and downloading. The group helped to plan the Pull Together and Field Day, and coordinated tabling events at the Portland Spring Home and Garden Show and other events. The committee also updated their work plan for 2019, and made lots of updates to the CWMA website. They also created the "Got Weeds?" feather flag for future tabling events. The committee had over 20 attendees at the meetings over the year, not counting our hard-working chair!

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### **Technical & Scientific Review**

The Technical & Scientific Review Committee met three times in 2018. The committee has updated a suite of Best Management Practice (BMP) documents, which are now featured on the website. It has also vetted and happily agreed with Data & Mapping Committee's Catalog of Weed Lists. Finally, the committee is closely tracking the latest news reports around glyphosate and is crafting language to present to the larger group. The final task of the committee was to work on an annual plan for moving into 2019.

### **Mapping & Data Committee**

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The Mapping & Data Committee held three meetings throughout 2018. The group has been working extensively on the Catalog of Weed Lists (Version 1.2), showcasing the many weed lists of our region into a single spreadsheet. They also coordinated with various partners to create an Interactive Management Coordination Map, focusing on high priority species in very low abundance within the region. The committee has included these projects and more information on our CWMA website. They also hosted an annual open discussion on data collection challenges and successes for partners and continued to provide feedback and encourage data contributions to iMapInvasives Oregon's weed observation, survey, and treatment datasets. The committee has elected a new chair at the end of the year for the 2019 calendar year, as well as reviewed and updated the annual work plan.

### **The 4-County CWMA Newsletter**

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Only two 4-County CWMA Weeder Newsletters were emailed to partners in 2018 due to the 5-month gap without an active coordinator, and much need transition time to allow the new coordinator to get adjusted in her new position. She has plans to get the Weeder Newsletter back up and running for the new calendar year! The CWMA group currently has over 300 subscribers and the newsletters contain information about upcoming events, activities, grants, research, and media articles related to invasive species. They also include job listings by partner organizations and provide a venue for partners to ask questions and present findings to the group.

### **4CountyCWMA.org**

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The website was maintained with an events calendar for the CWMA, brochures available to the public and our partners, and other informational materials. In 2018, the online versions of the Fact Sheets were made available for download, in both English and Spanish, the Catalog of Weed Lists was posted for the public and our partners, and our committees have been working on concepts for the continued development of the website.