



# 4-COUNTY Cooperative Weed Management Area

## 2020 Annual Report



*Photo by: Andrea Berkley*

# A Message from Our Chairs

---

## *Pushing forward amid generational challenges*

It's hard for us to even partially wrap our minds around the events of 2020: wildfires, a national conversation about racial injustice, and a global pandemic, for starters. Who knew that, as we gathered at Pull Together earlier this year, discussions of spotted lanternfly, Apiaceae, and our own master class on herbicide resistance could be so completely overshadowed? January seems like long ago. It may take years, or decades, to fully comprehend what has happened to us this year. And, as we write these messages, we're keenly aware that the year isn't done. If wishing only made it so...

All this notwithstanding, we hope:

- that you are safe: an unexpected challenge for many;
- that you have been able to make some progress on your professional goals, and;
- that you are okay with not quite getting there, despite best efforts.

The big reminder, for us, has been that, while the work we do is important, there are yet bigger issues acting around us. Even as we struggle to make the right ecological choices, we contend with economic and financial challenges, as well as the social challenges of deeply embedded racism. Oh, and that's on top of the family/work juggling that most of us are doing.

The CWMA remains a community committed to supporting its members in difficult times. Amidst these challenges we continued to provide a platform for members to take advantage of resources, information and opportunities for collaboration. We draw substantial encouragement from this community. It is comforting to be a part of this deeply grounded group, who in turn represent organizations that continue to prioritize this work. We are grateful to you all, both for the substantial work you have already done, and for the things you are about to accomplish.

Please take care of yourselves....

Sincerely,

### **Mitch Bixby**

*Botanic Specialist (ED/RR)  
City of Portland – Bureau of Environmental Services  
4-County CWMA Chair*

### **Aaron Shaw**

*Natural Resource Program Manager  
Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District  
4-County CWMA Vice-Chair*

# Who Are We?

*The 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) exists to create and support collaborative weed management among land managers and owners within Clackamas, Multnomah, Clark, and Washington counties. Invasive plants extend across multiple ownerships and move around the landscape, making collaboration and partnerships essential for effective management. The 4-County CWMA promotes weed education and outreach, weed inventory and prevention, and weed control activities. The intention of the 4-County CWMA is to foster partnerships amongst local organizations and land managers to enhance available resources and help maximize efficiency and effectiveness of noxious weed management, regardless of political boundaries.*

## Our Signatories

- Cascade Pacific—Resource Conservation and Development
- City of Lake Oswego—Lake Oswego Parks and Recreation
- City of Portland—Bureau of Environmental Services
- City of Portland—Portland Water Bureau
- Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District
- Clark Conservation District
- Clark County Vegetation Management
- Clark Public Utilities
- Columbia Land Trust
- Columbia Slough Watershed Council
- East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District
- Metro
- Oregon Department of Agriculture—Noxious Weed Program
- Oregon State Parks—Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
- Port of Portland
- Sandy River Watershed Council
- Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District
- Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District
- U.S. Department of Agriculture—Natural Resources Conservation Service; Clackamas County and Multnomah County
- U.S. Forest Service—Mt. Hood National Forest
- West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District



*Daniel Eubert and John Wilson (Clark County Vegetation Management) tackle a monstrous infestation of blessed milk thistle.*

*Photo by: Denielle Cowley*

## Featured Partner Projects

---

### *Our work would not be possible without our incredible partners!*

*Which is why we want to highlight the great, collaborative work of our partner organizations this year.*

### **Sandy Ridge Trail System**

*Nathan Jefcoat and Angie Kimpo (Portland Water Bureau)*

This past spring Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD), the Portland Water Bureau (PWB) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) teamed up to survey the popular and well trafficked Sandy Ridge Trail System (SRT). The SRT is approximately 17 miles of high-use mountain biking trails located on BLM lands in Clackamas County which border the high-quality habitat of the Bull Run Watershed. While there have been some coordinated efforts to monitor and control invasive species in the area in previous years, this was the first time all 3 organizations came together for a comprehensive survey. The primary goals for the effort were as follows:



*Monoculture of yellow archangel within the popular mountain bike route, Sandy Ridge Trail System.*

- Survey for high priority species close to the Bull Run Watershed boundary
- Prevent the spread of species from mountain bikers and volunteer work crews to other trail systems in the county and the region
- Monitor and manage species found in two quarries adjacent to and within the survey area
- Eradicate species found within survey area including garlic mustard, false brome, and knotweed species

In 2020, the team surveyed 13 miles of mountain bike trails in the upper and middle areas of the SRT and 2.2 miles of service road that runs directly into the Bull Run Watershed (click [here](#) to access a web map of the 2020 survey). The survey recorded 70 observations with highlights being a new patch of false brome along the BPA powerline corridor and a substantial infestation of yellow archangel on a decommissioned road within the trail system (pictured). The partners plan on conducting future surveys and collaborative treatments in the coming year.

## Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP)

*Lindsey Karr (Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District)*

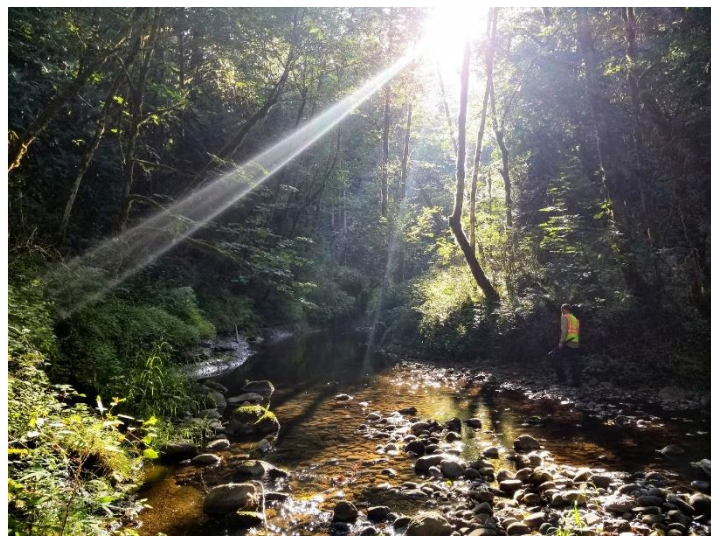
In Clackamas County, the Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) has been working together to control priority weeds across the watershed. Despite setbacks from the pandemic and wildfire, we were able to move forward on many weed control projects. Here are a couple that highlight collaboration.

On two tributaries of the Clackamas River, Deep Creek and North Fork Deep Creek, Clackamas River Basin Council (CRBC), Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) and Metro have been working together to tackle knotweed. Metro has been working on the several properties they own on the North Fork, while CSWCD has been tackling the private properties in between. Metro also purchased a new large forested property on Deep Creek this year where they will be able to do more restoration work. CRBC and CSWCD have been working on Deep Creek, with CRBC gaining access to new large properties and controlling knotweed on long sections of the upper creek. Each year we add a few more properties so that now we are covering a lot of land and making a big impact on the knotweed.



*Member of the Green Banks crew treating weeds on the Clackamas River trail.*

In the upper Clackamas Basin, on the Mt. Hood National Forest, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), U.S. Forest Service (USFS),



*CRISP has done many knotweed surveys and treatments along North Fork Deep Creek.*

Portland General Electric (PGE), and CSWCD have partnered to complete many surveys and weed treatments. These organizations have been sharing data and taking a “divide and conquer” approach to make sure all the known high priority weed patches are treated. COVID-19 has made many things difficult, but we found a small silver lining in that we were able to take advantage of the campground and trailhead closures to survey and treat many areas that normally have a lot of visitors. We found several new small patches of weeds, as well as two large patches of false brome that we were able to treat right away. These partners have also been working to protect a sensitive iris species on the forest, pale blue-eyed grass, *Sisyrinchium sarmentosum*. In 2019 and 2020, we treated common

weeds around the iris population and opened up space for sunlight. This year, we checked out the 2019 treatment and the iris seems to be happier! With the recent Riverside fire, all this collaboration is sure to continue as we learn how to manage weeds on the newly disturbed landscape.



## Metro and USDA Team Up at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

*Andrea Berkley and Elaine Stewart (Metro)*



*John Catena, Metro Natural Resource Technician, collects above-ground biomass sample.*

Metro is excited to share progress on herbicide trials for treatment of floating primrose willow, *Ludwigia peploides ssp. montevidensis*, at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. The purpose of the work is to determine which herbicides are most effective at controlling Ludwigia while minimizing impacts to native plant communities. The trials were co-designed and are being implemented under the guidance of Research Ecologist Brenda Grewell from USDA Agricultural Research Service at UC Davis. The trials include control, glyphosate treatment, and a glyphosate + imazamox treatment, tested in plots at each of three different hydrologic zones. Data are being collected on Ludwigia life stage, below-ground biomass, above-ground biomass, canopy height, and percent cover class of all plant species in the plots. Treatments were conducted in summer 2019 with follow up sampling in fall 2019 and summer 2020. Preliminary results should be available in early 2021.



*Elaine Stewart, Metro Natural Resource Scientist, checking plots to determine if they are ready for sampling.*

## Tualatin SWCD Develops Survey Tools with Help from CWMA Partners

*Aaron Shaw and Bethany Lund (Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District)*

Following the CWMA General Meeting in Clark County in the spring of 2019, Invasive species staff from Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (TSWCD) and Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) met with staff from Clark County Vegetation Management to take a closer look at the details of their survey and data management tools. Tualatin SWCD was in the early stages of concept development for future survey data collection and field data tracking tools. The information from Clark County helped guide the development of these tools, which has been ongoing over the last year.

The Tualatin Invasive program manages garlic mustard, knotweed, purple loosestrife, and giant hogweed annually throughout Washington County, as well as EDRR species. Program staff engage with thousands of landowners to engage in education opportunities and gain access for treatment. Survey, treatment, and access



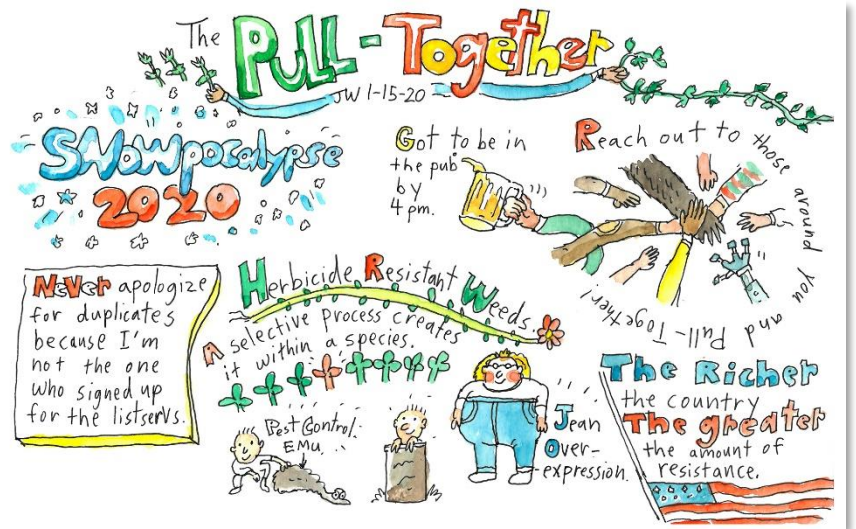
data are all managed on a County-wide scale. Developing an information system that can intake information easily is an important part of program development.

GIS staff from Clark County provided a framework for developing a system that is now nearly ready to deploy. In general, data collection by staff and contractors is through Collector and detailed treatment data is entered through Survey 123 in place of paper herbicide records. Permit of Entry data is managed in GIS and maintained in an SQL database. In the future, this will be synced with the District’s Customer Relationship Management (CRM) database as well.

## CWMA Highlights

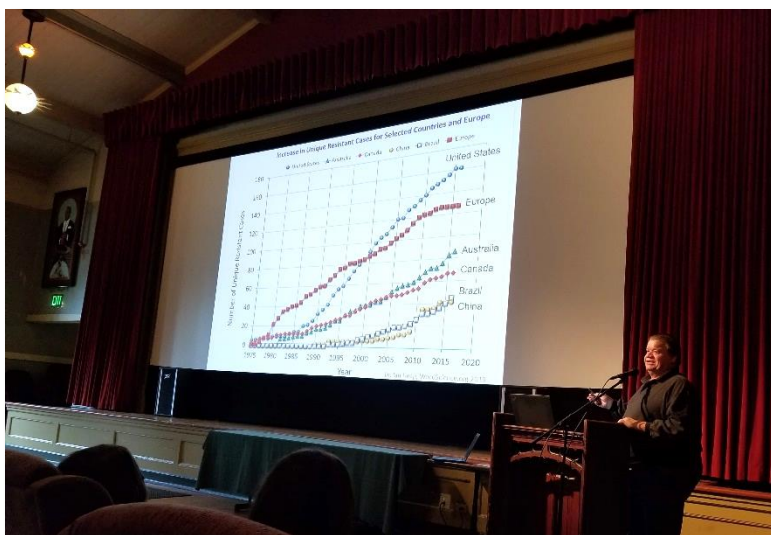
### 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Pull Together

The 4-County CWMA once again hosted the annual Pull Together at the crowd-pleasing McMenamins Kennedy School Theater. Due to its unique atmosphere, cozy seating, and endless supply of coffee, the Kennedy School has become the preferred location for our annual noxious weed symposium. Thankfully, the dreaded ‘snowpocalypse’ that the group anxiously anticipated turned out to be nothing more than a few snowflakes that fell gracefully during the morning session of the event.



Jon Wagner (East Multnomah SWCD) creates some fantastic comics highlighting the annual event.

This year, the Pull Together brought in our highest attendance ever (over 150 attendees) ranging from various



Keynote speaker, Dr. Ian Heap, delivers an engaging presentation on herbicide resistance in plant species.

Photo by: Sam Leininger

professional backgrounds, including local, state, and federal governments; universities; restoration contractors; urban and rural land managers; non-profit organizations; private landowners; and more. This informational event is directed towards individuals who are interested in invasive plant management and offers recertification credits from Oregon Department of Agriculture, Washington State Department of Agriculture, and International Society of Arboriculture.

We provided a diverse group of speakers who delved into a variety of topics surrounding spotted lanternfly and its host, Tree of Heaven; identification characteristics of species in the

Apiaceae family; an update on the knotweed biocontrol; The Healthy Lands Project in King County that incorporates invasive plant management and social equity; among others. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Ian Heap (Director of the International Survey of Herbicide-Resistant Weeds) gave a phenomenal presentation on the development of herbicide resistance in plant species across the globe. On the day of the event our coordinator, Courtney, was able to donate approximately 50 pounds of extra food to local food pantries. We also hosted a networking happy hour following the event on the Kennedy School premises, allowing attendees to engage with each other at its various historic restaurants and bars. You will find a full summary of the [2020 Pull Together](#) featured on our website.



*Garlic mustard fields forever...*  
 Photo by: Michelle Delepine

For next year’s event, scheduled for January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, our Education & Outreach Committee has decided to hold a webinar-style conference to maintain social distancing and safety among our members due to COVID-19. Our committee members are working hard on a great lineup of speakers and registration for the event will be open soon. The Pull Together will look a little different than we’re used to this year, but it will continue to be as engaging and informative as you have come to expect from our signature event.

### Steering Committee

The Steering Committee spent 2020 pivoting to the challenges of COVID. With in-person collaboration no longer a possibility for the foreseeable future, the Steering Committee and Coordinator continue to keep the CWMA an important platform for information, communication and collaboration. The committee has shifted meetings entirely online, thanks in large part to the pre-COVID efforts of our forward-thinking Coordinator. Like most organizations, we expect all upcoming events to fit a digital format. And, finally, we continue to make good progress on a re-design for our website.

We are looking ahead with cautious optimism. In 2020, 21 member organizations signed or re-signed the CWMA Memorandum of Understanding: thank you! There’s always room for more, so we encourage new organizations to sign on. Financial commitments have kept pace, although we are watching closely for changes in this murky economic climate.



*Yellow flag iris at Metro and Clean Water Service's future restoration site along Baker Creek.*  
 Photo by: Andrea Berkley



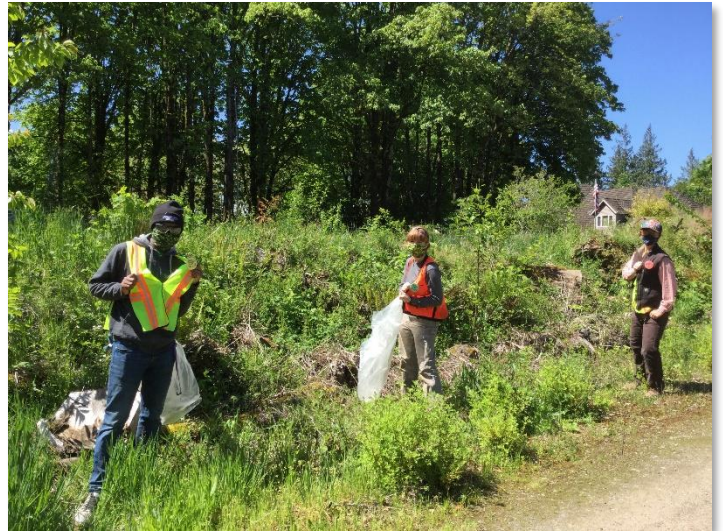


## Technical and Scientific Review Committee

The Technical and Scientific Review Committee tracks plant species of potential concern, reviews new research publications, discusses management concerns, shares training opportunities and provides a variety of technical insights from across the Portland region. We also develop informational resources to assist land management professionals and cooperators in using the most effective, efficient, and least harmful management strategies.

In the past year we have:

- Reviewed and updated the Integrated Weed Maintenance Calendar
- Tracking, sharing and discussing new research related to weed control products
- Discussed new weed observations seen across the region
- Assisted with sharing field protocols developed in response to Covid-19
- Worked to develop and enhance training materials accessible from website
- Tracked and shared weed management training opportunities



*Joseph Justice (Forest Park Conservancy Green Jobs), Hannah Spencer (WMSWCD) and Ari DeMarco (WMSWCD) remove garlic mustard near NW Skyline Blvd.*

*Photo by: Michelle Delepine*

Check back to our webpage for the revised Integrated Weed Maintenance Calendar, a self-guided tour of new Apiaceae (Carrot) species of potential concern, and other new training resources as we add them. Stay up to date by joining the 4-County Technical and Scientific Review Committee google-group listserv (send request to [info@4countycwma.org](mailto:info@4countycwma.org)).



*A packed house at the Kennedy School during our annual symposium, the Pull Together.*

*Photo by: Sam Leininger*

## Education and Outreach Committee

The Education and Outreach Committee coordinates outreach efforts among weeds practitioners from all four counties, co-creates outreach materials, and provides a space for sharing outreach techniques and learning from one other. A significant portion of the planning for the annual Pull Together conference also happens in this committee (see section on the Pull Together). As our partners move their various educational programs online, we have used our virtual time together to share challenges, successes, and ideas as we adapt to a new world.



This year, Mitch Bixby from the City of Portland worked with members of the committee to get input on a process of community engagement with under-represented communities. The pilot project is working with Community Engagement Liaisons (CELs) from PKS International to more effectively communicate with the Spanish-speaking community about weeds.

The project kicked off in May with an online survey of more than 50 members of the Spanish-speaking community. The second phase of the process consists of 6 online focus groups and wraps up in October 2020. The Community Engagement Liaisons also provided feedback on the Spanish language urban weeds fact sheets produced by the Education and Outreach Committee of the CWMA in an attempt to improve the language and make it more useful and accessible to folks.

The committee hopes that working together will result in more inclusive and effective messaging and outreach techniques that can be used by all members of the CWMA in their outreach efforts.

**Mapping and Data Committee**

The Mapping and Data (M&D) Committee seeks to promote the understanding of our region's invasive plant threats through data management, data analyses, mapping, and information sharing. With the chair position vacant during FY 2019, the M&D Committee elected a chair (Tyler Pedersen) and vice-chair (Jeffrey Lee) in November 2019 and reaffirmed its commitment to mapping "A-listed" priority weed species, reviewing new data collection and mapping technologies, and assisting with species prioritization analyses. The M&D Committee updated the FY 2021 work plan, which was approved by the Steering Committee in December 2019. The Committee updated the [CWMA's 2020 Call-for-Data list](#) with four species and implemented various outreach strategies to encourage reporting for these species—this included an announcement at the Pull Together in January 2020, a data sharing contest, and regular committee meeting updates.



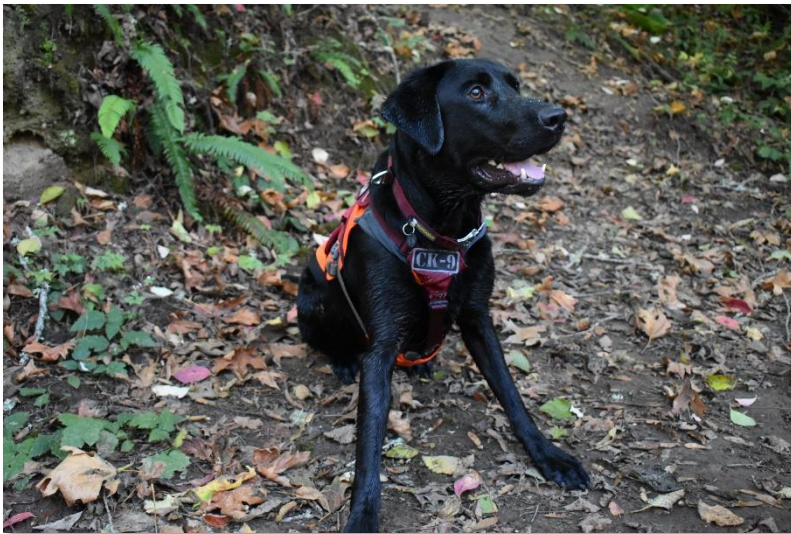
*West Multnomah SWCD and Tualatin SWCD join forces to conduct drone surveys.  
Photo by: Michelle Delepine*

The M&D Committee regularly collaborated with Lindsey Wise of Oregon’s iMapInvasives, who has provided an interactive demo of the many new improvements and features available in iMapInvasives 3.0, some of which reflect requests made in the Committee's 2014 letter to the national iMapInvasives office (e.g., streamlined display of data at various zoom levels, batch export options, and customizable data downloading). Lindsey also updated the [Interactive Priority Weed Management Coordination Map](#).

The chair and vice chair designed a mapping and data "Poll Together" survey in March 2020 and distributed it among the M&D Committee, CWMA partners, and local weed management listservs to better understand the data collection and mapping methods, challenges, and goals of the region as a whole (results found [here](#)). To increase interest in data sharing in the larger region, the M&D Committee initiated a data collection contest in June 2020, with prizes to be awarded to the contestants who have submitted the most Call-for-Data and Priority

weed species reports by the end of December 2020. During the late summer and early fall of 2020, the Committee began refining the standardized data collection template, which included establishing a working group, formatting the template in Google Sheets for the review process, and obtaining continuing education accreditation for the

group's webinar meeting. The goal of this high-priority work plan item is to provide CWMA partners with a standardized template that can integrate observation and treatment data across different data collection platforms like ArcGIS Online, Survey123, and iMapInvasives.



*Jasper, the garlic mustard sniffing champion of Conservation Canines, waits patiently for his next command.*  
Photo by: TSWCD Staff

### General Meetings

Our General Meetings allow our partners to discuss the latest news in weed management and share updates on their respective programs to keep our members engaged in regional invasive plant management efforts.

Each meeting is hosted in a different county of the CWMA to allow equal participation amongst our diverse members. This year, we had a total of 136

attendees participate in our three General Meetings. To maintain social distancing among our partners during the COVID-19 pandemic, the CWMA fully transitioned to remote meetings with our GoToMeeting platform.

In March, our Multnomah County partners hosted our last in-person meeting, focusing on the beginning steps towards Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts led by East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, City of Portland, and West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District. We also received a grand unveil of the City of Portland's 10-year Invasive Species Strategy Plan and got an update on the Mapping & Data Committee's Call for Data campaign.

Our partners with Clark County Vegetation Management had their chance to shine at our August meeting, and they certainly did not disappoint. They delivered not 1...not 2...but 6 fantastic videos to keep the content engaging for our CWMA participants. We heard updates from various programs, highlighting some recent drone work for the slender flower thistle, a large false brome infestation at Camp Bonneville, and an overview of their Weed Free Forage program. On top of that, they sprinkled in some fun 80s throwback videos, referencing some fan-favorite classics.

To wrap up this year's General Meetings, Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District brought it home with some very diverse topics including an update on their Invasive Species Program, a live demo of iMapInvasives 3.0's new features, Oregon Department of Agriculture's Japanese Beetle eradication program, and the use of eDNA as a tool for EDRR detection. We even got to see a great video of the garlic mustard detecting black lab, Jasper, in action with his handler, Julianne Ubigau with University of Washington's Conservation Canines.

Although these remote times remain strange for our group, we are grateful for the ability to continue collaboration through our remote meetings. We thoroughly enjoyed this year's diverse presentations and look forward to the engaging topics our partners will provide for us in 2021.



## Financial Update

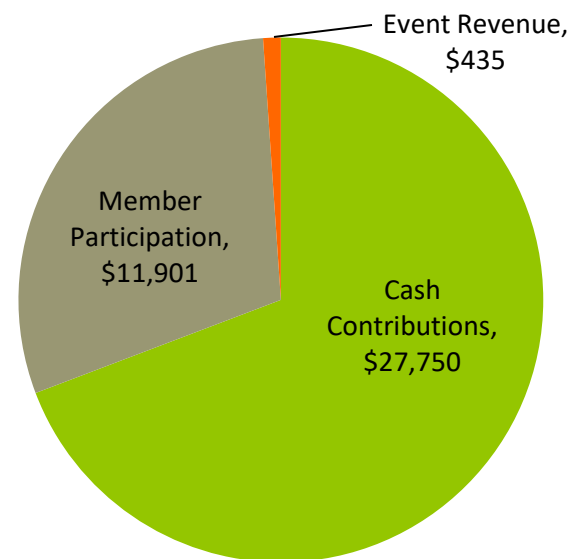
The 4-County CWMA functions through the generous support of its member organizations. Member organizations provide both financial and volunteer contributions to support the goals and mission of the CWMA.

Over the last few years, the 4-County CWMA has been seeking additional funding from our CWMA partners to increase our Coordinator from a quarter-time to half-time position. This effort has led to a notable increase in partner funding in the last two years. Unfortunately, it has not been enough to push us over the required threshold. As a result, the 4-County CWMA is exploring options to outsource some activities to increase the services that the CWMA provides its members. The hope is that this approach will allow us to increase capacity as we continue toward securing sufficient funding to increase our Coordinator time.

The monetary resources to fund our coordinator position and other CWMA-led activities are currently provided by the following member organizations:

- City of Portland—Bureau of Environmental Services
- Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District
- Clark County Vegetation Management
- Clean Water Services
- East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District
- Metro—Natural Areas Program
- North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District
- Port of Portland
- Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District
- Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District
- West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

### Total Contributions: \$40,086



The volunteer participation by CWMA members is also significant and diverse. Despite the many changes affecting our member organizations due to the novel coronavirus, and the cancelation of Field Day and other in-person events, the 4-County CWMA members organizations have been able to continue supporting each other through our ongoing collaborative efforts.

In the past year, the 4-County CWMA documented 468 hours of volunteer from a multitude of members organizations. Many more volunteer hours that were spent in correspondence, planning events and meeting, and developing projects on behalf of the CWMA went undocumented. The contribution of time by the CWMA’s members is significant and much appreciated!

The 4-County CWMA’s annual Pull Together event is organized to operate at cost to support our member organizations our goal of improving invasive species management across the region. Despite the attempt to break even, the Pull Together netted \$435 in revenue from meeting attendees in the last year.

Overall, the 4-County CWMA has a robust and diverse funding base. We are fortunate to have such broad regional support for this organization. Thank you to all our contributing organizations and members...

*We simply couldn’t do it without you!*



# 2020 Steering Committee Members

## Steering Committee Chair

**Mitch Bixby** (City of Portland—BES)



## Steering Committee Vice-Chair

**Aaron Shaw** (Tualatin SWCD)



## Education and Outreach Committee Chair

**Chelsea White-Brainard** (East Multnomah SWCD)



## Mapping and Data Committee Chair

**Tyler Pedersen** (Tualatin SWCD)



## Technical and Scientific Review Committee Chairs

**Chair: Michelle Delepine** (West Multnomah SWCD)

**Vice-Chair: Mitch Bixby** (City of Portland—BES)



## Fiscal Administrator

**Sam Leininger** (Clackamas SWCD)



## At-Large Representatives

### Multnomah County

**Michelle Delepine** (West Multnomah SWCD)

### Clark County

**Justin Collell** (Clark County Vegetation Management)

### Clackamas County

**Andrea Berkley** (Metro)

### Washington County

**Aaron Shaw** (Tualatin SWCD)



## Western Invasives Network Coordinator

**Troy Abercrombie** (WIN)



## CWMA Coordinator

**Courtney Gattuso** (Clackamas SWCD)

503-210-6015

info@4countycwma.org

PO Box 830, Beaver Creek, OR 97004



*This report was collaboratively curated by our Coordinator, Steering Committee, and partners.*