



4-COUNTY Cooperative Weed Management Area

November 23rd, 2021

Dear 4-County CWMA members and prospective members,

The *4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area* is in its 17th year serving the partners of the Greater Portland Metropolitan Area. For nearly two decades, we have made considerable progress promoting regional collaboration around the introduction and spread of harmful invasive plants. Our success depends on the strength of our regional partnership, both among longstanding members as well as new member organizations.

We are reaching out to current members, as well as prospective member organizations, to ask for continued participation in, and support of, their CWMA. With your continued support, we have high expectations to expand on this important work in the years ahead.

The *4-County CWMA* has grown considerably over the years, as a result of our strong membership. Notably, member support has allowed for the development of a host of resources that help support and advance regional weed control efforts, including access to current treatment information and best management practices; up-to-date spatial data on invasive species infestations throughout the region; evaluation of research on treatment strategies and herbicide use issues; outreach and messaging strategies to help raise awareness about weeds among the wider public; and provide an open forum for information sharing and relationship building across jurisdictional boundaries. Funding also helps support a part-time coordinator whose time we share with the Columbia Gorge CWMA.

Maintaining strong partner support is critical to the continued success of the *4-County CWMA*. We look to current and prospective members to become signatories on our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The purpose of the MOU is to lay the foundation for the CWMA. It reflects the shared recognition that regional collaboration provides a more effective platform for addressing invasive plants, and becoming a signatory reflects the commitment to this effort. **The MOU does not delegate any decision-making authority to any other party. Instead, it is designed to encourage an atmosphere of cooperation, integration, and sharing to accomplish mutual goals.**

If your organization has signed the MOU since 2019, thank you. Your partnership is critical, and we look forward to the benefits of cooperative management.

If you are not a *4-County CWMA* member organization, we encourage you to join the growing list of members committed to improving invasive weed management in our area.

In addition to being a CWMA member organization, we also value your participation. The work of the *4-County CWMA* comes from the shared participation and resources of our member organizations. Small

contributions made by member organizations return to them through the development of management recommendation, informational resources, and educational opportunities offered across the region. Please consider participating in our meetings, or by serving on one of our committees. We also ask that member organizations consider participating as a funder for the CWMA to support our Coordinator position and emerging resources. The level of participation and funding is voluntary and at the discretion of your organization.

We recognize that not all organizations have the capacity to actively participate or contribute in our CWMA. For those that do, we hope you will consider contributing your time or resources to our **4-County CWMA**.

We would love to include your organization in our growing list of signatory members of the **4-County CWMA**. Please contact our CWMA coordinator, *Courtney Gattuso* (info@4countycwma.org) to learn more about becoming a member or sponsor of our **4-County CWMA**.

Thank you to all our partners for the continued support of the **4-County CWMA**. Our work would not be possible without you!

Sincerely,



Aaron Shaw
Director of Natural Resources
Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation District
4-County CWMA Chair



Sam Leininger
WeedWise Program Manager
Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District
4-County CWMA Vice Chair