

Example

2008 Weed Management Area Site Visit

Cover Sheet

WMA Group: Full of Weeds WMA

Date: July 8, 2008

County(-ies) Involved in the Group: X and Y Weed Counties

Person Conducting Site Visit: Carri Pirosko

-
- **WMA formed and functioning since (list year):** 2001
 - **MOU Status (underline one):** up-to-date In process of being renewed No MOU
 - **Strategic Plan (underline one):** up-to-date In process of being renewed No Strategic Plan

General Description of the Weed Management Area and its successes (within your description, please rank the WMA as: Superior, Good, Adequate, or Needs Improvement):

OVERALL RATING of WMA Group: Good

Work performed by the Full of Weeds WMA group largely concentrated on a significant outbreak of BADweed, an aquatic, B-rated noxious invader. There has been a long-standing county eradication program for BADweed in canals (Dry and Wet creeks) in the eastern half of the WMA region. From 1999 to 2007, only 55 plants were detected and treated. However, in 2005, several extreme rain events caused upstream infestation of BADweed in Full of Weeds County to flush down into the Long Valley drainage. Initial surveys in February of 2006 revealed a huge explosion of BADweed, infestation levels reaching levels never before seen. Thousands of floating pieces of this aggressive aquatic pest managed to invade a good distance into Full of Weeds WMA. Extensive surveys were initiated, resulting in over 200 miles of waterways in the WMA Region being delimited by walking, ATV, and vehicle. Aggressive treatments were undertaken immediately and a rigorous treatment schedule adhered to throughout the 2006 season. In 2007 132 plants/sites were found. So far in 2008 only 14 plants/sites have been identified. County partners in the WMA have escalated coordinated efforts in the eradication of this aquatic pest. This project is and will continue to be a high priority project for Full of Weeds WMA, as the impacts of BADweed to the highly productive agricultural community would be devastating.

The WMA group has also targeted yellow starthistle infestation throughout the county. There are less than 100 infested gross acres of YST throughout the WMA Region and all were surveyed and targeted for treatment. Monitoring effort for yellow starthistle that was treated showed a 95-100% reduction from one year to the next. Yellow starthistle survey and eradication will continue to be a high priority for the Full of Weeds WMA.

Other control projects have focused on: silverleaf nightshade, perennial pepperweed, and Russian knapweed (see Project Evaluation Form for % change in number of plants found and treated between years, as well as gross survey acres). The WMA group has spent time working with local high school students in GIS mapping noxious weeds in the county. WMA funding has allowed the WMA to purchase a GPS mapping unit and a digital camera, both pieces of equipment that will be used to eradicate noxious weeds in the Full of Weeds Region, well into the future.

WMA funding has generated in-kind work and resources totally: \$23,000.00.

General failures, problems, or concerns with the WMA in implementing projects as described in their work plan:

- It has been a challenge to get prospective WMA partners to the table to meet; there has been a large turnover of agency/local partners from year to year.
- Emergency, projects (both insect and vertebrate) diverted a good deal of the county partner's efforts in 2007, not allowing much weed work to be performed, beyond the BADweed infestation.
- Perennial pepperweed work performed, on the large part failed... Telar applied did not have the efficacy anticipated. The WMA will have to experiment further next season to help explain their negative results.