

**Noxious, Invasive Plant Working Group Meeting
Maricopa Cooperative Extension Office
March 29, 2012**

Present: Kai Umeda, Bill McCloskey, Barron Orr, Gerald Moore, Rob Grumbles, Kim McReynolds

1) Brainstorm potential fact sheets to be developed, peer-reviewed, and published following the ACE peer-review process. The following topics for facts sheets were discussed along with corresponding authorship to address objective #1.

- Russian knapweed (**Lead persons: Kim McReynolds and Bill McCloskey**)
Bill and Kim will have this finished for this fiscal year.
- Sweet resinbush (**Lead person: Kim McReynolds**)
Kim will have this finished for this fiscal year.
- Cut stump treatments (**Lead persons: Jeff Schalau and Ed Northam**)
Jeff completed this. <http://cals.arizona.edu/pubs/garden/az1401.pdf>
- Influences of climate and weather on invasive plants (**Lead persons: Larry Howery and Mike Crimmins**)
Move this publication to next year.

2) Hold training and testing sessions to certify local citizens and agency personnel to use restricted use chemicals to control noxious and invasive species (Lead persons: Ed Northam, Jeff Schalau, Kai Umeda, Al Fournier, Rob Grumbles, Bill McCloskey, Kim McReynolds, Gerald Moore).

- *PSEP trainings were held in Mohave, Cochise, La Paz, Navajo Nation.*
- *Need to check with Jeff about what he did.*
- *Kim will compile numbers and impact. Kai will send to Kim. Need to check with Jeff. Rob gave Kim his information at the meeting.*

3) Coordinate Lower Colorado River Basin Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force (Lead person: Kevin Fitzsimmons)

Need to check with Kevin on items 3 and 4.

The following action items were accomplished to address objective #3:

- Maintain Task Force Website
- Organize and chair two meetings of the task force per year (Blythe and Yuma)
- Obtain funding from USFWS to fund these efforts
- Conduct additional studies and collaborate with task force members on control efforts (*Salvinia molesta*, *Arundo donax*, parrotfeather, and quagga mussel)

4) Invasive aquatic weed control rest of Arizona (Lead person: Kevin Fitzsimmons)

The following action items were accomplished to address objective #4:

- Maintain ANS website
- Answer e-mail enquiries regarding aquatic weed control
- Meet with commercial aquatic herbicide vendors to discuss products
- Assist Arizona Game and Fish with Aquatic Nuisance Species portion of Invasive Species Control Plan so that Arizona's ANS plan will be accepted by USFWS and make AZ eligible for federal ANS funds.
- Teach a unit on control of ANS as part of the Aquatic Plants and the Environment Course (SWES, ECOL, WFSC 474/574) in the fall semester.

5) Lastly, the following items were discussed for further development and action for the upcoming 2011/12 SPT funding year:

- Develop a framework to deliver noxious weed material and education to horticulture audiences (**Lead person: Jeff Schalau**)
Move this to next year. For this year, see if we can get on the MG working group agenda to talk about the philosophy to incorporate new things into the MG curriculum (as additional, optional units – similar to what was done for MWS). Ex: invasive weeds, phenology network, etc. Kim will contact Ed about adding to the agenda.
- Develop a Facebook Page for this SPR group (**Lead person: Kai Umeda**)
Kim will get the Facebook page up. Everyone in the group needs to contribute. If we could get one posting per week that would be good.
- Look for Funding Opportunities (**Lead persons: Bill McCloskey, Larry Howery**)
No money and it's getting worse!

6) Other items from this year:

- Larry completed an on-line class that is being offered this summer session. It was announced in Tuesday Morning Notes.
- Arizona Strip Weed Field Day, May 5 and 12. Coordinating with other to have work days to control Scotch thistle.
- Bill has a new resource – a spray table. Will be using it at the Desert Hort Conference.
- Barron is working on Geoconnect. It is an app for smart phone that would allow you to map invasives. The question was raised whether it can be linked to imap (<http://imapinvasives.org/>). Kai and Barron will follow up.

Plans for next year:

Publications

- Influences of climate and weather on invasive plants (**Lead persons: Larry Howery and Mike Crimmins**)
- Camelthorn update and revision, needs to have treatment options added (**Lead person: Bill McCloskey**)
- Thistle complex – bull, Scotch, Canada, musk (**Lead persons: Jeff Schalau and Bill McCloskey**)
- Yellow and Malta starthistles (**Lead persons: Kim McReynolds and Bill McCloskey**)

Trainings

- Mohave (AZ Strip), August
- Tsaille, August
- Cochise, February
- Maybe one more in northern or central AZ?

Other

- Need ornamental alternatives to invasives for homeowners, i.e., instead of fountain grass and onionweed, what could you plant with a similar that is not invasive? We need to work with hort people – maybe start with Ursula?