

12/17/2008 Strategic Planning Session Notes
Southeastern Arizona - Southwestern New Mexico Noxious Weeds Stakeholder Meeting

A diverse group of noxious weed stakeholders including state and federal agency and cooperative extension representatives from Arizona and New Mexico met to develop a list of priority needs and an action plan related to noxious weed management in a 5-county area spanning Southeast AZ and Southwest NW. The team is developing a strategic plan for moving forward on accomplishing the identified goals.

The morning session involved updates on noxious weed programs in each state and then more specifically the history and focus of each of the two weed management areas. An overview of the Arizona Pest Management Center and Western Integrated Pest Management Center was given.

The afternoon session focused on issue identification, priority setting and the beginnings of action planning. Participants brainstormed noxious weed needs and issues in small groups. These needs and issues were brought up to the whole group and then categorized into major headings. The 32 participants then cast votes to identify the top priority needs and issues. Each major category and related needs and issues were set out on tables. Participants gravitated to the category of their choice and these groups began working on solutions and action items related to the needs and issues, documenting steps on action item forms.

Issue Identification - Numbers in parenthesis are votes by attendees.

Drivers of Change

- Change priorities (3)
- Urgency (3)
- Action (4)

Education (public, private, government) (20)

- Political outreach/education (2)
- Advanced education
- Public outreach/education on weed ID, treatment and resources

Communication and Coordination

- Cooperation (local, intrastate, interstate, international) (7)
- Develop NM-AZ MOA and get approval from state authorities
- Collaborate on border weeds
- Share map information
- Group to ID short-term and long term actions
- Communication/cooperative across state lines to facilitate control
- Prevent mechanical spread of weeds (communication and education)
- Authority (\$: education, assistance; prisoners on private; eminent domain; NAFTA) (1)
- State weed priority list; spp. where we can make an impact (3)
- Fund a "working group" to facilitate communication, resource sharing

Control

- Continuity/consistency (1)
- Rapid response team (2)
- Maintenance
- Treatments up to a property line/fences

Research

- Treatment/monitoring (12)
- ID and mapping as coordinated effort (data will support \$) (8)
- Extend NM mapping effort across AZ border
- Mitigation
- Weed management/chemical efficacy database; clearinghouse for research info. (4)
- Generate weed management/efficacy information (research!)

Funding

- Funding in general: research, education, management (15)
- Funded CWMA, person for each CWMA (8)

Action Plans Generated (not necessarily completed by the end of the meeting)

AZ/NM MOA Collaboration
 Control - property line
 Control - Rapid Response Team
 Education and Advocacy
 Funding
 Research
 Regional Weed Priority List
 Working Group Program

Ranking of priority weeds by state and combined (as voted on by participants at meeting)

SW New Mexico

1. yellow starthistle
2. African rue
3. Malta starthistle
4. Russian knapweed
5. whitetop

SE Arizona

1. Russian knapweed
2. yellow starthistle
3. sweet resinbush
4. Malta starthistle
5. onionweed
6. whitetop & bull thistle

Combined SWNM & SEAZ

1. yellow starthistle
2. Russian knapweed
3. Malta starthistle
4. sweet resinbush
5. onionweed
6. whitetop
7. bull thistle