



Meeting Notes for KP-CWMA Technical Advisory Committee December 7, 2009- USDA Service Center, Kenai Alaska

Present: Janice Chumley(UAF-CES), Mary King(ADFG), Heather Fuller(USFWS), Mike Edwards USFWS), Pam Voeller(NRCS), John Morton USFWS), Doug Schoessler (KPB), Meg Muller (NRCS), Blaine Spellman AACD), Tara Schmidt(HSWCD), Michelle Martin(KWF), Marcus Muller (KPB), Curtis Stigall(Arboristic Vew) via teleconference= Matt Grey (RBCA), Bonnie Million (NPS), Rob Develice (USFS), Holly Weiss-Racine (ADOT, Central Region), Matt DeCaro (ADOT, Central Region).

CWMA Winter - Spring Tasks

The next meeting will convene on Thursday, January 14th, 2010.

Website: Blaine Spellman announced that the CWMA has received funding from the USFWS to create and maintain a web site. Blaine requested input from the TAC for ideas for the design of the website. Suggestion included:

- All documents associated with the CWMA (e.g. Strategic Plan)
- Interactive calendar that can be updated with pertinent information
- Summary of main species of concern
- Maps – link to EDDSMAPS
- Page with all Kenai Peninsula Educational/ informational brochures
- Good description of any links that are put on there
- Promotion of all available program (e.g. citizen monitoring program)
- Rapid Response Plan – contact information
- Invasive of the Month

Kenai Peninsula Borough Road Management Plan: Discussion centered on the ability for the CWMA to develop a management plan to control invasive plants along the road right-of-ways. Doug Schoessler pointed out that there are 638 miles of Borough roads and 98% of those roads are gravel. Doug felt the majority of weeds will be along paved roads that are state-owned and state-maintained. It should be noted that any IPM plan on state-owned roads will need to go through a DEC approved permitting process.

Janice Chumley asked if in the interim we couldn't work with KPB to manage weeds through mowing. Doug Schoessler was receptive with the caveat that there would need to be funding. Still, this was a likely option. It was also stated that mowing at the right time (just before seeding) can be effective for many species. Typically this is late June through late July. For instance, Janice felt bird vetch would be an excellent candidate for

mowing, as sustained mowing can eliminate populations. Janice felt the bird vetch infestation along Sports Lake Road would be an excellent place for control work. If locations where this would be effective were prioritized, we could define the key road stretches to be mowed with target dates. This could be relatively easy and would be effective.

The components of a manage plan would include an herbicides to use on key species, overlay of roads and road ownership, distribution of species, and critical habitats (i.e. places roads run adjacent to or cross anadromous stream and recent burns.).

The TAC set a goal of pulling all of the above information together for a mid-January meeting. John Morton volunteered staff to develop GIS layers and potentially a list of places to prioritize for control. Marcus Muller will provide the KPB roads data, Michelle Martin will ask KWF to provide critical habitat data. Curtis mentioned that he could develop a list of herbicides to use on each of our priority weeds. Every member needs to send the most recent invasive species information that might not be on AKEPIC.

Reed Canary Grass Baseline Data:

John Morton mentioned that we should start collecting baseline data to quantify impacts of reed canary grass on the Kenai Peninsula. Mary mentioned that Nikki Scarzi might be a decent person to contact. She has aerial photos of North Fork Anchor River that could be used to determine rates of sedimentation.

Updating the Strategic Plan: The TAC discussed updates that are needed for the CWMA Strategic Plan and specifically Table 3 of that plan. Rob Develice commented that a review of management objectives of species identified in table 3 need to be updated. Janice mentioned that she could update Kenai SWCD, Blaine will update Homer SWCD and Alaska SWCD, Bonnie will update Kenai Fjords, Rob will update Chugach, and John will update the Refuge. Each volunteer should have updated lists for the next meeting on January 14th. Another point to consider would be breaking the Alaska SWCD into its own districts being Seward, Hope, and Coopers Landing; this might be an excellent point of discussion for the next meeting.

John Morton suggested that we keep good records on changes made to the strategic plan. Change made could be appended on the back of the strategic plan so we can any interested party can witness the evolution of our CWMA.

CWMA Weed Workshop Ideas were discussed for a focus of the Weed Workshop this year. Rob mentioned he would contact a UA researcher to speak on his research regarding use of charcoal for control of invasives. Consensus was that it would be terrific to invites scientist that can speak to environmental aspect of herbicide application and the appropriateness of applying herbicide as part of integrated pest management plan. As a counterpoint we could invite a speaker that has opposition to any herbicide application, it could be set up as a panel discussion. Blaine Spellman committed the Homer District to organize the workshop. Janice mentioned she would contact an anti-herbicide group for a

speaker. Michelle mentioned she would contact someone like Tim Miller to talk on the panel.