WSWS Officer and Committee Report
October 2021

Office or Committee Name: Ad Hoc Invasive Species Committee
Officer or Chairperson Name: D. Chad Cummings, and Brian Mealor
Date of Preparation (include year): 20Oct2021

Activities during the year:

We had limited activity this year as an entire committee. We met together at the 2020 WSWS Annual meeting and virtually in spring 2021 and discussed some potential actions/interactions that we could facilitate. Many of these were modified to the virtual platforms, so no additional committee-wide meetings were held.

Brian and team worked to get a symposium slated for the 2021 WSWS Virtual meeting on Invasive Annual Grass Management (Monday morning), which includes speakers from various government agencies, and the academic sector. No current symposia planned at this time for 2022 meetings.

Chad has been working with Mary Jo Foley-Birrenkot, SRM Director of Membership and Outreach, to identify key ways we could service the western US. We will be working with Bill Whitacre (WGA) to make sure that we capture all of the opportunities for invasive species management collaboration. Some examples include the Invasive Species Data Mobilization objective, collaboration with Western Weed Coordinating Committee, SRM Partners, and the invasive annual grass management project.

These activities will continue into 2021. As needed we will lean on the other committee members to continue this program.

Recommendations for Board Action:

None.

Budget Needs:

None.

Name of Person Preparing This Report: D. Chad Cummings

Reminder of Committee Prospectus

Ad Hoc Invasive Species Committee within the WSWS
Co-Chairs: D. Chad Cummings, Brian Mealor

Mission: To enhance communication and collaboration among invasive species groups/committees outside of the WSWS in order to foster a shared science knowledge base, work together for success in invasive species research/economic analysis programs, develop timely invasive species symposia, and other opportunities in invasive species awareness.

Scope: The ad hoc committee will comprise WSWS and outside WSWS membership with an academic/private/government reach to many organizations involved in invasive species ecology management across the western and entire US. By expanding our reach, the WSWS will have intentional collaboration and shared learning experiences with outside organizations on invasive species ecology and management.

Our areas of interest will include but not be limited to invasive or noxious species ecology and management in rangelands and pastures, natural areas, forests, wetlands, marshes, rivers, and lakes, non-crop areas, right-of-ways, riparian areas, and wildlife habitat. While we know that invasive species occur in agronomic areas as well, the ecology and management therein is tied to the agronomic practices and disparate to those occurring in non-agronomic ecosystems.

Charter:

- Consist of Co-Chairs appointed to a four-year term and 11 other members each appointed for two- to four-year terms (including one student representative elected to a 2-year term)
- Review regional and state legislation as it relates to weed science activities and make recommendations regarding changes in the state and regional weed laws.
- Review drafts of laws for enactment by Congress and make recommendations for strengthening preventative weed technology for the western US.
- Serve in an advisory capacity in the development of state noxious weed programs and regulations for the western US.
- Propose joint or individual society symposia on current invasive species hot topics which will benefit the WSWS and outside organizations
- Submit their findings annually to the WSWS BOD for review and concurrence.

Example Activities:

1. Propose collaborative symposia between WSWS, Rangeland Invasive Species Committee-Society for Range Management (RISC-SRM), WAPMS, NAISMA, and others to held at WSWS Annual Meetings or sister organizations' annual meetings

    a. Injecting sound, and up-to-date weed science into societies/groups that may not have weed science as a primary focus (i.e. SRM, Invasive Plant Councils)
2. Members will serve as an extension of the WSWS to cooperate/inform other outside organizations on developments of invasive weed science and management (have Invasive Species Committee members or liaison at these meetings if possible)
    a. RISC-SRM
    b. NAISMA
    c. Western Governors' Association
    d. State Invasive Plant/Species Councils
    e. Invasive Species Advisory Council
    f. Western Weed Coordinating Committee
3. Members will bring invasive species information and updates back to WSWS from interactions with the outside-weed-science community
4. Aide in the understanding of invasive weed species for individual states and what management the state is doing for those invasive species (for state weed coordinators)