WSWS Officer and Committee Report
August 2022

Office or Committee Name: Ad Hoc Invasive Species Committee
Officer or Chairperson Name: D. Chad Cummings, and Brian Mealor
Date of Preparation (include year): 4 August 2022

Activities during the year:

Committee members continued to interact with non-WSWS agencies and organizations involved in invasive weed management in the western U.S. Several members were active in the SRM rangeland invasive species committee, the Western Weed Coordinating Committee, and multiple local and regional groups. There is ongoing discussion within the group on identifying substantial and necessary activities that will galvanize the need of the committee, or whether the committee needs to move from ad hoc status to a standing committee. Committee is seeking other opportunities for collaboration and is currently discussing a joint workshop with SRM at their annual meeting in Boise in February 2023.

WSWS CAST representative Greg Dahl notified this committee that CAST is working on several publications related to invasive species. WSWS Invasive Species Committee members provided feedback on one of these CAST proposals that developed from the wildfire and invasive weeds symposium that was held at the most recent annual meeting.

Committee leadership will suggest names for re-appointment or replacement to WSWS President for consideration. Please see below under Recommendations for Board Action.

Recommendations for Board Action:

Walker Billings (wbillin2@uwyo.edu) has been nominated as the new student representative to the committee to replace former student rep Mirella Ortiz. Mirella is now in a faculty position and would like to remain a member of this committee. Jane Mangold was scheduled to rotate off, but has agreed to stay on. Todd Neal has requested to be removed from the committee and suggested Daniel Tekiela (USFS Region 2) to replace him. Committee supports this recommendation, but these appointments require approval of WSWS president.

Budget Needs:

None.

Name of Person Preparing This Report: Brian A. Mealor

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)