WSWS Officer and Committee Report
February 2023

Office or Committee Name: Ad Hoc Invasive Species Committee
Officer or Chairperson Name: D. Chad Cummings, and Brian Mealor
Date of Preparation (include year): 25February2023

Activities during the year:

This committee worked directly with the partially disrupted SRM Rangeland Invasive Species Committee leadership to develop a full day workshop that was held at the 2023 SRM national meeting in Boise in February 2023 focused on whole-system strategic management of invasive annual grasses. Several members of both committees took part in the workshop that was attended by 120+ people. We think there are ripe opportunities to enhance cooperation with SRM RISC and SRM as a whole.

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.

WSWS CAST representative Greg Dahl has notified this committee that CAST is working on several publications related to invasive species. Several members of the WSWS Invasive Species Committee co-authored a paper for outlooks in pest management based on the 2022 invasive grasses workshop chaired by Matt Baur and supported by this committee. Additional members are working with CAST team and other partners to draft a publication focused on invasive plants and their interactions with fire.

Several members reached the end of their original appointment term in at the March 2022 meeting, but agreed to stay on the committee: Mirella Ortiz and Jane Mangold. Dan Tekiela replaced Todd Neal on this committee and Walker Billings became the student representative.

Recommendations for Board Action:

This committee suggests replacing the current co-chairs with two new co-chairs. Current co-chairs Brian Mealor and Chad Cummings will rotate off the committee once the new co-chairs are identified.

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)