WSWS Officer and Committee Report
February 2023

Office or Committee Name: Legislative Committee
Officer or Chairperson Name: Slade Franklin
Other Committee Members: Rachel Zuger; John Vickery; Alan Helm (Board Contact)
Date of Preparation (include year): 01/16/2023

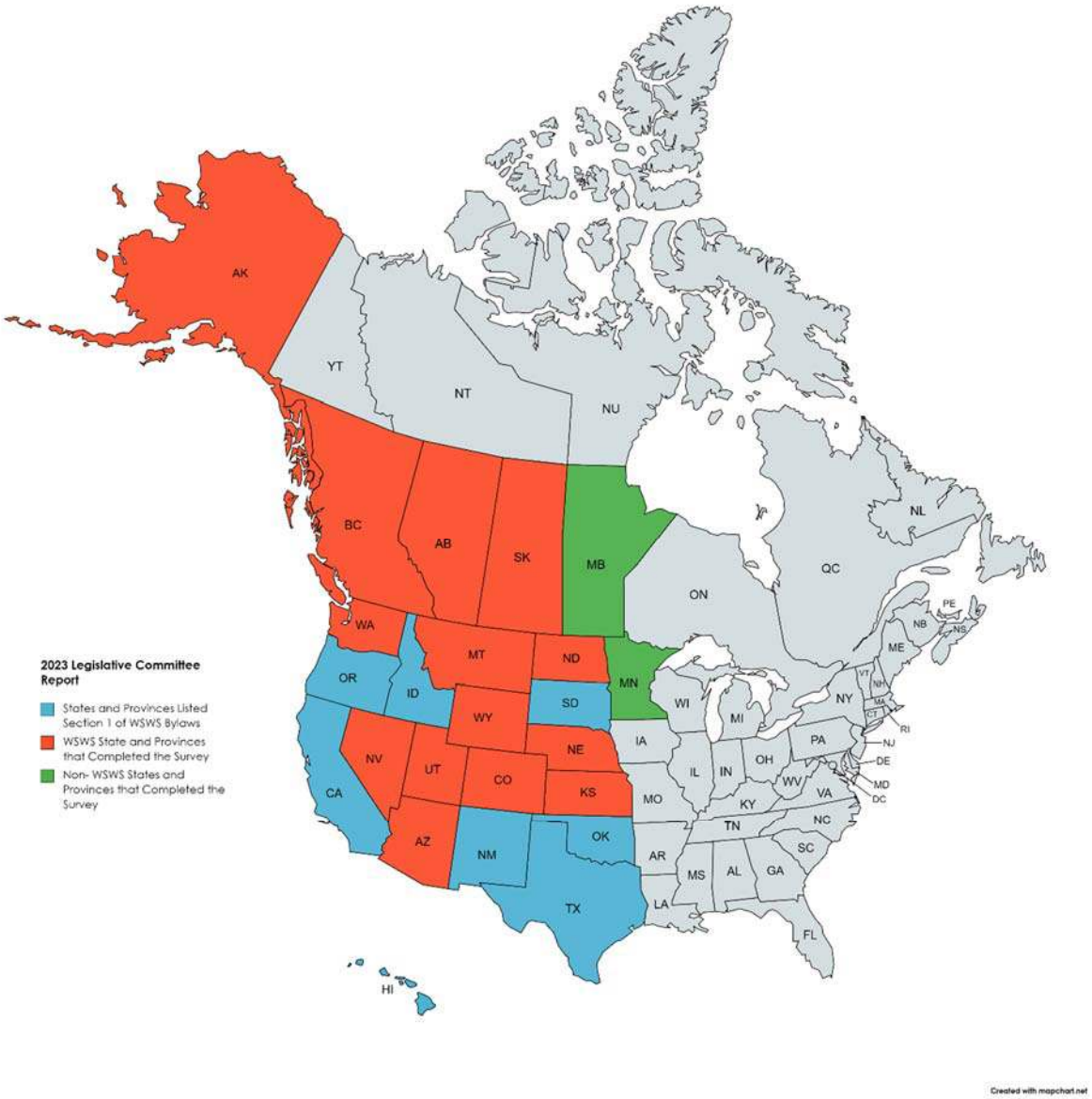
Activities during the year:
The Legislative Committee met on July 22nd via Zoom. The meeting was attended by Rachel Zuger; John Vickery; and Alan Helm. The committee reviewed committee expectations as defined under the Constitution and By-laws. The committee also reviewed the current contact list for state and province weed program coordinators in the west. The contact list was uploaded to Google Documents and the link was sent out for state coordinators to update their contact information as necessary. The link to the Google document is:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IroVLc6N_c5LC32gtChS6jodVEl2bVMq/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=117021322400633786843&rtpof=true&sd=true

Plans were also made to distribute an informational survey to state and province program coordinators to identify localized, national and regional legislative issues the WSWS should be aware of. The survey questions included the following:

1. **Has there been any changes to the state/provincial weed list/or seed list in the past two years?**
2. **Is there weed management issues that are becoming more problematic within your program that WSWS membership should be aware of?**
    a. **Is there any local or national legislative/policy changes needed to address these issues?**
3. **Is there any assistance WSWS membership can provide you in dealing with these issues?**
4. **Has your program's capacity of implementing weed management programs been improved or compromised the past two years?**
5. **Are you pursuing "Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act" (IIJA) funding for invasive weed projects?**
6. **Is there any feedback, additional information, or topics not covered under this survey you would like WSWS and the Legislative committee to be aware of?**

The survey was published on Google Forms and distributed to the contact list in August, 2022. All responses were recorded within that same month. The below map indicates the states and provinces with the WSWS area (Bylaws – Section 1) that participated in the survey. Additionally, one state and one province not identified within the WSWS membership area also participated in the survey:



Recommendations for Board Action:

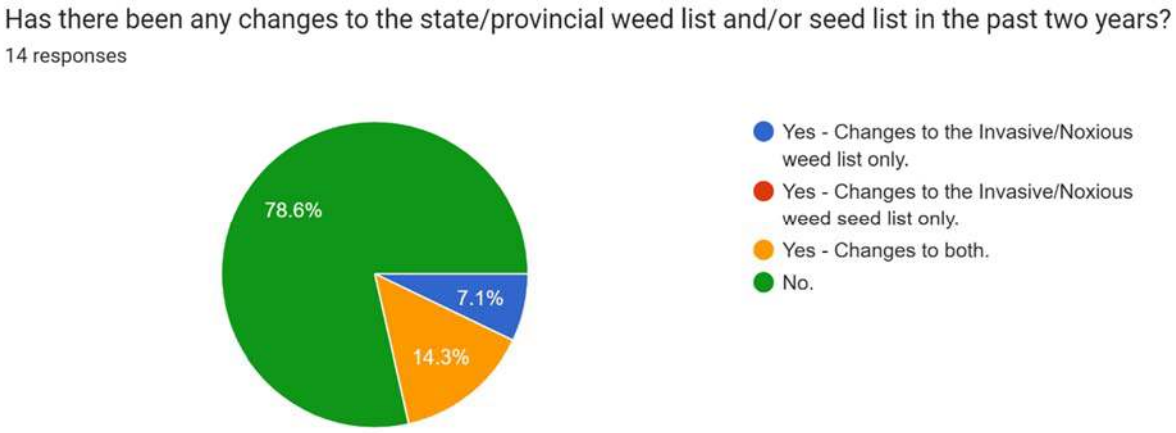
The aggregate responses are included within this report. However, several topics of interest for the WSWS to track and follow are below:

- The need for help in addressing interstate commerce for sale of plants that are banned in one state but not in a neighboring state. (Minnesota)
- Work with EPA on science based labeling and coordinated risk assessments between federal agencies. (Wyoming)
- Shortages of herbicides such as glyphosate, glufosinate and MCPA have forced producers to seed out other options for weed control in 2022. Additionally, prices on herbicides has skyrocketed. (Saskatchewan, Wyoming)

Additionally, problematic weed management issues that were identified were:

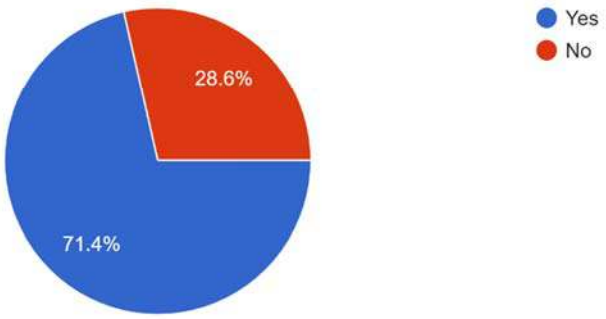
- The need for a "buyback" program for nursery industry plants that are identified as weeds or potential weeds. (Minnesota)
- Lack of state (Utah) response for aquatic weed species. (Utah)
- Lack of management by railroads and absentee landowners. (Kansas, Montana)
- Public perception of aerial applications of pesticides. (Wyoming)
- Herbicide resistant kochia. (Saskatchewan)
- Glyphosate resistant kochia and downy brome (cheatgrass). (Alberta)

Below is additional aggregate data of note:



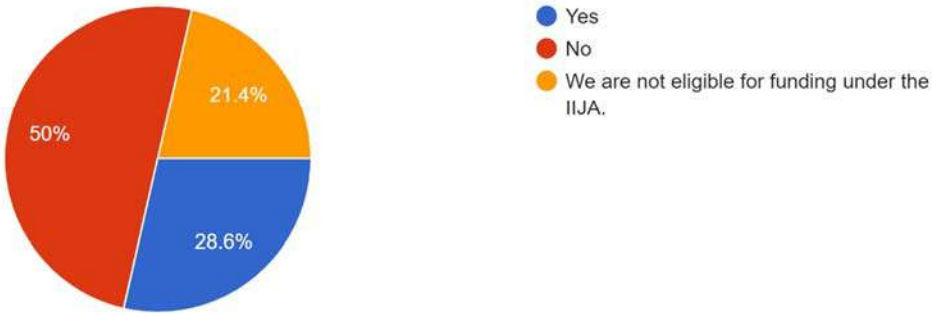
Has your program's capacity for implementing weed management programs been improved or compromised the past two years? Impacts on ca...costs or other economic or labor related factors.

14 responses



Are you pursuing IIJA funding for invasive weed projects?

14 responses



Budget Needs: The committee has no anticipated budget needs at this time.
Name of Person Preparing This Report: Slade Franklin
Date of Report: 01/16/2023

First Name	Last Name	State or Province	Phone Number	Are You the Primary Contact for legislative and policy issues related to your state or province?	Please provide the name (First, Last) of the primary contact for legislative and policy issues related to your state.	Please provide an email address for the primary contact.	Please provide a phone number for the primary contact.	Has there been any changes to the state/provincial weed list and/or seed list in the past two years?	List the changes to the weed or seed list.	Is there weed management issues that are becoming more problematic within your program that WSWS membership should be aware of? This can include issues such as municipal, county or state policies, education and outreach, or emergence of herbicide resistant	Please define these issues.	Is there any local or national legislative/policy changes needed to address these issues?	Please explain the legislative or policy needs?	Is there any assistance WSWS membership can provide you in dealing with these issues?	Please Explain how WSWS can help.	Has your program's capacity for implementing weed management programs been improved or compromised the past two years? Impacts on capacity may include disrupted supply chain, limited workforce, increased fuel costs or other economic or labor related factors.	Please explain the impacts to programmatic capacity.	Are you pursuing IIJA funding for invasive weed projects?	Which of the grant programs have you submitted an application to?	Please list the programs you have submitted grant applications to that are funded through IIJA and were not previously listed.	Briefly describe the projects you have submitted for grant funding under the IIJA programs.	Is there any feedback, additional information, or topics not covered under this survey you would like WSWS and the Legislative committee to be aware of?
Scott	Marsh	Kansas	785-207-2118	Yes				Yes - Changes to the Invasive/Noxious weed list only.	Moved the Noxious Weed list to regulations and created a tiered list. No new species	Yes	Lack of control by railroad companies and absentee landowners	No		No		Yes	The cost and availability of pesticides	No				
Mitch	Coffin	Nebraska	402-471-6844	Yes				No.		No						No		No				No
Emilie	Justen	Minnesota	651-201-6360	Yes				No.		Yes	We evaluate a lot of landscape plants sold in the nursery trade and so far the nursery industry has been on board. However, we need a lot more outreach for homeowners about listed plants and don't have staffing/capacity to develop outreach. Would also like a "buyback" program for things like burning bush or barberries where people could bring listed shrubs to a nursery (or municipality) for disposal and get a discount on a replacement shrub.	Yes	Need help addressing interstate commerce for sale of plants that are banned in one state but not a neighboring state	Yes		Yes	staffing changeover has diminished capacity for weed management	No				
Jamie	Legg	Arizona	6025420992	Yes				No.		No						No		No				
Val	Miller	British Columbia	250 505-4129	Yes				No.		No						Yes	operating budget reductions and delays in approvals to fill vacant positions	We are not eligible for funding under the IIJA.				
Slade	Franklin	Wyoming	307-777-6585	Yes				Yes - Changes to both.	Actually "NO", however it should be noted Palmer Amaranthe failed being added to the weed seed list 4-5 by the Board of Agriculture, and there likely will be an effort to add it to the state list in November.	Yes	Public perception on aerial applications; spotted knapweed re-emerging in rights-of ways; EPA evaluating a process for tracking the movement of hay off treated fields;	Yes	Congress should appropriate the $50 million for weed management along corridors that was part of the infrastructure legislation. Federal agencies need to streamline their risk assessment processes. EPA needs to evaluate impacts to invasive species management when assessing pesticides for labeling.	Yes	Work with EPA on science based labeling processes. Data on the actual movement of aminopyralid through hay movement is a start. Work with USDOT on improving their understanding of road corridors on weed movement. Partner with EPA and federal agencies to do a comprehensive review of agency risk assessments and identify missing components in the EPA process.	Yes	Difficulty in obtain pesticides, and staffing. Also pesticide prices have skyrocketed.	Yes	We have submitted to more than one IIJA grant program.	USFWS - Preventing the Introduction and Spread of Invasive through Strategic Landscape-Level Approaches NFWF - America the Beautiful Challenge Anticipating a USFS grant opportunity within the next year that Wyoming will apply for also.	Statewide Education and Outreach Invasive Annual Grasses Mapping and EDRR Treatments We also have seen some agency funding trickling through to local projects.	
Richard	Weisz	North Dakota	701-328-2250	Yes				No.		No						No		No				
Aaron	Eagar	UT	8016021961	Yes				Yes - Changes to both.	African Rue moved to 1B Malta Starthistle moved to 1B We also added some clarification to Horary cress and listed Lepidium draba, Lepidium chalepense, and Lepidium appelianum. This is reflective in both Weed and Seed list.	Yes	Aquatics are becoming and issue that the State will need to address in law and rule. We currently do not have any aquatics listed as a regulatory species.	No		No		Yes	The program funding has not changed. The amount of contracts awarded did not change but out of those contracts we had a large amount of money that was returned due to either not being able to find seasonal help to complete the project or cost / availability of chemicals causing delays.	No				

Jake	Dick	Nevada	(775) 353 3640	Yes				No.		No						Yes	Covid quarantine had some impacts on planned treatment activities in 2020. The program coordinator position was vacant for some time which impacted our reporting and follow up on sub grant activities which impacted funding we were able to use for subawards.	Yes		Was not able to submit an application this year, since other state programs had already submitted applications. Would like to submit and application under the America the Beautiful Challenge next year.		
Patty	York	CO	3038699035	Yes				No.		No						Yes	The Colorado Noxious Weed Program went without a Program Manager for 5 months, but we now have a fully-staffed and highly-skilled team in place. I am finding that our program had fallen behind in a lot of areas that were important to our overall ability to lead as the State Program, but my team and I are working hard to progress the program in meaningful and comprehensive ways.	Yes	National Fish and Wildlife Federation - America the Beautiful Challenge		Our proposal aims to strengthen ecosystem and community resilience by pursuing a collaborative and inclusive approach to conservation efforts in five major watershed areas of the state. Priority and imperiled species will benefit from habitat restoration and improved ecosystem function, habitat connectivity will be amplified, access to recreation areas will be expanded, local communities will be engaged, and contributions will be made to developing the next generation of conservation workers. A diverse knit of stakeholders have joined together	
Clark	Brenzil	Saskatchewan	306-787-4673	Yes				No.		Yes	Herbicide resistance is evolving rapidly in kochia. At present all populations are considered resistant to Group 2 herbicides, ~50% are considered resistant to glyphosate and about 20-25% are considered resistant to dicamba (Group 4). There are also populations that are resistant to fluroxypyr (Group 4). Waterhemp is established in two states (ND, MT) and one province (MB) that border Saskatchewan, and have been reported in counties within the two states that border the province. Palmer amaranth is found in ND and MB but is still some distance from the	Yes	The weed species designated under The Weed Control Act will be updated to include the dioecious pigweeds as well as other invasive species.	No		Yes	Shortages of key herbicides such as glyphosate, glufosinate and MCPA have forced producers to seek out other options for weed control in 2022.	We are not eligible for funding under the IIJA.				No

Jasmine	Chaffee	Montana	406-444-3140	Yes				No.		Yes	Lack of cooperation & management from utilities, mines, and railroads- partnerships and on-the-ground management of weeds on properties; federal agencies creating competitive grant process instead of cooperative agreements with states; lack of available employees and housing for employees; research on local revegetation mixes and best practices in different landscapes, plus reliable sources of seed for projects; transport of noxious weeds across state lines (gap in weed listing and prioritizing weeds important to neighboring states).	Yes	weed listing process/priorities; federal IS dollars and how distributed; accountability and consequences for utility companies, mines (pre & post operation), and railroads	Yes	I don't know, but the survey was sent so there must be something WSWS can do to bring forward legislation, leverage other organizations, lobby for certain bills, advocate changes to legislators and policy makers, be a strong/loud presence at events like NISAW, etc.	Yes	Lack of supplies; limited workforce; limited or inaccessible housing; increased cost for supplies; party turnover in government; hiring freezes; severe drought, forest fires & floods; federal funds held or disorganized	Yes	We have submitted to more than one IIJA grant program.	America the Beautiful; USFS & BLM funding	Mapping invasive grasses; capacity building for saltcedar and IS work; EDRR capacity building for counties programs; and riparian restoration/drought resiliency	
michael	dola	manitoba	204 467-4704	No	kim brown	Kim.Brown@gov.mb.ca	431 344 0239															
Daniel	Coleman	AK	9077458721	No	Mia Kirk	mia.kirk@alaska.gov	90776138666															
Chris	Neeser	Alberta	4035018745	Yes				No.		Yes	glyphosate resistant kochia, glyphosate resistant downy brome (cheatgrass)	No		Yes	information sharing	Yes	In 2020 we lost our in-house research and extension mandate. Remaining staff (1) activities shifted to surveillance (distribution mapping) and diagnostics	We are not eligible for funding under the IIJA.				Regional issues, such as the www.crownmanagers.org (Crown Managers Partnership)
Wendy	DesCamp	Washington	360-790-0172	No	Greg Haubrich	ghaubrich@agr.wa.gov	360-902-2071															
Daniel	Coleman	AK	9077458721	Yes				No.		No						No		No				negative

State Weed Coordinators (Invasive and Noxious Weeds) – 2020-2021

STATE	WEED COORDINATORS	PHONE #	EMAIL	COMMENTS
Alaska	Dan Coleman *Invasive Plant Coordinator* *Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, Alaska Plant Material Center*	(907)745-8721	daniel.coleman@alaska.gov	updated 2.17.22
Arizona	Jamie Legg *Quarantine Program Manager* *Arizona Department of Agriculture, Environmental & Plant Services Division*	(602) 542-0992	jlegg@azda.gov	
California	David Kratville *Senior Environmental Scientist* *California Department of Food and Agriculture*	(916) 799-2462	david.kratville@cdfa.ca.gov	
Colorado	Patty York Noxious Weed Program Manager *Colorado Department of Agriculture, Conservation Services Division*	Office: (303) 869-9035 Cell:	patty.york@state.co.us	
Hawaii	Becky Azama *Agricultural Pest Control Manager* *Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Plant Pest Control Branch*	(808) 973-9522	becky.n.azama@hawaii.gov	
Idaho	Jeremy Varley *Section Manager – Noxious Weeds* *Idaho State Department of Agriculture*	Office: (208) 332-8667 Cell: (208)993-0950	jeremy.varley@isda.idaho.gov	Response 2/2/2021
Kansas	Scott Marsh *Noxious and Invasive Weeds Specialist* *Kansas Department of Agriculture*	Office: (785) 564-6697 Cell: (785) 207-2118	scott.marsh@ks.gov	
Montana	Jasmine Chaffee *State Noxious Weed Coordinator, Noxious Weed Program Manager* *Montana Department of Agriculture*	Office: (406) 444-3140 Cell: (406) 461-9207	jchaffee@mt.gov	Response 1/29/2021
Nebraska	Mitch Coffin	Office: (402) 471-6844	mitch.coffin@nebraska.gov	

	Noxious Weed Program Manager *Nebraska Department of Agriculture*	Cell: (402) 416-0603		
Nevada	Jake Dick *Noxious Weed Coordinator, Plant Industry Division* *Nevada Department of Agriculture*	Office: (775) 353-3640 Cell: (775) 560-3683	jdick@agri.nv.gov	
New Mexico	Jim Wanstall *State Noxious Weed Coordinator* *New Mexico Department of Agriculture* Dr. Leslie Beck *NMSU Extension Weed Specialist*	(505) 269-7761 (575) 646-2888	 lebeck@nmsu.edu	
North Dakota	Richard Weisz *Noxious Weeds Specialist* *North Dakota Department of Agriculture*	(701) 328-2250	raweisz@nd.gov	
Oklahoma	Misha Manuchehri *Assistant Professor Weed Science Extension Specialist* *Oklahoma State University*	(405) 744-9588	misha.manuchehri@okstate.edu	
Oregon	Tim Butler *ODA Noxious Weed Control Program Manager* *Oregon Department of Agriculture*	Office: (503) 986-4625 Cell: 971-209-0423	tbutler@oda.state.or.us timothy.butler@oda.oregon.gov	
South Dakota	Jeremiah Phelps *State Weed and Pest Supervisor* *South Dakota Department of Agriculture*	(605) 773-3623	jeremiah.phelps@state.sd.us	
Texas	Unknown (Paul Bauman?) *Professor/Extension Weed Specialist* *Texas A&M*			
Utah *(Rachel)*	Aaron Eagar *State Weed Coordinator* *Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, Noxious Weed Program*	(801) 602-1961	aeagar@utah.gov	
Washington	Greg Haubrich *Pest Program Manager* *Washington State Department of Agriculture*	Office: (360) 902-2071 Cell: (509) 952-3955	ghaubrich@agr.wa.gov	Update 8/22

Wyoming	Lindsey Woodward *Weed and Pest Coordinator* *Wyoming Department of Agriculture*	Office: (307) 777-6585 Cell:	lindsey.woodward@wyo.gov	updated 01/23
PROVINCE	**WEED COORDINATORS**	**PHONE #**	**EMAIL**	**COMMENTS**
Alberta	Chris Neeser, Ph.D. *Plant and Bee Health Surveillance* *Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development*	(403) 501-8745	chris.neeser@gov.ab.ca	Updated 08/22
British Columbia	David Ralph (retired) *Senior Provincial Weed Technician* *British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Lands*	?	?	Retired, have not found replacements contact info. As on March 2020, David Ralph was still listed as contact https://bcinvasives.ca/contact/evan-rafuse
Manitoba	Andrew Lewis *Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association*	(204) 858-2590		
Saskatchewan	Clark Brenzil *Provincial Weed Control Specialist* *Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture*	(306)787-4673		