

**MINUTES
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, July 14, 2004**

- MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bingham, Karen Bodner, Paul Clements, Sandra Corbin, Doug Graves, Molly Hoffer, Mike Koivula, Chris Melotti
- MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Kesling
- STAFF PRESENT: Sonny Chickering, Stephonee Colley, Bill Manewal, John Petsch
- BCC PRESENT: Commissioner Anna Morrison
- GUESTS PRESENT: Chuck Fairchild, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Chair, Chris Melotti, called the meeting to order.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 14, 2004

MOTION: Hoffer moved to approve the Minutes of June 9, 2004, as corrected. Clements seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

III. TREATMENT OF FALSE BROME PRESENTATION – CHUCK FAIRCHILD, BLM

Melotti introduced Chuck Fairchild, Weed Coordinator for the Eugene District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Fairchild said he wanted to discuss not only False Brome but also Knotweed and Portuguese Broom. He said the BLM Eugene District has a total of 318,000 acres of land, most of which is within Lane County and is about 9% of the land base in the county. The District runs from the foothills of the Cascades to the dunes at the Oregon Coast. Fairchild said one of the challenges of BLM land is that it's inter-mingled with a variety of landowners, such as private timber companies (Weyerhaeuser, Roseboro Resources), private landowners, and also adjacent to farms, vineyards, and the rural urban interface. The District's boundaries hold three state highways, an interstate freeway, several rivers, lakes, and streams, the Cities of Springfield and Eugene, as well as Florence, McKenzie, and Vida. These lands are accessible by the public and are used for hiking, mountain biking, rafting, fishing, hunting, camping, and use of off-highway vehicles (Marcola in particular). These public areas are also susceptible to the dumping of cars, tires, drug-making residue, and yard clippings. Yard clippings may contain invasive plants, and several Knotweed sites have resulted from this type of dumping.

In 2000, the Salem and Eugene Districts began working together to develop a strategy for the management and control of invasive plants and noxious weeds, which was signed by both district managers in 2003. Goals of this strategy include maintaining and improving the forest

and ecosystems, i.e., riparian areas, wetlands, and special habitats. Special District lands

include the following: Five areas with critical environmental concerns known as ACEC's, which are reserved lands for diverse values, such as Pacific Yew and grassy bulbs; five natural areas used for research, including Willamette Valley Ponderosa Pine and high Alpine meadows; two outstanding natural areas (Lake Creek Falls and Heceta Sand Dunes); and, one environmental educational area (McGowan Creek, Mohawk area), which allows students and others to experience old growth close to town.

The District goals are to sustain and protect watersheds, water quality, habitat for fish, and recreation areas along waterways; to preserve and approve rare plant habitats; control the spread of invasive species from public lands onto private lands, and work with Roseboro Resources to coordinate control activities; provide invasive plant pre-landscapes for positive recreational experiences.

Fairchild said that with the District's goals and its checkerboard land ownership, it's a challenge for controlling and eradicating invasive plants and noxious weeds. Currently, the Eugene District has three employees assigned to work with invasive plants and noxious weeds, Fairchild being the full-time coordinator. Recently, the District divided into two resource areas with I-5 as the boundary – the west side is the Siuslaw resource area with one full-time coordinator who works with the Lane County Forest Work Camp (these crews do weed work for BLM) and contract crews; the east side is the Upper Willamette resource area with one person who works with contract crews and weeds, as well as other duties. Other staff includes a resource area botanist, who works on weeds and the west Eugene wetlands.

Eugene District currently uses manual and mechanical methods for treatment, with most work done by cutting and grubbing. Solarization is being used on wetlands to control blackberries. For the past 2½ years, BLM has been testing a hot foam machine called the Waipuna (Maui for "clean water") on a variety of plants. BLM uses contracting, Title II funds, school funds, and reforestation funds; part of Title III funds is used to fund the Forest Work Camp, where adult crews are used mainly on the west side, and juvenile crews are used across the district. BLM personnel lay work out for contract crews. During the last two summers, two temporary employees have been hired to run the Waipuna. Control efforts are focused on several species (Meadow Knapweed, Scot's Broom, Himalayan Blackberry, False Brome, and Knotweed).

Three species on the BLM radar are:

- Knotweed: Has crossed northwest Oregon, and is in northern California and up through Washington. Invading large areas of riparian coast range rivers. BLM's main concern is the ecological impact to riparian zones. Knotweed tends to form monocultures, which could potentially affect the areas of water that act as nurseries for insects and other wildlife. Cost is unknown at this time. An inventory was started last year, and five new sites have shown up. Control methods are manual, which means high maintenance and limited success rate. Another way is chemical treatment, using Garlon, and a new method with stem injection using Aqua Master, which is a new labeling for glyphosate, 1-2 mm per stem (being used near the Sandy River by the Nature Conservancy – Jonathon Saul is a contact). Whatever method used to battle this weed is costly. It reproduces by rhizomes, and is now starting to produce seed (not seen before). Since the 1996 flood, the population of this plant has exploded. The plant was introduced as an ornamental (Highway 36 from the school on, several properties are using it as land barriers).
- Portuguese Broom / Scot's Broom: Lane County has some out on the coast. Per Glenn Miller, ODA, ODOT reported a location at Hwy 36 on Low Pass. BLM's main concern is

reforestation. This plant is more competitive. In Douglas County, an 8-year old plant was

- found (20' tall, with a 6" diameter base). OSU tested Scot's Broom several years ago and found that the plant won't orient at the pulping process, so it cannot be used for fiber. The environmental cost of Scot's Broom in the State of Oregon is \$48 million. Weed Management Area used 2-4-d Foliar and a Garlon Foliar, and got good results. Wako used a cut with 50% solution of Garlon 3A and followed that treatment up with Garlon 4 with 1.5 qt./acre mixed with 3 oz. of Qust It, and got good results.
- False Brome: Lane County has one of the two largest infestations in Oregon. The largest infestation is found in the Jasper/Fall Creek area where it was introduced to Oregon from reforestation planting stock from Europe. The next largest infestation is the McDonald Dunn Research Forest in Corvallis. A current False Brome working group that's participating in research for controlling methods consists of the Forest Service, BLM, Starker Forest, OSU, Nature Conservancy, and the Weed & Plant Society. The purpose of this working group is to figure out the extent of the infestations and locations, and to share this information between the groups. Environmental cost is getting bigger. Economic cost is unknown.

BLM leased the Waipuna two years ago as an alternative to herbicide use (developed in New Zealand). The system uses diesel to heat two boilers, which provides steam up to 100 degrees. The steam moves down a hose to an applicator wand that has a fixture on it that causes a foaming agent (8U-640, Agrimul 2067 – derivative of plant sugar, similar to molasses) when mixed with water. The foam doesn't actually kill the plant; it's the steam (solution of water and TERWET 1800, a .4% solution) that kills the plant by forming an insulating blanket, which ruptures the cell membranes of the weeds. This method will immediately kill false brome. The truck itself is equipped with a 250-gallon tank, and one gallon of the solution is added. This method does have limitations. Rain affects the application because the foam loses its temperature. Also, as plants get taller, the foam needs to be stacked and that takes longer. Operationally, water supply can be a problem, if there isn't any nearby. BLM abides by ODF rules, so if the forests are shut down, treatment is stopped. Budget constraints haven't allowed for a water truck or other means to assist in treatment at this time.

BLM has an ongoing inventory of all its control roads. They will continue to focus on eradication, control, and containment, as well as watching for new invaders, such as Paterson's curse and butterfly bush. BLM has a prevention plan in the works, and will continue to coordinate efforts wherever possible to meet goals. Fairchild said there's currently a group called Northwest Oregon Invasive Management Partnership (NOIMP), formed to get groups together to discuss weeds and join efforts. NOIMP is made up of the Forest Service, The Corps of Engineers, BLM, Watershed Councils, Nature Conservancy, Native Plant Society, Soil & Water Conservation District, and private citizens. Efforts to educate the public include distribution of fact sheets, and educational displays at water conservation districts and community events.

Fairchild said he'd provide a copy of the report by Jonathon Saul, done for the BLM Salem District on the Sandy River project. The BLM completed an inventory in 1996, and they're in the process of having it digitized. Fairchild said he'd provide a copy to the County when it's done.

IV. "SWEEPIN' THE BROOM" SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT – CHRIS MELOTTI

Melotti reported that he and Corbin met and discussed grants, foundations, and agencies he found on the Internet. He will call another meeting with subcommittee members tentatively for

Wed., July 21st. Corbin said they discussed whether or not there was a system in place if someone spots an invasive or noxious weed and what to do. Manewal said he would be the main contact and would respond and determine what next step to take (dig, mow, etc.).

Corbin asked what the job description looked like for the IVM Coordinator (Integrated Vegetation Management), and Staff passed out copies to the Committee. Chickering said revisions would need to be made to update the position, based on current circumstances. He said the position would remain vacant until the Last Resort Policy is sorted out and, in the meantime, the County has contracted with Jones & Stokes to work on the program.

Corbin suggested that an educational mailing might be sent out annually with the no-spray letters (750-1000 mailings per year). Morrison added there are a lot of publications already written and available (Oregon Forest Research Institute, Portland Oregon), but the problem is that people may not be interested. Melotti said this information should be made available at nurseries and any store that sells plants, and that information from the Nature Conservancy and Forest Service could be used to start an educational outreach program. Koivula suggested the information be presented to schoolchildren as a means of getting information to their parents. Morrison said there's an educational program that visits classrooms called Talk About Trees, which does include information about weeds.

Melotti asked the Committee to discuss the date/time for the next subcommittee meeting after the VMAC meeting has adjourned.

V. JONES & STOKES UPDATE / DEFINITIONS – JOHN PETSCH

Petsch said the technical memo has been received and reviewed by Staff, who will meet with Shane Latimer, J&S, within the next week to discuss and reemphasize the Scope of Work. Chickering said Latimer recommended amending and modifying the ordinance to better reflect its intent, and that Latimer wants to put together a stakeholders group that would include NCAP, OFS, OSU professor, and County staff, and start making proposed language changes within the ordinance. Chickering said he wants direction from the BCC before this is done. Chickering said the meeting would clarify how Latimer thinks he can accomplish these changes given the polarized views that are likely to be found on the stakeholders committee. Morrison said that it is imperative that Latimer be part of the presentation to the BCC when the time comes. Koivula asked what constitutes a stakeholder and will the County seek public input. Chickering said the details would need to be worked out.

VI. JOINT ROAD TOUR UPDATE

Chickering referred to the tour itinerary attached to minutes. He pointed out that Highway 36 might be closed by ODOT for a slide repair. The Committee was asked to RSVP via phone or email to Colley. Staff will provide a narrative tour of the roads of interest during the tour.

VII. ROAD MAINTENANCE MANAGER / OPERATIONS UPDATE – ARNO NELSON

Manewal said all dust abatement work is completed, and chip sealing started the first part of the week; the vegetation crew is working ahead of the chip sealing crew to clear vegetation; Safety strip mowing is 75%-80% complete (another 3 weeks of work left).

VIII. DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

The next regularly scheduled VMAC meeting will be Wednesday, September 8, 2004, and the following agenda items are suggested:

- "Sweepin' The Broom" Subcommittee Update
- Jones & Stokes Update
- Road Tour Review / Discussion
- Road Maintenance Manager / Operations Update
- IVM Coordinator Position Description Update

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Recording Secretary