



Approved December 19, 2023

Clackamas SWCD Board Meeting Minutes for November 21, 2023

PRESENT	Directors:	In Person: Jeff Becker (Chair), Roger Fantz (Treasurer), Don Guttridge (Secretary) Jim Johnson, Jan Lee-Weinberg, Joan Zuber Via Zoom: Jesse Nelson, (Vice Chair)
	Associate Directors:	Via Zoom: PK Melethil
	Directors Emeritus:	
	Staff:	Jordan DeLawder, Drew Donahue, Jason Faucera, Tami Guttridge, Lisa Kilders, Chris Lapp, Sam Leininger, Cathy McQueeney, Heather Nielsen, Jenne Reische, Nathan Tucker
	Partners:	
	Guest:	
NOT PRESENT:		

1 – CALL TO ORDER and ACCEPT AGENDA / PUBLIC COMMENT / DIRECTOR REPORTS / MANAGER’S REPORT ON COMMITTEES

A. Call to order – Chair Becker called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 4:00 P.M., November 17, 2023, in the Clackamas SWCD conference room at 22055 S Beaver Creek Rd, Beaver Creek, Oregon.

Chair Becker asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda, hearing none, the agenda was accepted as presented.

B. Public Comment – No public comment was given.

C. Director reports –

- Director Guttridge noted that the ground was currently drying out.
- Director Lee-Weinberg reported that she and Andrea Kreiner, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts Executive Director, would be making a presentation on carbon sequestration at the National Association of Conservation Districts’ annual meeting in February in San Diego, California.

- Director Johnson reported that it is rulemaking season and there were discussions taking place regarding the siting of solar facilities, housing, and exclusive farm use.
- Director Fantz reported that he had completed his Christmas tree harvest and delivery.
- Director Becker reported that the Oregon City Farmers Market had made a successful move to the Clackamas Community College Campus. The market is now located in the parking lot next to the horticultural building.
- Director Nelson is busy digging trees at his nursery.
- Associate Director Melethil would like to make a short report later in the meeting regarding Friends of Trees.

D. Partner reports – There were no partner reports.

E. Manager’s report on committees – District Manager (DM) Lapp reported that the Equity Forum met on November 1, and Staff McQueeney would report later in the meeting. Staff Faucera reported that the Eagle Creek Community Forest (ECCF) Advisory Committee had met via Zoom, on November 2. They discussed thinning work on Dave Bugni’s property. The District pledged \$40,000 and will receive \$20,000 back from the grant. Work included clearing roads on the ECCF property. A discussion of long-term planning and future timber harvest took place. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

2 – MINUTES

A. October 24, 2023, Regular Board Meeting minutes – Minutes for the October 24, 2023, meeting were presented. The Board Secretary has reviewed the minutes.

Directors Guttridge/Lee-Weinberg moved/seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. The vote was as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee-Weinberg, Nelson, and Zuber. The motion carried unanimously.

3 – FINANCIAL REPORTS

A. Review and accept financial reports – Staff Tucker reviewed the financial reports for the period ending October 31, 2023. Total assets were \$10.4 million, total liabilities were \$6.3 million, and total net assets were \$4.09 million. Income revenue for the period was \$24,823 and total expenses were \$499,806.

Directors Fantz/Guttridge moved/seconded to accept the financial reports as submitted. The vote was as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee-Weinberg, Nelson, and Zuber. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Disbursements – Staff Tucker reviewed the November 2023 Disbursements. The Automatic Clearing House (ACH) payments totaled \$608.67, the recurring electronic funds transfers (EFT) totaled \$53,425.94 and the regular EFT totaled \$ 41, 050.

Checks for the disbursement list were numbered 101742 to 101773 with no breaks or voids in the sequence. The check disbursement list total was \$251,489.60 with \$103,018.84 coming from the Conservation Fund.

Directors Fantz/Zuber moved/seconded to approve the November 2023 disbursements as presented. The vote was as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee-Weinberg, Nelson, and Zuber. The motion carried unanimously.

4 – OTHER FINANCIALS

- A. **Proposed amendment to the Fiscal Policies and Procedures Manual regarding Electronic Payment Approval** – Director Guttridge pointed out that the proposal shared with the board had not been corrected from the previous month. The item was tabled until the December 2023 Board meeting.
- B. **National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Dues** – Staff Guttridge presented the NACD dues statement and reviewed the various levels of support the District could choose to pay. Guttridge noted that over the past three years the District has paid at the Gold level of \$776.00.

Directors Guttridge/Lee-Weinberg moved/seconded to pay dues to the National Association of Conservation Districts at the Gold level of \$776. The vote was as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee-Weinberg, Nelson, and Zuber. The motion carried unanimously.

- C. **Interest Payments for Department of Environmental Quality and Zions Bank** – Staff Tucker asked the Board for approval to make Local Government Investment Pool transfers to make interest and principal loan payments on two loans to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). He also requested approval for electronic funds transfer interest payments on three loans to Zions Bank that will be coming due in the early part of December 2023. The principal and interest payments to Zions Bank and DEQ total \$91,200.00.

Directors Guttridge/Fantz moved/seconded to Authorize the following payments totaling \$91,211.00. Via Local Government Investment Pool Transfers to Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Loan R22405 for \$8,737.00, and R22406 for \$6910.00. Also, via Electronic Funds Transfer to Zions Bank for interest payments on loan numbers ending in 319726 for \$21,510.90, ending in 319747 for \$43,009.90, and ending in 309219 for \$11,043.30. The vote was as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee-Weinberg, Nelson, and Zuber. The motion carried unanimously.

5 – PROJECTS, PROGRAMS

- A. **Equity Committee** – Staff McQueeney reported that on November 1, 2023, the Equity Forum met with Ping Khaw of Community Engagement Liaison Services. Ping Khaw spoke about her company, their projects, and a possible partnership opportunity with the District.

The Equity Forum will meet again on December 6, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. and Suzi Cloutier will act as facilitator in the shared leadership function. The Forum will be creating a charter and ground rules and looking at Human Resources support and educational opportunities for staff and Board members regarding diversity. The committee will share ground rules with the staff and the Board.

6 – PERSONNEL

- A. Cooperative Weed Management (CWMA) position recruitment** – DM Lapp reported that seventeen applications were received for the WeedWise Specialist – CWMA Coordinator position. He thanked Staff Kilders and McQueeney for handling the advertising and spoke about the new application and questionnaire format the District is now using. Lapp and Staff Leininger reviewed the applications and selected the six candidates that met the minimum qualifications for interviews.
- B. Conservation Planner Nicole Ahr's departure** – Planning Program Manager Reische reported to the Board that Conservation Specialist Nicole Ahr had accepted a position with Oregon State University. Ahr will be working as a student advisor helping them explore different career choices. Ahr has been with the Clackamas District for eight years and with Soil and Water Conservation Districts for a total of 12 years. Much of her work included oak habitat restoration, working with the Backyard Habitat program, and with the Natural Resources Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentives Program. The District will miss Nicole and the loss of her talents but wish her well in her new endeavors.

Reische will be working with DM Lapp on recruiting to fill her position.

7 – BOARD AND MANAGER REPORTS

- A. Oregon Association of Conservation District (OACD) Ballot** – DM Lapp reviewed the ballot with the Board Directors and asked them to submit their votes. He will total the ballots and submit a group ballot to OACD, as Districts may only submit one ballot.
- B. Ad-hoc Board Development Meeting** – DM Lapp reminded those Board Directors who volunteered to be part of the Board Development Committee that they would be meeting on Wednesday, November 18, from 1 to 2 p.m. with Allison Handler from Travertine Strategies.
- C. Willamette Basin Board Chair and Managers meeting at the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District** – DM Lapp reported that a group of Lower Willamette District Managers and their Board Chairs met on November 8, 2023, at our office in Beavercreek. Leo Preston from the Natural Resources Conservation Service gave a presentation regarding the Inflation Reduction Act funding that is being made available through the Department of Agriculture. Tom Miewald, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program Manager from NRCS spoke about projects around the state.

Lapp said there was good dialog between the Chairs of the various boards, and the District Managers. He noted that six of the District Managers are fairly new to their positions.

Chair Becker reported that the casual atmosphere and interesting discussions made for a good meeting. He is excited about the substantial funding that may be available to the Districts and

said that Leo Preston's presentation was well received.

D. Management Reports –

WEEDWISE REPORT – Staff Cooley gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the pre-commercial thinning and fuel reduction in the Eagle Creek Community Forest. Staff Faucera thanked Staff Cooley and the many WeedWise contractors who have been available to do this work. It helps that these contractors already have agreements with the District. (Please see WeedWise Program Manager Leininger's written report which is a part of these minutes.)

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH REPORT – Staff Kilders gave a PowerPoint presentation about the many partners that the District works with in education and outreach efforts.

Directors were complimentary of the work being done, thankful for the taxpayers who help to fund the District. Associate Director Melethil made mention of the Mediterranean Oak Borer that had infested a tree in the Wilsonville area, and the tree has been destroyed.

8 – PROPERTY, PLANNING

- A. Summary of the Shop Project** – Staff Faucera reported that the District was approaching the end of the shop build-out. Faucera negotiated with the contractor and brought the contract price down to \$249,000, but due to several change orders, and other issues the cost has gone up to \$259,116. This is still under the approved Not-To-Exceed budget amount of \$261,000. The District is holding back approximately \$13,000 until all items on the punch list are completed. The space looks good. Cubicles will be constructed with existing walls and desks plus additional parts. Faucera is working with a contractor who does commercial tear-downs who may be able to supply the District with additional needed furniture for a very low price.

9 – OTHER REPORTS

- Associate Director Melethil reported that he had volunteered for a planting session with the Friends of Trees which is doing quite a bit of work in the urban/rural interface. Twenty volunteers showed up on a rainy day to plant trees. Melethil asked if the District would support his volunteer efforts with this group by covering his mileage costs. He is looking for some insight into how this group handles work with volunteers. The Board of Directors asked Melethil if he would do outreach with the group, as the District is looking for more Associate Directors.

Directors Fantz/Guttridge moved/seconded to authorize mileage for Associate Director Melethil to attend Friends of Trees planting, not-to-exceed \$200.00. The vote was as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee-Weinberg, Nelson, and Zuber. The motion carried unanimously.

- Director Johnson asked that staff check that adding action items, especially those involving approval/expenditure of funds, during the meeting do not violate public meeting law.

ADJOURN AND NEXT MEETING

- The Annual meeting will be on December 19, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.
- The next Regular Board Meeting will be on December 19, 2023, immediately following the annual meeting.
- There being no further business, Chair Becker adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami L. Guttridge
Office Administrator

VOUCHER DISBURSEMENT SUMMARY

11/1/2023

Date	Number	Payee	Memo	Payment	
11/20/2023	101742	Ash Creek Forest Management, LLC	WW-2022-01 CRISP 10/2023	\$ 6,702.73	CF
11/20/2023	101743	Jeff Becker	CSWCD: Stipend/Travel 10/2023	\$ 511.47	
11/20/2023	101744	Buel's Impressions Printing	CSWCD: Printing [OCEAN] 11/2023	\$ 18.29	
11/20/2023	101745	Buildskape, LLC	CSWCD: Site Svcs [Shop] 10/2023	\$ 102,601.20	
11/20/2023	101746	Centerline Concepts Land Surveying Inc	CSWCD: Site Svcs [Staking] 10/2023	\$ 350.00	
11/20/2023	101747	Clackamas County Clerk	Acct: 126 Documents 10/2023	\$ 336.00	
11/20/2023	101748	Clackamas Dept of Finance	CSWCD: EE/ER Benefits 11/2023	\$ 28,466.66	
11/20/2023	101749	D Franco Contracting Inc	WW-2022-03 CRISP CRBC 10/2023	\$ 20,875.02	CF
11/20/2023	101750	Drew Donahue	Reimbursement: Mileage 10/2023	\$ 144.76	
11/20/2023	101751	Roger Fantz	CSWCD: Stipend/Travel 10/2023	\$ 421.06	
11/20/2023	101752	Garmin Services, Inc	Acct: DL627537 10/2023	\$ 70.30	
11/20/2023	101753	Graber Fence Company	CSWCD: Site Svcs [Fencing-FINAL] 11/2023	\$ 7,616.00	
11/20/2023	101754	Green Banks, LLC	WW-2022-04 CRISP 10/2023	\$ 2,134.26	CF
11/20/2023	101755	Donald Guttridge	CSWCD: Stipend/Travel 10/2023	\$ 483.28	
11/20/2023	101756	James Johnson	Stipend 10/2023	\$ 50.00	
11/20/2023	101757	Kuznetsov Thinning Company	WW-2022-07 ECCF Stand-7 11/2023	\$ 1,737.94	CF
11/20/2023	101758	Jan Lee Weinberg	CSWCD: Stipend/Travel 10/2023	\$ 470.44	
11/20/2023	101759	Harold K Lonsdale	DOG-2325-4504 10/2023	\$ 628.16	CF
11/20/2023	101760	Neil M Martin	DOG-2223-4051 10/2023	\$ 722.26	CF
11/20/2023	101761	MassMutual Life Insurance Company	Acct: 76453 EE GUL 11/2023	\$ 649.50	
11/20/2023	101762	My Fleet Center -JiffyLube	Acct: JL1-FS149138 10/2023	\$ 47.04	
11/20/2023	101763	Jesse Nelson	Stipend 10/2023	\$ 50.00	
11/20/2023	101764	Northwest Local Government Legal Advisors, LLC	CSWCD: Prof Svcs [Legal] 11/2023	\$ 440.00	
11/20/2023	101765	Christenson Electric, Inc	Acct: 29948 [10133] SecVideo 10/2023	\$ 3,030.00	
11/20/2023	101766	Graelen Orchard	DOG-2325-4503 10/2023	\$ 612.50	CF
11/20/2023	101767	OSU Extension	CSWCD: Advertising [Exhibit] 10/2023	\$ 1,050.00	
11/20/2023	101768	R&R Contracting, Inc	WW-2022-10 ECCF Fuels Mitigation 10/2023	\$ 67,451.09	CF
11/20/2023	101769	Red Blind Media Partners LLC	CWMA Prof Svcs [Web Design] 11/2023	\$ 11,250.00	
11/20/2023	101770	Sound Native Plants Inc	WW-2022-11 CRISP 10/2023	\$ 1,247.95	CF
11/20/2023	101771	T-MOBILE	Acct: 989231057 10/2023	\$ 80.60	
11/20/2023	101772	Marsha J Webb	DOG-2325-4505 10/2023	\$ 906.93	CF
11/20/2023	101773	Joan Zuber	CSWCD: Stipend/Travel 10/2023	\$ 334.16	
				Subtotal: \$ 261,489.60	
				Total: \$ 261,489.60	
				Total Conservation Fund \$ 103,018.84	CF


Board Chair


Board Treasurer

ACH-Recurring 11-2023	608.67
EFT-Recurring 11-2023	41,050.00
EFT-Regular 11-2023	53,425.94
Voucher-Regular 11-2023	261,489.60
	355,965.54

Education and Outreach Report November 2023

Web Posts

Since last we met, we have posted 10 articles on our website:

- [Council of Councils Supports Clackamas Watershed Councils](#)
- [WeedWise Specialist Mount Hood National Forest](#)
- [November Invasive Weed of the Month: Spurge Laurel](#)
- [WeedWise Specialist/CWMA Coordinator Position Announcement](#)
- [Here Comes the Rain - Cover Your Manure!](#)
- [Tree School Field Day, October 7, 2023](#)
- [October Invasive Weed of the Month: Blackberry](#)
- [Prepare Now for Mud and Rain Season](#)
- [Farm Succession Workshop - October 26, 2023](#)
- [Equipment Rental Program Adds No-Till Drill](#)



OrCAN Climate Resilience Training for Oregon Ag Professionals

Many District staff participated in OrCAN's three-week train-the-trainer workshop during the month of November. These trainings brought agricultural professionals from around the state together to learn about new ways to address climate-related issues with partners and landowners.

Staff Lisa Kilders was a member of the planning committee that helped to structure and put on this training.

Education and Outreach - Working throughout the Community

Education and Outreach staff provide support and expertise to many partners who work within our District. Over the past two months, we have worked on projects with, but not limited to:

- **Clackamas Water Education Team**
- **The Dry Farming Institute**
- **OrCAN**
- **Sustainable Northwest**
- **4- County CWMA**
- **Columbia Gorge CWMA**
- **Beyond the Lawn**
- **Gardening with Wildlife**
- **Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network**
- **OSU Extension - Small Farm School**
- **Clean Water Coalition**

Watershed Council Support Grants

Watershed Council Partnership Support Grant Applications were sent out to nine watersheds located in Clackamas County on November 1, 2023.

Partnership support grants provide undesignated funding to watersheds who typically rely on project-focused grants. This year the District will be able to provide up to \$100,000 in grant funding.

Applications are due on Friday, December 1, 2023. The Watershed Council Grant Application Review Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 and their recommendations will be shared at the December board meeting.

If everything goes as planned, watershed councils should receive their support grant checks in early January.



Council of Councils Meeting

Watershed Council Coordinators and Executive Directors representing eight of the nine watershed councils currently active in Clackamas County joined together for their semi-annual gathering at the Conservation Resource Center on Tuesday, November 14, 2023.

Brian Wolcott, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Water Acquisitions and Capacity Coordinator, was a guest presenter. Wolcott talked to the group about non-profit retention and how to advocate for staff.

Staff Cathy McQueeney helps to coordinate and facilitate these semi-annual meetings.



Annual Meeting

The Clackamas SWCD Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Join us for holiday treats and the unveiling of the 2022-23 annual report and audit.



CLACKAMAS SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
www.conservationdistrict.org

Good dirt. Clean water.



November 21, 2023

WEEDWISE PROGRAM UPDATE FOR THE CLACKAMAS SWCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Spurge Laurel: Weed of the Month

This month the WeedWise program is highlighting [spurge laurel for our weed of the month](#). Spurge laurel is a class B noxious weed that is spreading into forest understories, where it can grow to completely dominate the understory.

As an attractive evergreen shrub, spurge laurel was once widely planted as a garden ornamental. It has since fallen out of favor, in part due to its invasive growth and the potential for it to cause significant rashes and skin irritation for many people.

November is a great time for the WeedWise program to highlight spurge laurel management. As an evergreen shrub these plants become much more visible on the landscape as many of our deciduous trees and shrubs shed their leaves for the season.

Control of spurge laurel is also very effective at this time of the year either by cutting or removal. Manual removal of plants is made easier by the softening of soils with the onset of fall rain. The temperatures are also generally mild enough to enjoy spending some quality time outdoors. The WeedWise program has a number of weed wrenches available through our [Weed Equipment Library](#) to assist landowners in removal.



WeedWise Recruitment

With the recent departure of Bee Sinichko from the WeedWise team, and the securing of additional funding from the Mt Hood National Forest to support an additional WeedWise Specialist, we have been busy recruiting for two new WeedWise Specialists. Sam has been coordinating the vacancy announcements and organizing the hiring committees.

Sam has been coordinating with the Education and Outreach Program to get the announcements out to various lists and job sites to cast as wide a net as possible. The WeedWise Specialist-CWMA Coordinator position was published on the District website in late October and recently closed on November 17th. Sam and Chris are in the process of performing minimum qualifications review before distributing application packets to the review committee. The new Mt Hood WeedWise Specialist position was published on November 6th and is scheduled to close on December 1st.

Recruitment for these positions is being undertaken concurrently. As a result, we are encouraging applicants to apply for one or both of the open positions. The timeline for recruitment is being undertaken in an effort to bring on new staff during our winter planning phase. We are expecting new staff to come on after the new year.

To learn more about the duties and responsibilities of each position be sure to check out our announcements for the [WeedWise Specialist-CWMA Coordinator](#) and the [WeedWise Specialist-Mt Hood](#) positions.

As we work through filling these positions, the WeedWise program is also planning for the upcoming recruitment of two seasonal field technicians to assist with infrastructure work on the Mt Hood National Forest and to support additional efforts across the county. These positions will increase our program capacity and will help to enhance the safety of staff, especially when working in remote field locations.



Invasive Hawkweed Management at Milo McIver State Park

By Monte Mattsson

[Meadow hawkweed \(*Hieracium caespitosum*\)](#) and [mouse-ear hawkweed \(*H. pilosella*\)](#) are state-listed noxious weeds that aggressively spread and degrade meadows, wetlands and forests by outcompeting and excluding native species, as well as reducing pasture forage quantity and quality. Mouse-ear hawkweed in particular is an Oregon-listed Class A noxious weed, with only a small handful of known occurrences in Clackamas County, making it an ideal candidate for the WeedWise program's *Priority Weed Control* efforts.

Meadow and mouse-ear hawkweeds have been treated at the Vortex Meadow of Milo McIver State Park since their discovery in 2019. Up to now, the management strategy has been spot-spraying with backpack sprayers, wherein a crew of applicators would grid the site 1-2 times per year while plants were flowering (Jun-Aug). This strategy has been unsuccessful as populations of both species have expanded, presumptively due to challenges with detectability by applicators since bloom times can vary greatly. As such, WeedWise and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department decided to rethink the management strategy: Instead of spot spray, we decided to implement a fall broadcast treatment using a UTV-mounted directed boom sprayer, hoping to affect better control and coverage. Broadcast sprays are much less selective than spot sprays, so discussions were held and ultimately tolerance of impact to non-target species (both native and non-native) in the treatment area was expressed by Milo McIver management and staff.

Implementation began with a Fall 2023 broadcast application, and the management plan is to follow-up with mowing and brush clearing in Spring 2024, followed by both Spring and Fall 2024 broadcast sprays. We will also follow up with spot sprays in forest to meadow transition areas where trees make UTV passage difficult to impossible. The project will be reassessed Spring 2025 to inform future management decisions. In the absence of aggressive management, seeds and other reproductive plant parts will continue to move offsite through both wind and human-assisted dispersal.

The treatment area for meadow hawkweed includes a 12-acre area occupying the entire eastern half of the meadow, while the treatment area for mouse-ear hawkweed occupies 1.5 acres. (Fig. 1).



Figure 1 Hawkweed treatment area at Vortex Meadow, Milo McIver State Park. The darker red polygon is the general area of the Mouse-Ear Hawkweed patch (~1.5 acres). The lighter purple polygon is a close estimation of the extent of the Meadow Hawkweed (~12 acres).

To document the process and treatment using aerial drone video and photography, WeedWise collaborated with the Conservation Planner Specialist Drew Donahue. The Fall broadcast application and drone documentation effort occurred on October 19th and 20th 2023 (Fig. 2a-c).

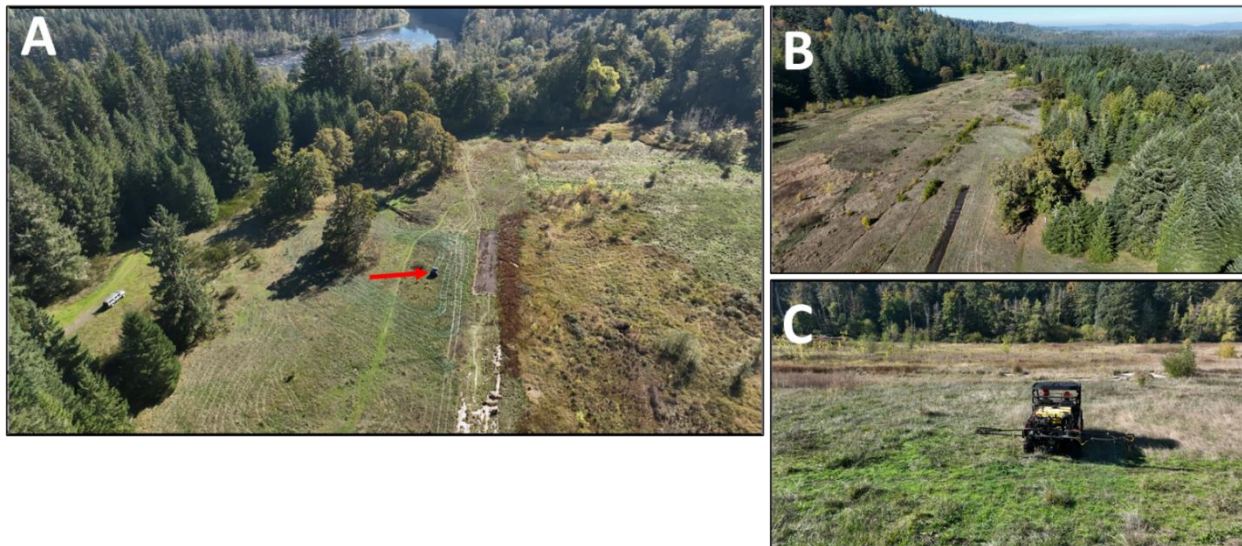


Figure 2. (A) Aerial photo over Vortex Meadow treatment area looking south, showing UTV sprayer indicated by red arrow. (b) Vortex Meadow, looking north, (C) UTV sprayer with mounted boom.



WeedWise at Tree School Field Day

The WeedWise program recently participated in Clackamas County Extension Service's Tree School Field Day at Hopkins Tree Farm. WeedWise Specialists, Monte Mattsson and Justin Cooley lead two sessions on the *Principles of Weed Management*. These 75-minute sessions provided a wealth of information related to Integrated Pest Management (IPM), plant identification, manual and chemical control of common weeds, and sprayer calibration.



Views from Tree School Field Day



Garlic Mustard on the Molalla River

The WeedWise program was recently contacted by Molalla RiverWatch Coordinator, Asako Yamamuro about a sighting of garlic mustard on the Molalla River. WeedWise Specialist, Justin Cooley was able to get out on site and confirm the presence of garlic mustard on site.

Justin’s preliminary survey found a significant infestation of garlic mustard with direct connectivity to the Molalla River. The implications are that garlic mustard has potentially moved downstream from unknown populations upstream and is potentially spreading further downstream from the recently identified patch.

Prior to this observation, garlic mustard was only known from two populations in the Molalla River. One was from the District-sponsored large wood placement project on Milk Creek. The other location was at the confluence at Molalla River State Park. Ironically, both of these patches were likely introduced from contaminated clothing or equipment associated with restoration efforts.

The WeedWise program will be expanding surveys in this area to try and identify the source of the populations and Molalla RiverWatch is sharing information with watershed council members and will be working to raise awareness about this new threat to the Molalla.



Large garlic mustard rosettes located along the Molalla River.



Mt Hood National Forest and BLM Treatments

The end of the federal year and the onset of cold weather brings on our annual reporting to our federal partners. Last month WeedWise staff began reviewing and preparing our annual treatment records for work carried out on Forest Service and BLM lands.

Our efforts on the Mt Hood National Forest have been undertaken with support for the Forest Service through a cooperative Stewardship Agreement, with resources sourced from Invasive Species funding and Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER). This year we also added funding through a new Participating Agreement from the Mt Hood Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) approved project funding, as well as a third agreement for Burn Area Recovery (BAR). These resources are allowing us to treat many priority noxious weeds and prevent their continued spread both on and off the forest.

The Mt Hood National Forest has been a dedicated supporter of our work in the Sandy and Clackamas Basins. Specific project work in these areas has focused on the Lolo Pass hawkweed control efforts, the Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership work, the Riverside and Bull Complex Fires surveys and treatments, among others.

The WeedWise Team reported **145 treatments** on the Mt Hood National Forest across **more than 3734 acres**, with an estimated **2114 total treatment hours**. Treatments over the last year have focused on the control of priority invasives such as orange and meadow hawkweeds, false brome, spotted, diffuse, and meadow knapweeds, Japanese and Bohemian knotweed, rush skeletonweed, and sulphur cinquefoil.

Some more common weeds were also treated at various locations within the Riverside fire burn areas, where their treatment allows native vegetation to continue to regenerate. This included treatments of shining geranium, Himalayan blackberry, herb robert, English ivy, wild carrot, Scotch broom, oxeye daisy, Canada thistle, reed canarygrass, and black locust.

The WeedWise program also completed our BLM treatment records which has focused primarily on the Sandy and Molalla Subbasins. Funding from BLM this year has been sourced through a Title II (RAC) funding agreement, Beachie Creek and Riverside Fire Emergency Stabilization funding agreement, and a Clackamas Invasives Partnership agreement.

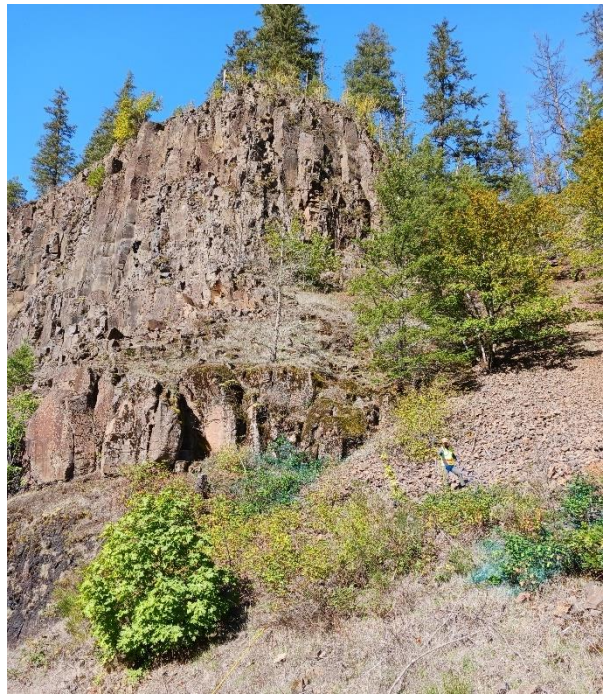
Our work with BLM has major overlap with our broader project implementation including our Countywide Priority Weed Control, Salmon River policeman's helmet, Sandy River knotweed, and Riverside and Beachie Creek fire recovery.

The WeedWise Team reported **69 treatments** on BLM properties across **more than 3489 acres**, with an estimated **1322 total treatment hours**. Treatments over the last year have focused on the control of priority invasives such as the meadow hawkweed, false brome, spotted, diffuse, and meadow knapweeds, Japanese, giant, and Bohemian knotweed, and policeman's helmet.

Some more common weeds were also treated at various locations within the Riverside and Beachie Creek burn areas, where their treatment allow for the recovery of native vegetation. This included treatments of shining geranium, Himalayan blackberry, herb robert, Scotch broom, tansy ragwort, Canada thistle, and reed canarygrass.

Recent Treatment Activities





Burn Area Recovery (BAR) and rush skeletonweed treatments recently undertaken on the Mt Hood National Forest.



Grants and Agreements

The WeedWise Program has been busy working on several new Grants and Agreements. This process begins with assessing needs for the coming year and evaluating our potential funding sources for the coming year.

Sam has been coordinating with Conservation Investments Coordinator, Heather Nielsen, to push forward several efforts. In recent weeks, Sam and Heather have teamed up to review a draft agreement for our the **\$540,000** awarded through the Portland General Electric's Clackamas River Hydroelectric Project Mitigation and Enhancement Fund (Clackamas Habitat Fund). This agreement is nearing completion, and we anticipate finalizing the agreement in December to support the work of CRISP through 2029.

The WeedWise program also submitted a grant proposal earlier this year through BLM Title II (RAC) funds to support ongoing weed control efforts primarily in the Molalla and Sandy Watershed. We have requested **\$60,000** over the next two years. This request is complimentary to a prior award that ended this past spring. Sam will be presenting the Resource Advisory Committee in early December.

Sam has also been in conversations with Portland Water Bureau for a potential funding agreement totaling **\$50,000** to support knotweed control work on the Sandy Basin. These funds were awarded last year, in cooperation with East Multnomah SWCD for work bridging both counties. In the coming season, these funds will be directed through the WeedWise program to support work in Clackamas County portion of the Sandy River. Sam will continue working with staff from both Portland Water Bureau and East Multnomah SWCD to facilitate this transition.

The WeedWise program is also beginning the process to submit grant applications to the Oregon State Weed Board to help fund county-wide priority weed treatments, and to sustain our hawkweed management efforts at Lolo Pass. The WeedWise program is coordinating with Heather to move forward with these applications ahead of the December deadlines.



A New Invasive Weed Species Discovered: Oriental Bittersweet

The WeedWise program was recently contacted by a cooperating landowner along the Sandy River concerned that they may have Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) on the property. Photos were submitted to Sam, and we became immediately concerned about the likelihood of this plant establishing in the Sandy. Justin Cooley was able to get out on site and document the infestation. Oriental bittersweet was observed naturalizing on the property, but thankfully, no fruiting plants were observed. The landowner reported that they had been managing it, but that it had continued to spread.

This species is a highly invasive noxious weed in much of the Eastern US. Prior to this discovery there were [no known observations of Oriental bittersweet west of Colorado!](#) Since the discovery of this patch, [a second observation has popped up in the last month up in Vashon Island, WA.](#) Seeing how invasive this plant is in the eastern US with distribution ranging from Georgia north into Nova Scotia, there is a strong likelihood that this invasive weed will not be climate limited in our region.

Justin was able to [take a number of photos](#) of the infestation. We have also collected live and pressed specimens. Sam submitted images and pressed specimens to the OSU Herbarium, which confirmed the identity of the plant. They responded by saying, *"This is Celastrus orbiculatus, without much doubt. It spreads pretty fast and does a lot of damage, and I would consider it a pretty high target for aggressive eradication."*

Thankfully, Justin was able to get a treatment carried out on these plants before the weather changed.

We have subsequently contacted the ODA Noxious Weed Program and have requested a noxious weed evaluation to be carried out for this plant for potential inclusion on the state noxious weed list. The ODA Noxious Weed Program is currently planning an assessment of Oriental bittersweet this winter in preparation for the spring Oregon State Weed Board meeting for potential listing, if merited.



Puncturevine Expansion

The WeedWise program has been actively managing several puncturevine populations in Clackamas County. One of the oldest sites has been located at the Clackamas Fairgrounds and County Event Center, in Canby. This is the first population identified in the county, and we have actively managed the site since its discovery. Each year, we remove a handful of small plants as we slowly exhaust the seed bank.

This season we saw a massive expansion in the populations with 100s of plants scattered across the parking area. This sudden influx speaks to an unknown source of seed and spread not previously observed on site.

Sam spent a couple of hours removing puncturevine from the area with some assistance from a WeedWise “trainee”. The WeedWise program has also invested in a [Sticker Burr Roller tool](#) to assist with seed collection. Just will be following up with Event Center staff to determine current practices that may have exacerbated the issue this year.



Sam was assisted by our WeedWise “trainee” to manage the puncturevine infestation at the Clackamas County Event Center.



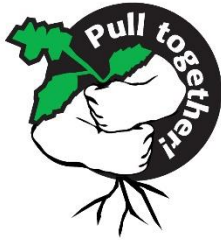
Oregon State Weed Board

Last month the WeedWise program participated in the Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB) meeting and Field Tour. At the recent meeting, the ODA Noxious Weed Program proposed the Oregon State Weed Board to delist ten noxious weeds. The species proposed for delisting included:

- Buffalobur (*Solanum rostratum*)
- Yellow-cress (*Rorippa sylvestris*)
- All dodders, except Japanese (*Cuscuta* sp.)
- Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*)
- Ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*)
- Spike weed (*Hemizonia pungens*)
- Spiny cocklebur (*Xanthium spinosum*)
- Velvetleaf (*Abutilon theophrasti*)
- Silver nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*)
- Syrian bean-caper (*Zygophyllum fabago*)

The species have subsequently been moved to the ODA Watch List. At least 4 of the species proposed for delisting have established populations in Clackamas County, with some evidence of additional spread. As such, the WeedWise program will continue to provide feedback to ODA staff about the status of these weeds in Clackamas County for future deliberation.

WeedWise Specialist, Justin Cooley was also able to participate in the OSWB Field Tour to see some of his old sites from his time working for Yamhill SWCD. The tour included sites targeting priority noxious weeds including garlic mustard, garden yellow loosestrife, and mouse-ear hawkweed infestations.



4 COUNTY Cooperative Weed Management Area



Cooperative Weed Management Areas

Following the departure of our CWMA Coordinator, Sam has been acting as the interim coordinator for both CWMAs with support from the CWMA Steering Committees and sub committees. Sam is currently working with the CWMAs to maintain capacity as we work through the recruitment process for our new Coordinator.

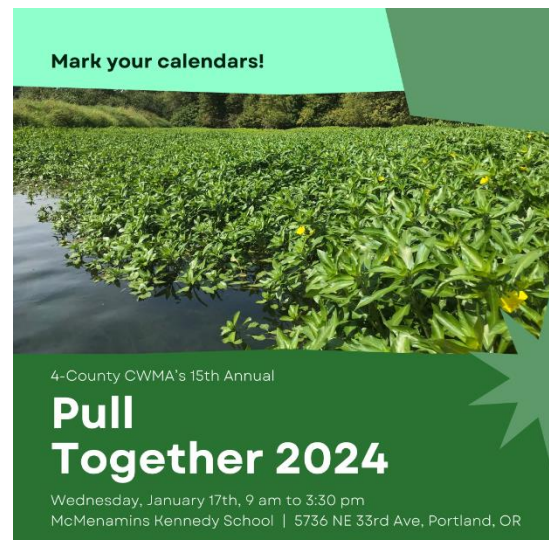
4-County CWMA

Website development

The 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area has a [new website!](#) After months of planning and coordination, our new website has gone live. This effort has been a long process, but the new website has streamlined information. We are currently working on some minor adjustments to the site and learning how to utilize this new resource. The website uses a new platform known as [Statamic](#). Sam and the Education and Outreach Chair have been working with the website developer to learn best practices for the new platform.

Pull Together Planning

The 4-County CWMA has been busy planning for their upcoming Pull Together event. This is our premiere event for the year. For the first time since the onset of COVID-19, the 4-County will be returning to an in person meeting at the [Kennedy School on January 17th, 2024, from 9AM to 3:30PM](#). The draft agenda includes presentations on pesticide use, the [PICOL database](#), climate adaptation of invasive weeds, interstate coordination of flowering rush, the impending impacts of quagga mussels in the Columbia River, and post-fire management of invasive weeds (featuring staff from the WeedWise Program). [Save the date!](#)



Multnomah General Meeting

The 4-County CWM recently hosted the Multnomah County General meeting at the Portland Building. This hybrid meeting features a panel discussion of yellow water primrose management in Multnomah County, as well as an update of priority weed treatments from East Multnomah SWCD, and Emerald Ash Borer trapping efforts in Multnomah County by our partners at West Multnomah SWCD. The entire meeting can be [watched online through our GoToMeeting](#).

Committee Meetings

The 4-County CWMA also recently hosted our Mapping and Data, Outreach and Education, and Technical Committee meetings. These committee meetings are where many of the work products for the CWMA are developed. [Recordings of these meetings are currently available through our GoToMeeting](#).

Garlic Mustard Working Group

The 4-County CWMA technical committee recently organized the Pacific Northwest Garlic Mustard Working Group. The hybrid event was held at the Nature Conservancy office in Portland and brought together land managers from across the Northwestern US and Canada. There was a lot of discussion about the current approaches to garlic mustard management, including a review of current IPM practices. The WeedWise program was able to participate in the meeting.

Columbia Gorge CWMA

Getting Organized

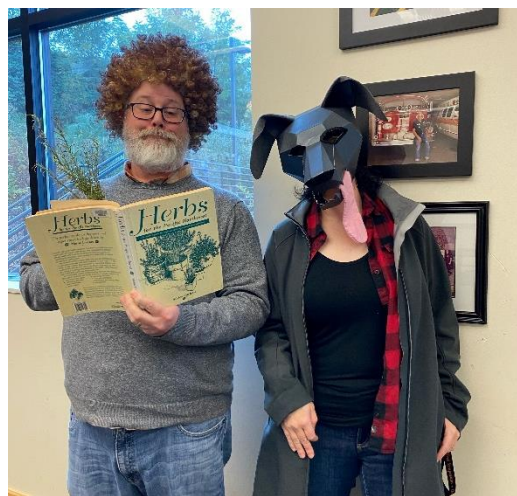
The Columbia Gorge Steering Committee is currently reviewing the organizational documents for the Columbia Gorge CWMA. We are currently working through revisions to our MOU, Management Plan, Operating Plan, and Annual Work Plans. They are leveraging this time to prepare for a new CWMA Coordinator to start after the new year.

General Meeting: "Halloweed" Edition

The Columbia Gorge recently hosted their October General meeting. This meeting falls near Halloween each year and it has become a tradition to dress for the occasion with some noxious weed themed costumes. Sam participated as "Herb Robert" for meeting. The meeting also featured an important update from Oregon Dept of Forestry regarding the recent outbreak of Mediterranean Oak Borer (MOB) in Wilsonville. You can [watch the entire meeting through our GoToMeeting](#).

Invasive Species and Exotic Pest Workshop Planning

The Columbia Gorge CWMA has also been busy planning for the upcoming Invasive Species and Exotic Pest Workshop (ISEP) event. This event will be returning to



Herb Robert and Hound's tongue were represented at our Columbia Gorge CWMA Halloweed Meeting.

the Hegewald Center in Stevenson, WA for its 13th year. This event corresponds with [National Invasive Species Awareness Week \(NISAW\)](#) each year. This year it will also fall on *Leap Day, February 29th, 2024*. So, mark your calendar and spend your extra day celebrating NISAW for what is sure to be a great event. Our draft agenda includes the new Washington Natural Heritage Program's new invasive ranking system, A discussion of place names in noxious weed common names, Forest pests, quagga mussels updates, the Institute of Applied Ecologies Invasive Species Cook-off, and the fan-favorite Weed Quiz.

Enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday!

