

Calapooia Watershed- Weed Working Group

Notes- January 5, 2011

Participants:

Jeff Jones, Habitat Contracting LLC
Calapooia Watershed Council members
US Forest Service
Linn County Road Department
Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB)
OSU-The Nature Conservancy staff
Weyerhaeuser

Discussion:

- On Weyco lands, Bonnie and her crews try to keep their tree farms, the Calapooia farm, very clean; few acres of false brome on Weyco; ditches an issue
- USFS aggressively treating FB as well; annual headwaters treatment
- Can't turn your back on FB, no retired site; infestations always comes back (Alice and Glenn explanation)
- Linn County is doing spot treatment of false brome; Russ Glover and extra staff should be able to handle spot treatment if contacted by the Council
- Oregon Weed Board- didn't like large price tag application back in 2009; EDRR may be a good fit for OSWB funding, look at Marion as an example; for OSWB funds you have to have your sites identified and treatment quantified so we can map sites and then apply for treatment from our EDRR map; OSWB needs to know exactly what they're "buying", and you have to have permission first
- Place-based, specific geographic focal areas may be preferred over single species control on a large geographic scale (OSWB recommendation)
- Inventory in the future can/should include the other EDRR species- map them, and then apply to OSWB for treatment funds
- EDRR should focus on training staff and contractors, not general public because they don't seem to be reporting; however in the Calapooia the land management is 95% private, so landowner support critical
- Tania can pursue the Linn County EDRR list with help from Russ and Alice and other Linn stakeholders; Alice (USFS) provided known EDRR from Tania's list during meeting to work on
- How can Weyco corporate office support clean equipment- Matthew explained that Calapooia equipment stays in the Calapooia; they have started to wash trucks more now
- It would be good to have the equipment sprayed out after harvest if there are known false brome infestations
- Is there a role for the CWC to promote cleaning equipment? Talking to timber companies?
- USFS is flexible with respect to Title II funding scope and categories; EDRR and other weeds okay
- Spraying FB along the water facing upland is possible, hand pulling is another option
- On 9/30/2012 federal Title II expires without extension

- Ivy? Keeping it from going to seed and getting it out of trees would be ideal; spray is tricky; landowners must be involved; seeds in big trees (Holley store) would be important to continue with awareness. We should talk to the Wheeler Family about ivy. Ivy actually isn't everywhere in the Calapooia, it can seem daunting in the lowlands; starlings eat the berries and distribute, but Starlings aren't as common at higher elevations
- EDRR- it would be great if the USFS/BLM would support quick treatment of EDRR species by allowing us to use Title II funds- contact Cheshire and talk to Alice more
- Educate small portions that are high priority in the watershed, to create a model for invasive control and native plantings.
- Re-veg controlled knotweed sites starting next winter (Jeff recommendation)
- Bud recommends focusing on outreach and education; opportunity with USFS/Weyco partnership and our support from private landowners; private landowners have an obligation to take care of the important noxious weeds; other programs outside of council, like CREP is an opportunity to control weeds; not willing to give up, we need to progressively pursue the target weeds; model watershed funding can help in Courtney Creek and Middle Reach (SIP) and landowner projects; outreach materials that will help people control their own infestations, and they would probably look into controlling their own infestations
- There is a new emphasis on certification of forest land and Weyco is certified; they are required to treat and address invasive veg on lands, so talk certification with these folks
- Tania's idea- financial incentive like discount of native plants if weeds reported from a private landowner's property, Native Ground Nursery a partner? Example, coupons to a nursery?
- Bounty program? May create incentive to plant invasive weeds
- For re-veg at knotweed sites, pick good shade species, 3 years of no re-growth can be planted; cluster plant and willow stakes can be implemented quickly; we can plant controlled sites this spring with students
- 32 miles of the Calapooia mainstem is infested to some degree by false brome; no one has eradicated false brome in our area to-date-you can only control it with long-term dedication; Jeff recommended treating both sides of the river below the OHW before it goes to seed with chemicals, hand pulling also an option with the 1% infestation rate; false brome goes to seed in year 2 and there is way more seed produced in year 3
- The OSWB concern is the amount of time and money treatment could potentially be required to control false brome in the Calapooia in the long run; the Middle Fork and Santiam for example are up to their ears in it, and it's not worth single-species treatment, but rather strategic geographic areas of high priority.
- USFS mentioned that with all the emphasis on the Calapooia with ESA fish, dam removal investments and all the floodplain restoration, we should invest in false brome control while it's still feasible to promote the protection of the streamside ecology in the headwaters. But OSWB's concern is that if it's growing in the channel forming flow, OHW areas it may be too far gone because of seeding.
- The point was made "what would a watershed look like if there hadn't been any control at all?" in reference to the TNC knotweed control in the Sandy. The ecological destruction would be much greater had NO invasive treatment taken place at all.

