

## CNIPM Monthly Teleconference Notes

July 9, 2014

General Meeting 9-10 a.m.

**Teleconference Leader:** Lindsey Flagstad

Next Meeting: August 6, 2014, 9:00am-10:00am. Leader: Louisa Branchflower

### **Attendees:**

Beth Schulz - US Forest Service, Anchorage

Brianne Blackburn - Division of Agriculture, Plant Material Center, Palmer

Heather Stewart - Division of Agriculture, Plant Material Center, Palmer

Genelle Winter - Metlakatla Indian Community

Tim Stallard - Anchorage Park Foundation, Anchorage

Lindsey Flagstad - Alaska Natural Heritage Program, Anchorage

Aliza Segal - Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage Field Office

Danielle Verna - Copper River Watershed Project, Cordova

Mary Stensvold - US Forest Service, Sitka

Steve Seefeldt - University of Alaska Fairbanks, Cooperative Extension Service

Louisa Branchflower - Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District

Chris Overbaugh - National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office, Anchorage

David Lendrum - University of Alaska Southeast

John Hudson - US Fish and Wildlife Service, Juneau Field Office

Don Hofstetter - Copper River Watershed Project, Cordova

Eric Geisler - Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, Anchorage

Round Robin:

### Interior

Steve - Not many inquiries at the office. Did an invasive plant spot on Channel 11 TV for Gardening Tips program that airs Fridays at 6 and 11 p.m.

On behalf of Darcy Etcheverry: The Annual Fairbanks Weed Smackdown was held June 21<sup>st</sup>.

Approximately 50 people pulled bird vetch (a.k.a. dog pea! *Vicia cracca*) at the dog park. Working with Gino and Chuck Barger on with Bugwood to develop a phone app, which will provide a key and reporting mechanism for non-native plants.

### Copper River Basin

Danielle - Don and his son Isaac have been working on white sweetclover (*Melilotus albus*) and only known infestation of bird vetch. The Annual Weed Smackdown will be held this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the intersection in Glennallen and will target white sweetclover. Danielle hopes to raft the Gulkana and Copper rivers to survey for white sweetclover; currently the only known infestation is at the Gulkana River Bridge. In Cordova, have been busy digging up reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and treating orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*) with Triclopyr. Tim asked the group if there were weed management efforts underway in Valdez, which appears to be a weedy area. No organized efforts known.

Don Hoffstetter - was curious about the management of the extensive white sweetclover infestations between Glennallen and Wasilla. Brianne is coordinating with Department of Transportation (DOT) to

manage the right-of-way but due to the high abundance and wide distribution control efforts necessarily focus on containment opposed to eradication. Don reports that there comparatively less white sweetclover in the Copper River Basin (and they would like to keep it that way ☺).

### Southwest

From Whitney (via email) - I've accepted the Invasive Plant Specialist position for Malheur National Forest based out of John Day, OR. I anticipate moving as early as the end of August, so hopefully I can call in for the August call to say farewell to all the CNIPM folks! Also, I need to know who to send the Golden Trowel to for safe keeping! On the Katmai front, we've been really pleased with the progress that our manual and chemical control has achieved over the last few years. We are definitely at maintenance level for most non-native species at Brooks Camp, our most frequented area of the park.

### Southcentral

Louisa - Annual Weed Smackdown is scheduled for this Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, at 10 a.m. in downtown Palmer with free lunch and live music! Have been working with the Division of Forestry Interns to control reed canarygrass at Cottonwood Creek in Wasilla, sowthistle (*Sonchus* sp.) at mile 58 of the Glenn Highway. A tarp was placed 3-4 years ago; scheduled for removal this year. Also walking road right-of-ways with DOT to locate weeds and coordinating with Matanuska Electric Association (MEA) to spray all vegetation at their substations.

Beth - inventory crews currently working in the interior; no incendiary reports. Has been on leave in lower 48 - grateful for our lightly infested situation in Alaska but also impressed with their level of awareness regarding invasive plants.

Aliza - Sadly, reed canarygrass and an unknown yellow aster were found (by Tim Stallard) growing near the helipad at the Campbell Tract Administrative Site. Apparently these were contaminants in soil that had been purchased for trails day and was certified with respect to composition but not weed-free (apparently there was some confusion with respect to the 'certification' of this soil). As a result, interest in preventing the introduction and controlling existing populations of non-native plants has been renewed among Campbell Tract and BLM employees. Had recent conversation with Brianne to coordinate weed management efforts at the Valdez Mine; also discussed a wash station at Haines and weed-free materials in general.

Tim - worked with Sue and an enthusiastic group of volunteers to pull weeds during invasive species awareness week and was interviewed several times by the local TV station in conjunction with these events. Spayed two sites for orange hawkweed (Hillside and Kincaid). Upcoming projects include early-season Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) spray, frill treatments on European bird cherry (*Prunus padus*) and spraying reed canarygrass. The Anchorage Weed Smackdown is scheduled for August 9<sup>th</sup>.

Heather - is working with a contractor to spray Canada thistle (using aquamaster, trylon(?) 4, milestone). Chris reports that milestone works well for fall applications to Canada thistle however it is key to get the entire population so as not to aggravate growth of remaining individuals. Steve recommends weed-whacking tall plants and spraying the regrowth. Media spots with the Anchorage Daily News and Public Service Announcements (PSA) have generated phone calls and requests for weed handbooks. Working with the Alaska Zoo to develop signage on invasive plants. Submitted a pre-proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to conduct *Elodea* risk assessments. Brianne and Heather surveyed Sand Lake for *Elodea* where they were surprised to find plants rooted at a depth of 22 feet; currently mapping the distribution of plants in the lake.

Chris - NPS EPMT crews are busy surveying and managing weeds. Chris has been spraying common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) on Exit Glacier outwash plain. Also treated 0.3 acres at NPS office in Juneau (Indian Creek Area) that was infested with orange hawkweed, oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) and creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) with milestone. In Sitka National Historical Park, marked 200+ European mountain ash (*Sorbus acuparia*) for cut stump treatments. Hopes to start in fall, will use aquamaster since environment is wet. The community in Sitka is somewhat adverse to pesticides, so he will be doing test treatments to determine non-target effects, particularly in nurse log situations where he suspects root sharing with *Alnus* and *Ribes*. Will be visiting a bird vetch infestation on Tramway Bar to gauge potential treatment options, which will largely depend on position of the infestation in or out of the active floodplain of the Koyukuk River. The infestation is on BLM land but is close to Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

Brianne - Presented to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) inspectors at their regional meeting about risks with respect to Elodea. Received a follow up email from gentleman who offered to run a PSA on internet radio stations that he owns. Kenai Peninsula continues to move weed-free certified gravel program forward where Janice Chumley has certified two pits.

Eric - reminded us that the Dalton Highway Corridor is the only area of BLM land that is NEPA-permitted for pesticide application, please contact him if you would like to apply herbicides to infestations on BLM land. BLM staff will be involved with the upcoming smackdowns around the state.

### Southeast

John - John - working with Brian Maupin and a recently-hired technician to revisit populations of reed canarygrass in the Montana Creek watershed and Nancy Street (created) wetland that were treated last year (by spraying and wiping glyphosate on plants). Plan to control reed canarygrass populations in the Auke Lake and lower Peterson Creek watershed this summer (approximately 2.4 acres). David suggests looking for additional infestations behind the police station and the Extended Stay hotel by the airport. Continuing control of knotweed (*Fallopia* spp.) in DOT right-of-ways with glyphosate. Chris inquired if local managers have given up on creeping buttercup. John agreed that efforts were misplaced in town, but appropriate in herbaceous meadows as they are a somewhat of a rare community type in Southeast. Steve suggests MCPA (similar to 2,4-D) for chemical control of creeping buttercup, however it needs to be applied to growing plants opposed to glyphosate for which fall applications are most effective. Some discussion regarding the difficulty of penetrating the thick cuticle on creeping buttercup - would a silicon surfactant would improve uptake? Steve suspects that silicon is not registered for use in Alaska. Chris will continue to use non-ionic surfactants.

Dave - this fall is planning to pull the tarp from and spray the knotweed that has been tarped for four years - but may have to leave another season. The bird vetch that was sprayed with 2,4-D is withering but still growing, likely needs to increase the dosage or find an alternate treatment. The known locations of orange hawkweed are being treated effectively, but new populations are reported frequently. John wondered if Dave was treating the infestation of oxeye daisy on road to student housing. Chris reports that he has found 2,4-D to be effective when daisies were flowering, however milestone was not effective once the plants had flowered. Steve reports that 'Curtail' (a mix of transline and 2,4-D) is best for oxeye daisy and is registered for use in Alaska.

Mary - The *Elodea* infestation at Martin Lake adjacent to the Copper River Delta is more extensive than originally thought. Additional *Elodea* has been discovered on the delta in brackish sloughs.

Gennelle - Has been pulling weeds - pulled four days with summer school kids during invasive weed awareness week during which they found an isolated population of bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) on school grounds. During the Himalayan knotweed (*Persicaria wallichii*) pull, kids tried to top the all time record of 48 bags. The first group met the record and the second group pulled 63 bags! This is a population that they have been working on site since 2006 - control efforts have made a positive difference as evidenced by the increased presence of native plants. Heading across bay to spray orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*) at Annette Bay; their previous efforts to treat this infestation have been canceled due to rain. Vehicle wash station awaiting parts - hopes to have it running by the end of this week.

## Board Meeting

10:00-10:30 a.m.

Gino Graziano - UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Anchorage  
Brienne Blackburn - Division of Agriculture, Plant Material Center Palmer  
Aliza Segal - BLM Anchorage Field Office  
Lindsey Flagstad - Alaska Natural Heritage Program, Anchorage  
Tammy Davis – Alaska Department Fish & Game, Juneau  
Steve Seefledt - UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks  
Tim Stallard - Anchorage Park Foundation, Anchorage

### Conference Updates:

Gino - Last year's conference made money! The couple thousand dollars was used to purchase a new laptop and wireless projector for use at this year's conference. Future profits will be put towards keynote speaker travel budgets. Finalizing a save the date card for this year's conference.

Brienne - Made contact with a gentleman studying aquatic invasives in B.C. and also a modeler from CO who is studying *Melilotus albus* and *Elodea* who unfortunately will be in Africa during this year's conference. Beginning to draft an agenda for presentations and training sessions ideas, she will circulate to board members and others involved with conference organization - from there we can identify and assign action items. Suggests developing a generic CNIPM poster to highlight our mission, priorities, past and future work. Has drafted a newsletter - will send to Lindsey for review and then the greater CNIPM group. The PMC graphic designer has developed a CNIPM logo, which she will circulate; Gino will circulate the old logo.

Tammy - There is a *D. vex* (*Didemnum vexillum*) speaker potentially presenting at the American Fisheries Society (AFS), AK Chapter Meeting - but she may have a conflict with the Ecological Society of America conference. - Tammy waiting to hear back regarding her or her graduate students' availability. Alternates for *D. vex* speakers could include local NOAA or UAS staff. Unknown if Catie Bursh, who could present or train on citizen science initiatives for marine invasives is available. Josh Ream with the Alaska Herpetological Society, who is based in Anchorage will be presenting at AFS and could present at CNIPM. One issue he has been involved with is the unintentional introduction of organisms via pet store trade.

Beth - Kindly reminded us to revisit strategic plan. Potentially the best forum to discuss the plan would be at a board meeting in held in advance of October's invasive species conference.