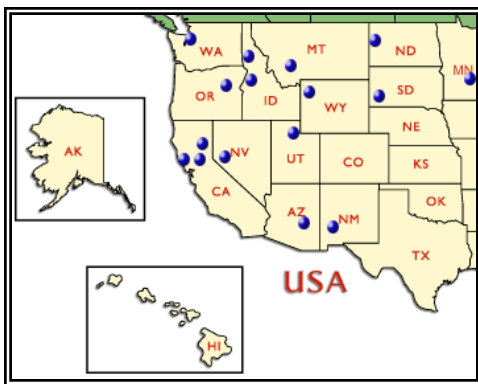


## Executive Summary

Public concern about the harmful effects of uncontrolled weeds continues to increase. One result is the rapidly increasing number of cooperative weed management areas (WMAs) in the western United States as more communities of landowners join with state and federal partners to battle invasive plants and protect remaining healthy ecosystems.

In 2002, the Center for Invasive Plant Management offered competitive grants (up to \$5,000) for weed management areas in the western United States. This was determined to be an efficient method to widely promote ecologically based weed management in the West and to direct funding to “the folks on the ground” who were making a difference in their communities every day.



In 2002, thirty-one proposals were received from 13 western states, requesting a total of \$151,075.

Sixteen proposals were funded by CIPM (*see map at left*) for a total of \$79,435. The funded grants leveraged \$403,687 in matching funds and in-kind services, a ratio of 1:5.

Funded projects included management, education, and community outreach components.

Final reports from each of the funded WMAs indicate that the CIPM grants program for weed management areas is an excellent method of supporting on-the-ground weed management throughout the West. The vast majority of WMAs achieved their stated 12-month goals.

Site-specific weed management and community outreach together with low overhead make this granting program an effective and efficient approach. As the program grows, it is essential that CIPM stay in close touch with western state Department of Agriculture weed coordinators to ensure that the program complements state efforts in the region. This program is not intended to provide ongoing, base funding for WMAs; rather, its purpose is to provide incentive and initial funding to get programs or projects up and running so WMAs can leverage more comprehensive funding with partners in their areas.

Report analysis indicates that two needs are fairly common among WMAs: long-term funding and training assistance.

From 2002 to 2003, the number of proposals to the WMA grants program more than doubled, from 31 to 67, although the number of grants awarded increased only from 16 to 17. With additional funding, CIPM's WMA grants program could easily expand and provide more benefits (grants and training resources) to more communities in the West.

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## Introduction

Public concern about the harmful effects of uncontrolled weeds continues to increase. One result is the rapidly increasing number of cooperative weed management areas (WMAs) in the western United States as more communities of landowners join with state and federal partners to battle invasive plants and protect remaining healthy ecosystems.

WMAs are local organizations that bring together landowners and land managers (private, city, county, state, and federal) from a defined geographical area to coordinate action and expertise in combating common weed species. These areas may replace or augment jurisdictional boundaries in favor of natural boundaries such as watersheds to facilitate landowner coordination of effective integrated weed management. WMAs often function under the authority of a mutually developed Memorandum of Understanding or Cooperative Agreements and are governed by a steering committee.<sup>1</sup>

A March 2003 CIPM email survey of state Department of Agriculture weed coordinators indicated that western states had the following number of weed management areas<sup>2</sup> organized or in the process of organizing:

California – 40  
Colorado – “dozens”  
Idaho – 32  
Montana – 56  
Nevada – 20  
South Dakota – 14  
Utah – 14  
Washington – 38  
Wyoming – 64

Together WMA partners develop a comprehensive weed management plan for their geographical area. At the least, WMA plans include weed surveying and mapping components as well as plans for integrated weed management. Components of more comprehensive plans may include education and training, prevention and early detection of new invaders, monitoring, and evaluation and adaptation of the weed management plan.

Locally-driven WMAs are especially effective at generating public interest in weed management and organizing community groups to support on-the-ground programs. In states that do not have a long history in or strong legislative mandate for weed management, newly forming WMAs are building crucial grassroots support for statewide weed management programming. Some states with well-supported weed management programs such as Idaho and California have based their statewide efforts on WMAs. States that traditionally have organized weed management on jurisdictional boundaries are finding that WMAs organized by watersheds, for example, provide additional energy and cross-jurisdictional cooperation that augment existing programs. It should be noted that WMAs do not supplant county weed boards where such organizations exist; rather, WMA steering committees that include county weed personnel facilitate cooperation across county, state, and federal boundaries.

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<sup>1</sup> WMA leadership in the 16 grants awarded by CIPM in 2002 was provided primarily by county weed personnel (9 grants), but also by state Departments of Agriculture (2 grants), federal agencies (1 by the Forest Service, 2 by Natural Resources Conservation Service), university Extension (1 grant), and The Nature Conservancy (1 grant).

<sup>2</sup> WMAs were defined as “multi-partner, grassroots-type groups working on invasive plants in a specified geographical area.”



Members of the Lake County, CA, Weed Management Area collaborate on areawide projects. (Photo by Lake County Public Works Department)

#### Advantages of cooperating in a Weed Management Area:<sup>3</sup>

- It encourages cooperators to plan through the problem to its successful resolution.
- The plan results in the greatest good for the entire WMA in the long run. Planning establishes priorities.
- The designation of a “weed management area” by diverse individuals and agencies focuses attention and indicates a united effort to state and federal legislators. It also communicates to the general public the seriousness of weeds.
- A WMA pools talents and resources. For instance, WMAs enable one agency to contract with another for weed control.
- Under a WMA plan, a landowner or land manager can address the problem of weeds spreading from adjacent land before damage occurs.
- A WMA provides a channel for communication among land managers.
- The formation of a WMA may increase the effectiveness of weed management by basing control efforts on biological and geographical factors rather than legal divisions.
- Designation of a WMA helps secure funding or identifies a method for funding.
- Although a private landowner or agency may relinquish some individual autonomy, everyone gains efficiency and increases their ultimate success by participating in a WMA.

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<sup>3</sup> Adapted from “Guidelines for Coordinated Management of Noxious Weeds: Development of Weed Management Areas.” 1998. Produced cooperatively by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Montana Dept. of Agriculture, Idaho Dept. of Agriculture, Park County (WY) Weed & Pest Control District, and Ag West Communications.

## CIPM Weed Management Area Grants Program

In 2002, the Center for Invasive Plant Management offered competitive grants (up to \$5,000) for weed management areas in the western United States. This was determined to be one of the most efficient methods to widely promote ecologically based weed management in the West and to direct funding to “the folks on the ground” who were making a difference in their communities every day.

In January 2002, notification of the grants and a proposal form were posted on the CIPM web site (*see Appendix C*). Because community-driven weed management areas are often led by private citizens or field-level agency personnel who may not be very experienced in grant writing, a simple online form was devised by CIPM staff for proposal submission. The availability of the WMA grants was communicated through western state Departments of Agriculture, regional professional organizations, the CIPM Board of Directors, the CIPM web site, and regional listservs. By the deadline (March 5, 2002), 31 proposals had been received by CIPM.<sup>4</sup>

Stated criteria for the WMAs were:

- Cooperative efforts must involve diverse landowners and land managers;
- Integrated, ecologically-based management strategies must be employed;
- Management plan must encompass at least a watershed-scale area;
- Matching funds or in-kind services at a ratio of 1:1 were required.

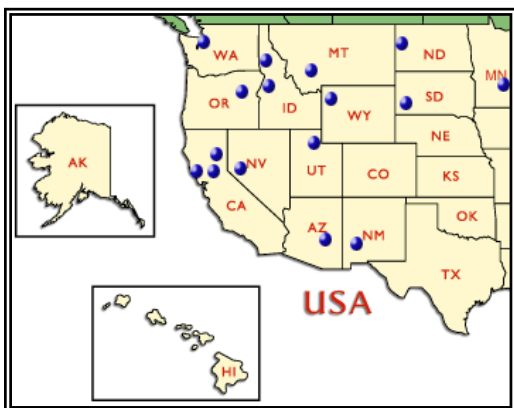
Proposals were reviewed by a grant panel consisting of three state Department of Agriculture weed coordinators: Barbra Mullin – Montana, Dawn Rafferty – Nevada, and Brenda Waters – Idaho. The 2002 panel was appointed by the CIPM director who attempted to achieve geographical balance as well as expertise.<sup>5</sup> Proposals were scored by each panelist according to the following criteria:

Organizational information: Diversity and commitment of CWMA participants	10 points
Need for CWMA	30 points
Project management plan: Integrated, thorough, ecologically sound, effective, creative	20 points
Project goals: Long- and short-term goals are realistic, community-oriented, ecologically sound	20 points
Importance to the community	10 points
Budget: Appropriateness of budget and financial management arrangements; matching funds, in-kind services and resources	10 points

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<sup>4</sup> In the following year (2003), the number of WMA proposals received by CIPM more than doubled to 67.

<sup>5</sup> In succeeding years, the grant review panel will comprise three different state Department of Agriculture weed coordinators, rotating this volunteer opportunity among western states.



In 2002, thirty-one proposals were received from 13 western states, requesting a total of \$151,075.

Sixteen proposals were funded by CIPM (see map at left) for a total of \$79,435. The funded grants leveraged \$403,687 in matching funds and in-kind services, a ratio of 1:5.

State	Proposals submitted	Proposals funded	Grantees – Contact person
AZ	3	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tonto WMA (Shawn Evans, Young, AZ)</li> </ul>
CA	7	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Butte Co. WMA (Rob Hill, Oroville, CA)</li> <li>Lake Co. WMA (Tony Gallegos, Lakeport, CA)</li> <li>Yolo Co. WMA (Jennifer Drewitz, Woodland, CA)</li> </ul>
ID	4	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adams Co. WMA (Julie Burkhardt, Emmett, ID)</li> <li>Palouse WMA (Suzanne Qualmann, Moscow, ID)</li> </ul>
MN	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rum River Watershed CWMA (Lori Weddle Schott and Susan Twingstrom, Milaca, MN)</li> </ul>
MT	2	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little Blackfoot River Watershed WMA (Jason Smith, Deer Lodge, MT)</li> </ul>
ND	2	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yellowstone-Missouri Saltcedar Management Working Group (Ken Eraas, Bismark, ND)</li> </ul>
NM	2	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valencia Weed Management Area (Dale Jones, Belen, NM)</li> </ul>
NV	2	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walker River Basin WMA (Kelly McGowan, Yerington, NV)</li> </ul>

Final reports from grantees were due April 1, 2003 – one year after grant notification. Reports were to address:

- Partners involved – and to what extent;
- Accomplishments;
- Progress toward the 12-month goals listed in the grant proposal;
- Itemized budget of how the grant monies were spent;
- Statement of the value of this grant to the weed management area.

Much of this report is compiled from grantees' final reports, many of which also included photographs, newspaper clippings, samples of educational materials produced, training session agendas, and other documentation. Appendix A documents 12-month goals and the grantees' statements of the value of the grant to their projects.

From a grant administration standpoint, CIPM's WMA grant program expenses other than labor were minimal. A breakdown of estimated hours invested by CIPM staff for the 2002 WMA grant program is as follows:

- Program development and consultations – 20 hrs
- Web site proposal form development – 8 hrs
- Downloading and organizing 31 proposals – 4 hrs
- Copying and mailing proposals to grant panel – 4 hrs + copying charges + postage
- Post-review correspondence with proposal-writers – 8 hrs + postage
- Correspondence with Montana State University Office of Grants & Contracts (who writes and accounts for all CIPM subcontracts/grants) – 16 hrs
- Record-keeping and correspondence with grantees over 12 mos. – 60 hrs
- *(Services provided to CIPM at no cost include MSU Grants and Contracts labor, as well as departmental accounting, billing, and reporting throughout the year.)*



New biocontrol release site on spotted knapweed along the Snake River in Wyoming. (Photo by Teton County Weed & Pest District)

The grant panel meeting was held in Salt Lake City, UT, in conjunction with the Western Society of Weed Science and the Western Weed Coordinating Committee annual meetings. CIPM offered to pay panelists' travel costs, as well as an extra night at the meeting site and meals, if necessary. Lunch was provided for panelists. Review of the 31 proposals took approximately 4 hours. (Panelists had been mailed all proposals and score sheets three weeks previously.) The CIPM director served as a non-voting moderator. Total cost of the review panel meeting in 2002 was \$110.97 for lunch and travel expenses submitted by panelists.

## Partnerships

The western states encompass more than 890 million acres that include national forests, national parks, tribal reservations, national wildlife refuges, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation lands, military bases, state lands and parks, and private lands. It is absolutely essential that people work together across jurisdictional lines to manage invasive plants and maintain healthy, non-invaded ecosystems.

The 16 WMAs funded by CIPM in 2002 reported partnerships with a variety of federal, state, and local agencies and organizations. As expected, the partnerships were invaluable. Organizations and agencies provided support in the form of funding, education efforts, surveying, monitoring, mapping, and more. Based on the final reports of 13 WMAs,<sup>6</sup> the WMAs listed the following agencies and organizations as partners (ways in which the agency participated are listed whenever detailed in reports):

### Federal agencies

- Department of Interior
  - Bureau of Land Management (listed by 9 WMAs) – Funding, promotion, planning and technical assistance, equipment, education
  - National Park Service (4) – Mapping, management, funding
  - Bureau of Reclamation (2)
- Department of Agriculture
  - US Forest Service (8) – Funding, personnel, outreach, planning assistance, technical assistance, weed management, equipment, monitoring
  - US Fish and Wildlife Service (3)
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service / Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) (14) – Weed identification, equipment, funding, supplies, grant administration, mapping, consulting
- Department of Defense
  - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (1)

### State Agencies

- Department of Transportation (13) – Weed identification and management, mapping
- Department of Agriculture (8) – Funding, technical assistance
- University / Cooperative Extension (11) – Funding, training, technical assistance, monitoring
- Department of State Lands (5) – Technical assistance, funding, promotion, planning assistance, management, mapping, equipment
- Fish and Game (7) - Funding
- Department of Forestry (3)
- Parks (5)
- Water Resources (2)

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<sup>6</sup> Of the 16 WMAs funded: 13 provided final reports, one WMA grant was extended for another year due to a change in the WMA directorship, and two WMAs declined funds (one was unable to hire personnel to carry out the proposed project, one found other sources of funding and returned the grant).



**Tribes** (5) – Biocontrol harvest and release sites, management

**Conservation Groups** (17) – Public outreach, funding, surveying, organizational assistance

**Ag/Commodity Groups** (8)

**Youth and Schools** (6) – Labor, promotion, weed-pulls

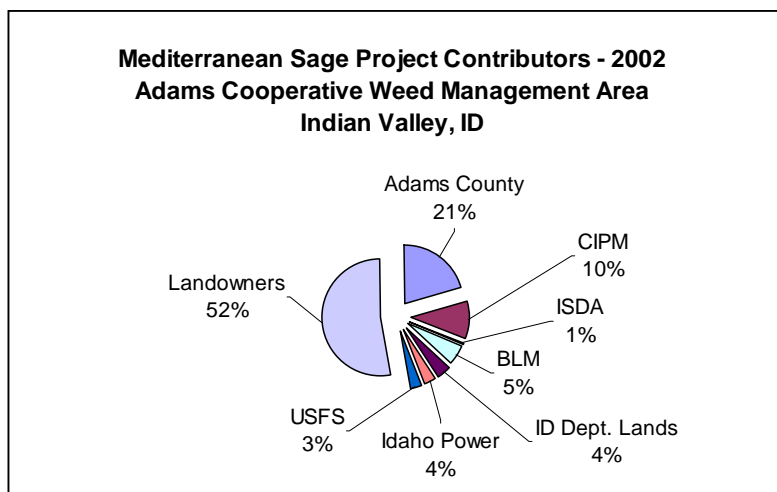
**Others**

- Private Landowners (9) – Weed management, equipment, volunteers, mapping
- Grazing districts (4) – Weed management, mapping
- Soil and water conservation districts (11)
- Irrigation district (2)
- County weed and pest (23<sup>7</sup>) – Education, management, funding, technical advice, planning, promotion, equipment, record-keeping, mapping, monitoring, biocontrol releases
- Watershed council (2)
- Other county agencies (3) – Software, technical support
- Utility/Power (2) – Management, equipment
- Commercial Forestry (3)
- Farm Bureau (2)
- Community Groups (4)
- Cities/Towns (4)
- Historical Society (1)
- Land Trust (4)
- Railroad (3) – Weed management
- Fire district (1)
- Commercial pesticide companies (3) - Supplies

**Cooperative weed management areas are built on the concept of partnerships**

Cooperative weed management areas are built on the concept of partnerships. For example, Adams County, Idaho, enlisted a number of partners in its Mediterranean sage management program in 2002 (see chart at right). Note that private landowners played a major role in this community effort.

Statistics provided by Julie Burkhardt,  
Adams County CWMA chairperson.



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<sup>7</sup> Some WMAs work with multiple counties.

## Weed Management

The 16 WMA projects funded by CIPM in 2002 encompassed 11,023,818 acres, according to submitted proposals. Individual projects ranged from 3,040 acres to 6.5 million acres.

Forty different weed species were listed as “targets” in the funded proposals. Most common (listed by four or more WMAs) were salt cedar, Canada thistle, Russian knapweed, spotted knapweed, and perennial pepperweed.

Weeds targeted by two to three WMAs were: diffuse knapweed, whitetop, rush skeletonweed, leafy spurge, yellow starthistle, barbed goat grass, medusahead, tansy ragwort, dalmatian toadflax, bull thistle, musk thistle, and puncturevine.



Mediterranean sage was the target for management efforts of the Adams County, ID, WMA. (Photo by Adams County)

Other targeted weeds mentioned by a single WMA were: parrot’s feather, Mediterranean sage, Scotch thistle, arundo, Scotch broom, dyer’s woad, plumeless thistle, purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan knotweed, giant knotweed, Iberian thistle, klamathweed (St. Johnswort), Tree of Heaven, giant reed, water hyacinth, Malta starthistle, houndstongue, oxeye daisy, sulfur cinquefoil, yellow toadflax, Russian olive, and camelthorn.

One of the grant review criteria for selecting projects was an integrated approach to weed management. Final reports detailed herbicide use, hand pulling and digging, biological control, and combinations of approaches. The most widely used were herbicides and hand pulling. Some examples:

- The Cheyenne River WMA used instituted a chemical cost-share program to apply herbicides on 2,500 acres of private land, and released more than 90,000 flea beetles on three major leafy spurge sites.
- The Snake River Project implemented a biological control program that covered 36.5 acres and organized a weed pull for 50 children and parent volunteers.\*
- The Little Blackfoot River Watershed WMA also found success with biological control and weed pulls. They released 525 *Brachypterolus pulicarius* insects in areas invaded by yellow toadflax and enlisted the help of 44 4-H members and many community volunteers to participate in a weed pull.

\* The Snake River Project coordinator noted that his WMA weed pulls were much more successful when the WMA recruited specific groups to sponsor the event rather than heavily advertising to recruit the general public. As of spring 2003, the WMA had five groups who had

already agreed to sponsor weed pulls, and the Utah Conservation Corps had agreed to give the WMA eight individuals for four days.

Acquiring baseline data of weed occurrence is critical in developing comprehensive, landscape-scale weed management plans. Surveying for weeds and then mapping and monitoring were major elements of several WMA grants funded in 2002. Success in these types of projects may be production of maps, but just as importantly success may be pulling together all the landowners, adopting uniform data collection standards, agreeing on monitoring methodology, cooperating in data management, and working out permitting and logistics. Notable accomplishments of 2002 grantees included:

- Completed survey for knotweeds on 80% of the Skagit River floodplain and 47% of its tributaries, as well as 392 miles of roadways and several upland sites; 120 new infestations were discovered.
- The Valencia WMA enlisted Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District ditch-riders to mark perennial pepperweed, hoary cress, Russian knapweed, and camelthorn infestations on a map over the course of a month; two new camelthorn infestations were discovered.
- The Rum River WMA used GPS to create a baseline inventory of leafy spurge, purple loosestrife, and buckthorn infestations, as well as biocontrol release sites. Partners included county and state highway departments, Extension Service, conservation districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

## Education and Awareness

“Education” was a high priority for many of the WMAs. Educational programs about noxious weeds were aimed at landowners, students, and the general public. Some programs targeted politicians, organizations, agencies, and local businesses to enlist support and encourage action. These community-driven programs have proven successful in spreading the word about weeds.

Many of the WMAs realize that children and adolescents are assets to the future of weed control programs. That is why many of the weed education programs are designed with today’s youth in mind. Several of the WMAs reported organizing weed pulls for children, enlisting the help of schools and local 4-H chapters. The Utah-Idaho WMA was able to bring together 1,300 children and parents for a weed pull that covered four counties in two states resulting in the removal of over 108,000 pounds of dyer’s woad. Other WMAs held workshops and classroom visits for students. Topics discussed included why noxious weeds were bad, weed identification, and weed management. The Upper Burnt River Weed Control District created weed education paraphernalia for children including temporary tattoos, refrigerator magnets, stickers, and suckers. They also held a “Weed Madness” mural contest and an essay contest for local youth.

### Education programs by WMAs funded in 2002

- Weed pulls for children and adults (mentioned by five CWMAAs).
- Educational weed management workshops for children and/or adults (3).
- War on Weeds targeting politicians, organizations, agencies, businesses and students.
- Pasture management workshops for landowners.
- Pesticide applicator CEU courses.
- Weed identification workshops for ditch riders.
- Classroom visits targeting school children.
- Weed education paraphernalia for youth (rub-on tattoos, refrigerator magnets, stickers, suckers)
- Displays (table tents with photos of noxious weeds, outdoor display board in state parks)
- “Weed Madness” mural contest.
- Essay contest for adolescents.
- “Hitch Hikin’ Spike” mascot entered in a parade.
- Town hall educational meetings for the public.

As noted in *CWMA Cookbook: A Recipe for Success*,<sup>8</sup> “Cooperative work days are an essential activity in CWMAAs. Pick a project or activity that is achievable and highly visible. Make it a fun day where communities can combine efforts, see real results, and even enjoy a picnic or cookout in the process. It is this kind of activity that builds understanding and a sense of pulling together.”

The WMAs have also targeted landowners and agricultural workers. WMAs have conducted weed management and pasture management workshops for landowners, private applicators, state and local agency personnel, and non-government organizations. Weed identification workshops have been held for ditch riders. In addition, pesticide applicator courses have also been approved for Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

The WMAs also attempted to educate the general public through media and public relations efforts. Literature distributions proved quite popular among the WMAs. One WMA set up weed

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<sup>8</sup> VanBebber, Rick. 2002. *CWMA Cookbook: A Recipe for Success*. Malad, ID: Idaho Noxious Weed Coordinating Committee. See <http://www.agri.state.id.us/PDF/Animal/cookbook.pdf>.



literature racks in state parks. Another created a booklet outlining the threats posed by noxious weeds. Still others created brochures, fliers, and identification fact sheets on noxious weeds. The Upper Burnt River Weed Control District created table tents with photos of noxious weeds that were placed in a local restaurant.

Erika Wells, Snake River Education Coordinator, tells elementary school children about noxious weeds (*left*).

The PR efforts were not limited to literature distributions. The Upper Burnt River also created a mascot called “Hitch Hikin’ Spike” who appeared at several public events including a parade and a sports show. The Valencia CWMA set up a noxious weed booth at its county fair. The booth provided information to fair-goers on the impacts of noxious weeds. Numerous newspaper articles were written regarding the activities of the various WMAs including an article on the Upper Burnt River’s “Weed Madness Mural Contest.” Several articles were also written detailing noxious weeds to watch for in local areas. CIPM provided grantees with a sample news release to adapt and take to their local news outlets (*see Appendix B*); several of the newspaper articles were based on this release.

#### **Media and PR efforts by funded WMAs in 2002**

- Town hall meetings
- Table tents with photos of noxious weeds placed in a local restaurant
- “Hitch Hikin’ Spike” mascot appeared in a parade and at a sports show
- Newspaper article on “Weed Madness” mural contest
- Weed literature racks in state parks
- Salt cedar ID fact sheets
- News articles in local papers on noxious weeds to watch for
- Booklet outlining a WMA project and threats posed by noxious weeds
- Noxious weed impacts booth at a county fair and other events
- Brochures/fliers on noxious weeds
- Tours of demonstration areas/noxious weed sites
- Radio station coverage/interviews of CWMA coordinators
- TV coverage of Bag O’ Woad project

The WMAs were also able to utilize radio and television in their PR efforts. A local radio station interviewed the Tonto Weed Management Area coordinator. The interview focused on the activities of the Tonto WMA and the problem of noxious weeds. In addition, the Bag O’ Woad Project sponsored by the Utah-Idaho CWMA received coverage from several radio and television stations including CNN.

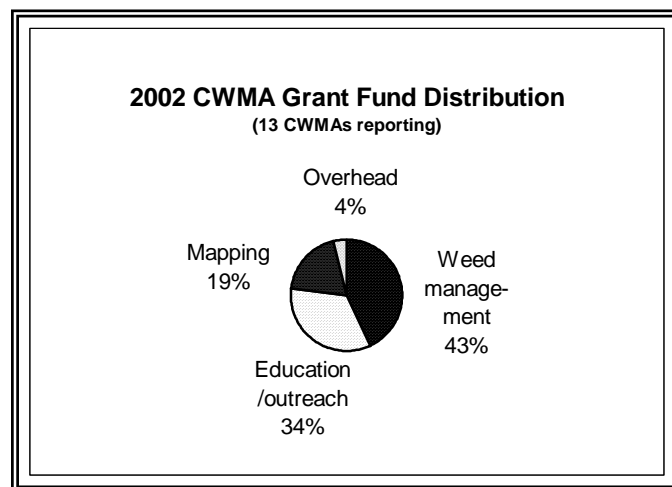
## WMA Funding

In 2002, thirty-one WMA proposals were received from 13 western states, requesting a total of \$151,075. Sixteen proposals were funded by CIPM for a total of \$79,435. The funded grants leveraged \$403,687 in matching funds and in-kind services, a ratio of 1:5.

Community-led WMAs often operate on relatively small budgets – particularly newly established WMAs. A small grant of \$5,000 can make a significant difference to these programs, expanding simple weed-treatment projects to include proactive components such as public education, community involvement, long-term planning, and effective integrated management. As Tony Gallegos noted in his final report for the Lake County (CA) WMA, “As a rather new organization, the influx of even a small sum of monies provided the impetus to attempt some useful tasks that would likely have been postponed or not even attempted due to staffing and budget limitations.”

Funds are used efficiently at the local level. CIPM funding was used for herbicides and application equipment, biocontrol agents, educational workshops, publications, office supplies, mapping materials, reseeding equipment, travel, internships, herbicide cost-share programs, “bounty payments” for bags of pulled weeds, contracted services, and youth contests. Forty-three percent of funds awarded by CIPM were used for on-the-ground management (supplies and labor); 34% of funds went to education and outreach (primarily development and production of materials); and mapping weed infestations – an important early component of a management plan – comprised 19% of CIPM funding. A very small proportion (4%) was used for administrative overhead (*see chart below*).

Individual WMA finances and accounting were handled in a number of ways and provided new opportunities for partnerships. Of the 16 originally funded WMAs, seven arranged for accounting responsibilities to be handled by a local Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) office, six by a county weed district or other county office, one by a state Department of Agriculture, one by a private (bonded) citizen, and one by The Nature Conservancy.



Based on proposal evaluations (2002 *and* 2003) and personal correspondence, including WMAs that inquired about extended funding from CIPM, it is clear that many WMAs seek funding on a year-by-year basis from a number of sources (e.g., state and local government agencies, federal partners, volunteers, foundation grants). A lack of continuous funding makes it difficult for WMAs to strategically plan long-term, ecological land management programs. Coordinated regional or national WMA funding, as well as training in grant writing, would benefit these community-led groups.

## Conclusions

WMA “success” can be evaluated in a number of ways: acres of weeds treated, number of collaborators, involvement of the community, increased awareness of the threat of invasive plants, informational products or plans developed, number of new infestations discovered, efficacy of management methods, program sustainability, or overall effect on the targeted ecosystem. Some of these measures are easily quantifiable; others involve less-quantifiable social issues that are just as important in determining the long-term sustainability of a program. Therefore, in this report, we do not attempt to compare one WMA with another. All of the funded WMAs showed strengths in at least two of the evaluation measures above. Each was unique and appropriate for its own community.

Based on our experience and interactions with WMAs, however, we have identified several factors that seem to be helpful in predicting the ultimate success of a WMA:

- **Leadership** – Someone must be passionate about weed management and ecosystem health, and be willing to serve as the motivator and organizer of the group. This person isn’t necessarily the administrator, but he or she provides enthusiasm, insight, and commitment. He or she ensures that all partners are heard and decisions reflect the will of the group.
- **Partnership** – Because weeds don’t stop at jurisdictional boundaries, maintaining the health of an ecosystem requires everyone’s involvement. It takes considerable effort to bring all affected public and private landowners to the table. In many cases, months of groundwork are laid before the first meeting is held. Diversity of partners is also important. By working together to develop a weed management plan, partners build trust in one another as well as a network of expertise. In addition, pooling resources helps ensure the sustainability of these programs.
- **Planning** – A well-written, comprehensive, site-specific weed management plan can be a focal point for a WMA. In addition, the process of writing the plan focuses the group vision and helps establish priorities.
- **Coordination** – Someone must take the responsibility for communication and follow-through in a timely manner. When multiple partners are involved, timing becomes critical because one organization’s spray crew might depend on another agency’s permit, for example. Frequent communication is essential. This is a big job.
- **Good science** – A weed management plan must be built on good science and must maintain or improve the ecological health of a designated area. Integrated, ecologically sound approaches to weed management are necessary. Land restoration – moving toward a desired plant community – is a more progressive, long-term approach than simply eradicating weeds.
- **Education and outreach** – Engaging the general public helps build community (and, ideally, financial) support for WMAs. Hands-on workshops, weed pulls, and school and community group presentations emphasize the impacts and relevancy of weeds in one’s own neighborhood. Person-to-person interaction is undoubtedly the most effective teaching and outreach tool. It’s also important that outreach efforts be strategized. As

noted in a 2000 report,<sup>9</sup> WMAs need to define “*who* needs to be reached, to encourage *what behavior*, with *what message*, and by *what means*.” Attention to these questions allow WMAs to use their resources more effectively.

After completing its first WMA grant cycle, CIPM has identified two needs that seem to be fairly common among WMAs. (*Corroboration of these needs should be made with individual state Departments of Agriculture, university Extension specialists, and others who work very closely with WMAs in their own sphere of influence.*)

- **Long-term funding** – Weed management and ecosystem improvement are long-term propositions. Long-term solutions require long-term funding. Ideally, WMAs and other weed management entities would be assured of a base of funding so they could more confidently set proactive, long-term goals.
- **Training** – Several WMAs have requested that CIPM provide workshops or training sessions for its members. Suggested subjects have included: weed mapping, inventory, and monitoring methods; small-group facilitation; attracting media attention; and grant writing. At this time, CIPM does not have the capacity to provide training throughout the region; however, the Center would like to provide training resources to WMAs in the future.

WMAs are also ideal mechanisms for **early detection and rapid response** to new invasions of weeds because WMAs involve people who know the land well and can readily spot changes in the landscape. Given an appropriate overarching structure and resources, WMAs could play a role in statewide, regional, or national networks.

Final reports from each of the funded WMAs indicate that the CIPM grants program for weed management areas is an excellent method of supporting on-the-ground weed management throughout the West. As documented in Appendix A, the vast majority of 12-month goals set by the WMAs were achieved. Great results together with low overhead make this an effective program.

As the program grows, it is essential that CIPM stay in close touch with western state Department of Agriculture weed coordinators to ensure that the program complements state efforts in the region. CIPM-funded WMAs should not supplant existing county and state weed management programs which are well established in many cases. This program is not intended to provide ongoing, base funding for WMAs; rather, its purpose is to provide incentive and initial funding to get programs or projects up and running so WMAs can leverage more comprehensive funding with partners in their areas.

From 2002 to 2003, the number of proposals to the WMA grants program more than doubled, from 31 to 67, although the number of grants awarded increased only from 16 to 17. **With additional funding, CIPM’s WMA grants program could easily expand and provide greater benefits to more communities in the West.**

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<sup>9</sup> From Bischoff, S. and W. Murray. 2000. Cooperative Weed Management Areas in the Northwest: Taking Stock and Moving Forward (unpublished report contracted by the Bureau of Land Management and The Nature Conservancy). Denver, CO: Conservation Impact, LLC. [www.conservationimpact.com](http://www.conservationimpact.com)



## APPENDIX A

### 12-Month Goals and Progress

and

### Statements of the Value of the Grant to the WMA

❖ **Upper Burnt River Weed Control District**  
**Bridgeport, OR**  
**CW01-02**

12-month goals	Progress toward 12-month goals
1. Plan and execute a weed management workshop.	1. Held a weed management workshop in April 2002. Now organizing to make the Spring Management Workshop an annual activity.
2. Send letter out to patrons requesting their support of a cash donation.	2. Sent out a letter to patrons within the weed district requesting their participation in the weed district's voluntary donation program. The letter resulted in \$2,407.42 in assistance for the weed district.
3. Conduct group purchase of chemicals.	3. Contacted landowners to determine their chemical needs for the 2002 weed season. The weed district put together a combined chemical request in order to receive a discount. Also working on a group purchase for 2003.
4. Map and inventory perennial pepperweed sites.	4. Invasive sites of perennial pepperweed were identified and acreages were calculated (67 acres) and mapped.
5. Organize and execute aerial spraying.	5. Organized aerial and ground spraying of Russian knapweed, spotted knapweed, perennial pepperweed, and whitetop.
6. Education in the classroom using "Hitch Hikin" Spike costume.	6. This goal was not accomplished due to health complications of the person in charge.
7. Conduct weed awareness mural contest.	7. Sponsored the "Weed Madness Mural Contest" which was a county wide educational endeavor.
8. Cost share with patrons.	8. The Baker County weed supervisor gave our weed district monies from his operating budget to fund cost share on whitetop spraying. Also received funds from the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture to cost share a program that worked with patrons in the Unity area to spray for Russian knapweed.
9. Set up grass field trials.	9. The weed district has established field trials of weed control on varying soil sites to evaluate the potential of the soil and the management needed for maximum protection.
10. Update strategic/management plan.	10. The weed board spent time reviewing their strategic plan and made any necessary revisions, deletions, and additions.
11. Coordinate fall noxious weed control.	11. Monitored fall chemical treatment of Russian knapweed in the Unity area.
12. Participate in Bull Run Days parade.	12. Entered "Hitch Hikin" Spike" in Bull Run Days Parade who handed out suckers and stickers with the weed district's name and phone number.
13. Conduct annual dinner meeting.	13. Held the annual dinner meeting in February 2003 with over 60 in attendance.

"The actual funding we receive from the varying sources as listed on the itemization sheet is either earmarked for cost share, revegetation projects, or specific grant projects (such as the grass

seeding trials). The only monies not designated to the aforementioned are the donations we receive from the landowners within the district.

“Our weed district places a high value on awareness education, and that takes money. So by the time this money is used for normal operating expenses, there is very little left for education. So when we happened upon the Center for Invasive Plant Management, and saw that you offered operating grants for weed management areas, you were a godsend.

“We had a very difficult ‘weed season’ last year. The aerial applicator stretched himself too thin, so just when we thought he was going to spray for us, he would be off on another job. Add to that very windy weather and the breakdown of the helicopter, we had a very narrow window of opportunity to accomplish the task at hand. The ground applicator began work, and seemed to be doing a good job, but without saying a word to anyone, he just disappeared. We later learned that he had left our area to go fight fires. Thus, the landowners that were expecting his services had to gear up and do the job themselves.

“We submitted a \$16,000 grant to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (Weed Control Program) last year, and were only partially funded (\$5,000). This was a real downer, because we are very dependent upon these funds for cost share and revegetation projects. Fortunately, the Baker County Weed supervisor was able to give us an additional \$3,000 from his budget. Normally our weed district receives \$2,500 for cost share from the Taylor Grazing Fund, but the committee was so impressed with our noxious weed control efforts, they doubled our funding last year.

“So, when we learned that CIPM was going to approve our grant request, it was like a breath of fresh air. We are a small community of folks very concerned about our quality of life. We knew that if we allowed more weed invasions, our livelihoods would be jeopardized. At the time, Baker County was doing very little in this arena (we are pleased to say that has changed drastically). So since Baker County was not doing their job, our community decided to form its own weed management area – we are an unofficial weed district under the umbrella of Baker County. Our biggest hurdle is funding, and words cannot express our appreciation for these operating funds.”

**❖ Butte County Weed Management Area  
Oroville, CA  
CW05-02**

**12-month goals**

**Progress toward 12-month goals**

1. Develop five-year parrot’s feather management plan and conduct research on efficacy of eradication and control measures.	<i>This project was not initiated due to county reorganization and staffing issues. Contracts returned unsigned, with regrets.</i>
2. Survey Berry Creek watershed and integrate GPS data with county GIS database. Identify adjacent property owners. Develop informational brochures on parrot’s feather.	
3. Determine permitting requirements and integrate efforts with state agencies.	

❖ **Adams Cooperative Weed Management Area**  
**Indian Valley, ID**  
**CW07-02**

<b>12-month goals</b>	<b>Progress toward 12-month goals</b>
1. Pre-treatment mapping and previous treatment monitoring will be conducted to determine infestations. Test plots will be checked to determine whether Plateau® should be used.	1. Trials conducted in 2001 using Plateau® showed good success.
2. All landowners will be contacted and advised of the project plan. The WMA will purchase herbicides and adjuvants to treat Mediterranean sage. WMA members will continue information and education efforts through news articles, displays, and printed materials.	2. We continue to spread the word about Mediterranean sage and other invasive weeds through news articles, tours, seminars, and weed identification literature.

“This grant allowed the ACWMA to accomplish several goals. First, this project fostered good working relationships and trust between individual landowners and our other partners. This is an important facet of a newly formed CWMA; especially one in an area that is largely public land-dominated. Second, this project has helped raise awareness, not only of this particular invader, but all invasive weeds. We believe that success in eradicating this weed will help convince citizens that working together can have positive results- we can gain the upper hand on these pests. Lastly, the CIPM grant freed up funds from other sources to purchase much needed storage and equipment. This equipment is vital to building a functioning weed department for Adams County. A functioning weed department plays a key role in fostering cooperative partnerships within the weed management area.”

❖ **Lake County Weed Management Area**  
**Lakeport, CA**  
**CW09-02**

<b>12-month goals</b>	<b>Progress toward 12-month goals</b>
1. Put on a professional, informative workshop to educate local landowner and stakeholder groups and teachers.	1. A two-day Invasive Weed School was held with 81 participants (local and state public entities, non-government organizations, licensed applicators, private landowners) from throughout California
2. Have informational materials to provide to interested individuals and groups.	2. An 11x17 color glossy brochure describing key weeds (aquatic and terrestrial) of local concern was developed; 3,000 were printed.
3. Build WMA’s credibility, influence, and membership.	3. The above accomplishments have helped the Lake County WMA build credibility, capacity, and increase awareness of the need for an organized response to local weed problems.
4. Generate a volunteer pool to assist with eradication and monitoring efforts.	4. Volunteer weed round-up activities will be held.

“As a rather new organization, the influx of even a small sum of monies provided the impetus to attempt some useful tasks that would likely have been postponed or not even attempted due to

staffing and budget limitations. On behalf of the Lake County Weed Management Area, I again thank your organization for the support grant.”

❖ **Yellowstone-Missouri Saltcedar Management Working Group**  
**Bismarck, ND**  
**CW10-02**

<b>12-month goals</b>	<b>Progress toward 12-month goals</b>
1. Survey, map, and spray all salt cedar on the Yellowstone River.	<i>Funds were not requested. The ND State Water Commission and US Army Corps of Engineers supported the program with tours, surveys, mapping, and treatments. Printed materials for public awareness were obtained with local funding. Therefore, CIPM grants funds were not needed.</i>
2. Survey, map, and spray all salt cedar on the Missouri River to Trenton, ND.	
3. Survey, map, and control all salt cedar in the Trenton Wildlife Management Area.	

❖ **Palouse Cooperative Weed Management Area**  
**Moscow, ID**  
**CW11-02**

<b>12-month goals</b>	<b>Progress toward 12-month goals</b>
1. GPS tansy ragwort populations; chemically treat tansy ragwort; continue photo-monitoring; share photos with local landowners.	1. A GPS field technician was hired and completed a thorough inventory of tansy ragwort populations. The tansy ragwort was sprayed with herbicides 13 times. Landowners met with specialists to discuss the possibility of used biological controls.
2. Pre- and post-treatment of rush skeletonweed during pond construction; revegetate pond area with wetland plant species.	2. Rush skeletonweed adjacent to the Palouse River was GPS'd and treated in August. Pond construction will begin in 2003 and the area will be planted with wetland vegetation.

“Having CIPM funds available to use on priority weeds, we have been better able to purchase some necessary equipment with PCWMA funds, like GPS units and ATVs. With the cooperation we have received we are able to make each dollar go so much further. Clearwater Potlatch Timber Protective Association (CPTPA) has been an important member of the WMA for several years. This is a cooperative formed at the turn of last century to help fight fire on private, state, and federal lands. They have access to equipment, geographic knowledge of the area, and amazing skills for repairing things that break. Originally we started cooperating with CPTPA because we thought it would work out well to have the firefighters help spray weeds in the “off time” from firefighting. They are much less expensive than spray contractors. Well, the program worked out so well for both parties that CPTPA chose to hire someone strictly to help with weed treatment. It has worked very well. CIPM grant dollars have helped keep the CPTPA working toward weed control. This grant was very valuable. Thank You!”

**❖ Utah-Idaho Cooperative Weed Management Area  
Cache & Box Elder Counties (UT); Franklin, Bannock, Oneida Counties (ID)  
CW12-02**

<b>12-month goals</b>	<b>Progress toward 12-month goals</b>
1. Control the spread of Dyer’s woad.	1. 108,650 lbs. of Dyer’s woad was harvested CWMA wide represents approximately 124 acres of control on the most visible acres.
2. Spread awareness of the Dyer’s woad problem throughout the CWMA.	2. The Bag O’ Woad Project was given coverage by four local, and two state newspapers, plus multiple radio stations, Channel 2 news in Salt Lake City and on CNN. A color, two-sided flier was also developed to promote the program.

“The primary benefit achieved by this project with regard to the Cooperative Weed Management Area is the educational experience provided to youth. By providing this experience to young people, we have enhanced the environmental awareness of a new generation of citizens. No one can put a dollar value on that. By educating the public in one aspect of weed ecology, the members of the CWMA are able to create a unique level of support with the public they ultimately serve.”

**❖ Jackson Hole Weed Management Association  
Jackson, WY  
CW14-02**

<b>12-month goals</b>	<b>Progress toward 12-month goals</b>
1. Purchase and release biocontrol agents for spotted knapweed, common mullein, and Canada thistle along Snake River corridor. Continue chemical control on leading edges. Monitor Snake River for new infestations of saltcedar and perennial pepperweed.	1. Biocontrol agents were released on spotted knapweed and common mullein (biocontrol agents were already plentiful on Canada thistle) – focusing on areas long neglected. A custom seed mix was ordered for revegetating the levee system.
2. Develop brochure about the Snake River Project. Make presentations to interested groups. Produce placards with weed information for kiosks along Snake River. Develop WMA web site.	2. A booklet outlining the Snake River Project and threats posed by noxious weeds was published April 2003. The WMA education coordinator made presentations in 18 classrooms. The poster contest was so successful that we have decided to add another age group and also do an essay contest.
3. Conduct three public weed pulls and weed tours along Snake River.	3. Weed pulls were held. The most successful attracted 30 children and 20 parent volunteers. More weed pulls are scheduled for 2003. The Utah Conservation Corps will send eight individuals for four days for a weed pull in 2003.

“Last year was spent recruiting, educating and solidifying partnerships for the Snake River project. This year will be spent working hard to get the general public involved. In many respects, we expect this coming year to be the most difficult, but it also has the potential to be the most rewarding. Without the support of the Center for Invasive Plant Management and their grant, we would not have been able to accomplish the work we did during the summer of 2002, nor would we have the tools in place to begin this difficult, but very important task. Also, the resources and assistance the Center has provided during our research of education and weed

issues has been particularly helpful. The broad base of support that the Center offers will pay off in ways we have yet to even fully realize, not just in Teton County, but across the West.”

**❖ Rum River Cooperative Weed Management Area  
Mille Lacs County, MN  
CW16-02**

<b>12-month goals</b>	<b>Progress toward 12-month goals</b>
1. Develop a noxious weed management plan and process that will utilize a GIS to create improved data and maps on current noxious weed infestation areas. Data and maps generated using the GIS technology will be used to measure the outcomes of control measures, education and coordination of the program.	1. A baseline inventory has been created using GPS to document infestation locations of leafy spurge, purple loosestrife, and buckthorn. GPS locations have also been created to document release sites for biological control of leafy spurge and purple loosestrife throughout the management area.  Partnerships with the Department of Natural Resources and Fish and Wildlife Service have been developed to coordinate efforts on leafy spurge and purple loosestrife biological control on public land in the Rum River Cooperative Weed Management Area.
2. The educational project will be developed and demonstrated to other noxious weed management areas, counties, and federal and state agencies to demonstrate a holistic approach to noxious weed management in Minnesota. The University of Minnesota Extension Service will provide educational and research programming.	2. Educational annual weed meetings are being held with Township officers and landuse agencies, along with elected officials. Also Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) plans have been developed for noxious weed management on state and county roads. Meetings will be held annually to review these management plans.

“This project will set up a protocol to evaluate and control the spread of the noxious weeds, specifically Leafy Spurge, Canada, Bull, Musk and Plumeless Thistle, and Purple Loosestrife. This project will also facilitate the evaluation and control of noxious weeds moving in the region. The final product will be a local weed identification, control plan and standardizing mapping system. This mapping and management tool will coordinate efforts by townships, state and local highway departments and other landuse agencies to manage Leafy Spurge and other noxious and invasive weeds. This project will be used to increase education and awareness of Leafy Spurge and invasive weeds. This research and management prototype will be shared with other state federal and county landuse agencies and governments in the region.”

**❖ Upper Skagit River Watershed  
Snohomish & Whatcom Counties, WA  
CW19-02**

<b>12-month goals</b>	<b>Progress toward 12-month goals</b>
1. Complete mapping of all infestations along the floodplain and primary tributaries of the Skagit River (Cascade, Sauk, and Suiattle.)	1. Approximately 80% of the floodplain has now been surveyed, as well as about 47% of tributaries that had the potential to be infested. The partnership also surveyed approximately 392 miles of roadways, and several upland sites. These efforts resulted in the discovery of 120 new infestations, to bring the total known number of infestations as of the end of 2002 to 466.
2. Survey and map infestation along channels of at least 50% of the smaller tributaries.	

3. Begin to control infestations in areas that have been identified as the highest priority.	2. The partnership was able to control about 44% of all known infestations, including 55% of infestations in the high priority area of the river corridor.
4. Establish a field monitoring system to track success of experimental treatments and develop and manage a GIS database to measure on-going progress of control efforts in future years.	3. A system has been developed to keep track of the size, location and other attributes of each infestation, as well as what control method was used. This enables us to monitor the effectiveness of the various control techniques. These data are currently being collected either by using uniform data sheets, or hand held data loggers that interface directly with the computer. Information regarding survey coverage, knotweed infestations, and control work has been compiled from all partners into a GIS program for monitoring and development of future control strategies. This information is then re-distributed to partners in GIS format.

“Many of our partner agencies have noxious weed control as part of their management plans and therefore a budget to conduct control work. However, without working across property boundaries, efforts to control knotweed are likely to be wasted as new infestations move in from other areas. The role the Conservancy plays in coordinating between agencies and targeting infestations on non-agency (private) land is key to successful weed management in the watershed. However, the Conservancy’s efforts are dependent on outside funding sources. The funding from the CIPM contributes toward the Conservancy’s ability to move the project forward and keep a coordinator in place to manage the various facets of this program. This in turn provides support to our partner agencies, which helps to leverage their weed control efforts and leads to greater success of weed management programs.”

**❖ Walker River Basin Weed Management Area**  
**Yerington, NV**  
**CW20-02**

**12-month goals**

**Progress toward 12-month goals**

1. Establish, coordinate, and promote an integrated weed management plan. Seek short- and long-term funding sources.	<i>This WMA requested and was awarded a one-year extension for its program due to a significant change in WMA leadership.</i>
2. Identify and prioritize sites. Coordinate mapping efforts. Establish site-specific control methods and BMPs for control, revegetation, prevention.	
3. Establish public outreach and education programs.	

**❖ Yolo County Weed Management Area**  
**Woodland, CA**  
**CW21-02**

**12-month goals**

**Progress toward 12-month goals**

1. Purchase Geo Explorer GPS unit. Chart non-native invasive species along Union School Slough and Chickahominy Slough.	1. Purchased a Geo Explorer III GPS unit and surveyed non-native invasive species along the entire length of Union School Slough. We have surveyed 1/3 of the length of Chickahominy Slough.
2. Produce several maps to illustrate weed locations.	2. We produced several maps to illustrate the weed locations along

	the sloughs.
3. Disseminate maps at a local WMA meeting.	3. We presented the vegetation maps of Union School Sough at a local WMA meeting.
4. Utilize an intern to help with WMA activities: planning a weed tour, developing a Yolo Co. WMA display, monitoring present and past WMA project locations.	4. We hired an intern to help with WMA activities: surveying the sloughs, developing a Yolo County WMA display, and monitoring present and past WMA project locations.

“The Yolo County Weed Management Area is very grateful to have had the opportunity through this grant to kick off our weed mapping program. It has provided us with the equipment and intern assistance to do initial surveying. This project has enhanced our coordination with local landowners along the sloughs and provided an opportunity to start developing future projects to strategically remove the weeds from the waterways. The ArcView system will enable us to take the field data taken on each weed population and estimate acreages and coverage of specific populations of weeds. This will further allow us to estimate the funding we will need in the future to initiate control of the weed infestations and revegetation with native plants. Additionally, the intern assistance was critical to successfully developing a WMA display and monitoring ongoing WMA project sites.”

**❖ Tonto Weed Management Area**  
**Gila County, AZ**  
**CW22-02**

**12-month goals**

**Progress toward 12-month goals**

1. To develop a comprehensive weed map showing locations of all weed infestations on the Tonto Watershed.	1. Discussions and coordination efforts have moved forward on this goal, but due to a major drought in Arizona and subsequent lack of weed growth this will be completed at a later date.
2. To educate children, as well as adults, on the various types of weeds in the area and what to do when they are located.	2. Due to this grant and a \$10,000 grant from the USFS and the University of Arizona, this goal is nearing its potential of reaching most students in the TWMA. Most of the materials have been purchased and one workshop was held. Once fully operational these workshops should become annual events for the TWMA schools.
3. To obtain adequate equipment, supplies and staff/volunteers to eradicate and maintain noxious weed infestations in the watershed.	3. Due to this grant, the USFS/UA grant and assistance from others, the TWMA coordinator and one educator’s salaries have been elevated from purely volunteer to partial paid TWMA staff. Much of the educational materials have been or will be purchased.
4. To revegetate and/or rehabilitate treated areas.	4. Due to the lack of rain and the small amount of eradication occurring, revegetation and rehabilitating have been postponed until next year.
5. To evaluate annual progress toward the “War of Weeds” and document it on the map.	5. The TWMA has come a long way towards education and informing politicians, organizations, agencies, businesses and students throughout Arizona and Washington D.C. on the TWMA and the noxious weed program. Next year, with hopefully more moisture for drought-stricken Arizona, we will undoubtedly grow more weeds also. This, with new technology becoming available, will enable the mapping task to be more productive.



“Without financial assistance, such as this CIPM grant, it is unlikely that the TWMA Coordinator would be able to accomplish what the job requires on a voluntary basis. Through support from the CIPM grant and funds from the Southwest Veg, Tonto NRC, UA/USFS and others the TWMA is able to operate, however the job to be done is much larger and will require multiyear programs if we are going to keep up with the spread of noxious and invasive weeds in the TWMA area.”

**❖ Little Blackfoot River Watershed Cooperative Weed Management Area  
Deer Lodge, MT  
CW24-02**

**12-month goals**

**Progress toward 12-month goals**

1. Two town hall noxious weed educational meetings will be scheduled and planned. Educational materials will be ordered.	1. The town hall meeting in Avon was scheduled for May 16, 2002 and the town hall meeting in Elliston was scheduled for May 30, 2002. An address list of small acreage landowners was assembled and all educational materials required for the project were ordered.
2. Little Blackfoot watershed landowners in and above Avon will be sent an invitation to the town hall meetings.	2. A total of 112 town hall meeting announcements were sent to the area landowners.
3. Two town hall meetings aimed at education and getting project participation will be conducted.	3. The town hall meetings were conducted on May 16 and May 30. A total of 33 people attended the evening meetings. The agenda included an overview of what noxious weeds are, a noxious weed identification session, an explanation of integrated weed management methods, and explanation of cost share program, a backpack sprayer calibration and open discussion. Educational materials were distributed to those that attended.
4. Participating landowners will be sent digital orthophotos for weed mapping.	4. Twenty-three mapping and reimbursement packets were sent out.
5. Bio-releases on yellow toadflax will be made.	5. 525 <i>Brachypterolus pulicarius</i> insects were released in areas infected by yellow toadflax.
6. Private and public landowners will map noxious weeds and implement control measures.	6. 32 small acreage and large acreage landowners submitted noxious weed maps of their property and implemented herbicide control measures
7. New invaders rewards program will be initiated.	7. The Powell County Weed Board implemented the “New Invaders Prevention Program” in March 2002. All cooperators were eligible for the program. One Avon CWMA cooperator reported a Dalmatian toadflax infestation in September and received a reward and cost share to eradicate the small patch.
8. Little Blackfoot 4-H club will distribute educational materials, conduct weed pull days in Avon and Elliston, and revegetate disturbed sites.	8. The Little Blackfoot 4-H club held weed pulls in Avon and Elliston in July 2002. The 4-H club also distributed a “Knockout Knapweed” flyer and a copy of guidelines for revegetating disturbed sites.
9. An upper Little Blackfoot Watershed GIS weed map will be compiled from participating landowners digital orthophotos.	9. Two maps of the Upper Little Blackfoot Watershed were created. Map 1 displays the noxious weed locations submitted on the digital orthophotos by small acreage landowners. Map 2 displays the noxious weed locations submitted by large acreage landowners using the ¼ section density method.
10. Project administration and evaluation.	10. The Powell County Weed Board provided project oversight and administration. Upon completion of control work and receipt

	of the mapping and reimbursement packet, the weed board issued each landowner cost share. All new cooperators received 50% cost share and cooperators already participant in the Avon CWMA received a total of 23% cost share from a combination of the CIPM and the MNWTF grants. The project was successful in raising new invader awareness and increased landowner participation.
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“This grant gave private landowners in the CWMA the opportunity to increase their understanding of why noxious weed control is imperative and gave them the tools to implement their weed management plans. Because the activities funded by the grant increased the numbers participating in the CWMA, more landowners have been encouraged to protect the environment from noxious weed invasion by cooperating with their neighbors.”

❖ **Cheyenne River Weed Management Area**  
**Hot Springs, SD**  
**CW28-02**

<b>12-month goals</b>	<b>Progress toward 12-month goals</b>
1. Complete GIS mapping of river corridor and side tributaries.	1. GIS mapping was completed on two-thirds of the river corridor, and on over one-half of a major tributary.
2. Implement a cost-share program to help landowners defray the cost of invasive species control, whether chemical, biological, or mechanical.	2. A cost-share program was implemented in the Weed Management Area that enabled noxious weed control using SDSU approved herbicides to be carried out on approximately 2,500 acres of private land. In addition, over 90,000 flea beetles were released for bio-control on three major spurge sites.
	3. Completed several information and education activities including a bulk mailing of salt cedar identification fact sheets, two news stories in the local paper, and personal contacts with over 20 land users.

“Funding from this grant was used to concentrate on noxious weed control work on the Cheyenne River corridor. Emphasis was placed on leafy spurge. Midwest Vegetation Management, a South Dakota company that specializes in weed spraying and GIS mapping, was contracted to cover the river corridor from the Wyoming border to the Town of Edgemont, a distance of about 15 river miles. With excellent landowner cooperation, both spring and fall applications were performed, and good results achieved. *This would not have been done without grant assistance.*”

❖ **Valencia Weed Management Area**  
**Belen, NM**  
**CW30-02**

<b>12-month goals</b>	<b>Progress toward 12-month goals</b>
1. Establish four demonstration areas highlighting different treatments; publicize results. Hold tours.	1. Demonstration areas were not established in 2002 because of personnel changes in the Extension office. They will be established in 2003. Weed tours are scheduled for summer 2003.

<p>2. Distribute information to irrigation users about perennial pepperweed, camelthorn, musk thistle, and Russian knapweed.</p>	<p>2. Problems were encountered with using the irrigation district to disseminate brochures about new invaders. Instead, the brochure was adapted into a newspaper article and ran in the Valencia News-Bulletin. The brochure may still be inserted in the Conservation District mailings in 2003.</p> <p>Numerous newspaper articles were run on the saltcedar and Russian olive control project.</p>
<p>3. Host weed booth at county fair; use 4-H volunteers to man the booth and begin pepperweed control on fairgrounds.</p>	<p>3. A 4-H weed pull was held at the county fairgrounds to reduce the number of seeds present for “hitch-hiking” home with fair attendees. A noxious weed booth at the fair focused on impacts of weeds.</p>
<p>4. Establish rapid-response system for new infestations.</p>	<p>4. A newspaper article was written and printed in the local newspaper about noxious weeds to watch for.</p>
	<p>5. The county Extension office held a series of pasture management workshops and pesticide applicator CEU courses including noxious weed identification and treatment.</p>
	<p>6. Efforts to involve Laguna and Isleta (Indian) Pueblos highlighted many of the special needs and issues that arise in relation to weed treatment on Native American lands. As a direct result of this, a new but separate program was initiated to organize the southern pueblos and the northern pueblos into cooperative WMAs. A Native American Weed Management Workshop will be held in May 2003 as part of the awareness component of this project. New Mexico Dept. of Agriculture and the Bureau of Indian Affairs are co-leaders.</p>

“The main goal of the grant was to provide seed money to organize a CWMA for Valencia County and to ensure that the program would continue to be operational past the first year. That goal has been fulfilled, with considerable headway made in organizing a community group, spreading weed awareness, and developing priorities for the coming year.”

## APPENDIX B Sample News Release

### NEWS RELEASE

(Date)

For more information, contact (local contact name, phone)

### Local Coalition Awarded Grant to Fight Weeds

The local (name of your WMA) Weed Management Area was recently awarded a \$ (amount) grant to promote cooperative weed management efforts, according to (coordinator's name), coordinator of the project.

The competitive grant was awarded by the Center for Invasive Plant Management (CIPM), a regional organization based at Montana State University – Bozeman, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management.

The (your name) Weed Management Area will use the funds to (list specific, immediate activities). Target weeds are (list). According to (coordinator), (insert statement of the local problem). The long-term goals of the weed management area are (use language from your grant proposal?).

The number of cooperative weed management areas in the West is growing exponentially as private landowners, state and federal government agencies, and community groups realize the benefits of working together on a common problem. Partners in the (your name) Weed Management Area are: (list). This coalition was organized (when?).

Throughout the nation, the economic and resource value of land is declining as harmful, nonnative weeds overtake native vegetation, making the land unusable for grazing and for diverse plant and animal communities. Damage caused by harmful nonnative weeds has been estimated to run in the hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

# APPENDIX C

## Online grant submission form - 2002

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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