



## *Crooked River Weed Management Area*

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### **Board Meeting Minutes**

September 12, 2017

Present: Ron Halvorson, Brooke Gray, Mike Crumrine, Debbie Wood and Kev Alexanian.

Ron called the meeting to order at 2:01pm

- **Visitors:**

- **Heart of Oregon-**Amy Gillette, Ameri-Corp director, Darcy Bedortha, program coordinator for Prineville, Chris & Ashley crewmembers w/ Sam Vanderbeek crew leader. Begin with an in-depth pesticides training from the USFS. June is the big herbicide treatment month, but have moved to fall treatments like Russian knapweed at Rimrock Springs. Have worked in Mill Creek, the Ochocos and town. They have done 22 days of weed treatments this summer as a pilot project testing this partnership with the USFS and Heart of Oregon. Heart of Oregon has also invested in equipment. The program itself is based out of Bend and targets young adults from 17 to 24 years. They will leave with a chainsaw certification and their wilderness first-aid, which will leave them with college credits as well.
- **Parks & Recreation-** Duane Garner & Larry Pennington came to talk about partnering with the CRWMA, how can we help each other? Have worked with Ron to map all weeds on properties around town. Puncturevine is one of their biggest problems in the parks. Ochoco Creek is a big problem area and a vector for weed spread throughout Prineville. The Crooked River is also a major problem area, especially for noxious weeds. They would love help educating their employees. Debbie is talking about putting on a workshop in the early spring for landowners and applicators. They have five full time staff and seasonals are the main grounds keeping employees. It would be helpful to gain funding to bring on earlier and more highly trained seasonals to catch major weeds. Debbie asked if they have an adopt a park program? Duane mentioned that the program is more of a trash clean-up program. Kev, Mike & Debbie will work with them to put on an education for their employees in February or March of 2018.
- Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes by Gray, with a second from Alexanian and a unanimous decision from the board.
- Approval of Financials: Debbie stated that the Quickbooks have been updated to the 2017 version. Mohan has finished our taxes and they been submitted. A motion was made to approve the financials by Alexanian with a second from Crumrine and a unanimous decision from the board.

### **Coordinator Updates**

- **Crook County Fair:** The fair went well with 164 folks showing up. The majority of those visitors came Friday afternoon. A better location may have aided.
- **2016 Grants:** Final reports have been turned in and we are waiting to get approved and final payments received.
- **2017 Grants:** Mid years are due now.
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- **Title III Knapweed:** Sprayed knapweed on McKay inholdings and Ochoco divide. Next year they will be spraying in Juniper Canyon. Spoke with the new owners of the Mt. Bachelor Academy.
- **Cost-Share:** Just waiting on a few invoices to be turned in. Debbie pushed yellow starthistle landowners to treat out McKay.
- **African rue in Bear Creek:** Pam Hart noticed it by the red barn house right off the pavement. Kev sprayed it, but more after come in recently. Debbie counted 23 plants. Kristin sent a tech out and they have located another five acres worth on BLM. It was treated with imazapyr.
- **Scotch & Musk Thistle:** Working steady with Matt in Grant county, who has personally been doing much of the spraying
- **Russian knapweed Biocontrol:** Collecting galls with Mike on the last occasion. Debbie noticed some yellowing in patches of Russian knapweed that had been disturbed by cattle. So far 33 releases have been put out, but Debbie is going to collect and put a few more out. We have only used  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the funding of this grant, but there is also some monitoring to do next spring. Mike mentioned that the collection site at Rimrock Springs is the only one in Oregon that is doing well.
- **Sage grouse Medusahead:** Working to get more people on board. Debbie has decided to stick with Columbia Basin Helicopters. The window is looking like the first part of November.

### **New Business**

- **Treasurer Position:** Priscilla has officially resigned and we need to fill the treasurer position. However, we do not have a nominee and this item will be tabled until the November meeting.

### **Board Member Updates**

- **Brooke Gray:** Gearing up for fall spraying and surveying. We will be treating Russian knapweed and Medusahead rye. I am hoping to tag on to any aerial spraying that the CRWMA will be working on. Over the winter, I will be nailing down our weed management plan with a huge focus on Medusahead rye. Reported that the yellowstar thistle bloomed out on Teaters road.
- **Mike Crumrine:** Starting Medusahead treatments for the forest. Will be revisiting Lake County as there was too much water early in the year and then fires pushed them out later in the season. Still working on getting more Russian knapweed bio-controls out, possibly sending some on to Washington State. The collection at Rimrock Springs took just a few hours to collect two garbage sacks. Gearing up to treat Eurasian watermilfoil with Kev at Haystack Reservoir. They will be chipping away at the eastern bay. Earlier in the year he did some raking and not a single milfoil plant was seen at the dock.
- **Kev Alexanian:** Reported that we have had some great feedback from the State Weed Board meeting. Working on Russian knapweed at Bridge Creek and getting ready to shift gears into Medusahead spraying in about a week, starting with Chuck McGraths BLM chunk. Will also be spraying Cabin Butte. It will be really busy this fall. Kev will survey from Christmas Valley to Nevada with the new treasurer Dave Langland.

*Meeting adjourned at 4:26pm*

Brooke Gray  
9-12-2017