



## Columbia Gorge CWMA 2026 Invasive Species and Pest (ISEP) Workshop

February 26, 2026; 9:00am—4:00pm PST  
710 SW Rock Creek Drive  
Stevenson, WA 98648

### 9:00 – 9:10 am Welcome

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*Hannah Brause, WSU Extension*

### 9:10 – 9:20 am Columbia Gorge CWMA Update

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*Courtney Comer, Columbia Gorge CWMA*

- **Summary:** Updates and new happenings within the Columbia Gorge CWMA.

### 9:20 – 9:30 am Invasive Hotline Updates

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*Jacob Rose, Portland State University's Institute for Natural Resources*

**Summary:** Since 2001, the Hotline has provided a one-stop shop to alert natural resources professionals about invasive species. Jacob Rose, the administrator, will walk us through the service's history and current trajectory to improve functionality for responders and submitters alike. A whole suite of new features and improvements in user experience are being rolled out by OSU Center for Systems and Software. We need you to help us test the Hotline's features and provide Jacob with feedback about what comes next!

### 9:30 – 10:00 am Protecting the Sacred Wiwnu from a new threat – the Spotted Wing *Drosophila* (*Drosophila suzukii*)

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*Ilene Goudy, Confederated Bands of the Yakama Nation*

- **Summary:** The invasive spotted wing drosophila (SWD; *Drosophila suzukii*) poses significant threats to culturally critical huckleberry (*Vaccinium membranaceum* spp.) populations in the Pacific Northwest. This presentation describes ongoing collaborative research between Heritage

University, the Yakama Nation, and Northwest Indian College examining SWD infestation patterns across both open-access and treaty-protected gathering areas in Gifford Pinchot National Forest and the Yakama Nation Closed Area. Through community-based participatory research methods, student research teams collected field data on SWD presence, infestation rates, and environmental conditions across multiple berry-picking sites during the summer of 2024. This research centers Indigenous knowledge and food sovereignty concerns, documenting how invasive species compound existing challenges to treaty rights, including commercial overharvesting and habitat degradation from fire suppression.

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**10:00 - 10:15 am**      **Break**

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**10:15 – 10:45 am**      **State Noxious Weed Board Updates**

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*Mary Burrows, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board*  
*Troy Abercrombie, Oregon Department of Agriculture*

- **Summary:** This presentation will provide a brief overview of newly listed noxious weed species in Oregon and Washington, their identification, and control.

**10:45 – 11:15 am**      **The Story of Palmer Amaranth’s Discovery as a Bird Seed Contaminant**

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*Thurman Johnson, Spokane County Noxious Weed Control Board*

- **Summary:** Hear the story of how a chance encounter in a parking lot led to a product recall spanning Washington and Oregon. In this discussion, Thurman Johnson will take you through his experience finding Palmer amaranth growing outside a Spokane Safeway and the investigation that followed as he sought to pinpoint where this rare noxious weed had come from.

**11:15 – 11:45 am**      **Mental Health in Weed Control**

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*Susan Bird, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board*

- **Summary:** This presentation covers how to identify the signs of mental exhaustion in weed control and related jobs. This talk will also go over self-help techniques and how to help our peers. The psychological state of ourselves and our coworkers can affect our efficacy and safety when performing pest management. By learning to recognize and deal with this we can improve the quality of our IPM work and our safety out in the field.

**11:45 - 12:00 pm**      **Lightning Talks Round 1**

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1. *Tongs of Death - Ethan Coggins, WA Department of Natural Resources*

- **Summary:** In many areas broadcast applications of herbicide can have significant off target effects. This presentation will cover using the “Tongs of Death” – a targeted application method that can be used to reduce off target effects in sensitive areas.

2. *Identification of Celastrus orbiculatus – Abigail Luiten, WA Dept. of Natural Resources*

- **Summary:** This 5 minute presentation will cover the identification of roundleaf bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) a class A noxious weed in Washington and Oregon. Proper identification of target species is necessary to implement control strategies and is a key part of an IPM philosophy.

3. *Yellow Floating Heart EDRR in Hood River – Beth Myers-Shenai, Oregon Department of Agriculture*

- **Summary:** A very small ornamental population of Oregon Class “A” listed yellow floating heart was discovered last summer at an event venue in Hood River by an aquatic weed specialist attending a wedding there. This was the first detection in the county, and the talk will quickly review the discovery, collaborative response to have it removed, and identification of the plant.

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**12:00 - 1:30 pm            Lunch**

*On your own*

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**1:30 – 2:00 pm            Invasive Species Quiz**

*Kimberly Quayle, WA Department of Natural Resources*

- **Summary:** Kimberly Quayle from the Washington DNR will host a half-hour invasive species quiz. This is a competitive event between attendees that tests their knowledge of different invasive pests and how to identify them. Guests will also receive insight on how to identify look-alike species at different life stages. There will be prizes for the top three competitors!

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**2:00 – 2:15 pm            Lightning Talks Round 2**

*Lower Deschutes CWMA - Dean Dark, Lower Deschutes CWMA Coordinator*

- **Summary:** This presentation will cover a brief history of the LD-CWMA, as well as their projects. These projects include components of pest identification, treatment timing and management techniques.

*Stinkwort – Courtney Comer, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Program*

- **Summary:** A quick presentation covering the discovery and documentation of *Dittrichia graveolens* in Bandon, Oregon.

*False Brome in the Upper Hood River Valley - Matt Jordan, Hood River County*

- **Summary:** While constructing a trail through a seldom visited part of Toll Bridge Campground, crews found a familiar looking weed. Matt reached out to the CWMA for identification verification and realized members had been looking for the source of false brome in the upper valley for years.

**2:15 – 2:45 pm**                    **Introducing *Orobanche cumana*, Sunflower Broomrape, 1<sup>st</sup> find in North America**

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*Susan Bird, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board*

- **Summary:** Susan's presentation will cover the discovery of *Orobanche cumana* in Washington. This is the first reported instance of this pest in the United States.

**2:45 - 3:15 pm**                    **Break**

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**3:15 - 3:45 pm**                    **New and Exciting Biocontrol Agents Coming to a Weed Near You**

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*Jennifer Andreas, WSU*

- **Summary:** Biological control of weeds is an important component of vegetation management and many weed managers incorporate it into their integrated weed control strategies. New and upcoming biocontrol agents are on the horizon for several weed species, including flowering rush, garlic mustard, whitetop, gorse, yellow starthistle, and parrotfeather. This presentation will discuss up and coming biocontrol options that could offer land managers new tools to help them reach their weed control goals.

**3:45 – 4:00 pm**                    **Closing Remarks**

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*Hannah Brause, WSU Extension*