



Columbia Gorge CWMA General Meeting

August 26th, 2026; 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

In Person: Hood River Fire Department Community Room
1785 Meyer Pkway
Hood River, OR 97031

Teleconference (via GoToMeeting):

Computer, tablet, or smartphone: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/684807461>

Phone: +1 (571) 317-3112, Access Code: 684-807-461

1:00 Welcome and Introductions

All

- **Attendance:** *Icebreaker question: What was one highlight from this field season?*
 - **Brendan Fordyce** - Clackamas SWCD, Weed Specialist (Ed. and Outreach Co-Chair, At-Large Rep.)
 - *Hawkweed search in Paradise Park/high-altitude hike.*
 - **Ethan Coggins** – DNR, Natural Area Specialist (Steering Co-Chair)
 - *Is a new father!*
 - **Brad Mead** – Columbia Land Trust, Land Steward (Steering Co-Chair)
 - **Emily Stevenson** – Skamania County NWCP, Coordinator (Fiscal Admin)
 - *Has been able to get in the field more this summer.*
 - **Scott Susi** - Wasco SWCD, Coordinator (At-Large Rep.)
 - *Wasco SWCD is now the official noxious weed entity for the county!*
 - **Nathan Goodman** – Klickitat County NWCP, Coordinator (Washington Rep.)
 - *Hearing how much the Outdoor School's "Spray that Weed" has raised awareness in the community.*
 - **Courtney Comer** – Skamania County NWCP, Ed. & (Facilitator)
 - *Releasing knotweed psyllids with Jen Andreas for the first time in Skamania.*
 - **Cheryl Rice** - Hood River SWCD, Conservation Technician
 - *Helping Beth M. and Brendan F. with hawkweed on Lolo Pass.*
 - **Jeanette Burkhardt** - Yakima Nation Fisheries Program, Watershed Planner
 - *Getting out with students from Heritage U to build beaver dam analogues.*
 - **Kris Schadel** – Hood River SWCD, Conservation Program Manager
 - *Being a part of getting ODA funded to improve pesticide application licensing and translating the national core manual into Spanish.*



- **Beth Meyers-Shenai** – ODA Noxious Weed Program, Noxious Weed Specialist
 - Getting a chance to do new work in the Clackamas ranger district.
 - **Dan Ball** - Retired Researcher and Extension Weed Specialist
 - *Collaborating with Kris and Cheryl on puncturevine pulling; two volunteer pulling events.*
 - **Sam Leininger** – Clackamas SWCD, Weedwise Program Manager
 - *Tamale day and revisiting site on Mount Hood for pale blue-eyed grass.*
 - **Julianne Baranowski** – Mount Hood National Forest, Natural Resource Specialist
 - *Has been dealing with the Grasshopper fire. Will be changing some things for plan of work going forward.*
 - **Sofia Sherman** – Chehalis Basin, Coordinator
 - *Got a grant for a Brazilian elodea project.*
 - **Megan Chapman** – USFS Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Botanist and Invasives Coordinator
 - *Planting monitoring with volunteers.*
 - Brance Morefield – Columbia River Gorge NSA, Botanist and Invasives Coordinator
- **Halloweeds Reminder:** Costume contest next general meeting! Come dressed as a noxious weed!

1:10 Media Kit Distribution**Brendan F., Courtney C.**

- **Pulse check: how have they been working for everyone?**
 - Not a lot of takers so far.
 - Courtney C. has been using them at county events.
 - Do we need more copies of Worst Weeds of the Gorge?
 - About 60 copies left
- **Distribute booklets and stickers to those who want them.**
 - Re-send PDF of sign and QR code if needed.

1:20 Request for Funding/MOU Reminder**Steering Committee**

- **Discuss having partners sign the MOU/contributing.**
 - Partners interested in contributing can contact Emily S. or Courtney C.



- Partners who have contributed so far:
 - Clackamas SWCD
 - Mount Hood National Forest
 - CEDAR
 - US ACE
 - Allocated funds from GP National Forest and National Scenic Area pending agreement
 - East Multnomah SWCD
 - Oregon Parks
 - Additionally: funds from ISEP
- May be mailing out physical copies of these requests
- **When to expect email reminders for both.**
 - End of September/Beginning of October

1:30 Annual Report

Courtney C.

- **Do any partners have any small projects they'd like to be highlighted in the annual report?**
 - Kris Schaedel – Work on translating National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual
 - Anyone else – Email Courtney a 2-paragraph summary!

1:40 Gear Showcase Discussion

All

- **Who has a set-up or gear they'd like to show?**
 - Boom sprayer for backpack
 - Tongs of death
 - Field maps markups: how to be more efficient
 - Potentially have a separate showcase for mapping programs at a later date?
 - What do you need space/set-up wise to be able to show it?



- **Brendan F.**- Working on hawkweeds, both orange and meadow. It is a high-altitude hike, so he hears pika up there! Did twice this year because it's a weird year. Some stuff flowering first time he went up, but some still not flowering at second visit. Dealing with high-altitude orange hawkweed is challenging and is all about timing. Started policemen's helmet but was smoked out early on due to the Grasshopper fire. Techs are finishing up manual control of some of the larger areas.
- **Scott S.**- Rush skeletonweed is the current priority; also working on some spotted knapweed sites on the western edges of the forest boundaries. Found some meadow knapweed, which was not previously known to be in Wasco County, in Tygh Valley. Scott is working with the landowner to treat it. Scott is also assisting a colleague with a project on the Lower Deschutes. These areas have to be accessed by raft. Wasco SWCD is starting work on annual grasses. Ravenna grass, which is an A-List weed in Oregon, was found several years ago in The Dalles. Has not found any in sites he's been treating.
- **Ethan C.**- Has been busy with his new baby! Earlier in the season was doing some work with rush skeletonweed and Scotch broom in Trout Lake.
- **Kris S.** – Jed Arnold (Hood River SWCD District Manager) was assigned to be on the Oregon Invasive Species Board; the board is getting funding from "1% for wildlife" tax for small grants.
- **Beth M.** – Most of her field work has been in conjunction with other agencies. Treated garlic mustard in the upper parts of the Parkdale area and conducted follow-up false brome surveys. Has been able to get out to Lolo Pass with Brendan and Cheryl looking for knapweed. Performed spotted knapweed treatments in the Hood River Ranger District; sprayed about 21.5 gallons with backpacks. Rob Banks, her seasonal, has been spraying highway 26 knapweed. Did a little bit of highway 35 last year. Registration is open for Oregon Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium; it will take place on December 8th-10th. Will be adding on a native plant symposium on the 10th for \$35.
 - ODA WEED BOARD GRANTS: Think about projects right now if you're thinking about applying! Beth will have more availability in September to chat about this.
- **Brance M.** – Currently working on the High Lava Fire.



- **Megan C.** – Has been performing invasive treatments all over the forest for a variety of species such as Scotch broom, hawkweed and knapweeds. Emily and Megan surveyed a new false brome site. This site was unfortunately masticated but was flagged and treated by Emily and Megan prior to this.
- **Emily S.** – Has been performing surveys for false brome; new sites keep popping up along the river. The origin point is unknown as it only occurs on river and has not found on the upper end. Has also been finding random patches of rush skeletonweed along the river. Ravenna grass has been popping up in a spot along the highway that was previously treated by WASDOT. Courtney and Emily have been working on tree of heaven treatments. Emily noted that the very first TOH treatment from 2021 is DEAD; Skamania County NWCP seems to be making headway on these infestations.
- **Dan B.** – Has been working with his wife to treat poison oak and Himalayan blackberry on their property. Always keeps a lookout for knapweed and pulls Scotch Broom as he finds it. Has found Scotch broom mites on some of the plants.
- **Courtney C.** – Has been building a list of landowners that have large amount of tansy ragwort on their properties and reaching out to them. Worked at the Skamania County Fair with Emily and had 164 unique interactions. Hosted a Weed ID Quiz and Poster Design Contest to raise awareness of noxious weeds. Uplift Local did a small article on the poster contest. Is currently working on tree of heaven outreach and treatments with Emily.
- **Chery R.** – Is continuing garlic mustard treatments at the organic farm up in Parkdale for the 14th/15th year in a row. Had a contracted crew spend two days hand pulling the garlic mustard; they started out hand pulling everything before switching to flowering plants because of how long it took. With ODA's help performed some additional hand pulling and spraying. Surveyed properties north of Toll Bridge Park for false brome. Contracted crew spent a day spraying it and an additional day spraying three properties north from there. Unfortunately found false brome along the river line and flood plain. Worked with Dan and volunteers to pull puncturevine.
- **Sofia S.** – Has been working on Brazilian elodea and purple loosestrife projects. False brome has popped up in sites just North of the Chehalis Basin in the Hood River Canal area. There is a chance it is somewhere in the Basin as it is also present in Cowlitz. Knotweed treatments are in full swing.



- **Julianne B.** – The garlic mustard pull with Cheryl was successful. Performed some orange hawkweed treatments that were also successful but had unfortunately gone to seed early due to the weather this year. Has performed a lot of surveys this summer off of the 48 road through the White River fire scar. Picking up occasional satellite population of houndstongue on the north side of the river. Some internal spraying of knapweed and had a Spray Day with interns targeting butter and eggs. Weed situation is going to change after fires.
- **Sam L.** – Clackamas SWCD in the process of handing over fiscal admin to the Oregon Wildlife Foundation, and are in the process of hiring a coordinator. Has been working on erecting boot brush stations in the county! Eight have been installed in lower portions of Clackamas. There is an agreement with the Mount Hood National Forest to get another 10 or 12 installed there as well. Seasonal techs are now full time!
- **Brad M.** - Skeletonweed treatments outside of Goldendale. A patch of native grand collomia seemed unaffected by treatments with Transline and have repopulated the treatment area. Has been working on a population of hawkweed outside of Lynnwood Washington. Milestone seems to be working 'fine' on the hawkweeds but is open to suggestions.
- **Jeanette B.** - Went out to former reservoir lands along white salmon river; the Yakima Nation is currently in the process of purchasing them from PacifiCorp on the lower portion and from the conservation fund in the upper portion. Found a ROBUST population of rush skeletonweed there that is currently going to seed. Is seeing increasing amounts of Rush Skeletonweed within the town of White Salmon but someone with the city is working on it.

Additional Comments:

- Kristen Currin from Humble Roots nursery is heading up a rush skeletonweed control effort out of Mosier; is hoping to talk to city officials in mid-September.
- Has anyone noticed wild basil spreading? There seems to be some on the western edge of the Gifford Pinchot along the roadside. Can be confused with native mint species. Listed on the Washington State Noxious Weed List a few years ago.
- The Washington State Department of Agriculture has been without a noxious weed coordinator for a while. They are hoping to rehire for that position when the budget is figured out.



- Emily S. is on the Noxious Weed Committee for Washington. They had 45 proposals this year which was a lot to handle. The committee is looking for ways to update the process to make it smoother. There is a sub committee that is looking to possibly create an additional list for common weeds (will help with grants and NPDES permits). One of the new Class A proposals is Kogan grass, but only where the cultivar has 'reverted to its natural state'. Can Emily distribute the proposal list?

3:00 Adjourn

All

Next CWMA General Meeting

October 28th; 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Hood River Extension Office

2990 Experiment Station Dr, Hood River, OR 97031