Member Survey Results

The following slides state the purpose and summarize the results of a member survey conducted at the annual meeting in Colorado Springs, CO in 2004. A total of 215 surveys were returned from 308 persons in attendance at the meeting. Not everyone answered every question.
Purpose of the Survey

- There is need to examine the purpose, structure and function of the Society to determine if changes are needed and to develop a vision for the future.

- Must know where we’ve been in order to know which direction to go.
Ecology teaches us that systems that fail to adapt to change, fail.

"It is not the strongest of species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the ones most responsive to change."

- Charles Darwin
Why should we expect organizations or institutions to respond differently?

"Even those who fancy themselves the most progressive will fight against other kinds of progress, for each of us is convinced that our way is the best way."

— Louis L'Amour

The Lonely Men
How many years have you been a member of WSWS?

- < 3: 34%
- 4 - 7: 17%
- 8 - 12: 16%
- 13 - 20: 8%
- 21 - 30: 3%
- > 30: 22%

205 responses
Where are you in your career?

% of responses

198 responses
How well is WSWS meeting your needs at this stage of your career?

1= low, 5 = high

200 responses, avg. 3.9
Avg. satisfaction by stage of career

1 = low, 5 = high

New: 3.7
Early: 3.7
Mid: 3.8
Late: 4.0
Near retirement: 3.7
How well does WSWS identify and cultivate new leadership?

1 = poorly, 5 = great

193 responses, avg. 3.2
Process & Disclaimer

- Individual written comments to specific questions were grouped into one of several categories that emerged from the responses.

- Categorization of individual comments to the most appropriate category was subjective on the part of the person summarizing the responses.
What does WSWS offer that is most valuable or useful to you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>No. of Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Networking &amp; interaction</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latest research &amp; information</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual meeting &amp; symposia</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity, e.g. crops, range, etc.</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure &amp; research feedback</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional growth &amp; breadth</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for students</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other individual comments</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What else should WSWS offer that would be of high value or use?

- Nothing; things are good as they are (30)
- More workshops & symposia (26)
- More ecology, IPM, other disciplines (19)
- Web based education (11)
- More on forests, range & invasive sp. (9)
- Focus on students & early career (7)
- Publications; new journal & reviews (7)
- More technical info on herbicides (6)
- Numerous single responses
Challenges, opportunities and trends in weed mgt next 5-10 yr?

- **Challenges**
  - 21 categories

- **Opportunities**
  & trends - 6 categories

- **We must seek opportunities within the challenges**
Top 10 Challenges

% of responses

1. Invasive & noxious weeds; range, pasture & public lands; habitat & ecosystem restoration 20%
2. Funding issues 14%
3. Weed shifts & resistance; gene flow; weed genetics 10%
4. Improved cropping & IWM systems; biocontrol & non-traditional methods; integrating new technology 9%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Downsizing, retirements, lost positions; increased demands; low morale</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Few new herbicides; fewer MOA &amp; more generics; retaining current herbicides</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Grow, diversity membership; attract federal personnel; control meeting costs</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Top 10 Challenges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>% of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Public acceptance of biotechnology, genomics</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Few employment opportunities</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Influence policy, regulation, legislation; public education</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Honorable mention:</strong> Agency &amp; institution cooperation; alliances &amp; partnerships</td>
<td><strong>3%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Opportunities
% of responses

1. Chance to exercise leadership 36%
in invasive plant management,
ecosystem restoration, range,
forest, wildland weed mgt.

2. Take advantage of public receptiveness to educate about invasive species, importance of weed management; exploit wildlife angle 18%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Opportunities</th>
<th>% of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Exploit growth in specialty crops, turf &amp; ornamentals</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Integration of management tools; alternative methods; weed biology &amp; ecology</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Build partnerships and interdisciplinary cooperation</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Advance biotech traits, e.g. drought resistance</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Critical Issues

- Stay engaged and exercise leadership in invasive species and noxious weed issues
- Be proactive in identifying & securing funding sources for weed management research
- Be proactive in influencing policy, regulation & legislation, and engage in more public education
Critical Issues

- Promote improved cropping and IWM systems, biocontrol and non-traditional control methods; develop & integrate new technology
- Foster and promote agency and institution cooperation; form alliances and partnerships; hold joint meetings when they make sense
- Weed shifts, herbicide resistance, gene flow, and genetics
Critical Issues

- Diversify membership, seek a mix of scientists & federal agency personnel
- Consider meeting location, hotel and travel costs in light of increasingly tight budgets for most members
Thanks for your interest.