



**WSWS Officer and Committee Report
2021 Annual Meeting – Virtual**

Office or Committee Name: Legislative
Officer or Chairperson Name: Rachel J. Zuger
Date of Preparation (include year): 2/23/2021

Activities during the year:

Attended most Science and Policy Committee Conference Calls. I, Rachel Zuger, missed a few due to a couple schedule conflicts.

Efforts were made to contact via phone calls, vmail, and or email, all state weed coordinators and equivalent personnel in the Canadian Provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan (where the contact information was accurate) in January through February. Most of the contact information was updated through various means, but it still needs work, and continual updating because of changing cell numbers, email, and personnel. Contact information is also included after the survey responses section.

Contact was made by Rachel Zuger and John Vickery in Winter of 2021. **The goal was to ask the weed coordinators 5 questions and update the contact list.**

1. **Have there been legislative or administrative changes to the invasive or noxious weed lists in your states/provinces in the last year?**
2. **Do you know of other local weed control issues becoming more problematic?**
3. **How can WSWS be more of service to the WWCC?**
4. **Has the current 2020 pandemic impacted the emphasis and/or funding for invasive or noxious weed lists in your state/provinces in the last year?**
5. **Has the 2020 pandemic impacted the university weed research in your state? How has it impacted students (changes in research, delayed graduation, reduced funding, reductions in new students, etc.)?**

Recommendations for Board Action: None
Budget Needs: None

Name of Person Preparing This Report: Rachel Zuger & John Vickery

Results of calls or email correspondence from Zuger and Vickery:

State	Weed Coordinators	Comments (2021)
New Mexico	Unknown	NTR
North Dakota	Richard Weisz	No legislative changes to report. Administrative rules were repealed. Original rules only contained noxious weed list, however it was determined we did not need this in rule. The commissioner has authority to add or remove weeds at will. Palmer amaranth has become a lightning rod of discussion between landowners, extension, and weed control boards. Challenges have arisen because of weed seeds in grain screenings. Funding is always a concern. At the moment, the pandemic has not caused any direct changes to the weed control boards in North Dakota.
Oregon	Tim Butler	Oregon Department of Agriculture's Noxious Weed Control Program lost their state funding in mid-2020. State projects were put on hold and are unable to have another grant cycle. Noxious weed programs could turn to a by county focus. Some counties such as Wallowa county are making efforts to retain funding for the state noxious weed program. The demands on state funding by the pandemic have been felt statewide and even by weed control funding.
Idaho	Jeremey Varley	During the 2020 season two new weeds have been temporarily listed as noxious after being found in Idaho. I have attached the administrative order to add Turkish thistle (<i>Carduus cinereus</i>) and Goat's-rue (<i>Galega officinalis</i>) for your reference. Outside of the discovery of the two new species listed and mentioned above there is no additional species or issues to mention. Idaho currently has 67 listed species, 2 temporarily listed species, and 4 prohibited genera. Idaho was fortunate to able to continue all normal programs, functions, and activities with reason with the current federal and state social distancing guidelines.
Alaska	Dan Coleman	NTR
Arizona	Unknown	Nothing on legislative or administrative to report. Fountain grass (<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>) and sticknet (aka globe chamomile, <i>Oncosiphon piluliferum</i>) were added to the Arizona noxious weed list.
California	David Kratville	NTR
Colorado	Steve Ryder	No legislative changes. Colorado updated their administrative rule which involved no listing changes. The Watch List was removed from the rule so they could better keep it up to date. They also updated a number of List B weed management plans, which are housed in the rule. Colorado has had rush skeletonweed (List A) under control and surveillance for a number of years; but found a large area where it had spread recently and quickly. The county, with half-CDA funding did aerial application of the 250 acre site last winter (pre-pandemic) – then the entire area was consumed by wildfire this last fall . . . not sure what's all going to come up this spring. Steve's response to how WSWS can be more of a service was to "just keep that conveyer belt of research-to-OTG humming along; would be valuable to see more systematic and comprehensive knowledge of ecologically-based weed science/treatment/projects be compiled/distributed, as demand for integrated means continues to rise." Colorado state weed coordinators work has not been impact by the 2020 pandemic. Although funding wise there has been a surprisingly small impact, although most local-level programs are funded by property tax, which has not changed much. Services dependent on sales tax have not done so well. At the state level, we are more exposed to budgetary changes depending on the specific funding sources. Cash funds are holding steady while general funds are more subject to the budgetary process. The pandemic has not impacted students in Colorado.

Hawaii	Becky Azama	Hawaii has no updates to the noxious weed list. <i>Chromolaena odorata</i> (devil weed) is still of major concern for O’ahu and other islands, biological control is still being considered for a management strategy. Hawaii is also considering by conducting an environmental assessment for biological control with Brazilian beetle for another invasive plant, cane tibouchina (<i>Tibouchina herbacea</i>).
Montana	Jasmine Reimer	Montana just went through their most recent weed listing review cycle and although two species, Scotch thistle and puncturevine, were petitioned to be listed, neither species was added to the state list. Species can be petitioned at any time during the year, and their next meeting to review petitions and other state list issues is in April 2021. On the agenda includes creating a state watchlist for species that are petitioned but fail to be added to the state list during the review cycle. Other topics include re-prioritizing Tansy ragwort, Scotch broom, and our aquatic species Eurasian watermilfoil (and hybrid), curlyleaf pondweed, and flowering rush. The Department of Agriculture did create an emergency listing for Palmer amaranth in 2020. The rule was adopted in June to add Palmer amaranth to the restricted weed seed list (ARM 4.12.3011). This requires any seed that is for sale or sold in or to Montana, to have zero tolerance of Palmer amaranth seeds. Currently there is only one piece of legislation, HB42, that would impact the state noxious weed list. The bill is meant to clarify authorities for Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, allowing them to create an Aquatic Invasive Species list which would include submerged aquatic plants. There are six submerged/semi-submerged aquatic plants on the state noxious weed list that will be moved to the AIS list if the bill passes and list rules are adopted. The bill has been tabled in committee, so the future of those species is unknown. The 2020 Covid-19 pandemic has not impacted the emphasis and/or funding for invasive or noxious weed lists in the state but has affected management efforts for the weeds on the list. Several counties were unable to fully staff their summer crews due to distancing and safety protocols, others had staff out sick for long periods due to illness or quarantine, personal protective equipment was difficult to procure, community education was significantly decreased if done at all, and land managers had to adjust funding priorities to cover things other than noxious weed control.
Nebraska	Mitch Coffin	No legislative or administrative changes to report. Nebraska is always on the lookout for new invaders. They do not see anything on the horizon. The pandemic has not caused any changes to their weed lists and funding is running fairly normal.
South Dakota	Jeremy Phelps	NTR
Nevada	Sean Gephardt	NTR
Washington	Dana Coggon	There are a few bills that will impact the noxious weed programs in WA. Most important one is one being heard Feb.1 - 5, HB 135. HB 135 will rewrite specific sections of RCW 17.10 Our state noxious weed law. The majority of the changes in the bill address some challenges counties have had around the definitions of property and wording to include information of ownership to include Rights of ways and unidentified parcels. There are changes proposed to address the make-up of our county boards and helps local boards with challenges of filling vacant board positions. There is also information in the bill about when and how a local weed board can be dissolved. The bill also provides verbiage to address the noxious weed fees assessed to various state and county jurisdictions. There is a list of ~40 bills they are also following that either directly or indirectly impact the noxious weed programs and funding. There is a proposal to add Italian arum (<i>Arum italicum</i>), Ravenna grass, Spurge laurel, Myrtle spurge, annual bugloss, yellow flag iris, Hoary alyssum, small-flowered jewelweed, American spongeplant, South American spongeplant, Tree-of-heaven, and poison hemlock to the noxious weed seed

		and plant quarantine list. Public hearing our being held via teleconferences. At the university level, field work has continued on during the COVID pandemic. Greenhouse and lab work has been more complicated, and only priority research is being conducted with minimal people being allowed in to facilities at times.
Wyoming	Slade Franklin	<u>Legislative:</u> Noxious weed and weed seed lists are not administered in Wyoming by legislative process. <u>Administrative:</u> There are no additions or subtractions from Wyoming's state (designated) weed list. Common cocklebur was added to the Hot Springs County (declared) weed list recently by a joint resolution of the Hot Springs County Weed and Pest District, the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council, and the Wyoming Board of Agriculture. There was a discussion with the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council on the pros and cons of adding cheatgrass to the state (designated) list however no formal action has been initiated at this time. Medusahead and ventenata are still a high priority for the state of Wyoming and increased surveying has detected additional acreage through-out the northeastern part of the state. Niobrara County is continuing its battle with deptford pink and many counties have noticed the expansion of Musk thistle through-out the state even though biocontrol has naturally spread throughout those areas. WWSWS should be giving an annual update at WWCC relaying new science or research that the WWCC may not be aware of. The disconnect between research and land managers is widening and the active involvement in the annual meeting might help narrow the disconnect. There also needs to be a collective approach to invasive weed funding by all pertinent parties, as of now too many organizations are working independently without communicating their legislative needs. The pandemic has no impacts on state lists. Funding during the pandemic caused several state grant programs to be cut due to Governor's budget cut requirements due to the downturn associated with COVID. However, last year's state grant funding increase should be able to absorb the cuts. Wyoming legislature has put more emphasis on local funding and control. Due to this and the recommendations included in the 2020 Governor's Invasive Species Initiative, the legislature just recently removed several restrictions related to local funding for invasive species and have increased the flexibility within the stats on using district funds. University personnel and students were severely restricted from travel and field work. The University of Wyoming weed scientist position was also vacated during the pandemic. Fortunately, the University has prioritized re-filling the position quickly, but the delay in moving the opening forward has been hampered by the pandemic and funding. Senator Barrasso (WY) was recently appointed to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and will be chairing the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests. His committee staff have reached out and made clear that the Senator will be looking into how he can help the invasive species (weed) issue through the committee appointment.
Kansas	Unknown	NTR
Oklahoma	Unknown	NTR
Utah	Robert Hougaard	No updates to the Utah Noxious Weed Act. Utah has been working to advocate their noxious weed control act and pushing for compliance. For example, Utah counties have issued notice that if they have to and can control the noxious weed on properties deemed negligent, and then will send the owner or persons in possession of said property a bill for control methods.
Texas	Unknown	NTR
Saskatchewan	Clark Benzil	NTR
Alberta	Chris Neeser	No changes to the Weed Control Act and noxious/prohibited weed regulations currently. Although, a review is planned for the noxious/prohibited weed regulations. Glyphosate-resistant kochia is still a large concern and they are

		continuing to map the spread across Alberta (https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/af-glyphosate-kochia-resistant-susceptible-map.pdf).
British Col.	David Ralph (ret.)	NTR
Manitoba	Andrew Lewis (new)	NTR

State Weed Coordinators (Invasive and Noxious Weeds) – 2020-2021

STATE	WEED COORDINATORS	PHONE #	EMAIL	COMMENTS
Alaska	Dan Coleman <i>Natural Resource Specialist Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture</i>	(907) 745-8721	daniel.coleman@alaska.gov	
Arizona	Brian McGrew? <i>Quarantine Program Coordinator Arizona Department of Agriculture, Plant Services Division</i> John Caravetta <i>Associate Director Arizona Department of Agriculture, Plant Services Division</i>	(602) 542-0955 (602) 542-0996	jcaravetta@azda.gov	
California	David Kratville <i>Senior Environmental Scientist California Department of Food and Agriculture</i>	(916) 799-2462 No voicemail box	david.kratville@cdfa.ca.gov	
Colorado	Steve Ryder <i>State Weed Coordinator Colorado Department of Agriculture, Conservation Services Division</i>	(303) 239-4173 Office: (303) 869-9034 Cell: (303) 828-8329	steve.ryder@state.co.us	
Hawaii	Becky Azama <i>Noxious Weed Specialist</i>	(808) 973-9530	becky.n.azama@hawaii.gov	

	<i>Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Plant Pest Control Branch</i>	(808) 973-9538		
Idaho	Jeremy Varley <i>Section Manager – Noxious Weeds Idaho State Department of Agriculture</i>	Office:(208) 332-8667 Cell: (208)993-0950	jeremy.varley@isda.idaho.gov	
Kansas	Scott Marsh <i>Noxious and Invasive Weeds Specialist Kansas Department of Agriculture</i>	Office: (785) 564-6697 Cell: (785) 207-2118	scott.marsh@ks.gov	
Montana	Jasmine Reimer <i>State Noxious Weed Coordinator, Noxious Weed Program Manager Montana Department of Agriculture</i>	Office: (406) 444-3140 Cell: (406) 461-9207	jreimer@mt.gov	
Nebraska	Mitch Coffin <i>Noxious Weed Program Manager Nebraska Department of Agriculture</i>	Office: (402) 471-6844 Cell: (402) 416-0603	mitch.coffin@nebraska.gov	
Nevada	Sean Gephardt <i>Noxious Weed Coordinator, Plant Industry Division Nevada Department of Agriculture</i>	Office: (775) 353-3640 Cell: (775) 335-5657	sgephart@agri.nv.gov	
New Mexico	Jim Wanstall <i>State Noxious Weed Coordinator New Mexico Department of Agriculture</i>	(505) 269-7761	jwanstall@thntek.net	
	Dr. Leslie Beck <i>NMSU Extension Weed Specialist</i>	(575) 646-2888	lebeck@nmsu.edu	
North Dakota	Richard Weisz <i>Noxious Weeds Specialist North Dakota Department of Agriculture</i>	(701) 328-2250	raweisz@nd.gov	

	<i>Wyoming Department of Agriculture</i>			
PROVINCE	WEED COORDINATORS	PHONE #	EMAIL	COMMENTS
Alberta	Chris Neeser	(403) 362- 1331	chris.neeser@gov.ab.gov	
British Columbia	Crystal Chadburn <i>Professional Agrologist Invasive Species Council of BC</i>	?	crystal.chadburn@gov.bc.ca	
Manitoba	Andrew Lewis <i>Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association</i> Tammy Jones <i>Manitoba Agriculture</i> Kim Brown- Livingston	(204) 858- 2590	 tammy.jones2@gov.mb.ca kim.brown- livingston@gov.mb.ca	
Saskatchewan	Clark Brenzil <i>Provincial Weed Control Specialist Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture</i>	(306)787- 4673	clark.brenzil@gov.sk.ca	