

# WYOMING WEED MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

## Letter from the President

Volume 1 issue 1 11-02-06

New organizations just for the sake of new organizations don't make much sense. But new organizations which are needed and have a purpose or important function can be instrumental in helping individuals come together with a common goal. That is the way I view our newly formed Wyoming Weed Management Association. This organization has been talked about for a number of years, yet never came about because the need wasn't great enough. Now this organization has formed, because the need is here. The number of non-Weed District weed control people has increased dramatically. It also brings with it the need for an organization that includes "non-traditional" weed managers, thus the WWMA.

Weed managers from all walks of life have the common goal of "controlling or managing weeds." In order for us

to be effective at managing weeds, we must be informed, and armed with the best tools. Those tools include the reliable and accurate herbicide application equipment. But it goes way beyond that. Perhaps our most important tool in our battle against weeds is knowledge. Knowledge about which herbicides to use in which situations. Knowledge about which cultural methods will help prevent the invasion of weeds. Knowledge of which insects aid us in the battle against specific weed species. Knowledge about identifying weeds. When we come together as a group of individuals with a common goal, we can exchange information in order to make us better at what we do, and stay at the forefront of cutting edge technology. The battle with weeds must be viewed as a management effort, and we can all work together to

make weed control work on a larger scale. Regardless of which specialty you have, row crop weed control, turf and ornamental weed control, forest weed control, noxious weed control on rangelands, or right of way weed control, we all need information to make us better, and we all have information to share which will help others in doing their jobs. That is where the WWMA is heading. If you haven't yet joined this organization, I encourage you to please take a moment and fill out an application. And for members, I encourage you to become active and make this into your/our organization. Please join us in Casper for the first Wyoming Weed Management Association Conference January 30 thru February 1, 2007. Alan Pomeroy, Laramie

## Wyoming Weed Management Association to Hold Logo Contest

The WWMA is looking for talented individuals to submit their ideas on the organizations' logo. The WWMA is an organization that provides education and connections for fighting noxious weeds within Wyoming. Both members and non-members are eligible to enter. The entries should be submitted electronically in a jpeg format and need to be able to have the

size modified by the board. Selection of the logo will take place at the 2007 WWMA conference, by a voting of the membership. The winner will receive \$100 from WWMA. Please submit all entries to the following address(es);

**EMAIL:** [agrimind@wyoming.com](mailto:agrimind@wyoming.com)

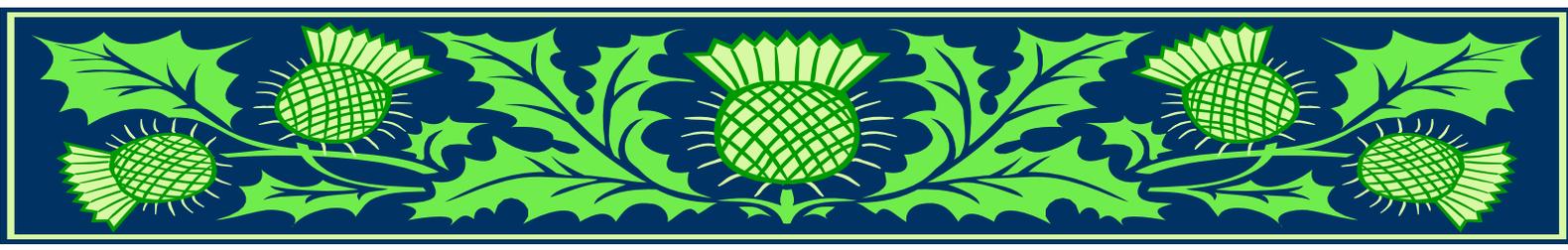
### MAILING ADDRESS:

WWMA logo contest

PO Box 595

Pine Bluffs, Wyoming 82082

If you have any questions, please contact Dessa Dale at 307-352-8932.



# Update on Saltcedar Biocontrol in Wyoming



Dense aggregation of saltcedar leaf beetles on an 8-inch long branch of saltcedar.

As of fall 2006, the saltcedar leaf beetle, *Diorhabda elongata*, has completely defoliated more than 95% of the saltcedar at least once along 32 miles of the Bighorn River in north-central Wyoming. Moreover, where the beetle has completely defoliated the same saltcedar 2-3 years in a row, 11.5% of the plants have died, a somewhat surprising result given the resiliency of saltcedar to burning and many mechanical controls.

The first releases of the saltcedar leaf beetle were made in field cages in 1999 and in the open field in 2001 at this site east of Lovell. In the Lovell area, the beetle normally has 2 generations per year. However, in 2006, the beetle appears to have had 3 generations owing to the early, warm spring and hot July temperatures.

Signs of what was to come were first seen in 2003, two years after the open field release of ~28,000 beetles on 4 adjoining saltcedars. In August of 2003, we detected many patches of saltcedar that

were near 100% defoliated or were in the process of being defoliated. We GPS'd the boundaries of all defoliated saltcedar patches ("hotspots") that we could find by foot, truck and plane. The total acreage of these hotspots was 22 acres. The furthest hotspot was 4.5 miles south-southeast from the release point and the hotspots were spread out over ~2500 acres. Much of the saltcedar in this area was not defoliated.

In fall 2004 and 2005, respectively, the total hotspot acreages were 202 and 444. In 2005, hotspots were found 6 aerial miles to the north, 9.5 aerial miles to the south, and 3.5 aerial miles to the west from the 2001 release point. Hotspots were observed in all age-size classes of saltcedar.

In fall 2006, it was no longer feasible to GPS the boundary of each and every hotspot. As previously mentioned, the extent of the defoliation area includes 32 river miles of the Bighorn River where more than 95% of the saltcedar has been defoliated at least once. Hotspots as far as 9 aerial miles from the Bighorn River have been located. Some of the latter hotspots are small patches of saltcedar around mining and livestock ponds, while others are near continuous infestations along tributaries of the Bighorn River such as the Shoshone River and Bear Creek.

Only time will tell how this massive outbreak of the saltcedar leaf beetle will proceed and what its long-term impacts on saltcedar and the surrounding plant communities will be. The whole-

plant mortality rate of 11.5% observed in 2006 will likely increase as a larger number of plants have now been continuously defoliated for up to 4 years. Colleagues at a site in Nevada where massive defoliation began 1 year earlier report a mortality rate of 69%. A concern here is that the Lovell and Nevada sites, as well as the few other sites where the beetle is inducing mortality, have been in a severe drought since the beetles were first released. Is the drought in combination with defoliation leading to these surprising levels of mortality?

Additional release sites for the saltcedar leaf beetle across the major saltcedar-infested drainages of Wyoming were started in 2005 and 2006 by USDA-APHIS, University of Wyoming, and local cooperators. Perhaps next year will be the time to see initial beetle outbreaks at these sites comparable to that observed at the Lovell site.

Dave Kazmer, USDA-ARS



Close-up of a third-instar larva of the saltcedar leaf beetle.





## View from a Commercial Applicator

The Wyoming Weed Management Association was formed by a diverse group of individuals dedicated to the management of invasive plants in the state of Wyoming.

The combined years of experience represented by the WWMA, has helped it's members recognize a need for better educational opportunities, and communication among the commercial applicators that apply their trade in a variety of different environments across the state.

As a commercial applicator, I personally, have experienced the frustrations of taking in continuing educational seminars that had little, if any, relevance to what occurs in the field. What the WWMA has to offer is a more tailored course of instruction pro-

vided by researchers, and industry experts specifically oriented to the needs of the commercial applicator, and the ongoing battle in arresting the invasion of noxious weeds in this diversified, and ever changing environment.

As technology changes, our jobs become more involved. The WWMA provides a source for information, through the web site, as well as educational seminars and the ability to network with individuals across the state, and with similar interests and goals.

Working with representatives of the industry, to keep abreast of developments in equipment, techniques, and chemistry, that effect literally every facet of the industry, from agricultural applications to Right of Ways, and reclamation, to turf and grounds keeping.

The WWMA invites commercial applicators to share their knowledge with others in the field, and provides any who would have questions, with a means to find the answers they need to stay ahead of the curve in this rapidly changing industry. None of us have all the answers, but all of us, by working together, can create a tool in the WWMA that we can well all benefit from.

Jim Rogers, Big Piney

## WWMA Charter Officers

The following are the charter officers for the Wyoming Weed Management Association. Regular officers will be voted into office at the first annual meeting in January. The nomination committee includes: Allen Mooney, Campbell Co., Rich Bayers, Buffalo, and Keith Kennedy, Burns.

President Alan Pomeroy, Owner Operator of Headwater Weed Control Services, Laramie

Vice President Janelle Gonzales, Bureau of Land Management, Buffalo

President Elect Larry Justesen, Carbon County Weed & Pest, Rawlins

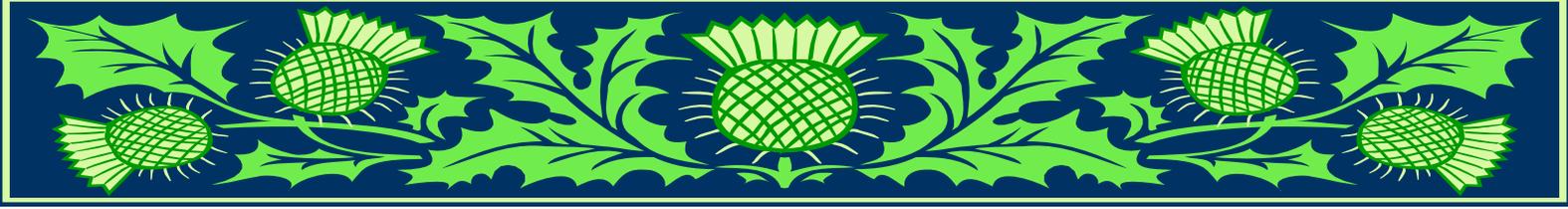
Secretary Rich Bayers, Owner Operator Back Country Spraying, Buffalo

Treasurer Keith A. Kennedy, Agrimind, Burns

Board Member Angela Safranek, Medicine Bow National Forest, Encampment

Board Member Reserved for Weed & Pest Council Appointee





# WWMA Annual Conference

January 30-February 1 2007

Casper, Wyoming

A real opportunity for weed management professionals exists this coming January as the Wyoming Weed Management Association, in conjunction with the **University of Wyoming Pesticide Applicator Recertification and the UW Weed Management Workshop of Professionals** is pleased to announce its first conference to be held on January 30 – February 1, 2007 in Casper, Wyoming at the Parkway Plaza.

This conference is the first annual meeting of the Wyoming Weed Management Association and will also fulfill recertification credits for all pesticide applicator categories. Ten hours of CEU's are also available for certified crop advisors.

The mission of the WWMA is to promote and facilitate collaboration and education on weed management issues among all interested parties in Wyoming. This meeting will provide a platform for both, in conjunction with two other opportunities: The UW Pesticide Applicator Recertification and the Weed Management Workshop for Professionals.

## Conference highlights include:

New invasive weed and aquatic weed alerts

Chemical company updates

Reclamation and re-vegetation weed issues

Basic botany and herbicide mode of action

Crop weed control updates

Turf and ornamental weed control

Wyoming State Weed Management Plan progress

Weed Management Areas (CRM's) in Wyoming

Small acreage weed management issues

Weed mapping strategies

And much more!

For registration and information, call 1-877-733-3618, extension 2 or 307-766-5249. Registration fees are \$60 for WWMA members, \$80 for non WWMA members, \$25 for WWMA membership and \$40 additional for CEU's. A special room rate of \$58 is available at the Parkway Plaza if you mention the Weed Management Workshop and make reservations by January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The Parkway Plaza's phone numbers are: 307-235-1777 or 1-800-270-7829.

This is a great opportunity for weed management professionals, resource managers, parks and recreation managers, energy companies, chemical and equipment companies, consultants, landowners and land managers and anyone interested or involved in weed management issues to come together to meet, talk and learn more about weed management in Wyoming.

Register now for this professional development opportunity

