



The Idaho Association of WEED CONTROL SUPERINTENDENTS

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2020 ANNUAL MEETING

Idaho State Department of Agriculture
2270 Old Penitentiary Road, Boise, Idaho
Downstairs Conference Room

Monday, January 13, 2020 1:00 p.m.

Chairman Kali Sherrill welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Introductions were done and new weed superintendents were welcomed.

Comments from ISDA Staff-

Director Gould-welcomed the superintendents for the annual meeting. She reported the ISDA budget is up Wednesday and they have been focused upon that. Adam inquired as to a budget reset if not this year next year. Yes and this will impact plants it will come from the invasive species budget because it must come out of general funds. Invasive Species will provide less \$113,000 out of last year and \$285,000 this year. Boat registrations have gone up to help with this and services should remain the same. Container recycling was asked with some concerns about them not servicing us. Celia will call Vic and he will help us with that. Lloyd will send Kali and Bonnie Vic Mason's contact information so that we can share it. Celia thanks us for the work on the ground and the help with boat check stations. She reiterated if she can help us with things please let her know.

Lloyd Knight-welcomed the superintendents he stated they are very busy with the legislative session and the merging of the rules with rulemaking. They are waiting on the feds for flowering rush, ESA consultation and internal review. Prohibition with funds being used on federal lands. The past 2 years the surveys have included a great deal of good information.

Jeremey Varley-addressed the Cost Share mapping requirements and gave a brief mapping overview. He addressed in the Cost Share handbook Appendix 4 the mapping requirements are addressed. He discussed the 2019 mapping results they have received and the Survey 1-2-3 option for 2020 for those CWMA's who do not have funding and such for mapping. He has been researching the mapping archives and the oldest he has found is 2007. He remarked in the past mapping could be electronic or hand drawn and the data was not uniform. CWMA's asked for funding. 2017 was the last year paper maps could be handed in. In 2018 he wanted all the data to talk and the arguments were we are not data analysts we are weed sprayers. In 2018 he asked they report if CWMA dollars were used where weed points are shown on the map. Data requirements came out in the 2019 handbook. He sent an email April 2019 announcing the Survey 123 mobile app when cost share agreements were sent out. For 2020 Cost Share the mapping portal was an option to submit these. A few people used it but many did not because that option was not included on the check off list. He stated that other CWMA

mapping data (not funded) is beneficial but not required. He stated this will not take place of the county mapping program. The website is: <https://arcg.is/OT9SG> Jeremy's recommendation if we have a dedicated mapping program in place use it. If we want to use this for the CWMA only that's great. Jeremy addressed the distribution mapping request that was sent out last fall. He stated they have been sharing with EDDMap sites are within a 20 mile radius and the purpose of this is to protect landowner's privacy. They hired a GIS intern to help with this and their in house data. Per Jeremy this is in Idaho law IC 22-2404 so they have accurate info. Jeremy asked counties to do this only this year. They realized a lot of the EDDMap data is incorrect so they used weed sups to go through to get more accurate information. They do have a new GIS analyst that is combined with ITS based at the state office and does ISDA's heavy stuff.

IAC and How They are Assisting County's with Building Weed Programs-Seth Grigg, Executive Director was absent.

Biological Control-Joey Milan, BLM announced he is no longer a state employee and is BLM only. Updates are as follows: White top-the white top gall mite was approved for release in 2018 but colony crashed. There are many sites identified for releases and he wants releases in ideal spots and will be hands on with this and sites need to be 3-miles apart. He spoke of agents or possibilities for yellow starthistle, knotweeds (bohemian, giant and Japanese), flowering rush. A cheatgrass agent in Serbia a cryptic weevil is host specific. He touched on medusahead and that Mark Schwarzlaender is working on petition for hounds tongue. Dyers woad, rush skeletonweed moth is established in 4 sites in Idaho and they have seen minor reductions. Joey may need root sample and he will do the collections of all 3 genotypes of rush skeletonweed in Idaho. He reported the diaoraba for salt cedar moves 15-20 miles per year and is established in areas near Steck Park in Washington County. They are currently trying to figure out why leafy spurge bio works in some areas and not in others. He stated if you have a problem with St. John's Wart put it on your request list for this year. The group thanked Joey for his efforts.

Break

Get to Know the New Weed Superintendents-Kali Sherrill moderator

Kraig Edwards-Bingham County shared he started with the weed department in high school in the mapping program, he was one of former weed superintendent Paul Muirbrook's kids. He was hired in 2005 as a seasonal and was hired as the weed superintendent this last spring. He reports to the Public Works director who has directed Kraig to be involved and inform the director. He has one full time who is his assistant and 5 seasonal employees. The program has shifted they had 4 spray trucks and 2 mowers and this year they have 4 mowers and 3 spray trucks. Their focus is roadsides and the commissioners feel mowers are much more visual. They do not treat private property but he does enforcements and does have contract work they do. Kali encouraged him to contact neighboring weed superintendents if he has questions.

Matt Stanger-Bonneville County started in 2006 after graduating from ISU and his dad was a ranch conservationist with BLM in Colorado. He will be putting more importance on the CWMA and working more with them. He is trying to stress to the commissioners the importance of new invaders. Where do you want your program to go? He wants to do more spring treatment of knapweed, meeting regularly with commissioners this is a new thing. He has ample funding.

Kelly Thomason-Lewis County has been on the job for 2 weeks. He got his consultants license in 1981 and 1994 for his CCA. He is a bar owner and will be part time with Lewis County with part time funding and is a one man show. Kelly will be an advisor only and the county will contract everything out. Chip Haight will be helping him out.

Matt Voile-Payette County shared he started with Stevens County Washington in 1991 and did this for 5 years. This was all enforcement and roadside work. In 1995 he went to Umatilla County Oregon and served there for 9.5 years where he did 3800 shoulder miles of roadside. He sent a lot of nasty grams and this was all complaint driven. He came to ISDA in 2004 and was hired by former Director Pat Takasugi. In 2007 the world changed due to federal funding going away and Matt continued to inherit other programs in addition to terrestrial weeds. He did not retire from ISDA he quit in 2014/2015 due to family health issues. Payette County is the smallest county in the state and he is starting at the ground level with mapping as they do not have a current mapping program. Problems he is seeing: wages, some equipment needs updating and he looks forward to the challenge.

Kali asked that some of the weed superintendents with years of service provide advice. Dave Herold-get the people's support, Reid Smith suggested get close to your county clerk and Reid is currently looking for his replacement to start training. Denny Williams said get along with the people remember we work for them, they are our bosses and the Board of County Commissioners is working under a strain. 10% of their county is privately owned and we are constantly competing with other departments for funding. Richard Friddle, Canyon County stated have contact with the people, if people like you it will be a benefit.

Closing Comments/Announcements

Credits will be given for the two days at the end of the day tomorrow.
Meeting adjourned.

Day 2, Tuesday, January 14, 2020

7:15-7:55 Coffee/Refreshments

8:00-Welcome by Chairman Kali Sherrill

Agenda Change: Jim McNall is late due to the wintery conditions this morning and is held up in traffic. We will start with Region Updates so we do not fall behind on the schedule.

Region Updates-

Region 4-Terry Ruby reported that Terry Lee, Camas County has been working on smartweed at Mormon reservoir. They have been covering 600 acres per year at a cost of \$20,000 and performing the application with an Idaho Department of Fish and Game helicopter. Reid Smith, Minidoka County has the leafy spurge in check. He is seeing an increase in rush skeletonweed and musk thistle. John Cenarrusa, Blaine County has served as the weed superintendent for 36 years. 2 people treated 3,500 acres and did 8 CWMA spray days in addition to numerous education opportunities. They are working on with the Southern Idaho Bio Crew and doing releases for spotted knapweed, rush skeletonweed and Dalmatian toadflax. Kali Sherrill, Twin Falls County reported he crew makes her look good. This past year they have experienced a lot of weather troubles. For 2019 their CWMA private in-kind was \$139,000 for the total amount of \$219,000. Terry Ruby-Tri-County shared they treated 207 acres of spot spraying for 11 highway districts, 398 acres for the irrigation companies, 1,479 for BLM and 156 acres for UPRR. This past year cost share funds helped 10 private landowners and up to as many as 50 in the past. They continue to work with the Southern Idaho Bio Control project and would like to thank his crew. Terry Ruby suggested if anyone is having problems with UPRR to contact Kraig Edwards, Bingham County.

Region 5-Mike LaRue changes within the UICWMA, there is currently no sup in Franklin but Mike has applied. Oneida treated almost \$12,000 acres and Bannock County helped out with the drone. They did 12 spray days and 10 between other 2 counties. They have added half of Caribou County which is 1.2 million acres. Bannock-did a lot of roadside

and they helped each other. Bingham contracts out a lot and their greatest accomplishment is the UPRR issue with the first meeting with all of us held at Twin Falls County. Kraig's public works director accompanied him as well as the civil attorney. They did send an enforcement letter to the railroad. They sent a packet with specific dates and received no response. It got delivered and they got the receipt back. No response to emails or phone calls. So they began following through with the enforcement procedures as they were spelled out. They mapped 88 acres and 2 applications were done. After the first application no contact, did the second spray and still no response to the bill. No success with the contact numbers Mary Beth provided, the 3rd number was for their lawyer. New contact is Kristina Stoner, vegetative program manager who took care of those things.

Region 6-Mitch Whitmill reported Bryce Fowler, Fremont County has great agreements with federal partnerships and did lots of CRP. Mitch wants to do all of this as well. They do spray roadsides plus ITD. Major changes include Jeffrey leaving in August. Tony Pozenel, Madison chemically treated 2,500 acres and are doing a lot of reseeding and over seeding a lot of areas including roadsides. Amanda Williams, Teton County is still developing her program she is full time and did her 1st bio control release the summer of 2019. She did lots of landowner consultations this past summer. Bo Billman, Clark County is a 1-man show and has one employee. He has nearly 1,200 miles of roadside equating to 2,400 lane miles. They did 2 CWMA projects with Bo this past year. Sharayh Krantz-Lemhi County said her ITD contract increased this past year but they do it all for them due to the endangered species issue. We all have more to do and they have hosted regional meetings and hosted the summer meeting in Stanley. Matt Montelius is no longer with Custer County and that position is currently vacant. Mark Wheeler, Butte County has ITD contracts and has a similar program with roadside work.

ICRMP-Jim McNall, Risk Management Specialist began with the "Fun of Supervising". Personnel management and your policy is the most important part. Then adopt other policies for your department with the blessing of your Board of County Commissioners. We need guidance regarding the use of vehicles because we are unusual and items such as purchasing won't be specific enough for us. Making purchases before we go to bid and we can make purchases up to \$50,000 without a bid. Computer usage-employees perception is different than reality because younger folks are techy-protect your information don't share it at home. Our duties and issues: do you do evaluations, only one county in the room requires them. He spoke of how they can be good or bad. For cause or at will employment-generally in the state of Idaho we are at will, before the change we were for cause. Question was asked about probationary periods. McNall stated they took probation out. Assumption always at something else for cause if you get through probation period. Retaliation-Whistleblowing-you cannot make this look like retaliation. Harassment often connected to retaliation. Employees must have training. If an employee complains do not try to fix the problem, report to designated person, if that is not in your policy find out who it is. Drug Testing-if you have a CDL you must do so. Be aware of county policy. We cannot do random testing unless someone is sensitive. Clark, Oneida and Twin Falls stated they all do random drug testing. The courts have said for public employees (with no CDL) it is unreasonable search and seizure if you do random testing. Connie asked about CWMA's for instance if a partner is acting inappropriately at a regional meeting or if we have employees being inappropriate send them home. Role of the Staff: drinking too much the night before; we are responsible for their behavior. Pretend to like your co-workers, provide a service even to difficult customers, employee expectation-remember we can never guarantee safety. The most dangerous thing in every workplace is the employee who does things unsafe. Be free of unlawful

harassment. When you have an employee you are not pleased with make a list of things that irritate you. If you never share those things with the employee this is a problem. How do we create liability? Hiring the wrong person-always call on references, failing to properly train said employee, sometimes we create liability if you don't say something to the employee. Remember we do not owe someone a reason because we did not hire them. Document all training you do. Do not hire anyone under the age of 18. They cannot be involved with hazardous items. As for youth labor rules look on the Idaho Department of Labor website. Supervisors: importance of driver supervision, protect the reputation of the county. Regarding the vehicle use policy McNall suggests you go beyond what our policy says. He stated with volunteer firefighters they often see that the guys have been drinking so they cannot respond as they cannot operate equipment. He covered wearing seat belts as well as backing. Jim looks forward to returning next year.

Organic Producers-Gwen Ayres, ISDA Ag Program Manager explained the organics program is subject to USDA oversight and audits. There is a certification process they must submit annually and every farm must have an on-site inspection annually. She reviewed land requirements, buffers and talked in depth about them. The farmer has to determine the buffer you do not have to allow them to use the right of way. What is an adequate buffer was asked. There is no rule for buffers however they need to notify the weed department, highway districts and others who maintain said right of ways. Organic producers are not exempt from the laws. They are allowed to use synthetic herbicides. One superintendent shared his organic grower asks for a letter stating they have not sprayed the property. Gwen said a new landowner usually inquires to the previous landowner what has been sprayed on the property. We are not required to provide such letters to producers. If anyone has any questions please contact Gwen for more information and assistance.

Break

ROW/No-Spray Zones Panel Discussion-Adam Schroeder moderator.

Adam spoke about easements including those for utilities. He shared that easements die with whoever it was tied to and not all are ROW easements. He covered no spray zones and explained that is an agreement with the landowner to ensure no herbicides are applied to a particular landowner's ROW. A no spray zone does not have to be granted that decision is up to the agency charged with maintaining the ROW. Kevin Kostka, ISDA Representative explained he began his career with administrative operations manager with Ada County Weed & Pest. At ISDA he does pesticide regulatory work. Kevin explained to treat ROW's you must have the right of way or Ag Herbicide endorsement on your license. The right of way endorsement does not allow other types of treatments. Staff members that aren't licensed were asked about? Kevin stated if you do not create an invoice and have sole control over the right of way and no money is exchanged then no license is required. If money is exchanged you must be a licensed pesticide applicator. The label is the law and when treating ROW's you must do as the label says. Discussion of the discrepancy what is desirable vegetation on the right of way. It is the applicator vs. the landowner. The ideal situation is the no spray zone is signed on both ends of the property and the landowner is taking care of the site. He stated ISDA does not regulate if we treat by an organic grower if you had knowledge that could be an issue. Not all matters are black and white. Be cautious of tree roots, drip lines, soil types etc. ISDA also takes into consideration the precautions the applicator took. If your county gives you money to treat roadsides and there is no actual dollars exchanged you are not required to be licensed. Chase stated in his area they have sole proprietorship and there is no highway district. They do have a no spray policy set by the Board of County Commissioners. He has some landowners who do this annually. He has the agreements

available in April and they must be returned to his office by late May late June at the latest. Everyone gets 2 or 4 signs that are all the same provided by the county with instructions on how to post the property. They are done on an annual basis. The landowner must control noxious weeds and any vegetation we require be dealt with. Dave Wenk asked if renters have the same right, Kevin stated you need to talk to the landowner. Chase received 40-70 of these agreements annually. He estimates he has 50% compliance and those that do not comply get one warning letter before he takes care of the problem. He and his applicator have a spreadsheet with all those listed so they are up to speed. He has 1400 lane miles with three county road departments that are cut up into districts. Adam pointed out we have an enforcement process when dealing with organic producers and encouraged those experiencing problems to lean on the rules and statutes. Idaho county contracts out their roadside spraying and have all the no spray zones listed on the map on a handheld device. Enforcements are tough and in her county you will get ran off. She also has road districts she does not control which are a problem. Kali shared she has five highway districts and they do not do ROW work but some does get done on spray days. Her highway districts do allow no spray zones and all districts use the same form. Adam reported that ACHD has taken the spray contract private. In the problem areas ACHD has created an internal set of policies to not treat where it is no convenient especially unmaintained ROW's has will keep us up to speed how this all went down.

Business Meeting- Reports

INWCA Board-Kali reported that Patxi Larrocea-Phillips is the new Executive Director for the Idaho Noxious Weed Control Association. Rick Waitley is still working he is just lightening his load. There has been a name change for the association as I stated above. As for credits for the 2020 conference this week there are 10 credits available.

IWCC Board-Terry Lee reported at their last meeting they voted to disband the committee. They would like to move forth with the state Noxious Weed Advisory Committee. The contract ends March 1, 2020. When this was created the leaders were sitting at the table and now the representatives that attend have no power to vote for their agency.

IAC Summer Meeting 2019-Adam Schroeder did this presentation as only 15 minutes were allowed. He spoke about the laws and statutes we operate under. The county clerks had several questions which was good to hear. Chairman Kali Sherrill will present at the IAC Winter Conference on February 6, 2020 and she will have a half hour to address them. Kali asked for suggestions for the upcoming presentation. Connie Jensen-Blyth stated her clerk is the new IAC Vice-Chair and she thinks we should do something interactive to get the elected officials involved.

Minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting: Motion made by Adam Schroeder to approve minutes of the 2019 annual meeting as presented, second by Denny Williams. Motion carries.

Treasurers Report: The 2019 budget ended on 9/30/2019 with a balance of \$16,524.49 Budgeted funds remaining were \$5,540.57 with expenses totaling \$4,759.43. The 2020 budget prepared by the executive board totals \$10,600; current checkbook balance of \$18,503.96 with \$10,179.47 budgeted funds remaining as of 1-13-2020. Motion was made by Terry Ruby to accept the final financial report for 2019 and the 2020 budget report as presented. Second by Mike LaRue, motion carries.

Awards:

The following awards were presented by Chairman Kali Sherrill and Vice Chair Dave Wenk

5-yr. certificates were presented to David Herter-Bannock County and Connie Jensen-Blyth-Idaho County.

20-yrs. Bonnie Davis-Washington County, 30-yrs. Reid Smith-Minidoka County.

Weed Superintendent of the Year-Dave Wenk, Bonner County presented Chase Youngdahl with the Weed superintendent of the year award. Congratulations! This award is sponsored by Kent Pittard, Bayer and Trent Brusseau, Corteva. Our thanks to Kent & Trent.

New Business

Idaho Invasive Species Council-Next meeting is this Friday (day after our conference) at ISDA. Please let Jeremy Varley now by the end of the day today if you plan to attend so that ISDA can plan lunch for those attending. You can join by phone if you wish.

Region Representative's & Alternates-Please get with Bonnie and notify her who will be representing your respective regions.

Executive Board Meetings 2020-Spring meeting April 8, 2020-Salmon, Idaho, Summer meeting July 25-25th, 2020 Garfield Bay Campground, Sagle Idaho, Fall meeting October 7, 2020-Bonnors Ferry, Idaho.

Other Business/Announcements-Jake Wyant, Gem County will be retiring September 30, 2020. Jake has served as the weed superintendent in Gem County since 2002. Congratulations and best wishes to Jake as he begins the next chapter of his life!

Lunch Break-

The group thanked Lloyd for the delicious tri-tip he prepared for lunch.

All About Idaho County-Connie Jensen-Blyth has served as the weed superintendent for nearly five years previously working for the BLM. The Upper Clearwater CWMA is comprised of 3.1 million acres with various elevations and soil types, vegetation varieties with a lot of dry canyons which are highly susceptible to fires. Ownership-USFS (5 forests, 3 different regions, BLM, IDL, IDF&G, tribal, timber industries, numerous little townships scattered about and they border Oregon and Montana. FEMA money is coming for rehab/treatment after the 2015 wildfires with black berries and annual grasses targeted for treatment. Inventory-before they managed data with the USFS using their program now the county has hired a GIS specialist. Last year they treated 3,400 acres. They are working on a restoration project for Japanese knotweed 10-12 solid miles along a creek. They are mapping and treating with some plants 30 feet tall in the summer. Funding was obtained from US Fish & Wildlife and they treated with Rodeo as this was the only aquatic herbicide allowed and it was mixed with an aquatic surfactant. Yellow Flag Iris is targeted for fall treatment and a lot of that work was done by boat. They are using a lot of biological control.

What to Expect When Being Inspected/Rules & Laws that Affect Weed

Superintendents-Daniel Sandoval, ISDA explained the Pesticides Law and Safety Division does inspections. Professional applicators must have credit hours every two years which you can obtain 7 of these online. There are 22 different pesticide license endorsements. Study materials can be obtained from ISDA for a fee and the Law and Safety manual is available as a PDF online for no charge. For those with applicators who will be testing University of Nevada has practice exams we can access for free. The National applicator core manual is accessible online. Daniel does have math documents that he will share with us upon request. Reach out to Daniel if you have an applicator who is struggling to pass Ag Herbicide test. He will hand grade and if they are scoring 60-69% he will help with the areas they are struggling. He explained they do inspections because they are charged with enforcing the laws. This is a FIFRA requirement and they must meet ISDA's commitment. They will take pictures of what you are wearing to be sure you are in compliance with the label and PPE requirements. They do spot checks

when they are out driving around. ISDA can do snap shot inspections they check your license, take a photo of it and move on. He covered chemical storage signage and what is required. You must include emergency contact information on the signs. Record Keeping-if they inspect your records they may request 1-30 records for a particular application. He cautioned that when you use a cell phone to record the temperature you could be hitting a cell tower several miles away so be cautious. It is best to use a wind gauge that provides that information. Regarding WPS: he cautioned be careful of small pastures if they are cutting them for hay the pasture now becomes a commodity and you must document dates, time, names, when you communicated with the landowner etc. He recommended it is not required you place your jogs in a container and don't store liquids over dry materials in case you develop leaks. The most common infraction they find is improper eye protection. Typically sun glasses people are wearing do not have brow guards which are required. He said you can ask your distributor for safety gear Norco or whoever that may be to also add prescription to safety glasses. SDS sheets are not required but nice to have in case there are issues. Dealer Certification Inspections-if you are selling or recommending RUP's you must be licensed as a dealer he talked about the record keeping requirements. Visit ISDA website for more information. You can also ask for a voluntary inspection and they will help you and let you know if you are not doing things correctly. They are here to help.

Region Updates-

Region 1-Chase Youngdahl their region is made up of Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone and Benewah County. There are 2 CWMA's in this region the Selkirk which is comprised of Bonner and Boundary and the Inland Empire which is made up of Kootenai, Shoshone and Benewah. The Inland Empire has used the Idaho Conservation Corps for hand-pulling weeds. Jake Strange-Kootenai County is reorganizing the organization he is trying to get property owners to spray themselves and education was their focus last year. They do have loaner equipment and the Selkirk CWMA has multiple spray days. All are involved with educational functions year round. Successes-region 1 is doing well with EDRR programs and their operating budget seems stable they have good agency partnerships. Differences unique to the region are little or no enforcement and a short field season.

Chase reported the Selkirk does not do any contracting they and partners do it all.

Region 2-Alan Martinson reported the Nez Perce County Road & Bridge supervisor currently is named the weed superintendent. Nez Perce did get a new commissioner last year and he started requesting a weed report from the Road & Bridge Director. The technician said they are working on scotch thistle. There are various species showing up in this county and are on the move. Latah is working on education and enforcement and meeting with landowners. Numerous species are on the move and the rush skeletonweed are on the move. Lewis County-Kelly Thomason new superintendent reminded the group he is new to the job and stated the Clearwater River floods each year which has challenges and the puncturevine has just exploded. Denny reported that he and Dan spray 250 miles of roadside, and they typically work their 40 hours in 3 days. They have a lot of new people moving into the county and 200 log trucks go through a day just in Orofino. They no longer have no spray zones since a county commissioner did a ride along. Refer to Connie's county report for Idaho County.

Region 3-Adam Schroeder reported that Steve has no new invaders and doing enforcements, Matt Voile, Payette County reported he is new to the job so is building the program from scratch, Dave Humpherys reported he is still concentrating on eradicating Squarrose knapweed and this year he found 20 plants in 1,300 acres. Dave Herold reported they are holding the line on leafy spurge and Mediterranean sage. Chris Friend

just retired from Adams County and she is their CWMA chair. Jake Wyant, Gem County reported he lost 2,000 acres of Bureau of Reclamation work as they have went through a private contractor. Richard Friddle representing Canyon County reported they have no new invaders. Bonnie Davis, Washington County reported a few plants of hoary alyssum have been found adjacent to the Weiser River. She reported on the yellow starthistle treatments done aerial as well as ground work and the common crupina aerial project that BLM has focused upon. This is a brand new invader to our county. Adam reported that Ada County is trading yellow starthistle for rush skeletonweed and perennial sowthistle has been found in a park in Boise. He reported that Desiree serves as the deputy director. They do have a five year plan that has been signed by the Board of County Commissioners, their annual strategic plan has been published and the annual report will go to ISDA soon. Through restructure of their department they will be doing more aquatics.

Break-

Weed Control in Neighboring States-Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board Executive Secretary shared she served as the Ferry County coordinator 2009-2014 and King County 2014-2018. The purpose of their board is to protect ag from economic loss. There are nine voting members on their state noxious weed board. She explained her duties which include right of entry and agreements, noxious weed listing process. She elaborated that each November they have a hearing to make decisions for requests to add or delete weeds per county. They have Class A and B, Class C&D are required control for their county. They deal with owner's agreements with the county, enforcements and infractions, civil infractions and penalties. Coordinators have the authority per code to go to the sheriff's office and check out a ticket book if you feel there is impending danger you can take an officer with you. They do have an annual coordinator's conference. The coordinator has the ability to work with the landowner if they wish to. The penalty schedule is per weed class and fees range from \$500-1,000. This can be per species per parcel per day so can become quite costly. Less than half the counties in the state use citations. Penalty funds go to the state. She thinks they would be more apt to enforce if they got to keep the money. They do Class A-Eradication Project Grant funding annually. 2019-\$15,000 for 3 class A grant projects. 2018-Columbia County rec'd \$4,000 for med sage eradication and they treated 2 sites and surveyed and documented infestations. The State Noxious Weed Board does print materials and beautify seed packets which are native pollinator seed packets. They have one for the east side of the state and a different one for the west side of the state. Mary left materials to share with us and she will allow her PowerPoint to be put on our website. Our thanks for Mary for setting joining us for our annual meeting and presenting today.

DEQ-NPDES Updates-Troy Smith, IPDES Bureau Chief Idaho DEQ has been in this position for 6 months. (PowerPoint did not work) Troy reported as of July 1, 2020 the state is taking NPDES in its entirety from EPA. This is the third year of this process. There are 3 types of permits: 1. Municipal, 2. Industrial, 3. General Permits-individual permits are included in this and general are written to cover multiple discharges in a geographic area. PGP falls under this. Reporting will be done through EPA thru June 30, 2020. Idaho is one of four states that did not have a program and the (feds) EPA covered it. The state has other components such as TMDL's and water quality standards. The legislature said the requirements cannot be any more stringent that the current but they cannot be any less stringent. Regarding Endangered Species and Fisheries-DEQ will not do consultations with the federal government. The consultation has been completed and it will just move from EPA to DEQ. The permit will continue upon expiration in 2021 and the new permit has not been issued. They have 29 employees and all but one are

already on board. The cost for the program is \$3.1 million annually. PGP that was drafted and issued in 2011 again in 2016 and expires in 2021. He feels this will be a smooth transition.

Weed Control in Neighboring States-Jasmine Reimer, State Weed Coordinator Montana Department of Agriculture said have 56 counties and 7 tribes. The bulk of the work is done at the county level and they do have a county weed act. Districts are partially funded by a mill levy and many contract with Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service, BLM and tribes. The received grants from the state which can be used for salaries and equipment and they are able to save for large purchases even a building if that is the need. Not all county coordinators are full time. On the east side a lot are part time and some join counties together for one full time coordinator. The district coordinator is hired by the commissioners and they also appoint the weed board members who help the coordinator. They are the approval for enforcements and the go between for coordinator and commissioners. The levy is dedicated to the districts. Montana currently has 36 noxious weeds on their list in addition to 44-46 county listed weeds. The state list is in rule and can be added to or have weeds deleted as necessary. The average is adding 1 new weed every other year. Cheatgrass is a state regulated weed but not noxious the same with Russian olive. Some counties have both listed. Montana Trust Fund-is part of Jasmine's program. This began in 1985 as the need arose for sustainable funding for research and education. There is a surcharge on herbicides is how it began. There was a one-time transfer of funds from the legislature to start the fund. There is \$10 million in the fund, withdrawals must be approved by 2/3's of the legislature. Interest money from the trust fund is used to fund programs. They also help soil conservation districts, extension offices, universities to investigate bio control overseas. They do have an education campaign, bio control coordination project and some insectaries received trust funding. Groups may apply to the Montana Dept. of Agriculture and grant applications close on January 6th. This year they received 86 submissions the process then is a 15 minute interview after which recommendations are made to the director who has the final decision. There is approximately \$2.5 million for programs per year. Forest Service and BLM can also receive funding. Montana does receive federal funding for the program. Match required is 50/50 and can be herbicide, contract costs, revegetation, education etc. Jasmine stated Montana holds an annual conference where they do a lot of professional training, conflict resolution, how to hold a meeting and those types of topics. Jane Mangold covers numerous parts with classes. They also teach how to do your own little research project. She has served as the coordinator for one year and has been with the department for six years. They received a research grant from Mark Schwarzlander for rush skeletonweed biological and they do not have anyone to do this. She was asked about ventenata. They are finding it more. In 2017 the survey showed approximately 55,000 acres now they feel they can double that easily. It was listed in 2019 and they are working on a plan. They want to get a taskforce person in place for this particular species.

Closing comments and credits were dispersed.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Bonnie Davis, Recording Secretary