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Date 12:30 pm, Mar 25, 2011



Fw: MOU for Ag Department Weed Program
The BOSTWO to: Cynthia C Johnson, Ray Nutting
Sent by: Kitty J. Miller

03/24/2011 03:29 PM

Thank you,

Kitty Miller, Supervisor's Assistant
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
District II, Ray Nutting
530) 621-5651

----- Forwarded by Kitty J. Miller/PV/EDC on 03/24/2011 03:29 PM -----

MOU for Ag Department Weed Program

Juli D Jensen to: The BOSONE, The BOSTWO, The BOSTHREE, The
BOSFOUR, The BOSFIVE

03/23/2011 04:48 PM

Cc: Theresa R Daly, Laura Schwartz

From: Juli D Jensen/PV/EDC

To: The BOSONE/PV/EDC@TCP, The BOSTWO/PV/EDC@TCP, The
BOSTHREE/PV/EDC@TCP, The BOSFOUR/PV/EDC@TCP, The BOSFIVE/SLT/EDC@TCP

Cc: Theresa R Daly/PV/EDC@TCP, Laura Schwartz/PV/EDC@TCP

Board Members:

Next Tuesday, the Agriculture Department has an item on the consent calendar recommending the Board authorize the Ag Commissioner and the Chair of the Board to sign a MOU with the El Dorado County Invasive Weed Management Group (EDCIWMG). After listening to Supervisor Sweeney's comments last Tuesday regarding MOUs, I want to assure you (prior to next Tuesday's meeting) that this MOU is not merely a formality but establishes El Dorado County and the Ag Department as members of EDCIWMG and allows this group and our department to apply and qualify for grants that fund a large portion of our weed program. If we were not signatories to this MOU, we would not qualify for many of these grants. Please feel free to call me (X5522) if you have any questions regarding this MOU or our weed program.

Below is some information regarding Weed Management Areas in general and a few specifics about our WMA (EDCIWMG). Some of this information is touched on in the master report for the agenda item but here is a little bit more detail if you are interested.

In 1999, State law authorized the formation of Weed Management Areas (WMA).

The El Dorado Weed Management Group was established at that time to secure funding to address and begin eradication efforts on "A" rated noxious/invasive weeds. Weed Management Areas (WMA) are local organizations that bring together landowners and managers (private, city, county, State, and Federal) in a county or multi-county geographical area to coordinate efforts and expertise against common invasive and noxious weed species. The WMA functions under the authority of a mutually developed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The WMA develops a Strategic Plan which helps prioritize eradication, control, and containment projects, as well as other WMA activities. The primary goal of the WMA is to institute joint eradication, control, and containment projects and provides a mechanism to secure funding. To be able to secure funding from most sources, each WMA must have a MOU between all stakeholder groups in their area, and a strategic plan defining their goals and objectives. Other WMA activities include: promoting prevention practices, coordinating collaborative mapping, sponsoring education outreach, writing grants to secure resources beyond WMA funds, and improving regional collaboration.

As the local WMA successfully implemented the program on the Western Slope, the scope of the project expanded in 2002 to include the Lake Tahoe Basin and Alpine County. Continuous funding of our efforts has produced dramatic reductions in the size and occurrence of noxious/invasive weed populations in all of our known project areas. One of our project areas, Yellow starthistle leading edge, has knocked back the expansion of Yellow starthistle up the Highway 50 corridor into the Sierra's by 30%, with the goal of protecting the Lake Tahoe Basin/Sierras from this highly invasive plant. In the Cleveland Fire Area, "A" rated Spotted knapweed was introduced into the area on fire fighting equipment. In 2001, this noxious pest was established at 46 sites with up to 25,000 plants per site. Aggressive eradication efforts have reduced these populations to only 25 sites with an average of 2-5 plants per site. All of our efforts directly protect the Lake Tahoe Basin, USFS lands, private timber production lands, agricultural and range lands, and all of the El Dorado County watersheds.

Thank you,

Juli Jensen
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer