



Appendix A. 2011 survey to identify regulatory authority, gaps and overlaps, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of invasive species management within the boundaries of Benton County, Oregon.

BENTON COUNTY INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM

BENTON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

This report documents the results of a 2011 survey whose purpose was to identify regulatory authority, gaps and overlaps, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of invasive species management within the boundaries of Benton County, Oregon. This information will be used to establish core priorities driving invasive species work in Benton County, and will serve as the foundation for an invasive species strategic plan.

Document prepared by
Creative Resource Strategies, LLC



BENTON COUNTY INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

In 2010, the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District applied for a grant to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to:

- advance the conservation of high quality oak savanna and prairie habitat;
- increase public awareness and access to resources for reporting and combating invasives;
- and effect collaboration among local partners to address invasive plant species.

Although the District did not receive the grant, it remains committed to achieving these outcomes to protect quality conservation areas in Benton County, provide for native fish and wildlife species, and contribute to an informed public that can identify key invasive species and is aware of the threat these species pose to our economy and environment.

The District has begun working on eight focal areas, from training and engaging volunteers to using the recently launched *iMapInvasives* database program to track new invaders in Benton County. The District identified a critical activity important to long-term success—the development of a comprehensive strategic plan with short- and long-term goals to implement a coordinated effort to detect, control, manage, and monitor invasive species in high priority habitats in the county.

One of the initial steps in the strategic planning process was the creation of a survey instrument to inform the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) portion of the strategic plan and affirm recommendations made in 2009 to advance Benton County's ability to manage and control invasive plants. The information presented in this report includes the results and analysis of the 2011 survey.

“On a global basis . . . the two great destroyers of biodiversity are, first habitat destruction, and second, invasion by exotic species.”
— E.O. Wilson

“The good news is that this is one environmental problem that we can do something about. I have seen the tremendous difference that even a few individuals can make in the battle to regain the land for native species.”
— Elizabeth J. Czarapata, *Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest*

“Management of those invasive species that are able to dominate communities may not need further evidence to justify control: invasion and displacement of native vegetation is the ecological disaster.”
— B. Blossey, *Biological Invasions*

“. . . the impacts from alien species can be direct, indirect, cumulative, and/or complex, unexpected, surprising and counterintuitive, and . . . they often only show after considerable lag times. . .”
— M. De Poorter and M. Clout, *Aliens*

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

A 2009 Benton SWCD invasive species survey was reviewed, and key components of that survey were replicated to affirm prior results and recommendations as well as provide opportunities for additional input and perspectives. A total of 57 individuals representing federal, tribal, state, and local governments as well as nonprofit organizations and academia were asked to complete the survey. All survey recipients were given the opportunity to share the survey hyperlink with others.

The 7-question survey was developed using SurveyMonkey. The survey included a variety of question types, from open-ended responses to rating the importance of processes and priorities.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question #1. Please identify yourself and your organization (included contact information).

Question #2. Are you completing the survey on behalf of your organization, or solely for your program? If you are completing the survey for your program only, please share this survey with others in your organization.

Question #3. A 2009 survey that many of you completed provided the following suggestions to advance Benton County's ability to manage and control invasive plants. Please rate their importance (not important, somewhat important, important, very important).

- a. Create a Weed Control Board for Benton County
- b. Develop a process and roles and responsibilities for reporting to IS requests
- c. Fund and staff weed response crews
- d. Establish priorities for weed species and habitats
- e. Provide continuing landowner education
- f. Use one source (such as iMapInvasives) to record IS sightings/distribution and control efforts

Question #4. What federal, state, tribal, county, or local laws/policies give you the authority to engage in or guide your invasive species activities? Do you believe critical gaps exist in Benton County or in any specific organization's authorities to manage/control invasive plants? If yes, what regulatory gaps exist? What gaps do you believe exist in the management of IS in Benton County? Conversely, is there any overlap in how Benton County addresses IS?

Question #5. Please help us conduct a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis for invasive species management within Benton County. Identification of SWOTs is essential because subsequent steps in the creation of a county-wide invasive species strategic plan may be derived from the SWOTs.

STRENGTHS: Describe up to 3 strengths in how IS issues are addressed within Benton County.

WEAKNESSES: Describe up to 3 weaknesses in how IS issues are addressed within Benton County.

OPPORTUNITIES: Provide up to 3 existing opportunities that might improve how IS issues are addressed within Benton County.

THREATS: Provide up to 3 existing internal threats that may prove to be barriers to effective implementation of an IS program in Benton County (e.g., the current state of the economy and reduced funding are beyond the scope of Benton County, but may directly affect resources available to address IS issues).

Question #6. What existing management plans and documents do you believe should serve as foundational to establishing priority actions for Benton County's IS strategic plan? (not important, somewhat important, important, very important)

- a. 2008-2012 National Invasive Species Management Plan
- b. BLM's Final Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States
- c. Noxious Weed Management Plan for National Forests—Pacific Northwest Region 6
- d. Oregon Conservation Strategy
- e. Oregon Noxious Weed Strategic Plan
- f. Feral Swine Action Plan for Oregon
- g. McDonald-Dunn Forest Plan: Invasive Species Management Plan
- h. Benton County Prairie Species Habitat Conservation Plan
- i. Watershed council plans
- j. Fitton Green Open Space Natural Area Management Plan
- k. Beazell Stewardship Management Plan
- l. Fort Hoskins Forest Stewardship Plan
- m. Jackson Frazier Wetland Management Plan
- n. Other (mark importance and list plans in text box below)

Question #7. How do you evaluate your success and the effectiveness of your invasive species efforts?

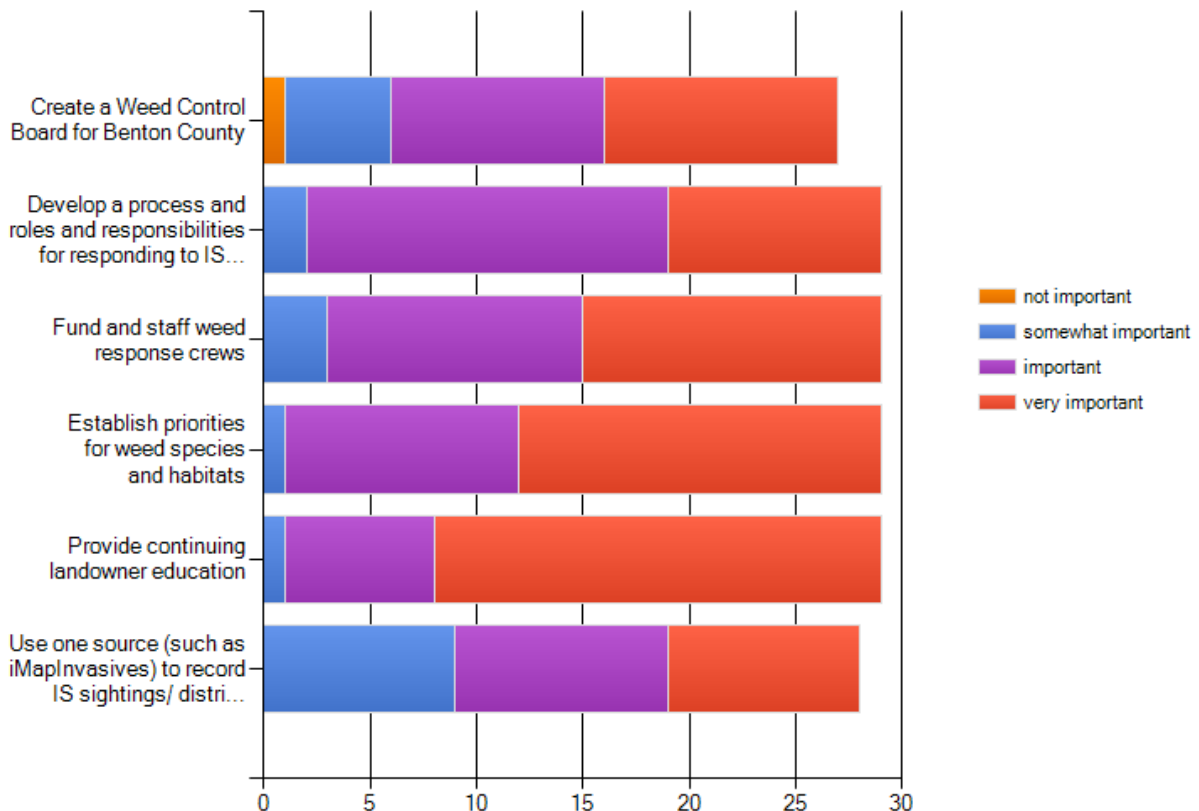
SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 57 individuals were sent a hyperlink to the survey instrument during the first week of July 2011. When the survey closed on August 12, a total of 29 individuals representing federal, state, and local government agencies, municipalities, universities, nonprofit organizations, and watershed councils had completed the survey. The following are the results:

Question #2: A total of 97% of survey takers responded to this question (28 of 29). A total of 69% indicated they completed the survey on behalf of their organization, while 31% (9) indicated they completed the survey on behalf of their program within their organization. A total of 5 respondents provided names of others within their organization that should complete the survey; 2 of the 5 names suggested actually completed the survey.

Question #3: When asked to rate the importance of suggestions to advance Benton County's ability to manage and control invasive plants, the majority of respondents affirmed the results of the 2009 survey.

A 2009 survey that many of you completed provided the following suggestions to advance Benton County's ability to manage and control invasive plants. Please rate their importance.



A total of 28 of 29 individuals said that establishing priorities for weed species and habitats and providing continuing landowner education were important or very important (96.5%), followed by developing a process and roles and responsibilities for responding to invasive species requests (27 of 29 respondents or 93.1%), and funding and staffing weed response crews (26 of 29 respondents or 89.7%). Creating a Weed Control Board for

Benton County received 77.7% of important or very important ratings (21 of 27 respondents), followed by using one source to record invasive species sightings/distribution and control efforts (19 of 28 respondents or 67.8%).

Question #4: A total of 26 respondents provided examples of laws and policies that provide them with the authority to engage in invasive species activities. Examples provided included:

FEDERAL

- ✚ The Endangered Species Act
- ✚ Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- ✚ US Fish and Wildlife Service agreements
- ✚ Environmental Protection Agency herbicide labels
- ✚ Bureau of Land Management/US Forest Service NEPA
- ✚ Executive Order 13112
- ✚ Siuslaw National Forest Land Management Plan
- ✚ Habitat Conservation Plans
- ✚ Carlson-Foley Act of 1968
- ✚ Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974
- ✚ Noxious Weed Control Act of 2004
- ✚ Plant Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-224)
- ✚ Farm Bill Programs (WHIP, EQIP)
- ✚ National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit

STATE

- ✚ Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife input on land use permit reviews and habitat restoration projects

- ✚ Oregon State Board of Higher Education laws and regulations
- ✚ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board agreements
- ✚ Oregon Forest Practice Rules
- ✚ Oregon Department of Agriculture pesticide application laws
- ✚ State and federal water quality protection regulations for herbicide use
- ✚ Oregon state statutes
- ✚ Oregon Department of Forestry’s Northwest Forest Management Plan
- ✚ Oregon Department of Forestry’s Invasive Weed Management Policy
- ✚ ORS 634—Pesticide Control

LOCAL, MUNICIPAL, COUNTY

- ✚ Limited to right of way
- ✚ Portland City Titles 29, 11, and 33
- ✚ City of Portland Goals 5 and 6, Integrated Pest Management Plan

MISCELLANEOUS

- ✚ Management Plans and Site Master Plans
- ✚ The permission of property owners
- ✚ Council bylaws and mission

A total of 20 of 29 respondents answered the portion of the question regarding whether or not gaps exist. Of the 20 respondents, 14 stated “Yes”, 5 stated “No”, and 2 were uncertain. Of the 14 that stated “Yes”, 12 described the regulatory gaps that exist. These included:

- ✚ Consistency among counties and organizations
- ✚ Limitations on public lands
- ✚ County-level authority to set priorities and control invasives
- ✚ Invasive plant identification and removal assistance for private lands
- ✚ Uncertainties among agencies on label interpretation for herbicide applications on forest lands
- ✚ No requirements to treat/prevent invasives by public/private individuals/entities
- ✚ Few prohibitions on sale or transfer of identified invasives

- ✚ Ecosystem/ecological threats of invasives aren't given adequate consideration when listing noxious weeds
- ✚ Discrepancies among highly regulated and non-regulated species
- ✚ Coordination (planning and implementation across land ownerships) and enforcement
- ✚ Gaps among county rights-of-way management and that of adjoining lands
- ✚ Interpretation of ORS 634 (prohibits chemical control by public employees on private land; ORS 569 prohibits cities from being part of a Weed District)

A total of 16 respondents provided examples of gaps that exist specific to Benton County:

- ✚ Coordination between watershed councils and SWCD
- ✚ Gap in regulatory authority
- ✚ Need an invasive species board
- ✚ Regulatory issues (use of oryzalin on false-brome in forested applications)
- ✚ Private landowners are a gap
- ✚ No regulation at county level – no coordinated EDRR
- ✚ Lack of resources
- ✚ Unifying agency or organization responsible for coordinating weed control efforts

Of the 10 respondents that addressed the question of overlaps that exist, 6 were not aware of overlaps, and the remaining 4 individuals provided the following examples:

- ✚ Between watershed councils, SWCDs, and county (2)
- ✚ Separate entities working to control weeds on land they manage
- ✚ Networking and partnering on some projects, the HCP, and watershed council

Question #5. A total of 23-25 respondents provided examples of strengths (24), weaknesses (24), opportunities (23), and threats (25) for invasive species management in Benton County.

STRENGTHS: Respondents commented that partnerships among and response by agencies, knowledge base, desire to manage invasives (including grassroots support) as well as high level of public concern, existing available funds, habitat and recovery plans, outreach and education, iMapInvasives database, roadside spray programs, agency programs (Weed Spotters and USFWS Partners Program, e.g.), and overall coordination and communication were strengths of existing programs.

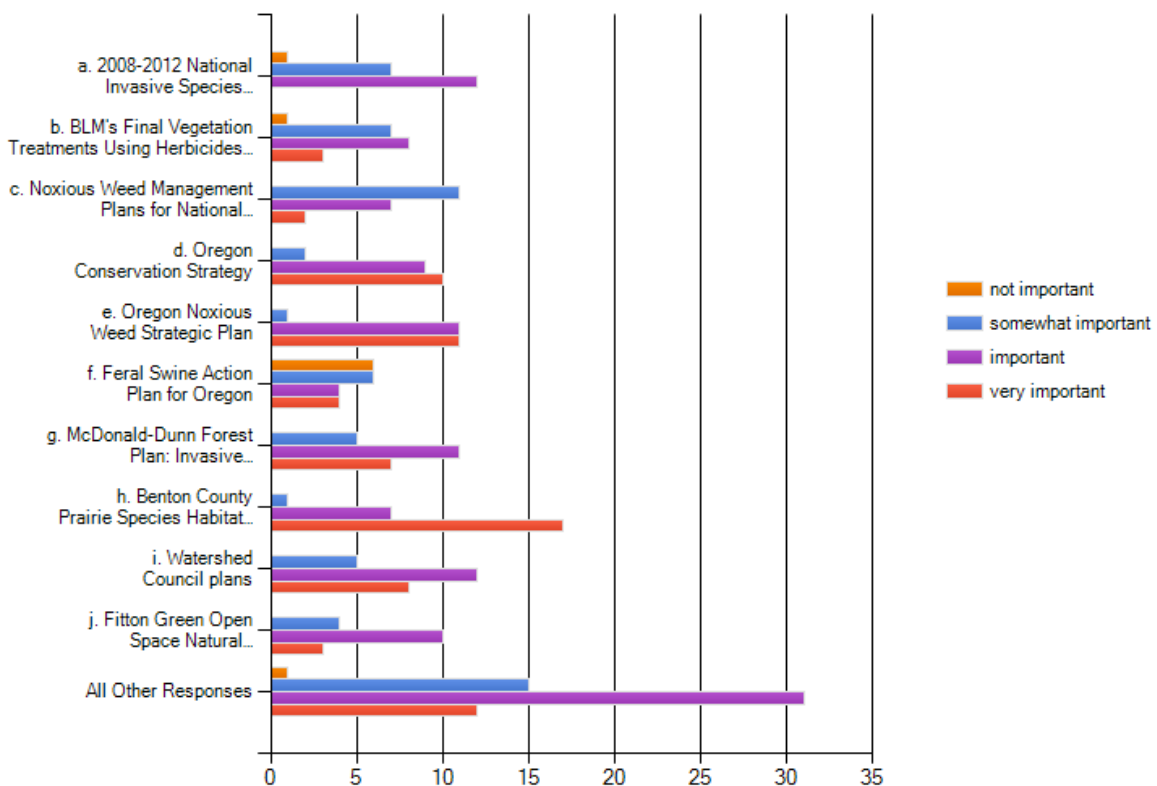
WEAKNESSES: Respondents described lack of funding and resources, coordination, inappropriate response times, lack of long-term planning, lack of priorities for new invaders, lack of a designated lead and clear mandates for control, no weed board, inadequate private landowner education, inadequate weed control on public lands, and lack of education on proper use of herbicides and data collection as weaknesses in existing programs.

OPPORTUNITIES: Respondents articulated several opportunities, including expanding outreach, coordination, and communication, tapping into volunteerism, soliciting grant funds and positioning Benton County for funding as a result of legislation passed in Oregon in 2011 (HB 3358), distributing biological controls, helping ODA control priority species on private land, using iMapInvasives, clarifying roles and responsibilities, creating a county weed board, convening coordination and training meetings, providing focus to comprehensive all-taxa invasive species management, dedicating a portion of Oregon’s gas tax to managing invasives along roadways, prioritizing habitat types and addressing weeds in the context of habitat restoration, partnering with the Oregon Invasive Species Council, and coordinating with the Oregon Department of Transportation.

THREATS: Threats respondents described included funding and staff resources, the existence of invasive species seed beds from lack of participation by landowners, jurisdictional boundaries, concerns about being too regulatory, lack of state support for county priorities, lack of political will, failure for a needed cultural shift to occur to sustain long-term efforts, ignorance, regional coordination, resistance to herbicide use, short-sighted planning processes, and coordination among governments.














Question #6: When asked what management plans and documents should serve as a foundation to establishing priority actions for Benton County’s invasive species strategic plan (respondents were asked to rate 14 plans/documents in existence), 90-96% of respondents rated the Oregon Conservation Strategy, Oregon Noxious Weed Strategic Plan, and Benton County Prairie Species Habitat Conservation Plan as important or very important. Between 68-80% of respondents rated the McDonald-Dunn Forest Plan: Invasive Species Management Plan, watershed council plans, Fitton Green Open Space Natural Area Management Plan, Beazell Stewardship Management Plan, Fort Hoskins Forest Stewardship Plan, and

What existing management plans and documents do you believe should serve as foundational to establishing priority actions for Benton County’s IS strategic plan?








Jackson Frazier Wetland Management Plan as important or very important. The remaining plans and documents on the list were rated by 60% or less of respondents as important or very important.

A total of 11 respondents commented that there were additional plans warranting consideration by the strategic planning team as foundational for the development of a Benton County strategic plan, including:

-  A National EDRR system for invasive plants in the United States (Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds)
-  Lane County Pest Management Policy
-  Siuslaw Forest Plans
-  BLM Salem and Eugene District Management Plans
-  Herbert Natural Area Management Plan
-  Mary's River Natural Area Management Plan
-  Owens Farm Management Plan
-  Lupine Meadows Management Plan
-  Oregon Noxious Weed List
-  Northwest Weed Management Partnership Strategic Plan
-  Upper Willamette CWMA Annual Operating Plans
-  Portland Invasive Plants Strategy
-  Wallow County Integrated Weed Management Plan

Also, one respondent commented that a more holistic, ecological approach driven by this project's own goals and objectives at a large spatial scale (versus a jurisdictional approach) would be productive.

Question #7. When asked how they evaluate success and effectiveness of invasive species efforts, respondents answered this question in 5 thematic areas:

-  Monitoring—prevalence of species years after treatment (one respondent measures the amount of time devoted to managing a site after initial eradication efforts)
-  Education—Measuring changes in public awareness, interest and action by landowners, and changes in public behavior
-  Control—Ability to control outlying populations and reductions in targeted species
-  Habitat—Monitoring functional habitat for native pollinators, and in general, habitat improvement over time
-  New Invaders—High priority new invaders at the county scale are detected and controlled

NEXT STEPS

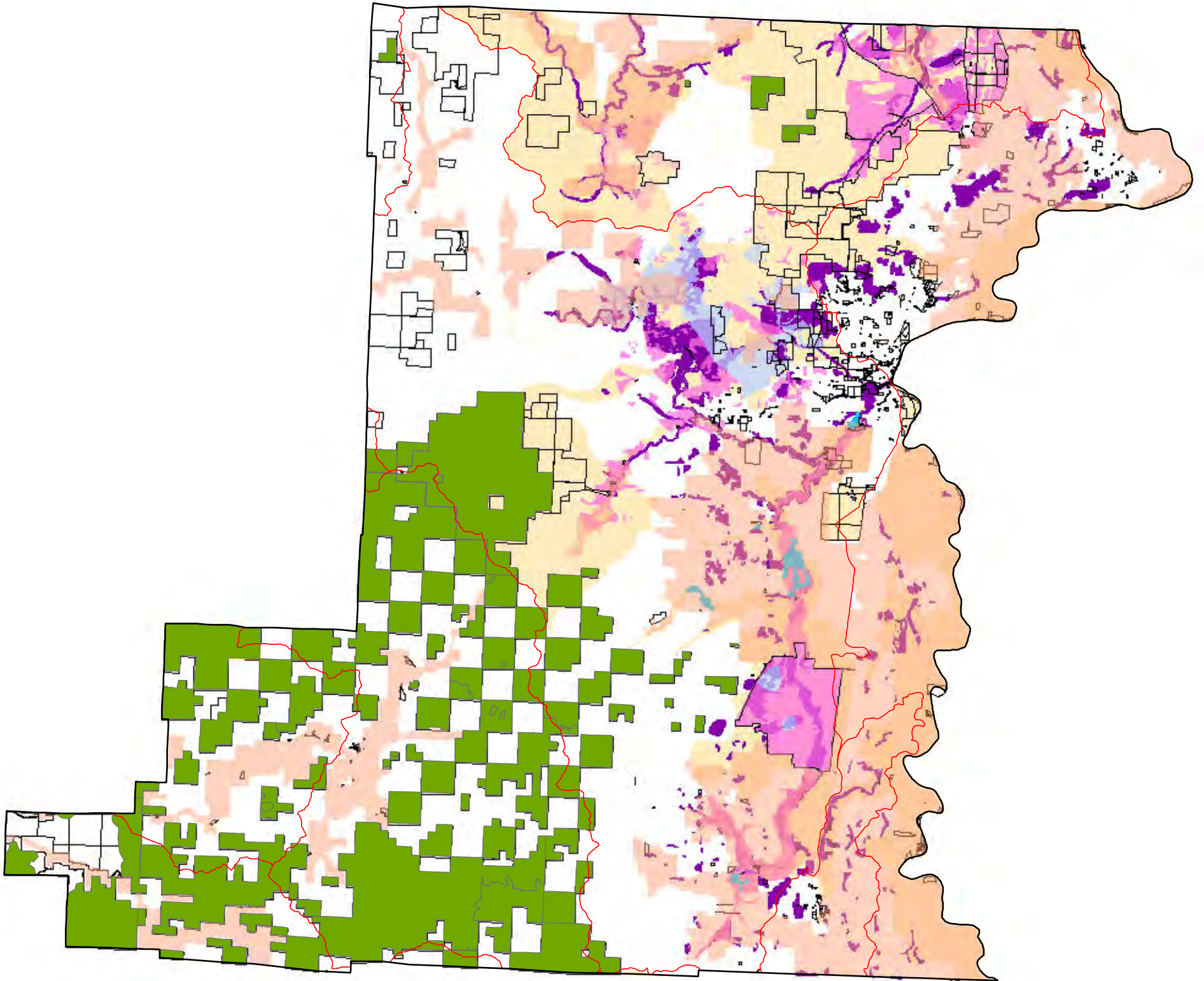
The results of this survey provide excellent foundational information for discussion among the steering committee members drafting the Benton County invasive species strategic plan. The steering committee will review gaps and overlaps in regulatory authority as well as strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities that exist to inform the development of short- and long-term goals to address a coordinated and collaborative approach to invasive plant management in Benton County.

Appendix B. Proposed A (eradication) and B (containment) lists for Benton County.




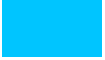




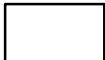
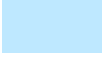

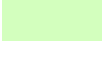


Common Name	Scientific Name	Proposed Benton Co.	ODA listing
barbed goat grass	<i>Aegilops triuncialis</i>	A	A
garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	A	B
purple starthistle	<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	A	A
Iberian starthistle	<i>Centaurea iberica</i>	A	A
yellow starthistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	A	A
purple nutsedge	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	A	A
Portuguese broom	<i>Cystisus striatus</i>	A	B
Paterson's curse	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	A	A
French broom	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	A	B
goatsrue	<i>Galega officinalis</i>	A	A
giant hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	A	A
common hawkweed	<i>Hieraceum vulgatum</i>	A	watch list
orange hawkweed	<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	A	A
yellow hawkweed	<i>Hieracium X floribundum</i>	A	A
mouseear hawkweed	<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	A	A
meadow hawkweed	<i>Hieracium caespitosum</i>	A	A
hydrilla	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	A	A
policeman's helmet	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	A	B
yellow archangel	<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>	A	watch list
perennial pepperweed	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	A	B
yellow floating heart	<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	A	A
thistle, Scotch	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	A	B
common reed	<i>Phragmites australis ssp. australis</i>	A	A
pokeweed	<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	A	watch list
kudzu	<i>Pueraria lobata</i>	A	A
Spanish broom	<i>Spartium junceum</i>	A	B
European waterchestnut	<i>Trapa natans L</i>	A	A
gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	A	B
common bugloss	<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>	B	B
hoary alyssum	<i>Berteroa incana</i>	B	N/A
slender false brome	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	B	B
bur chervil	<i>Anthriscus caucalis</i>	B	N/A
thistle, musk	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	B	B
thistle, italian	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	B	B
thistle, slender flower	<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	B	B
thistle, woolly distaff	<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>	B	A
knapweed, spotted	<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>	B	B
old man's beard	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	B	B
jubata grass	<i>Cortaderia jubatum</i>	B	N/A
hound's tongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	B	B
spurge laurel	<i>Daphne laureola</i>	B	B
diffuse knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	B	B
vipers bugloss, blue weed	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	B	watch list

Spanish heath	<i>Erica lusitanica</i>	B	B
knotweeds	<i>Fallopia japonica</i> , <i>Fallopia x bohemicum</i> , <i>Fallopia sachalinense</i>	B	B
waxy mannagrass	<i>Glyceria declinata</i>	B	N/A
spotted jewelweed	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	B	N/A
yellowflag iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	B	B
dyer's woad	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	B	B
Dalmatian toadflax	<i>Linaria dalmatica ssp. dalmatica</i>	B	B
lords and ladies	<i>Arum italicum</i>	B	N/A
water primrose	<i>Ludwigia uruguayensis [L. hexapetala]</i>	B	B
floating primrose-willow	<i>Ludwigia peploides ssp. montevidensis</i>	B	B
purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	B	B
Medusa head	<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>	B	B
evergreen bugloss	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	B	N/A
Japanese coltsfoot	<i>Petasities japonica</i>	B	N/A
sulfur cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla recta</i>	B	B
lesser celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	B	B
milk thistle	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	B	B
coltsfoot	<i>Tussilago farara</i>	B	A
meadow knapweed	<i>Centaurea x moncktonii</i>	B	B

Benton County, Oregon Key Management Areas Map

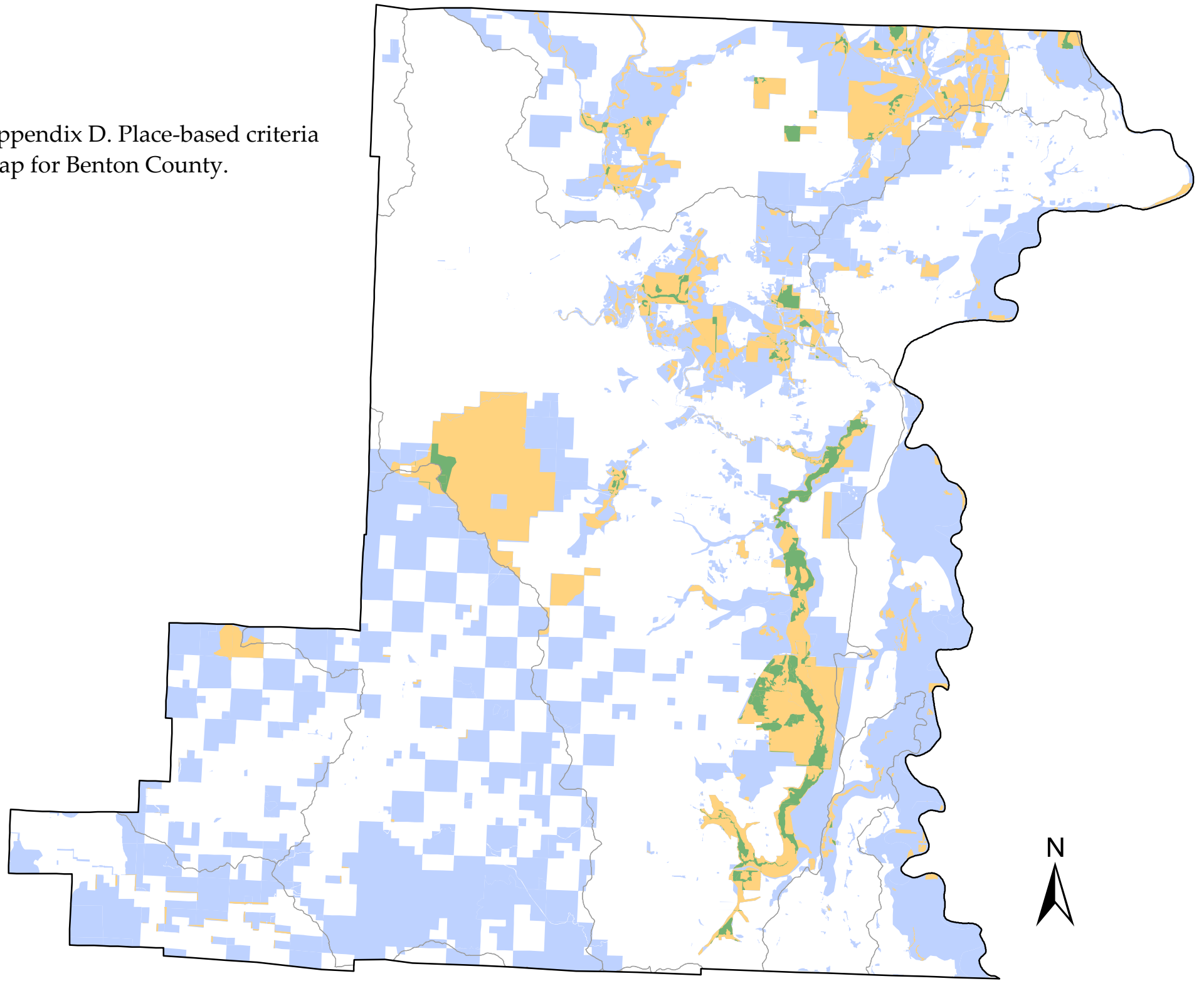


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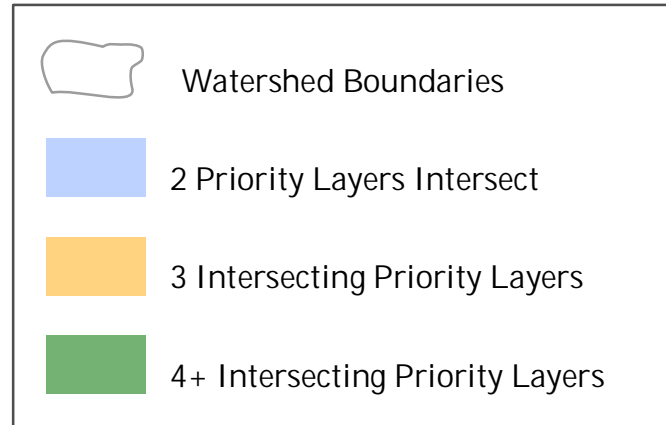
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|---|---|
|  Watershed Boundaries |  Agricultural Lands |
|  BLM Areas of Critical Environmental Concern |  WRP Sites |
|  Late Successional Reserves (BLM and USFS) |  Benton County Prairie Conservation Strategy |
|  USFS Special Interest Area |  Connect priority oak and prairie habitat |
|  Public Lands |  Protect/Enhance FBB habitat |
|  Potential Oak Conservation Areas |  Protect/Enhance Marys River Turtle |
|  Synthesis COAs |  Protect/Enhance Taylor's and FBB habitat |

Benton County, Oregon Place-Based Criteria Map

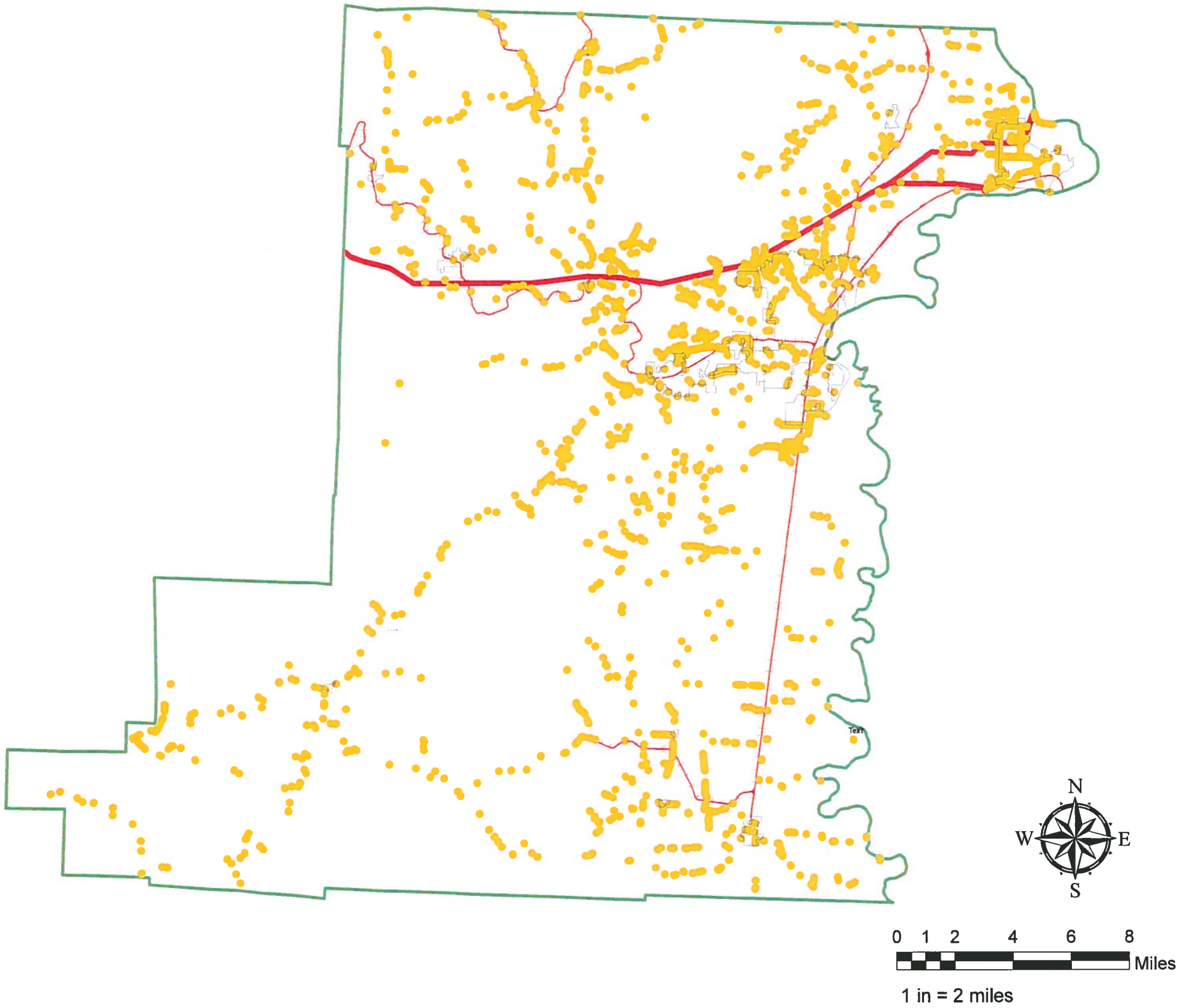
Appendix D. Place-based criteria map for Benton County.








The map represents an intersection of key management areas in Benton County. Layers include: Areas of Critical of Environmental Concern (BLM) , Late Successional Reserves (USFS & BLM), Special Interest Areas (USFS), Potential Oak Conservation areas, Synthesis Conservation Opportunity Area (Oregon Conservation Strategy by Nature Conservancy), Wetland Reserve Program (USDA, NRCS), Connect priority oak/prairie (Prairie Conservation Strategy, IAE), Protect Enhance FBB habitat, (Prairie Conservation Strategy, IAE), Protect/Enhance Marys River Turtle (Prairie Conservation Strategy, IAE), Protect/Enhance Taylor's and FBB, Agricultural zoned lands, and Public Lands. Highest priority is given to areas where the most layers intersecting, layers are



Vectors in Benton County: roads, streams, rail roads, BPA power line



Legend

-  City Boundary
-  Stream Road Intersect
-  Benton County Boundary
-  Railraod
-  BPA Power Line

The map represents vectors that could potentially transport invasive species in and out of Benton County.

Trails and trailheads are recognized vectors but to date we have not been able to locate comprehensive data.

The map only represents select information in an effort to identify spatial patterns for the purpose of setting management priorities.

Appendix F. Recommendation to Establish a Benton County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA).

Recommendation to Establish a Benton County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)

Benton County Invasive Species Planning Group Meeting

02/13/12

Background: At its November 2011 meeting, the Benton County Invasive Species Planning Group discussed the creation of a structure that would help a Benton County weed partnership address invasive species both collaboratively and comprehensively, with an emphasis on voluntary approaches to achieve desired goals.

The desired proactive goals are to:

- Provide a central location for information about identifying, managing and reporting invasive species
- Publicize timely updates and reports on invasive species in Benton County
- Inform and engage the public, provide consistent messages, and identify landowner needs
- Design and oversee weed control strategies and help implement and update a county-wide plan
- Coordinate, track progress, and communicate efforts of partners
- Provide oversight and continuity for weed control efforts over time
- Manage invasive species lists
- Treat or oversee treatment of Early Detection, Rapid Response (EDRR) species or other target species
- Coordinate/collaborate on funding proposals; leverage funding among partners
- Provide baseline information about the status of invasive species in Benton County
- Provide for official recognition of a county weed list, priority conservation areas, etc.
- Sustain the momentum of the Benton County Invasive Species Planning Group

Options: A number of options have been discussed to achieve the goals described above, including creation of a Weed Control District, creation of a Cooperative Weed Management Area, the use of existing agencies and entities, etc. A core group of the planning team, consisting of Heath Keirstead, Jenny Ayotte, Vern Holm, and Tanya Beard, reviewed the pros and cons of these options and combinations of these options and developed the following recommendation.

Create a Benton County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)

Core Elements of the CWMA:

CWMA Advisory Group (consisting of the entire Benton County Invasive Species Planning Group and any other interested parties): Partners would participate in this advisory group and as such would actively support and guide the CWMA. This group would undertake joint planning efforts to achieve agreed to initiatives. The Benton County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) would be able to tie in with the existing network of groups working through the NW Weed Management Partnership.

CWMA Steering Committee: A steering committee would be established (a subset of the CWMA Advisory Group) to foster CWMA implementation and operations. This group could be designed to have specific representation from identified stakeholder groups or partners.

Staff: Benton SWCD staff would help coordinate the CWMA. They could hire technical staff to complement existing SWCD outreach and education staff.

Funding: The CWMA partners would contribute funding for the CWMA. The SWCD has stable funding and could provide housing and overhead for coordination, as well as technical and outreach staff, but funding is needed from partners to launch and sustain this effort.

A. What is needed for a CWMA to be successful?

1. **Partnership Support:** Partners need to commit to participating in the CWMA and their role in the management of invasive species. Partners need to offer technical, educational and/or financial assistance. The nature of this commitment needs to be established in an MOA among the partners.
2. **Leadership:** A core group, representing diverse interests, agencies and landowners needs to provide leadership in the formation of the CWMA and to serve on its Steering Committee.
3. **Lead Entity:** Benton SWCD proposes to house staff and coordinate the CWMA on a day-to-day basis.
4. **Staffing:** Staffing would include Benton SWCD staff with technical, outreach and education experience.
5. **Planning:** The county-wide planning effort that is underway (EDRR, designation of priority areas, public engagement strategy) will be used to guide the work of the CWMA and partner organizations. This plan will need to be updated and refined over time. The scope of implementing this plan will be dependent on the availability of resources.
6. **Funding:** A funding plan needs to be developed. Consistent funding for staff is essential. Additional funding implementing treatment and restoration work will need to be secured.

B. What resources can partners contribute?

1. Resources/Cash

- **Benton SWCD:** Tax Revenues/Grants
- **Partners:** Contribution Agreements/Grants
- **Granting Entities:** Non-profits, federal, local, and state entities

2. Resources/In-Kind

Partners could contribute various resources to leverage funds and support CWMA work, including the following:

- Equipment
- GIS/mapping/database
- Technical consultation
- Licensed applicators
- Vehicle use
- Housing for staff
- Printing/publishing/mailing
- Publicity/outreach
- Education
- Interns
- Planning/serve on Weed Board or advisory group
- Funding
- Other staff time

C. Next Steps to Discuss

1. Does the Benton County Invasive Species Planning Group support this recommendation and/or does it have another recommendation or combination of recommendations that would achieve similar outcomes?
2. What resources are partners willing and able to bring to support this (or any other) recommendation?
3. What key next steps need to occur to implement this (or any other) recommendation?

Background Information — Preliminary Assessment of Options

Various options for structuring a CWMA and/or Weed Control District (WD) in Benton County were analyzed and the pros and cons are listed below.

Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)	
PROS	CONS
Engages a wide range of partners	CWMA's may not be familiar to the public
Organizational structure and mission can be designed to meet local needs	Lack of formal institutional structure and local recognition
No regulatory authority; proactive image	No regulatory authority; perceived as "toothless"
Ability to define partner roles in implementing strategic plans and initiatives	Could lack formal relationship with county government (unlike a Weed District)
Stronger funding potential; could submit joint funding proposals (through various entities)	Cannot access state funding for Weed Districts
Opportunity to build weed partnerships while buying time to assess whether a formal WD is needed	Without the formal status of a Weed District, could become ineffective if not action oriented with a strong focus and leadership

Regulatory Weed Control District (WD)	
PROS	CONS
Can take action with or without landowner permission. But you still need landowner permission to enter the property	Perception of WD as the enemy
Have more control over weeds in the county	Does not promote trust
Regulatory authority may be a motivator for non-motivated landowners to take action (motivates compliance)	May taint the image of the governing body
Opportunity to create a partnership-style relationship with constituents and other organizations	May interfere with building f cooperative relationships
Introduces additional powers to a local entity regarding invasive species control	Imparts the WD with additional responsibilities, that may or may not be desirable

SWCD Board as Weed Board	
PROS	CONS
SWCD board already exists	SWCD board may not have sufficient expertise
SWCD board has broad geographic representation	This may change the SWCD board's focus
SWCD board has stable funding	No identified source of funding for the Weed District
SWCD board is a long-term entity	Potential to overload SWCD capacity
SWCD has positive, service-oriented image	Could change the image of the SWCD
SWCD has programs that support weed work	Restricted by election requirements
This opportunity may bring funding to SWCD	Weed Control District staff would be solely responsible for providing expertise to weed board (SWCD board)
	Requires County Commission approval, as such makes Weed Board potentially susceptible to commission influence.

County Commissioners as Weed Board	
PROS	CONS
Has support of broad staff base to help them make decisions	May not have needed expertise
Might increase county commissioners' weed awareness and commitment to weed issues	Weed board decision making becomes an internal process instead of partnership process
May bring funding to WD	Commissioners would have very limited time for this topic (already a large work load)
A chance to set up an Advisory Committee to help guide the process—they act as public liaisons to the Commissioners	Weed Board work may be a lower priority given scope of County work
SWCD remains completely non-regulatory	County has negative regulatory image among certain elements of the population
Creates a new resource in the county for combating invasive species	More governmental
Engages the county in invasive species control	Changes voting strategy drastically w/only 3 members

Advisory Committee to Weed Board	
PROS	CONS
Advisory committee could be chosen to bring expertise to Board	Advisory committee has no voting authority (unless authorized by the Weed Board)
Would be able to draw members from a broad representation (industry, academic, etc.)	Currently there is no identified source of funding for weed district (although structure is in place)
Would advise weed board decisions so that board would make more informed decisions	Adds layers of complexity to structure, decision making process
Would increase the capacity of the weed board	Trying to appease more interests
Could minimize change of SWCD focus (if adjunct to SWCD board as weed board)	More work to convene and manage 2 groups.
May provide more direct link to funding from partners who are represented on advisory committee	

Stand-Alone Weed Board	
PROS	CONS
Ability to define their own image	New entity with no track record
Can adapt based on areas of expertise	No primary base of support
Can choose qualifications and representation for board members	Challenges regarding infrastructure/overhead (office space, phone service, vehicle use, etc.)
May provide access to partnership funding	No established relationship with the local government
That is all they will do so weed issues won't get sidelined	Lack of suitable infrastructure

Invasive Weeds Planning Process: Public Engagement Strategy

Key outcomes: Education/Empowerment/Actions/Results
 Why should you care? What can you do? Who can help?

Priority Audiences	Desired Outcomes	Message	Actions	Delivery System	Evaluation Method	Lead Partners
Private Landowners <i>(ex: urban, rural, agricultural, forestry)</i>	Be informed	Stop the Spread	Identify & convene subcommittee	Neighborhood meetings	pre and post surveys of landowners who attend meetings	BSWCD,
	Avoid planting invasives	Know the weeds and what to do	identify funding needs and sources	Volunteer trainings	pre and post plant quizzes, and training evaluations	BSWCD,
	Control invasives on your land		solidify agreements among partners-use same message(s), who will be responsible for which components of plan & timeline of activities	radio announcements, newspaper ads/articles	random phone surveys?	
	Know where to go for help/ resources			billboards	random phone surveys?	
	Report invasives			brochures and GardenSmart Oregon available at local nurseries	? # of brochures and Garden Smarts taken by shoppers at each nursery?	
				consistent messaging across organizations on social media- facebook, websites...	check stats on who and how many people are accessing these sites	(all)
Public Land Managers / employees <i>(ex: Public Works & Parks Depts; road crews/grounds crews,)</i>	use BMPs for maintenance work	Stop the Spread	Identify & convene subcommittee	create accessible comprehensive BMPs and deliver information (trainings, pamphlets,etc)	track movement of invasives in rights of way, power lines, etc	BSWCD,
	clean equipment before moving from infested areas to areas with sensitive species	know when to mow/ mow at the right time	identify funding needs and sources	train land managers/employees	pre and post surveys of land managers and employees	BSWCD,
		know the weeds	solidify agreements among partners-use same message(s), who will be responsible for which components of plan & timeline of activities-who will help us deliver BMPs?	develop useful weed calendar of events and weed ID tools for these workers	quiz land mngmt employees on information found in calendar and ID tools	BSWCD,

Priority Audiences	Desired Outcomes	Message	Actions	Delivery System	Evaluation Method	Lead Partners
		report invaders found in new locations	secure participation/cooperation/involvement of public land managers		record/track # of land mngmt organizations willing to participate	
Recreationalists <i>(ex: hikers, bikers, hunters, fishers)</i>	Be informed and aware	Stop the Spread	Identify & convene subcommittee	Trailhead signs & kiosks;	random surveys of recreationalists leaving recreational areas	
	Stop the spread	Clean your gear	identify funding needs and sources	billboards	phone surveys?	
	Report invasives		solidify agreements among partners-use same message(s), who will be responsible for which components of plan & timeline of activities	volunteers talking to recreationalists at trailheads, entry points		BSWCD,
				brochures disributed with hunting/fishing licenses;	surveys of people who got hunting/fishing licesnses	
				presentations at club meetings	pre and post surveys of club members	BSWCD,
Other Audiences						
Businesses <i>(ex: realtors, creekside business, nurseries)</i>						
Associations <i>(ex: Farm Bureau, Chamber,</i>						
Community Groups <i>(ex: Youth groups, Lions/Odd Fellows, etc)</i>						
Utility & Maintenance Workers <i>(ex: landscapers, phone & utility workers, forestry workers)</i>						
Educators/Students <i>(ex: OSU, LBCC, K-12, Nature Centers, Park Programs)</i>						