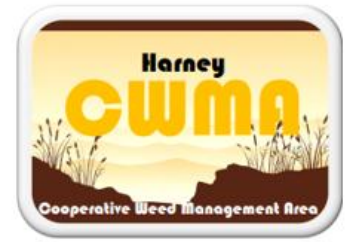




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CWMA Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2026
USDA Service Center

Present: Andrew (Drew) Donaldson, Natural Resources Conservation Agency; Mark Porter and Bonnie Rasmussen, Oregon Department of Agriculture; Sam Cisney, Bureau of Land Management; Karen Moon, Harney County Watershed Council; Tyler Goss, County Weed Management Agency; Barbara Pearson, Harney Soil & Water Conservation District

Present, remote: Travis Miller, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Jason Kesling, Harney Soil & Water Conservation District

Jason began the meeting at 1:32 pm. Tyler advised Jason of the meeting participants who were present in the conference room. Mark Porter introduced himself to some meeting participants he didn't know.

Action items

- 1) Minutes: Karen moved to approve the meeting minutes with a correction. Her agency is the Harney County Watershed Council, not the Harney Basin Watershed Council. This will be corrected. Drew seconded. No one was opposed, and this passed.
- 2) Financials: Jason advised that there is a new agreement between HCWMA and the US Forest Service regarding invasive weeds. New BLM work will be done through the admin budget. Jason said he and Travis are currently working on the drone payment and capacity funding. Both of these will be added as soon as the HSWCD receives these checks. Regarding work with the USFS will involve contracting with Falls and Telephone Fires. The new agreement was delayed due to new administration requirements for monitoring.

Mark asked about how the BLM agreement and project will work. Sam said the current agreement is typically five years in duration. The application wasn't successful last year due to wording and priorities. Jason said BLM projects have involved rangeland, wildland, and weed management. Mark asked the amount of the agreement and was told it ranged in amounts of \$15K, \$30K, \$40K, \$60K—it varies with the BLM budget and administration. Tyler said the amount is usually split between contractors and his salary, and was covered by the Noxious Weed Protection Act and involved weed control and range health management.

Jason said one agreement was \$1.5M, and another one was pending for the same amount. Sam discussed this agreement in greater detail. Travis asked about the wildlife agreement and what that entailed, and was told pre-commercial thinning and juniper cutting. Sam said it is limited to geographic scope.

After further discussion, Karen moved, and Drew seconded approval of the financial report. No one was opposed.

Jim Campbell arrived at 1:44 pm.

Project Progress and Updates:

- 1) BLM Update: Tyler said he will work on Med sage in the Moon Hill area this week. All contractors will begin this weekend, treating for Scotch Thistle and Med sage in the Drewsey area. Sam said the weed EA will be out for public comment. She urged the group to review.
- 2) Field trip (2026): Tyler said that Jessie was pulled away for a meeting at the last minute. The date for the field trip will be July 15th. Jessie proposed two trips. One will be on the Hines logging road, the Delintment area for ventenata, Idlewild. The other will be in the Silvies Valley and Logan Valley. Details will be sent out this afternoon. Departure will be from the HSWCD office at about 8 am, with a discussion of the schedule, the route, and the weeds to be reviewed. The consensus was Trip #2 (Logan Valley). Tyler said most of the County Weed Board will participate.
- 3) The City-Wide Weed Wipe Out. Tyler solicited commercial property located in Burns and Hines. Five groups said they were interested, for a total of 13-15 acres. Tyler explained the program to Mark. Weeds to be treated were Russian knapweed and Scotch thistle. Tyler will also contact the Valley Golf Course and the City of Hines.

Sam mentioned an area of medusa head near where she lives and asked how and who to approach for treatment. She suggested education outreach as the weed is still controllable. Tyler said the City-Wide Weed Wipeout contractor will not do lawns due to insurance liability.

It was also suggested that Tyler contact Andy Root, who is the former owner of the old Frenchglen millwork area, to get the name and contact info of the current owner.

Sam noted the new signs on the hiking trail in town.

- 4) Free Spray Day, which was held Saturday, May 30th. Jim said there were no issues. Attendees came steadily. Herbicide dispensing went well. Slightly less than 800 gallons was dispensed, which was less than last year (almost 900 gallons). An issue may have been that the event was held the same day as the Burns High School graduation. Tyler said there are labels left over. Jim suggested letting people know the herbicide is premixed. Tyler also suggested getting a "start here" sign. The CWMA will also get two white tables for this event and others. Karen offered tables from the Watershed Council if needed in the future.

Updates:

- 1) Travis talked about the grazing study. He and Jim have discussed treatment options. Travis will check for Purple loosestrife in about a month. He found an older permit for spraying over water, which is good until 2027, and is working on a permit for the entire region for invasives. Mark and Travis discussed waterway permits and the best methods to apply herbicide.

Tyler said the refuge will pay for a drone purchase and that it should be up and running then. Mark asked for a basic review of the grazing project. Travis said the refuge is utilizing targeted grazing using virtual fencing. Travis listed the invasives the refuge is losing acreage to. Treatments need to be coordinated with bird activity. Targeted, rotational grazing is surgical in nature and has proven to be 100% successful.

- 2) Tyler discussed weed topics for the Harney County Fair. He is thinking about biocontrol and how cattle can control Scotch thistle.

Plans for Next Month:

Tyler will be doing a lot of spraying. Lots in Burns and Hines will be treated.

Tyler said the Aquatic workshop will be on Tuesday, July 21st, and will be at the Burns Pond and Ag Research.

The meeting ended at 3:21 pm