

Established Pests Working Group
10:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Wednesday, March 7, 2007
Meeting Notes (3/7 draft)

1. Call to order

Meeting Goal: Look at the State Noxious Weed List rules, discuss what works and what doesn't, and how do we get rules that are more reflective of the problem plants and control efforts today. There continues to be confusion about the various Noxious Weeds and Seeds list, the purpose and authorities these rules give, how things get listed, schedule for updating the list, etc.

2. Introductions

Attendees: Mindy Wilkinson (Chair), Rob Hauff, Ryan Smith, Chris Dacus, James Leary, Danielle Frohlich, Shahin Ansari, Sara Pelleteri, Tony Montgomery, Alex Lau, Neil Reimer, Becky Azama, Christy Martin, Chris Buddenhagen, Stan Oka

3. Review: Overview of Department of Agriculture weed regulations, Current process for adding/removing weeds from the list (Neil Reimer, HDOA Plant Pest Control Branch)

Neil gave a brief summary of the purpose of the bill and main issues that need to be addressed and how that might be done.

Main points:

Rules give criteria for listing a plant as a noxious weed.

Noxious weeds list purpose is for DOA use, allowing them to undertake whatever management of the species listed that they decide.

No species that may arrive and become invasive are on the list.

Rule changing process is followed to add species.

Eradication and control must be done by cooperative agreement with landowners.

4. Discussion of DOA noxious weed regulations - *What do you want Noxious Weed Rules to do? (Directed Discussion)*

Stan: Gets County to see how they fit in. I'd like to see a cooperative movement towards rules, to ensure everyone's concerns are addressed. It shouldn't be done in a vacuum. It would help us in planning and maintenance. It needs to be cooperative, people blame me for all the fiddlewood...I didn't plant it. Having a plan for what to do with different species would take pressure off individuals.

Ryan: There is a different status for different Noxious Weeds, which makes it difficult. We would suggest three levels (control, eradication, not present) of weeds, we hope that new rules address all three.

James: I'm looking at things that are more cooperative, but if there are no funds available for assistance, then this wouldn't be such a carrot. State doesn't have anything comparable to NRCS grants? (perhaps DLNR/USFS Forest Stewardship grants, but not with HDOA).

Chris D: Most of our lands are ribbons of highways that are being invaded by weeds. HDOT Highways is about to start a major statewide project educating our staff and controlling priority species on our lands. For landscape industry, there are a lot of lists. It is tricky—and questions arise such as how did they list plants? For example, some plants that are on the WRA, plant industry finds them difficult to propagate. Also, the industry gets upset when we are asked to not sell or plant something like strawberry guava, when it is all over the place.

Chris D: No reputable nursery is propagating things on the Noxious Weed List. Need more work together on a master plan, what will the tolerance levels be for various areas? Industry doesn't want to do this piecemeal, but

wants to work together, plant industry feels that they are behind the curve. We should also change the name, to Invasive, or something, Noxious is confusing.

Chris B: Perhaps we should also think about sites (site-led approach), do we want to have rules to work on invasive weeds at particular sites, not just on specific species (species-led approach). NZ had regional strategies (made by area stakeholders/public, but within a set of guidelines set by Biosecurity Act), that also laid out a species-led approach allowed councils to use some property taxes to do work in the strategy. Some are total control plants for eradication, early detection list, and control list. Hawaii could do by county. Strategy must make sense for the species.

Tony: There are traditional aquaculture systems that are being used for invasive alga like Gracilaria, and there are land-based aquaculture programs that are growing non-native alga that could get to the ocean. These are issues that are completely unaddressed by Noxious Weed rules.

5. Review - Voluntary compliance efforts and next steps.

Christy: Codes of Conduct project update.

Chris D: 10-20 % of high risk WRA plants would face some opposition by industry if they were to be added to a list (in reality, I think the industry is in agreement with 80% of the list). Many of the others are either unknown, unpopular, or perhaps known to be weedy by industry, and wouldn't face much opposition. Some of the 10% of plants don't have an alternate non-invasive plant (seashore paspalum is an example). Next step is that we are going to each island to gain more comments on this list. Then we will resolve what we will do with the contentious list. One concern with the WRA is that the industry uses a lot of varieties and hybrids, which the WRA does not always take into account.

6. Announcements & Next Steps

We will talk to Carol about the white list talks, prevention working group.

We will synthesize a "perfect world" ideal version of the rules, provide to Neil.

7. Close meeting