

Monday, March 9th 2026 Benton CWMA General Meeting Notes



Attendees

Albany Parks & Recreation: Jay Sharpe

Benton County Public Works: Shea Steingass

Benton SWCD: Cierra Dawson, Michael Ahr

Bureau of Land Management: Heidi Christensen

Corvallis Parks & Recreation: Jenna Leichner

Greenbelt Land Trust: Andy Neil, Emily Day

Institute for Applied Ecology: Rolando Beorchia, Zade Clark-Henry

Oregon Department of Agriculture: Troy Abercrombie

Oregon Department of Forestry: Christine Buhl

OSU Extension Service: Crystal Kelso, Otilia Schreuder, Kiana Ringuette

Oregon Invasive Species Council: Yasmina Cooper

Western Invasives Network: Courtney Gattuso

Willamette Riverkeeper: Vanessa Youngblood, Jake Hastings

Agenda

1. **Welcome and introductions**
2. **Mediterranean Oak Borer and Emerald Ash Borer updates from Christine Buhl, Entomologist, Oregon Department of Forestry**

[View presentation here](#)

Christine shared a presentation going over the major signs & symptoms of both Mediterranean Oak Borer (MOB) and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestations in Oregon White Oak and Oregon Ash, respectively. She shared that ODF lost funding for MOB trapping and monitoring efforts that were occurring in 2025 and that the agency is searching for new funding avenues. SWCDs may be able to help with trapping efforts. Kat Bethea, an ODF EAB Specialist, is part of a working group developing a list of possible replacement species for ash.

3. **New ODA Noxious Weeds listings overview from Troy Abercrombie, Noxious Weed Control and Native Plant Conservation Program Manager, Oregon Department of Agriculture**

[View presentation here](#)

Troy's presentation began with general ODA updates, including new staff and what they should be contacted for. Notably for our region, Ashley Toland is now the Biocontrol Entomologist and should be contacted for any questions related to projects involving

biocontrol agents. Jordan Donaghy is now a permanent member of the ODA Noxious Weed Control team and can be reached for biocontrol fieldwork and noxious weed greenhouse questions.

In October 2025, the following species were added to the ODA Noxious Weeds List:

- Oriental/roundleaf bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) – A list
- Stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*) – A list
- Yellow bush lupine (*Lupinus arboreus*) – B list

In February 2026, the following species were added to the ODA “watch list” meaning they could be listed in the future:

- Balfour’s Balsam (*Impatiens balfourii*)
- Sessilefruited arrowhead (*Sagittaria rigida*)
- Waterhemp (*Amaranthus tuberculatus*; recommended for A-listing, with conditions)

Troy also shared that the [Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium](#) is happening from December 8-11, 2026 at LaSells Stewart Center on OSU campus. Additionally, ODA recently debuted a virtual [Native Plant Conservation Symposium](#) in December 2025 that will be in-person every other year. 2026 will be an in-person year and will be attached to the last day of the INW Symposium this December.

4. **Benton CWMA priority weeds list brainstorming**

Cierra shared a list of priority weeds she put together in 2025 for a Weed Watchers Workshop. She asked for input from the group about additional species to be added to the list as an official Benton County CWMA priority weeds list.

- [You can view the original table Cierra created in 2025 here.](#)
- [You can contribute to the spreadsheet of priority weeds here.](#)

When adding to this list, think of the invasive species that cause the most disturbance on the site(s) that you work at. Think of species that you would absolutely *jump* at the opportunity to do something about if funding allowed (i.e. maybe bigger than blackberry and scotch broom, but still worth doing something about). We will revisit and adopt the list at the fall 2026 general meeting.

5. **Let’s Pull Together 2026 site brainstorming**

LPT 2026 will be on Saturday, May 16th from 9 AM – 12 PM. Registration will be hosted via Benton SWCD website. Cierra asked the group for partner organizations who would be interested in hosting volunteers this year. Cierra would like to have this year’s partner organizations and sites finalized by May 1st so registration can be open for at least two weeks. She will send follow-up emails to partners in April.

6. Partner updates

Benton SWCD

- Received funding via Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB) Noxious Weed grants for continued work on terrestrial weeds (oblong spurge and now garlic mustard in collaboration with Greenbelt Land Trust), as well as aquatic weeds (yellow floating heart, ludwigia, garden yellow loosestrife)

Willamette Riverkeepers

- Received funding via OSWB Noxious Weed grants for continued aquatic invasive species work with Benton and Yamhill SWCDs
- Received funding for a new e-DNA project for yellow floating heart. Working with OSU to develop tests that eventually will be open to external practitioners to test waterbodies of interest for certain aquatic plant species.

Corvallis Parks & Recreation

- A new Emerald Ash Borer specialist position is coming down the pipeline sometime next year for Corvallis P&R.
- Corvallis P&R newly acquired a 40-acre parcel of Douglas-fir plantation that will be added to the northern side of Chip Ross Natural Area.

Benton County Public Works

- Lupine seeding will take place at the city's Special Management Area on the west side of SW West Hills Road (adjacent to Lupine Meadows, a Greenbelt Land Trust property and confirmed Fenders population)
- Updating BMP training for Benton County roads crew.

Greenbelt Land Trust

- Greenbelt is currently hiring two new positions: an Associate Director and a Trails and Urban Spaces Manager. The deadline to apply for both positions is March 31st, 2026. [See the job announcements for more information.](#)
- Received OWEB funding to do preemptive ash thinning and reclamation of wet prairie at Bald Hill and another site in Linn County.

Bureau of Land Management

- Observed great success with flame weeding trials of shiny geranium at Alsea Falls Recreation site. Wanting to expand treatment areas to roadsides to mitigate vector sources.
- BLM has a Notice of Intent to revise their Resource Management Plan (RMP) concerning timber that encompasses the entire west side of the state of Oregon.

The public comment period on the revision is open now and closes on March 23rd.
[Visit here to read the proposed rule and learn how to submit public comments.](#)

Institute for Applied Ecology

- IAE is developing a plan to make sure communications get routed to the correct people during this period of staff turnover. If you have not received a response from your usual point-person at the organization, direct your communications to the Executive Director Keith Norris. He can be reached at keith@appliedeco.org.
- Andrew Esterson has taken a new position and will be stepping away from his role as Habitat Restoration Program Director at the organization. Scott Harris will be acting as the interim Habitat Restoration Program Director. He can be reached at scott@appliedeco.org.

Upcoming CWMA events

1. Spring Weed Watchers Workshop with OSU Extension

- a. Saturday, May 9th 10:30 AM – 12 PM
- b. 4077 SW Research Way Corvallis, OR 97333 Sunset Meeting Room, Suite 101
- c. Registration hosted by OSU Extension. [Register here.](#)

2. Let's Pull Together 2026

- a. Saturday, May 16th 9 AM – 12 PM
- b. Various locations TBA
- c. Registration will be hosted via Benton SWCD website. Registration link to follow.

If you have an event you would like to be shared with the larger CWMA group, please feel free to share it by emailing it to benton-cwma@googlegroups.com. Note that your message will be received by the entire listserv.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 2nd 10 AM – 12 PM. Location TBA.