

Coastal Watershed Invasive Plant Partnership

Thursday November 18, 2010 - 9 am- 12 pm
US Forest Service, Portsmouth, NH

Attendees:

Rachel Stevens (GBNERR),
Kevin Lucey (NHCP),
Morgan Eastman (NHCP),
Andy Gould (GBNERR),

Florence Peterson (USFS),
Doug Cygan (Dept of Ag.),
Lenny Lord (RCCD),
Brook Smart (NRCS),

Sarah Jansen (USFWS),
Nancy Pau (USFWS).

Discussion about the 10/21/ 10 Commercial Not-For-Hire Pesticide Licensing Presentation

NH Division of Pesticide Control/ Pesticide Control Board is considering revisions to the licensing rules. The CWIPP Partnership discussed perceived licensing 'impediments.' They are as follows:

1. Often invasive plant control projects occur across multiple habitat types (e.g. forest, trail, field, wetland) that may require multiple pesticide license types (e.g. forest, right-of-way). Often Category F - Right-of-way and commercial weed and brush control is the default category selected by the Division for invasive projects; however, there are instances when this definition does not correspond with the proposed project. The uncertainty about license type adds unnecessary confusion.
 - **SUGGESTION 1:** Create a new license category that is specific to AGR 3800.01 and 487:16-a (Loosestrife and Phragmites).
 - **SUGGESTION 2:** amend rules to include invasive plants in the category (i) license. For Example: PES 302.01 (i) Regulatory pest control (I) shall include state, federal or other governmental employees using or supervising the use of pesticides in the control of "Invasive species," as defined in RSA 430:52 VII, or regulated pests as listed upon the "Regulated Pest List" maintained by the US Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, **or as defined in AGR 3800.01.**
2. Landtrusts with stewardship responsibilities for conservation easements fall into a licensing gray area; as they do not own the land under easement. Our understanding of the pesticide rules requires that a land trust retain a commercial for hire license to control invasives on conservation easements managed by the landtrust. Land conservation organizations are well poised to implement widespread invasive plant control; it would be a shame for the rules to unnecessarily prohibit that activity.
 - **SUGGESTION 1:** Amend rules to re-define the Commercial Not For Hire description to include provisions for conservation easements. For Example: PES 101.06 means those commercial applicators who apply pesticides to their own premises, that of their immediate employers, **or by those with stewardship authority to lands held under conservation easement** or when performing duties required of them by a governmental subdivision, and any other commercial applicator other than a "commercial applicator for hire", including but not limited to golf course personnel, state, federal and municipal employees.
3. **Comments on rule changes can be submitted a letter to the chairperson of NH's Pesticide Board (Lorraine Merrill) or to David Rousseau, Director of the NH Division of Pesticide Control.**

Developing a Landscape Scale Prioritization Strategy for Invasive Plants

The Great Bay Estuarine Research Reserve continues to pursue this initiative. Next steps include:

- Getting feedback from natural resource professionals and conservation commissions, & concerned citizens about invasive plant priority areas. Information is due December 30, 2010;

- Once priority areas are identified, a Survey Monkey will be used to rate the priorities;
- GBNERR will then conduct co-occurrence mapping;
- An additional next step is to develop a Google Map that allows for user generated data, however, GBNEER recently became aware of a similar pursuit through the state invasive species committee; iMap Invasives.

iMap Invasives is back on the table

- iMap invasives is a consortium formed to develop, support and maintain an on-line, GIS-based, all-taxa invasive species mapping tool, iMapInvasives, focused on serving the needs of land managers, regional planners and others working to prevent, control or manage invasive species.
- Bob Eckert at UNH has a graduate student Amanda Weiss who has the objective of developing a geospatial database for invasive plant mapping.
- iMap Invasives was recommended to the Invasive Species Committee (ISC) for use in the State. The ISC and the Natural Heritage Bureau are looking into this alternative.
- Yearly fees are \$5,000, with a startup fee of \$2,500
- USFWS-Great Bay will evaluate other databases from Georgia, Gulf of Maine, Denver.

Tool Lending Library

- GBNERR has a tool lending library of 30 weed wrenches. Volunteers can reserve them for invasive plant projects. The only requirement is that those borrowing tools must provide information about the organization and the project. Contact Rachel Stevens to make a reservation:
Rachel.Stevens@wildlife.nh.gov

Cottontail Rabbit and Invasive Plant Control Projects

- Practitioners should ensure that their invasive plant control projects do not encroach into Cottontail habitat particularly in the towns of Amherst, Litchfield, Durham, Madbury, Merrimack, Dover, Derry, Rollinsford, Lee, Londonderry. Practitioners are reminded to check with the Natural Heritage Bureau or contact Steve Fuller at NHFGD.
- If a person is working in a 0.5+ acre shrubland area in the town of Dover, they should be referred to Emma Carcagno at UNH Coop Ext for further NEC habitat assessment emma.carcagno@unh.edu

State Invasive Species Committee

- Doug Cygan suggested a joint meeting between CWIPP and the State Invasive Species Committee (ISC) to be held in the spring to discuss statewide issues.

Practitioners Guide to Invasive Plant Control in NH.

- A CWIPP product (under development) with the goal of providing species specific invasive plant control fact sheets for as many plants as possible;
- We have a format that has been approved by the NH Division of Pesticide Control;
- The guide will also provide information on when permits (CSPA, Wetlands, Pesticide) are required. As well as other regulatory guidance. Kevin will talk to Bob Wolff about receiving guidance from the Division;
- With permission from UNH Cooperative Extension, the Guide will also include information from the invasive disposal factsheet that was developed by the invasive plant outreach group (IPOG).
- Responsibilities are as follows:
 - **Regulation Guidance:** Kevin
 - **Pepperweed:** Kevin and Sarah
 - **Buckthorn(s):** Lenny
 - **Loosestrife:** Nancy
 - **Knotweed:** Sarah
 - **Phragmites:** Nancy
 - **Bittersweet:** Doug

Next Meeting is January 20, 2011 at the US Forest Service in Durham from 9-11.