

Jackson Residents Head to Washington D.C. for National Invasive Weed Awareness Week

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Jackson, WY – Four members of the Jackson Hole Weed Management Association (JHWMA) are preparing for a trip to Washington D.C. at the end of this month for National Invasive Weed Awareness Week (NIWAW).

This will be the ninth annual NIWAW event drawing hundreds of delegates from across the United States and Canada to raise awareness of invasive species in North America. Delegates will be working to educate and inform Legislators and government agencies of the threat of spread of invasive weeds on our public and private lands. It is estimated that 30 million of the 775 million acres of federal land in the United States are infested with noxious weeds!

This year's representatives from Teton County are Robb Sgroi from the Teton Conservation District, Jim Ozenberger from the Bridger-Teton National Forest, and Amy Jerup and Erika Edmiston from the Teton County Weed and Pest District. They will be joining 12 delegates from across Wyoming who will be making the trip February 24 – 29th.

This year's event comes as the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) reviews the draft of the *2008 – 2012 National Invasive Species Management Plan*. NISC was established by Executive Order 13112 in 1999 as an inter-agency council to prevent and control invasive species in order to minimize their economic, ecological and human health impacts. It is co-chaired by the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce and the Interior and also includes the Departments of State, Defense, Transportation, EPA, to name a few. The plan is intended to address invasive species in the areas of prevention, early detection and rapid response, control, restoration and organizational collaboration.

Local invasive species programs coordinated through partnerships created by the JHWMA contribute to the goals of NISC. As reflected in Executive Order 13112, State, local, Tribal and private programs and policies are critical to success. Invasive species issues cannot be addressed by Federal programs and actions alone.

“Members of the JHWMA are working hard to provide programs and services to the people of Teton County. We encourage everyone to contact the Conservation District or the Weed and Pest District to learn more about what we have to offer private landowners/managers,” states Erika Edmiston, Weed and Pest District Supervisor. “The purpose of the JHWMA is to establish common long and short term management policies, goals, and objectives necessary for cooperatively managing and funding noxious weed activities across all jurisdictional boundaries.”

For more information, the public can contact the Weed and Pest District at (307) 733-8419, the Conservation District at (307) 733-2110, or visit one of the following websites www.tetonconservation.org or www.tcweed.org.

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