

FRUFC Meeting Minutes
Westview Recreation Center-Westminster, 3/15/2007

1) Introductions – Dave Flaig

2) Russian-Olive Management and Research-

Maggie Gaddis, a University of Denver Graduate student, has been researching the riparian habitat invasions of Russian-Olive and Tamarisk in the western United States. Russian Olive (RO) was introduced in the early 1900s as a windbreak and ornamental horticulture plant. The state of Montana still sells the plant. It is on the Colorado noxious weed list. It has pushed out native Cottonwoods which need a cleared substrate to germinate. Cottonwood seeds will not germinate under the shade of understory trees. RO are spreading in a southerly direction from Canada.

Tamarisk is now gradually spreading in a northerly direction from the southwestern U.S. Maggie stated that there is no recorded active or passive revegetation of Tamarisk sites after removal. RO revegetation studies show primarily that other noxious weeds move in after removal. Most removal efforts are on public lands. Adjacent ROs on private land remain and spread. Chipping ROs on site and leaving the mulch has proved unsuccessful. Only a few weeds (cheat grass, etc.) and no native plants grow through the mulch.

Maggie performed a revegetation/restoration regression analysis that revealed the two most important factors in successful revegetation were proximity to a water channel and low pH (less than 7).

Following is an abstract from Maggie's research, she can be reached at maggie.gaddis@du.edu

In many western riparian ecosystems, native vegetative cover is declining and invasive species like Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) are becoming the dominant cover. Russian olive is an exotic, invasive woody species introduced to the western United States in the early 1900's. Originally planted as a windbreak and for bank stabilization, it is now naturalized in river corridors of the West.

Invasive species cause ecosystem alterations that can lead to site degradation and high maintenance costs. I have explored the relationship between site attributes and plant cover to understand how Russian olive plays a role in riparian ecosystem alterations. I used site attributes such as presence of flooding, distance to permanent water, elevation, precipitation and soil texture and nutrients in regression tree modeling to explain variation in native and exotic plant cover. My results suggest that hydrology and soil salinity and pH affect plant cover more than other site attributes.

3) A panel of local Foresters talked about their Russian Olive removal efforts:

Scott Grimes -South Suburban Parks

- Focus on educating the neighbors prior to RO removal.
- Have done approximately 10,000 removals
- Two stump cuts with immediate painting with Roundup on the second cut
- They monitor removal sites and recut and apply Roundup to any new growth

Rob Davis- Westminster

- Have 2500 acres of open space
- Russian Olive Termination (ROT) program began in 1998
- They clear one site at a time
- Had problems with beaver removing cottonwoods from RO removal sites
- Annual follow-up on cleared sites
- Focus on education and using volunteers
- Replanting with Plains Cottonwood
- 3124 total removals

Boulder-Kathleen Alexander

- RO removal by Open Space & Mountain Parks division
- Have mapped most RO sites
- No ROs on new sites (must be removed prior to acquisition)
- They wrench out trees up to 3” Caliper
- They flush cut larger trees and treat with Garlon 4
- They remove April-June prior to seed set
- Limited replanting- mainly chokecherry and cottonwood
- Parks & Forestry Division applies Roundup to removed stumps

Tim Buchanan-Fort Collins

- Reported on testing done by volunteer Les Fralen in previous years. Fralen tested girdling, chopping, drilling and hatchet removal methods. He found cutting and applying herbicide to the fresh stump to be the best technique (95% successful)

BREAK

4) Reciprocal Licensing Update

Kiki Romero, City of Denver has circulated the three versions of Denver’s written tests to the other testing cities for review. Denver also has an Ornamental license test.

5) Committee Reports:

Insect and Disease:

ISA-RMC Plant Health Care Workshop:

WHAT: Plant Health Care Workshop-Diagnosis of Insect & Disease Problems

WHEN: Thursday, June 7, 2007
8:00am – 3:30pm
**CEUs will be provided

WHERE: Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO
Registration & check-in at the Plant Science Building, Room C-101
**See attached registration form for directions

ABOUT: Split into 4 groups that will attend outside sessions. Please dress accordingly for ever-changing weather. If you have any 'unknown' samples, bring those and during the last session 'Stump the Experts', instructors will help diagnosis your sample.

COST: ISA-RMC Member \$45
Non-member \$70

REGISTRATION: Please fill out the attached registration form and fax back to the ISA-RMC office at 303-798-1315
You can also mail it to 9137 E. Mineral Circle, Suite 250, Centennial, CO 80112
Phone registrations will not be accepted.

DIRECTIONS: Directions are on the attached form.

The Plant Health Care Workshop is limited to the first 80 registrants. So register today!!
Also, if you have any questions regarding the workshop, please call Ralph Zentz at 970-221-6302

Estes Park Forest Health Workshop-This event is scheduled for May 18, 10 am - 3 pm, at the Estes Park Town Hall, focusing on providing information to the public in the Estes Valley. Planned presenters include Dave Lentz, Larimer County Forester; Ingrid Aguayo, CSFS Entomologist; and Wendy McCartney, CSFS Fort Collins District. Also planned is a panel discussion with Bob Cain, USFS Entomologist, and a representative from RMNP. Each agency is invited to host an informational booth on MPB, other insects and diseases common

to the area, and forest health in general. If you are interested in hosting a booth, please contact Russ Franklin directly at 970.577.3781.

EAB Workshops to be Held in July-This July, the Colorado State Pest Committee will sponsor a free workshop to provide information on the invasive emerald ash borer. The 2007 Emerald Ash Borer Workshop is a hands-on experience, designed to provide city foresters, county extension agents, and certified arborists with information on the biology of the emerald ash borer, its history in the United States, and survey and detection techniques. Staff from the USDA APHIS PPQ Emerald Ash Borer program in Michigan will be on hand to demonstrate the best surveillance techniques and further details of the pest. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to strip ash logs and practice searching for larvae and other symptoms of the pest. This one day workshop will be offered in Fort Collins on July 17th, Colorado Springs July 18th, and Thornton July 19th, 2007. Space will be limited so please look for registration information to come available at the May FRUFC meeting.

Select Tree- Tim Buchanan announced that Big Tooth Maple is this year's tree. He has applications for interested groups.

Hazard Tree- no report

Program/ Membership-no report

CTC- awarded \$21,00 in grants, 21 applications this year

ISA- see website for training and Certification tests

6) Community Reports:

Sara Jungblatt from Denver gave a brief overview of the 7,000 trees in 7,000 Days Project. For further info go to <http://www.greenprintdenver.org/trees/index.php>.

7) Other Business:

Carol Lyons of IES asked for volunteers to help monitor tree sites in Golden in June and July. Please see the attachment for more details.

Meeting adjourned! Thanks for coming!

No Attendance Roster was circulated- we had 40-50 attendees who were very well fed thanks to The City of Westminster. Notes by Dave Flaig who will never try to run the meeting and take minutes again!