

Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area (KP-CWMA)

Memorandum of Understanding

Pulling Together the KP-CWMA

Public, private and tribal landowners across the Kenai Peninsula are concerned with invasive plant infestations, commonly known as weeds, which are currently growing within the landscape and those that may be introduced. These infestations reduce the biological, agricultural, recreational, and economic value of the land, decrease native plant populations, and degrade ecosystems. For management efforts to be successful, a broad-scale, coordinated and systematically integrated approach to managing these invasive plants is necessary.

Taking a landscape-scale view places specific weeds and treatment sites in context with the geographic distribution of invasive plants, susceptible habitats and management feasibility. Weed management areas typically focus on finding solutions to invasive weeds across a landscape rather than strictly focusing on specific land ownerships.

Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to recognize the KP-CWMA and to establish the basis for participants to cooperate, coordinate activities, and share resources necessary for the prevention and control of invasive plants on public, private and tribal lands across ownership boundaries within the KP-CWMA.

By creating a framework to accomplish mutually beneficial projects and activities, the MOU promotes cooperation between participants, also known as stakeholders. Each stakeholder will benefit from shared resources, combined expertise, shared responsibilities, unified strategy, consistency of methods, and collective results. The intention is to facilitate active communication and cooperative effort pertinent to landscape stewardship regarding invasive plants. All stakeholders are accepted as equal partners in this agreement.

The signatory parties, hereafter referred to as Stakeholders, propose to work together, within the scope of their respective authorities, towards achieving sustainable, healthy ecosystems that support protected natural lands, agriculture, recreational lands and wildlife habitat. Additionally, all agencies and organizations will seek to supply the public with relevant knowledge and skills, land stewardship practices, awareness related to invasive plant issues, and adaptive management programs.

Areas of Agreement

Stakeholders of the KP-CWMA are aware of the problems caused by invasive plants and recognize that active management is necessary to control or to eradicate existing invasive plants within the KP-CWMA boundaries and to prevent the establishment of additional invasive species.

Therefore, We, the Stakeholders, collectively agree to the following actions:

1. To minimize the introduction of invasive plants (weeds) by:
 - Recognizing introduction vectors and monitoring for invasive plant and seed importation;
 - Promoting public awareness through education;
 - Requiring that contracts for work that disturbs or imports soil or fill materials to have an invasive plants control and prevention plan, when relevant and appropriate;
 - Support the enforcement of control efforts.

2. To promote control of existing weed occurrences by supporting invasive plant management efforts and activities. This support may include:
 - Land access for weed surveys;
 - Sharing scientific and technical expertise;
 - Participation in control efforts;
 - Contribution of work time;
 - Contribution of funds;
 - Sharing of resources when possible, including maps, imagery, reports, surveys and equipment;
 - In-kind support.

3. The Alaska, Homer and Kenai Soil and Water Conservation Districts agree to:
 - Provide lead staff support for the organization, as funding allows;
 - Provide coordination and leadership for the KP-CWMA;
 - Work with the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, when appropriate.

Independent Responsibilities

Each stakeholder has a primary responsibility to its own governing body and lands under its jurisdiction. Stakeholders agree to provide resources to each other as legal authorities may permit. All stakeholders are responsible and accountable for their own funds, equipment, and personnel.

This MOU in no way restricts stakeholders from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations and individuals.

Stakeholders are encouraged to work together to enhance their resource management capabilities and to generally advance the state of knowledge of invasive plant species within the KP-CWMA.

Indemnification

To the extent allowed under Federal Tort Claims Law, each Stakeholder shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless each of the other Stakeholders, their officers, employees and agents from any and all liability, loss, expense (including reasonable attorney’s fees) or claims for injury or damages arising out of the performance of this MOU but only in proportion to and to the extent of such liability, loss, expense, attorney’s fees or claims for injury or damages are caused by or result from the negligent or intentional acts or omissions by the indemnifying Stakeholders.

Modification and Termination

This agreement will be effective from the date of signature of at least two Stakeholders. Any Stakeholder may terminate their involvement in the KP-CWMA by providing written notice to the Board of Directors.

This MOU may be amended as necessary by mutual consent of the Stakeholders by execution of a written amendment signed and dated by all Stakeholders.

This MOU will be reviewed every five (5) years and updated if necessary.

KP-CWMA Contact

The regional contacts for this agreement are:

Sue True
Kenai SWCD
110 Trading Bay, Suite 160
Kenai, AK 99661
(907) 283-8732 ext 108
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Caleb Slemmons
Homer SWCD
4014 Lake Street, Suite 201
Homer, AK 99603
(907) 235-8177 ext 5
caleb@homerswcd.org

The list of all signatory stakeholders and each signed MOU will be kept on file with the above contacts and made available to all, upon request. In addition, the KP-CWMA Charter, Budget, Strategic Plan and all annual plans will be similarly filed and available.

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Signatory Page**

(Name of Stakeholder)

hereby agrees to the terms of the Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area Memorandum of Understanding.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Title

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone and Fax numbers

Email address

Please Return this page to:

**Caleb Slemmons, Natural Resources Consultant
Homer Soil and Water Conservation District
4014 Lake Street, Suite 201
Homer, AK 99603
Phone: (907) 235-8177 ext 5 / Fax: 235-2364**