

Invasive Species Management With Volunteers Project Proposal

Name of Project: Surveying, Monitoring and Combating Invasive Plant Species through Volunteers and Outreach at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

Name of Refuge: Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

Project Description: The Refuge, through a Cooperative Agreement with our Friends of the Tualatin River Refuge, proposes to build volunteer capacity for combating invasive species on the refuge and to build awareness of and stewardship for managing invasive species issues, both on the Refuge and in the surrounding watershed community. We will work with volunteers to develop comprehensive invasive plant species maps on the refuge. We plan to develop and conduct intensive volunteer training modules for identifying, GPS mapping, and combating invasive species. Emphasis will be placed on the detection and prevention of new infestations to assign highest priority to existing infestations that are the fastest growing, most disruptive, and affect habitat restoration actions the greatest. Difficulty of control will be a priority under this project for identifying infestations the refuge currently has limitations in combating due to lack of resources. The project will incorporate elements of the Early Detection and Rapid Response System for invasive plants. In addition, we will host monthly volunteer activities and/or work parties specifically dedicated to controlling and/or removing invasive species on the refuge.

Friends Group, Volunteers, and Other Partners: Friends of Tualatin River NWR will provide volunteer recruitment and will provide coordination for mapping and invasives control projects.

Public Outreach and/or Environmental Education: The Refuge and the Friends will develop and conduct trainings for volunteers and conduct public outreach on the importance of invasive species management. These multi-layered outreach activities will include: leading plant walks; hosting native plant gardening workshops; hosting a native plant sale special event; providing handouts for visitors; developing a photographic display highlighting invasive species on the refuge; writing local newspaper stories; and providing invasive species curriculum materials to educators through teacher workshops.

Post-treatment Monitoring: New data from invasive species mapping will be correlated with previous mapping data to determine priority treatment areas and measure previous treatment success. The results will drive adaptive management decision-making for current and future invasive species control efforts on the Refuge.

Criteria for Project Success: Within one year of project initiation:

- ◆ 500 acres will be mapped
- ◆ 25 volunteers will be trained
- ◆ 1,000 volunteer hours will be dedicated to invasive species management
- ◆ 10,000 people reached through invasives species outreach

Budget: \$20,000

Friends volunteer coordinator: \$15,000

Training development: \$4,000

Materials and equipment: \$1,000