



# North American Weed Management Association

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**Subject:** Membership in the NAWMA National EDRR Coordinating Committee

**To:** NAWMA Members

The original NAWMA position statement on development of a **National Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) System for Invasive Plants** was first developed and approved by the NAWMA Board of Directors in 1998, after Dr. Randy Westbrooks with the U.S. Geological Survey, gave a presentation on EDRR at the NAWMA annual conference in Manhattan, Kansas, in September, 1997. Since then, Dr. Westbrooks and others have worked continuously to develop the various elements and processes of the system, in cooperation with a number of agencies and groups around the country. As the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) Board Member and Committee Chair for Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR), I am working with Dr. Westbrooks in developing the National EDRR System. Currently, the effort is focused on establishment of **State EDRR Coordinating Committees** to lead the development of system elements at the state and local levels.

In support of this ongoing effort, the NAWMA Board in the process of updating the 1998 NAWMA Position Statement on EDRR, and has approved the establishment of a **NAWMA National EDRR Coordinating Committee**. The purpose of the committee will be to promote EDRR as the preferred management strategy for new weeds, and to foster development of State EDRR Coordinating Committees. Essentially, committee members would serve as an EDRR liaison between NAWMA, their State EDRR Committee, and the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW).

For example, the Oregon member of the NAWMA EDRR Committee would work to establish an Oregon EDRR Coordinating Committee, would help to develop a State EDRR Coordinating Committee Work Plan, and would serve as a primary point of contact for new weeds. If someone reported a new infestation of Orange Hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*) in Oregon, the NAWMA EDRR Liaison would make sure they receive contact information for the Oregon State Weed Coordinator, the State Extension Weed Specialist, and others as appropriate. The primary goal is make sure that connections are made between people who observe new weeds and state/federal officials who have authority/programs to address them.

Based on efforts to date in developing the National EDRR System, it is clear that we need at least one person in every state who is willing to serve as a primary point of contact for EDRR. As professional weed managers, NAWMA members are uniquely qualified to serve in this important role. So, would you or someone you know be interested in being a member of the **NAWMA National EDRR Coordinating Committee**? If you like being the first to know about new weeds, to help make things happen, this is the group for you.....

If you are interested in getting involved with the NAWMA EDRR effort, please email your name and contact information to [shekennedy@hotmail.com](mailto:shekennedy@hotmail.com) or [www.nawma.org](http://www.nawma.org).

In order to 'hold the line' on new weeds in the U.S., it is important to pull our resources together – to share information about new and emerging species. We are looking forward to your interest and participation in the **NAWMA National EDRR Coordinating Committee**.

Respectfully,

*Sheilah*

Sheilah Kennedy, Board Member North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA)

Cc: Dr. Randy Westbrooks, USGS, Whiteville, North Carolina

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