



Kenai Peninsula CWMA

Reed Canarygrass 2020 Annual Work Plan

The following activities and projects are already planned and/or recommended by KP-CWMA partners for the 2020 field season. Activities include: chemical treatment at priority sites; monitoring/surveying techniques and locations; education/outreach needs; experimentation w/ restoration; strategic planning/prioritization needs; and identified research needs. Metrics for evaluating success (that are the responsibility of the CWMA) are identified for each activity.

STRATEGY/PRIORITIES/IPM

- **CWMA committee for RCG formed (Katherine Schake, Maura Schumacher, Emily Munter, Gino Graziano, Betty Channon, Dan Mico, Colin Canterbury, Matt Bowser)** Schedule Mtgs to further refine strategy
 - **Success measured by:** # of meetings; decisions & strategy that emerges from conversation; recommendations provided to CWMA

- **Finalize updates to Reed Canarygrass Strategic Management Plan - Katherine**
 - Approve written updates from Dec 2019 RCG meeting
 - AKEPIC data used to update # of known infestations
 - Incorporate new AKEPIC data into Watershed Analysis (cursory update – any prev. clean watersheds now infested?)
 - **Success measured by:** Updated AKEPIC data incorporated and Approved draft by KP-CWMA partners

- **White Paper summarizing history and state of the science for Kenai Peninsula & RCG, and a landowner handout– Maura (KWF) & Katherine (HSWCD)**
 “What’s been done, what’s worked and what doesn’t work, lessons learned for managing RCG.”
 Include \$ spent on projects; tx approaches; research & control (literature review); strategic plan development; KP specific recommendations (incorporate current state of the science on control: <http://grasslandrestorationnetwork.org/2020/04/30/herbicide-treatments-to-reed-canary-grass-clethodim-vs-glyphosate/> **Long-Term Goal**
 - **Success measured by:** Completed by Dec 2020; Landowner handout developed on pros/cons of herbicide use & RCG Summary (Spring 2021)

- **Update Watershed Analysis with new AK EPIC data- Katherine**
 - **Success measured by:** Completed summer 2020

- **Mapping exercise to identify critical vectors and bottlenecks, along with asset-based protection sites. RCG Committee**



- **Success measured by:** Priority survey and control areas extracted for 2020 – 2023
- **Revise Attribute Table 1 in RCG Strategic Plan** (page 10) – **RCG Committee**
Simplify in terms of number of columns and then add some sort of prioritization for action within the different action categories. Color coding the rows to match Figure 5 may add clarity as well. Or, create new table with fine-tuned prioritization developed from mapping exercise. Keep Table 1 for historical context.
 - **Success measured by:** Table(s) updated by Dec 2020
- **Add Monitoring Component to Strategic Management Plan.** – **RCG Committee**
Develop the methodology to monitor and assess rate of spread. **Long-Term Goal**
 - **Success measured by:** Ability to understand which infestations are largest threat to historically clean watershed, or threatening asset-based resources. 2020- 2023
- **Add IPM Component to Strategic Management Plan** - **RCG Committee**
 - **Success measured by:** Consensus and approval by KP-CWMA partnership on which non-federal lands to target for control efforts and method of control. 2020-2023
- **Prioritize actions for any given watershed** (i.e. chemical treatment; outreach; vehicle cleaning).
To be discussed further by RCG Committee (see excerpt from RCG Strategic Plan below).

More often than not, this will likely involve critical thinking about vectors and bottlenecks (e.g., Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points), as well as land ownership (which can affect treatments under consideration). Containment does not mean “do nothing”. It can mean aggressive actions to prevent infestations within a contained watershed from serving as seed/propagule sources for other watersheds. It may still require chemical treatment along the Seward or Sterling Highway. It may require asking HEA/KPB/DOT to wash down maintenance vehicles before exiting from contaminated right-of-ways. It may require outreach efforts to anglers. It may require getting local forage growers to become certified as weed-free. It may require treating infestations in upper watersheds to prevent moose from carrying seeds into adjacent pristine watersheds. Once contained within a watershed, populations can be further treated, but this is a local- scale decision. Activities will be defined by KP-CWMA partners in an annual workplan.

- **Success measured by:** New AK EPIC data, vector and asset-based resources mapping incorporated into existing geospatial database, and PHAR Strategic Watershed Plan updated. December 2020. Define priority outreach activities annually.

SURVEYING & MONITORING

- **Develop survey methodology for watersheds** – **RCG Committee**



Given we know there are data gaps in AK EPIC, particularly in watersheds previously considered “pristine.” Feed findings of their condition back into the watershed analysis model, if there are significant differences. **Long-Term Goal**

- **Investigate aerial imagery as a tool for mapping RCG (KS write-up summary of Bishop Creek drone Imagery 2019 from Mark Laker)**
 - **Success measured by:** Written Report Summarizing what was done & lessons learned.
- **Revisit AK EPIC data along watershed boundaries** (i.e. those threatening ‘clean’ watersheds). See analysis activities described above. **Katherine & Maura?**
- **Identify Priority Survey Sites for 2020 & implement surveys (may lead to new control sites) – RCG Committee. *KNWR is concerned about Chickaloon Watershed (Mystery Creek Rd) and Fox River Drainage; Island Lake Float Plane Base (was this RCG?) – Who to survey out here?**
 - **Success measured by:** Partners define known survey priorities (i.e. low-hanging fruit) for 2020. Mapping exercise defines additional survey site priorities. Acres Surveyed; Watersheds Surveyed.

CONTROL SITES

- **Chugach National Forest and Kenai National Wildlife Refuge** will continue to chemically control all infestations located within their geographic boundaries and jurisdiction.
- **Hilcorp Swanson Oil Fields** (leased from KNWR) will continue to be chemically controlled by Alien Species Control.
- **Russian River** sites (multiple landowners: CNF; HEA; Refuge) will be treated in 2020.
- **Additional control sites identified per vector mapping & asset-based protection analysis** (focusing our efforts to critical areas of salmon habitat and other ecosystem services).
- **Jakolof Bay Wetland control w/ Willow staking experiment – Betty Charnon, Seldovia Village Tribe, HSWCD**
- **Homer, East End Road** sites that have crept into pristine watersheds (i.e. Caribou Hills access parking lots) **Katherine to survey**
- **Success measured:** by acres treated; acres surveyed; change detection over time

OUTREACH – needs further discussion

- **Spread the word about RCG as a cautionary tale**
 - a) Presentation to organizations (i.e. Safari club/Sport Fishing Assoc. to discuss Kenai Docks RCG)
 - **Success measured by:** # of organizations reached
 - b) Signage at Anchor River
 - **Success measured by:** Sign installed
 - c) Additional outreach gaps identified & addressed (i.e. social media/ videos/etc)
 - **Success Measured:** Priority list established



d) Outreach to contractors regarding equipment cleaning, especially for new development projects.

- **Success Measured:** Priority list established with contacts.

RESEARCH NEEDS

- **Anchor River** – study changes over time & impacts to water quality, sedimentation, spawning habitat, productivity, etc. (Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNERR) has existing *Calamagrostis* baseline data and riparian veg data for headwaters that could be incorporated into a RCG study)
 - **Success measured by:**
- **Revegetation with live willow stakings** – identify other areas that are good candidates for increasing competition and shading out existing RCG (higher soil moisture content). Community activity?
 - **Success measured by:** Outcome of Jakolof Bay Wetland experiment 2021- 2023.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS/SUGGESTIONS (unsure of priority)

- The Annual Work Plan could include “asks” to partners (that are developed according to the Strategic Management Plan) that the CWMA feels are important in addition to partners submitting their plans. (I.e. in 2020, the CWMA feels that XYZ would be valuable in XYZ locations to protect resources. This might help partners think bigger than their status quo.
 - **Success measured by:**
- Bring up expert from lower 48 to discuss BMPs for RCG? (This was done approx. 10 years ago)
 - **Success measured by:**