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STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES OF THE SOUTHWEST WEED MANAGEMENT AREA

ARTICLE I

"NAME"

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be SOUTHWEST WEED MANAGEMENT AREA, hereafter referred to as the "SWWMA"

ARTICLE II

"PURPOSE"

Section 1: The purpose of this group will be to:

- Facilitate cooperation and coordination among all land *managers* and landowners to identify and manage noxious and invasive plant problems in the SW Nebraska RC&D Area, including, but not limited to Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Perkins and Red Willow counties.
- Identify funding and resources for noxious and invasive plant management.
- Develop outreach and education programs to further the efforts of the SWWMA.

ARTICLE III

"MISSION"

Mission statement of the SWWMA:

"Forming partnerships to raise awareness through education, and to identify, contain and control the spread of noxious and invasive plants in the SouthWest Weed Management Area."

ARTICLE IV

"MEMBERSHIP"

Section 1: Membership shall consist of private landowners, government and non-government entities, sportsman groups, utilities and municipalities located within or having interests in the SW Nebraska RC&D area.

Section 2: The SWWMA will not limit the number of partners in this organization.

Section 3: A Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary will be elected by majority vote. Prior to elections, an interim Chairperson will be selected by majority of the group.

Section 4: Only SWWMA representatives may hold office or vote on official matters affecting SWWM,A.. Roll call vote may be asked for at any time.

Section 5: The SW Nebraska RC&D will serve as the sponsoring agency for this organization.

Section 6: Terms of office shall be for two years, effective immediately upon appointment. Elections will take place at the first meeting of the calendar year.

Section 7: *If* the office of the Chairperson is vacated for any reason, the Vice-Chairperson will assume the duties of Chairperson for the balance of the term. All other vacancies will be filled by a majority vote of members present at a regular meeting.

Section 8: A Steering Committee will consist of, but not be limited to members from each of the following entities:

- County Weed Superintendents
- Natural Resource Districts
- Nebraska Game & Parks
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency
- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- USDA NRCS
- Nature Conservancy
- Landowners
- UNL Extension
- Aerial Applicators
- Non-government agencies
- Others

Section 9: Steering committee membership will be voluntary.

Section 10: Membership will be ongoing with no limits

ARTICLE V

“Meetings”

Section 1: Regular meetings will be held monthly, or as deemed necessary by the Chairperson, with a prior prepared agenda and purpose.

Section 2: Any partner with issues may bring them forward to the SWWMA and they will be added to the agenda.

Section 3: Rules governing all meetings will conform to standard operating procedures and subject to majority of the membership.

Section 4: Committees shall be formed at the discretion of the Chairperson.

Section 5: Teleconferences or other electronic communications will be held as deemed necessary by the Chairperson.

ARTICLE VI

"VOTING"

Section 1: All decisions by the Steering Committee shall be reached by a majority vote of the members present at a regular meeting.

Section 2: All decisions reached by the SWWMA Steering Committee will be reviewed by the SW Nebraska RC&D Council for final approval.

ARTICLE VII

"DUTIES"

Section 1: Define long term SWWMA objectives, including: survey/mapping, funding, education/outreach, prevention/early detection, weed management plan, monetary programs, monitoring/reporting system as they pertain to noxious and invasive plants.

Section 2: Identify noxious and invasive plants of concern within the SWWMA including: control methods, control recommendations and safety.

Section 3: Develop an integrated weed management program for target plant species.

Section 4: Identify sources of funding and subsequent management of these funds.

ARTICLE VIII

"AMMNDMENT OF OPERATION GUIDELINES"

Section 1: These Standard Operating Procedures may be altered or amended by a majority of the members present at a regular meeting, if due notice of changes is followed.