

[6] HOW THE PRINCIPLES DEVELOPED IN THIS NATIONAL PROGRAM CAN BE APPLIED TO OTHER INVASIVE WEED PROBLEMS: A BRAINSTORMING SESSION. PHIL WESTRA - MODERATOR

The following points were offered by attendees as their evaluation for the key principles leading to the success of the National Jointed Goatgrass program and points for future programs include or pitfalls to avoid.

Common problem: The target species had significant economic impact over a large geographic area.

Documented range: Define the known distribution, its impact and the potential to invade/expand to other areas.

Started w/ limited knowledge: Outline what is known and data gaps or missing research information needed for management decisions.

Importance of long term studies: Seasonal variation as well as shifts in the micro ecology of a site have major impacts on weed management systems so that there is a requirement for extended duration of projects to develop a sustainable approach. This must be emphasized in research project design and development/evaluation of grant funding.

Integrated approaches needed – may vary by region: A holistic view of the problem must be maintained with integration of multiple factors. If factors are area specific, note them.

Be open to wide range approaches: Since there is a problem, what changes in conventional thinking /management can be attempted? Be open to evaluate all management options.

Don't forget what we learned: Make sure knowledge gained is well documented in scientific and Extension publications.

Involve producers and industry from start through completion: Involving the end user at all stages from problem description to on site evaluation is a must. In this project the regional workshops at beginning built a strong user/scientist relationship.

Collaboration among scientists: Design program that will develop teamwork across disciplines and geographic regions.

Involve graduate students: Students can be a source of enthusiasm, non-conventional approaches and focused study.

Avoid internal politics: Internal politics has been the downfall of many well intentioned programs and playing political games should be avoided..

Avoid hijacking of project: Monitor to assure individual funding/study is applied to problem, not administrative hot topic.

Know the politics: When seeking funding, know who are the key leaders and fully inform them when seeking their support.

Are earmarks dead? A question in 2009 that was felt there would be a name change in future funding cycles.

Land-grant collaborative on increased ag funding: There needs to be a strong national effort to secure greater federal funding for agricultural research, similar to what has happened in recent years for NIH.

Working with multiple ag interest groups/commissions: A broad base of support is desired to demonstrate need of project. Encourage groups to support an ecosystem approach to the problem. Look for opportunities to work w/ environmental as well as commodity groups.

Work with other disciplines for integrated systems: Weed problems require integrated approaches and greater federal funding is being directed to multidisciplinary research efforts.

Dryland cropping systems: The importance of integrated systems for the rain fed crop production areas of the western US has been demonstrated, therefore many of our most important weed species will rely on improved integrated dryland cropping systems for successful management.

Weed resistance a growing issue: Herbicide resistance in weeds is an issue of growing concern and has been highlighted as an area in need of greater research by the EPA and APHIS.

Stewardship: Land stewardship has been gaining increasing importance to US citizens and the governmental agencies. Weed control is an important aspect of this concept.

AFRI Planning grants: There is potential funding through the AFRI program to support symposia and workshops to help lay the groundwork for future research efforts.