



The Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) exists to foster and support collaborative weed management among public land managers and private landowners. Because weeds travel over the landscape and extend across multiple ownerships, collaboration and partnerships are essential for effective weed management. In addition, partnerships increase capacity, professional expertise, efficiency, and access to new and diverse funding sources. The intention of the CWMA is to provide guidance to local government and land managers on methods for utilizing available resources to control invasive weed problems regardless of political boundaries. The Columbia Gorge CWMA promotes weed education and outreach, weed inventory and prevention, and weed control activities.

Re: Support of HB 4134

February 25th, 2026

Dear Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

The Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area is an organization dedicated to promoting education, outreach, inventory, prevention, and control of invasive species within the Columbia Gorge. The CGCWMA recognizes multiple benefits of this bill as it relates to our work. In addition to directly funding invasive species work, HB 4134 would provide funding for restoration and conservation projects that will lead to healthier and more resilient ecosystems. Research has repeatedly shown that healthy and intact ecosystems are more resilient to invasion than degraded habitats. A 2009 study showed that 21 officially designated noxious weeds cost Oregon approximately \$125 million a year in production losses, fire damage, and control (Cusack et al. 2009). By passing bills like HB 4134 we can help to prevent additional economically harmful species from invading the great state of Oregon. **For these reasons the Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area supports the passage of HB 4134.**

Thank you for your time, and your consideration.

Courtney Comer (Facilitator, CGCWMA)

On behalf of the Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area.