

Using the TNC Site Weed Management Plan Template

Updated July 2001 by Mandy Tu & Barry Meyers-Rice /WISP

A Note to Land Managers (Project Directors, Project Ecologist):

We encourage each preserve to develop a comprehensive weed management plan. The attached Site Weed Management Plan Template is designed to make this easier. This template is also designed to help you develop an adaptive management strategy for invasive species management (see Figure 1). Adaptive management of invasive species requires that you:

- (1) establish management goals and conservation targets for the site;
- (2) determine which, if any, species or infestations threaten or have the potential to threaten your management goals and targets - those that do are "weeds";
- (3) determine which methods are available to control the weeds;
- (4) develop and implement a weed management plan designed to move conditions towards the management goals and to abate threats to your targets;
- (5) monitor and assess the impacts of the weed management actions in terms of the management goals and target protection;
- (6) start the cycle over again by re-evaluating conclusions made in steps 1-4 and modifying where necessary.

Note that you do not plan or implement weed control until steps 1-3 are completed. Step 5 is necessary to periodically re-evaluate the goals, objectives and plans made earlier so that they can be altered or modified, as called for. This is the essential "adaptive" process required by this strategy.

The template provides a standardized format with headings and boilerplate language in normal or **bold** font. Instructions and advice are in *italics* and can be cut as you fill in the necessary information. Advice on setting priorities for weed control is presented in Section 2A.

The computer version of the template consists of three files (all available on the internet at <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu>):

- 1) WMPIIntro.rtf – Weed Management Plan Introduction and instructions (this file)
- 2) WeedTemp.rtf – Weed Management Plan template file
- 3) WeedTabl.xls – Tables

Also, an example of a completed weed plan from the Cosumnes River Preserve, California, is available as:

- 4) CRP-Plan.doc – The Cosumnes Preserve is a landscape scale project (ca 40,000 acres) and has a variety of weed problems ranging from easily treated small colonies of plants to heavily entrenched, widespread infestations of hard to control species. As a result, the Cosumnes River Preserve Weed Plan is long and relatively complicated. You should not feel compelled to develop such a large document. Rather, create the document that fits your situation and will be implemented. Do not hesitate to borrow or use text from this template, and feel free to consult with us if you have any questions about weed control methods and strategies.

- 5) CRP-Tabl.xls – The WeedTabl.xls spreadsheet, completed for the CRP-Plan.doc weed management plan.

Contact us if you have any questions or comments regarding the template. Please send us copies of your completed weed management plans.

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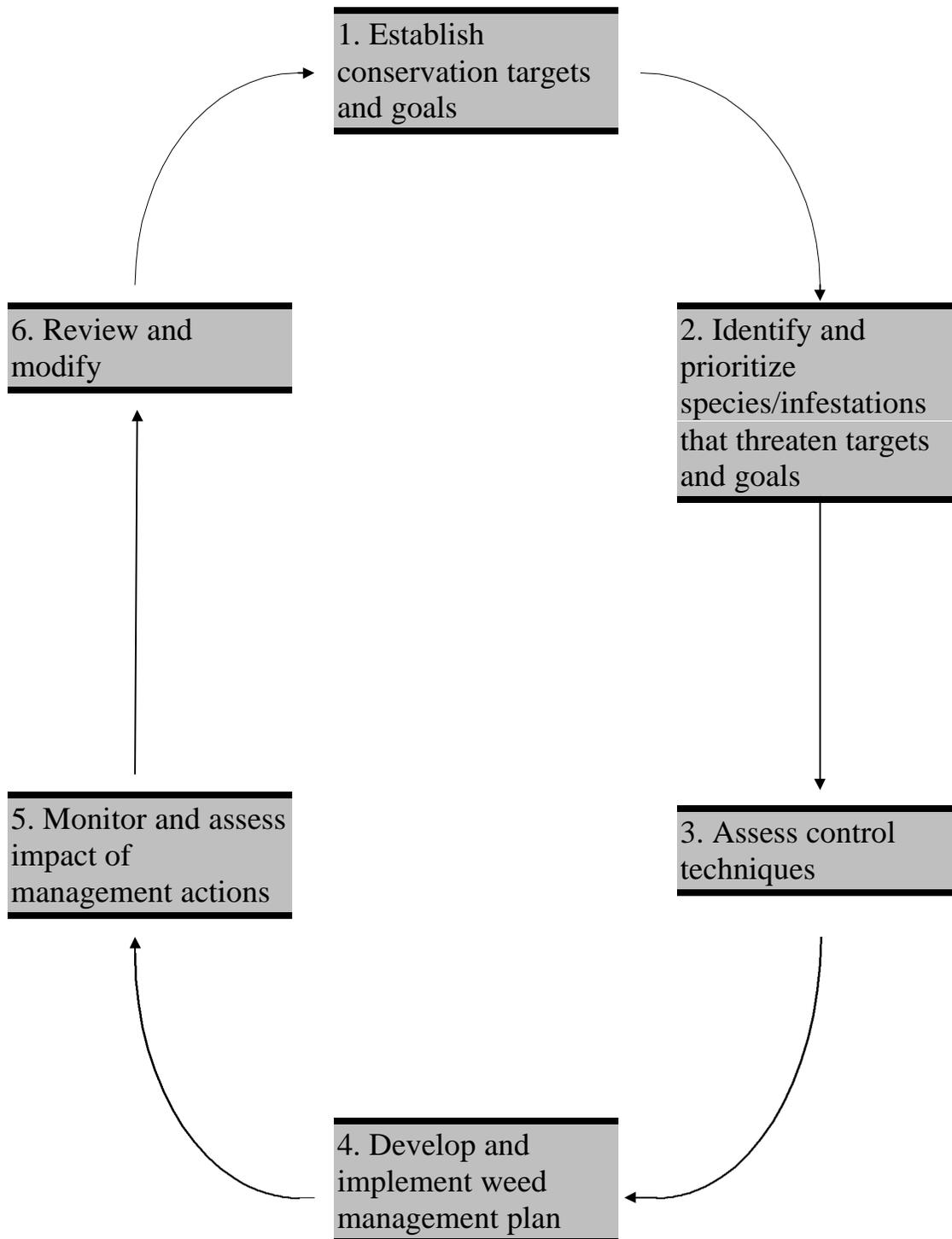


Figure 1. Flow chart for Adaptive Management of Weeds describing management actions and decisions confronting natural area managers (from Randall (1997), based on a diagram by Oren Pollak, personal communication).