



California Forest Pest Council

# California Forest Pest Council

*Dedicated to protecting California's forests since 1951*

[www.caforestpestcouncil.org](http://www.caforestpestcouncil.org)

April 4, 2017

The Honorable Richard Bloom  
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3  
California State Assembly, State Capitol  
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Funding the Noxious Weed Management Account

Dear Assembly Member Bloom,

The California Forest Pest Council (CFPC) supports the request to restore the \$2 million funding to the Noxious Weed Management Account in the Department of Food & Agriculture 2017 budget. The CFPC is comprised of foresters, forest pest specialists and resource managers with a long track record of protecting California's forests from invasive plants that damage agriculture, water, recreation, and wildlife.

The CFPC has worked in close cooperation with local County Agricultural Commissioners, US Forest Service and California Invasive Plant Council to map and control invasive weeds. Many private forest landowners and the US Forest Service spend significant resources to control invasive weeds that have spread onto their managed lands from adjacent properties. Restoring the Weed Management Area (WMA) funding will aid their efforts to control the spread of invasive plants from invading California forests.

Invasive plants such as star thistle and scotch broom also create a severe fire hazard. These types of invasive weeds must be controlled in the forest and urban interface to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Hiring local, qualified local private contractors to implement a WMA funded eradication program will support the creation of local jobs and develop new partners to eradicate high priority invasive plant populations.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and please contact us if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

Bob Rynearson  
Chairman, California Forest Pest Council  
[bobr@wmbeaty.com](mailto:bobr@wmbeaty.com)

cc: California State Board of Forestry  
California Invasive Plant Council

The California Forest Pest Council was founded in 1951 and is a non-profit educational organization of over 800 public and private forest managers, researchers, foresters, entomologists, pathologists, biologists, and others interested in the health of California's forests and protection from damage caused by animals, diseases, insects, pollution, and weeds.

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