EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Glenn County Ag Department is currently under contract with the California Department of Food and Agriculture on behalf of the Colusa, Glenn and Tehama Weed Management Area for the implementation of five weed control projects over two years. Glenn County will act as the administrator for these projects. A budget has been developed for the fiscal year 07/08 in the amount of $61,221. The total contract amount is for $73,591.00. The difference of $12,370 will be in the 08/09 budget. A Memorandum of Understanding has been developed and the active partners are in the process of signing.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Recommend the Board of Supervisors to approve the implementation of five weed control projects and authorize the Agricultural Commissioner, Mark Black, to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Colusa, Glenn and Tehama Weed Management Area on behalf of the County.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture has allocated $1,200,000 to be awarded to various Weed Management Areas (WMA) throughout the State for the control and eradication of various weeds. The Colusa, Glenn and Tehama WMA was one of twenty Weed Management Areas (out of 46 in the State) to have their projects selected for funding from January 2007 to December 2008. Each of the five projects in the Colusa, Glenn and Tehama WMA has its own project leader and budget. The Glenn County Department of Agriculture will be the administrator of these 5 projects.

Project 1- Perennial Pepperweed Control and Eradication in Glenn County: Total request $10,049; 07/08 budget request $7,537; Project lead: Jean Miller, Glenn County Ag Department. The goal is to continue to survey known sites and look for new sites of perennial pepperweed and then control and eradicate these infestations found in Glenn County.

Project 2- Purple Starthistle Control and Eradication in Western Colusa County Foothills: Total request $14,481.50; 07/08 budget request $11,881.50; Project lead: Jon Richter, Colusa County Ag Department. The goal is to continue to control and eradicate purple starthistle at five different sites on private land in Colusa County.

Project 3- Tamarix Control in the Upper Cache Creek Watershed: Total request $12,157; 07/08 budget request 10,837; Project lead: Craig Thomsen, Extension Specialist, U.C. Davis. The goal is to enhance the Bear Creek and Sulphur Creek riparian corridors by eradicating tamarix on four private properties as part of a regional control program in the Cache Creek watershed.
COUNTY OF GLENN
BOARD REPORT

Project 4- Arundo donax and Tamarix Eradication on Lower Stony Creek: Total request $26,519; 07/08 budget request $21,513; Project lead: Ajay Singh, Glenn County Resource Conservation District.
The goal is to eradicate 30 acres of Arundo donax and Tamarix from Stony Creek just below the dam.

Project 5- Barbed Goatgrass Early Detection and Eradication: Total request $10,384; 07/08 budget request $9,468; Project lead: Josh Davy, Extension Specialist, U.C. Davis.
The goal is to initiate an early detection and education system and then control and eradicate established populations with a cost-share program between the landowners and the three County Ag Departments.

FISCAL/PERSOONNEL IMPACT(S):
All funds will come from the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Impact to the General Fund will be minimal. A budget will be set up for the transfer of funds to pay vendors involved with the projects. Glenn County Ag Department will be the administrator of the funds.

ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION
Weeds know no boundaries. Weed Management Areas are local organizations that bring together landowners and managers (private, city, county, State, and Federal) in a county, multi-county, or other geographical area to coordinate efforts and expertise against common invasive weed species. The WMA functions under the authority of a mutually developed memorandum of understanding (MOU) and is subject to statutory and regulatory weed control requirements. A WMA may be voluntarily governed by a chairperson or a steering committee. To date, groups in California have been initiated by either the leadership of the County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office or a Federal Agency employee.

WMAs are unique because they attempt to address agricultural (regulatory) weeds and “wildland” weeds under one local umbrella of organization. Participation extends from all agencies and private organizations. WMAs have printed weed I.D./control brochures, organized weed education events, written and obtained grants, coordinated demonstration plots, and instituted joint eradication, mapping, outreach, and other effective weed management projects.

Funding is the continual pulse keeping existing programs running and gets new projects off the ground. In 2006, new funding was made available to WMAs from California Department of Food and Agriculture out of their general fund. The monetary award was for two years.

All items transmitted by a County Department or Agency for inclusion in the agenda for Board of Supervisors action must include all background and analysis necessary for the Board to make an informed decision. Failure to provide adequate information, analysis, or backup could result in the matter not being added to the agenda and returned to the department for additional information.