RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE WSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Parent Awards Committee, Lori Wiles, Chair

1. Outstanding Reviewer Award

The Awards Parent Committee recommends changing the procedure for selecting the Outstanding Reviewer Awards to include reviews from the Journal of Invasive Plant Science and Management and to specify that recipients are not required to be members of WSSA. In 2008, the top ranked reviewer was not a member of WSSA and his scores were much higher than all others. The committee does not recommend increasing the number of awards.

MOP text with changes in italics:

Select and recommend two recipients for the Outstanding Reviewer Awards (via electronic Associate Editor rankings - completed by Allen Press). The subcommittee for this award will consist of the editors of Weed Science, Weed Technology and ***the Journal of Invasive Plant Science and Management*** plus the WSSA Director of Publications. The award winners will be determined as follows. A combined score will be calculated by Allen Press for each reviewer, totaling all of the reviews that individual prepared for Weed Science, Weed Technology and ***the Journal of Invasive Plant Science and Management*** for the period from October 1 though September 30. A numerical score for review quality (A = 5 points, B = 2 points, C = 1 point, D or F = 0 points) will be assigned to each review conducted. A numerical score for time required to review each paper (0-21 days = 2 points, 22-35 days = 1 points, over 35 days = 0 points) will be calculated for each review. The final score for each reviewer will be: total letter grade scores + total review time scores. In that manner, the quality of the reviews will have greater weight than the time to review. Allen Press will send to the award subcommittee a printout showing the top ten scores by December 1 of each year. Awards will be presented to the 2 reviewers with the highest scores at the following WSSA annual meeting. ***Recipients are not required to be members of the Weed Science Society of America.*** The subcommittee will decide how to handle any ties. An individual can receive the award only once every four years. Each award recipient will receive a certificate plus a check for $250.

2. Nominations of Teams

The Awards Parent Committee recommends allowing sub-committees to accept team nominations and recommend selection of a team for an award when members of nominated team have worked so closely that no single member can be recognized above the others. This condition must apply to all criteria for the award and the nominator must write a justification for the award. This change is recommended because a highly qualified team was nominated for Honorary Member last year (the only nomination), but the Manual of Operating Procedures and the Constitution (Fellow, Honorary Member) specify that awards are for individuals. The committee expects that nominations for teams rarely will be justified, but this change will prevent the delay in recognizing deserving teams. Since the BOD must approve all selected candidates, the BOD has final approval of an award to a team.

Proposed Text for Manual of Operating Procedures:

An award sub-committee may accept a team nomination and recommend selection of a team for an award when members of the team have worked so closely that no single member can be recognized above the others for all criterion of an award. The nomination package must include a

justification for nominating a team instead of an individual (maximum of one page). Each team member will receive a plaque, but the amount of the award will not be increased.

Note: Is an amendment/change to the constitution also required?

3. **Award for Papers with the Most Citations**

The Parent Awards Committee does not recommend that the WSSA formally acknowledge or recognize the papers with the most citations in Weed Science, Weed Technology or the Journal of Invasive Plant Science and Management. Recognizing a seminal paper – a paper with considerable impact and that has withstood the test of time – is a worthy goal, but the number of citations is not a good metric for identifying this type of paper. Review papers and papers on popular topics may be cited more often than high quality research papers. There are also many technical difficulties in implementing the proposed award such as choosing the appropriate time frame for calculating the number of citations ("the test of time") and determining the pool of journals for counting the citations. Citations in the three WSSA journals may not reflect the extent of the impact, but the task of determining all citations could be difficult and time-consuming. In summary, it is not clear what the WSSA would be recognizing with an award based on the most citations, however the number is calculated.