



**WEED SCIENCE
SOCIETY of AMERICA**
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WSSA Committee Report

COMMITTEE: INVASIVE (E4)

Mark Renz

BOARD LIAISON: Michael Flessner

Date: 23 January 2026

Current Chair : Mark Renz

Members:

Jacob Barney (VT), Stephen Enloe (Florida), Sophie Westbrook (Kansas), Rob Richardson (NC State), Ryan Wersal (Minnesota), Toni DiTommaso (New York), Erik Lehnhoff (NM), Mohsen Mesgaran (CA), Gray Turnage (MS), Sarah Ward (CO), Jane Mangold (MT)

COMMENTS

This committee has been inactive over the past year due to the chair's lack of time to organize efforts. In a discussion over lunch during the WSSA (Enloe, Barney, Westbrook, and I) we have decided to try and reinvigorate activities. See below for details.

Committee Actions/Impacts/Activities:

As stated above, a small group met to discuss how to re-invigorate the committee during WSSA.

Committee Meeting Schedule*: (Include all planned meeting dates and times):

Plan is to meet every 3 months (quarterly). This will allow us to identify and accomplish goals for 2026.

Budget needs:

We will be asking for funds for symposium for 2027 to invite speakers via the symposia submission process.

Areas for improvement/concerns:

There has been a lack of effort in coordination by the chair (Renz) and lack of consistent participation of committee members in the past. We hope to alleviate this by #1 and #2. Then hope to develop specific goals (#3) to accomplish in 2026. These will not only be beneficial to the conference (symposium) but will inform IPISM on potential obstacles that are preventing manuscript submissions.

ACTIVITIES

1. Conduct an active call for WSSA members to serve on this committee and only accept individuals who are willing to participate
2. Engage younger individuals in the society to participate
3. Develop specific goals for 2026, ideas that will be discussed include:
 - a. Symposium on Innovative Invasive Plant Research being conducted with the goal of focusing on younger scientists and publishing papers in IPISM from invited speakers to this event
 - b. Identify researchers, educators (extension specialists), and other influencers of invasive plants within each state.
 - i. Query about IPISM and how they interact with this journal and if obstacles exist to submissions
 - c. Survey land managers of invasive plants as to where they get their science and management recommendations related to invasive plants and how this can be improved

Opportunities for future (symposia, speakers, communication, general):

YES. We hope to develop a symposium on Innovative Invasive Plant Research being conducted. This will be co-chaired by Sophie Westbrook and Mark Renz. The goal of the symposium is to highlight innovative invasive plant related research being conducted with a focus on inviting younger scientists to present. We plan on coordinating with IPISM editor to have presentations submitted into manuscripts for print in a special issue of IPISM from invited speakers.