

Henry's Fork Cooperative Weed Management Area 2005 Final Report



EARLY DETECTION / RAPID RESPONSE

Rush Skeletonweed *Chondrilla junecea* L. was found for the first time in the county east of St .Anthony in 2002. In 2003 we used a combination of Tordon and Redeem in an attempt to eradicate this weed. There were two plants at this site this year and a lone plant was found on the emergency spillway of Island Park Dam. These plants were sprayed with a mixture of Redeem and Escort. We will continue to monitor both sites in the future.

INTRODUCTION

The Henry's Fork Weed Cooperative Management Area (HFCWMA) is a cooperative effort to manage, contain, reduce and eradicate noxious weeds in all of Fremont County Idaho plus the southwestern portion of Yellowstone National Park and a portion of Teton County Wyoming that lies within the Ashton Ranger District.

The HFCWMA policy uses integrated weed management to control and eradicate noxious weeds, involving public education to help in the early detection and the control of noxious weeds. It also uses both biological and chemical methods of control of noxious weeds already in the area.

The HFCWMA is 1.5 million acres that varies from desert in the southwestern to high alpine forest in the north. Only 25% of the HFCWMA is in private ownership.

The major problem weeds in the HFCWMA are Leafy Spurge and Spotted Knapweed. Leafy Spurge is a deep-rooted perennial that is toxic to both humans and livestock. Spotted Knapweed is occurring along the highways and towns in the area. Major infestations are occurring in the arid desert to the higher elevations and it is increasing in the area.

The cooperators in HFCWMA are Fremont County, The Targhee National Forest, Yellowstone National Park, The Idaho Department of Lands, The Idaho Department of Fish and Game, The Idaho Department of Transportation, The Bureau of Land management, Teton County Wyoming, The National Resource and Conservation Service and several land owners.

CHEMICAL CONTROL OF NOXIOUS WEEDS

Leafy Spurge was controlled by spraying early with 2, 4-D to prevent seed formation and later with Plateau in the fall. Plateau was labeled for use on pastureland and CRP which allowed us to spray pastureland and CRP and expand our use of this very effective herbicide.

Spotted Knapweed was sprayed throughout the season with Redeem which controlled it very well.

Dalmatian Toadflax was sprayed in the summer with Escort and Telar. In the fall and we also had good results with Plateau.

Yellow Toadflax was sprayed with a mixture of Redeem and Escort or Telar with good results.

Diffuse Knapweed was controlled quite well with Redeem.

Dyers Woad was found at the landfill and along Highway 20 and was controlled with 2, 4-D and Escort. Several new locations were found in the lower part of the County.

Canadian, Bull, Musk, Plumless and Scotch Thistle was found in small patches throughout the county and was controlled with Redeem.

Field Bindweed was found throughout the county in small patches and was controlled with Roundup Pro during the summer and with 2, 4-D or Redeem in the fall.

Black Henbane was found in small patches and was controlled with 2, 4-D or Redeem.

Puncturevine was found in the dryer parts of the county and was controlled with 2, 4-D. Telar was used in vacant lots and gives summer long control. With the amount of off road use that we have in the area it will be a problem in future years.

Purple Loosestrife was not found in the HFCWMA this year.

CHEMICAL CONTROL OF TROUBLESOME WEEDS

Babysbreath was found in the county and was controlled as needed with 2, 4 -D.

Curlycup Gumweed was found along the roads and could be controlled with Escort.

Houndstongue is increasing in the area and was controlled with Escort.

Mayweed chamomile is spreading throughout the area and was also controlled with Escort.

St. Johnswort is spreading in the forest and we used Redeem and Escort mix to control it.

White Bryony was found throughout the lower part of the county and can be controlled with an application of Roundup into the root.

Field Scabious was found in the Shotgun area for the first time this year. Fremont County was unable to treat it because it was not a listed noxious weed in 2005.



Field Scabious in Island Park.

The Fremont County Commission has added St. Johnswort, Houndstongue, Mayweed chamomile, White bryony and Field Scabious to its noxious weed list to help in controlling those weeds.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF NOXIOUS WEEDS

For Leafy Spurge control we planted fifty nine thousand *Apthona nigriscutis* flea beetles in twenty nine locations. We purchased with a grant from ISDA ten different colonies of six hundred *Apthona lacterosa* and released them in wet areas. Four boxes of one hundred and twenty five *Oberea erythrocephala* were also purchased and released at four places around the county. Ten boxes of six hundred of a new very prolific flea beetle, *Apthona cyparissiae* was released in ten locations. Hawkmoth caterpillars were found eating Leafy Spurge all over the HFCWMA.

For Spotted Knapweed control we started a new approach to control this weed. We used two different insects including:

- *Larinus minutis*, a seed head miner—six sites—750 insects.
- *Metzneria paucipunctella*, a root borer---six sites—750 insects.
- *Cyphocleonus acates*, a root borer---twelve sites----1500 insects.

For the thistles we released seven hundred and fifty *Cassida rubigosa*, (a defoliating beetle), in six different sites. Seven hundred and fifty *Uphora Cardi* (a gall fly) were released in six sites. Seven hundred and fifty *Ceutorhynchus litura* (a stem and crown mining weevil) were released in five sites.

For Toadflax control eleven hundred and fifty *Mecinus janthinus* (stem mining weevils) were purchased and released in nine locations throughout the forest in late May.



Larinus minutis Release site in Spotted Knapweed on Grandview Road north of Ashton



Mecinus janthinus release site in Yellow Toadflax in Harriman State Park.

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

\$500 from the Noxious Weed fund in Fremont County was given to the public awareness campaign that the governor's office is sponsoring to help pay for radio and TV commercials on noxious weeds that were aired in the area at the appropriate times.

Fremont County purchased two noxious Weed educational kits that were developed for teaching Junior High School students and gave them to the biology teachers at both North and South Fremont Junior High Schools. Fourteen hundred pamphlets that the GYCC Weed committee had printed were scattered around the area. Idaho Noxious Weed Books were placed in every road and bridge vehicle and I helped staff a booth at the Eastern Idaho State Fair in September.

WEED MAPPING

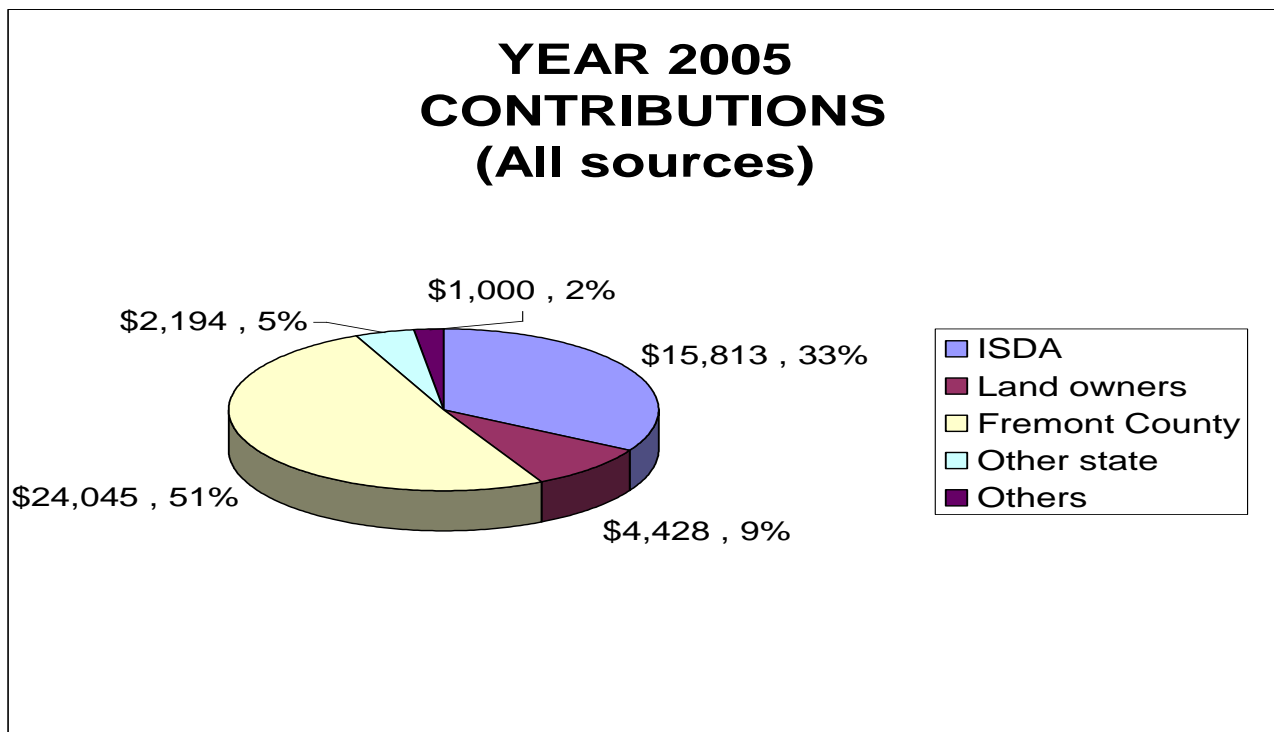
The Agriculture Science teacher from north Fremont High School drove two South Fremont High School students around Fremont County and mapped with two Geoexplorer III units and a Geoexplorer XM that were purchased with a grant from I. S. D. A. This year that teacher and two students mapped 2939 locations in the HFCWMA. With a grant From the G.Y.C.C. they mapped twenty six active gravel pits in the county and found weeds in or near most of them.

GOALS FOR 2006

We plan to continue to educate the public on noxious weeds by presentations to various entities such as public service organizations, conservation organizations and canal companies. We plan on mapping weeds in cooperation with South Fremont High School, BLM, IDFG and USFS. We will continue to eradicate new weeds as they are found and attempt to control and eliminate noxious weeds where possible with herbicides and the use of biological methods as well. We will apply for grants from Idaho State Department of Agriculture and the Greater Yellowstone Cooperating Committee to help us in this effort.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CWMA

Fremont County as well as state and federal land managing agency within the HFCWMA annually set budgets for integrated noxious weed control programs. Other HFCWMA partners provide technical assistance, equipment, services, and dollars in support of integrated noxious weed programs. Grant dollars received from the Idaho Department of Agriculture (ISDA) have been matched with local cash and services. Collectively, these partners provide the resources needed to implement the programs of the HFCWMA. During 2005, a total of \$ 31,667 in cash and in-kind services were contributed in direct support of HFCWMA project implementation.



Appendix # 1

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Appendix 2 - Project summaries:

Project name	Weed Species	Acres treated
Biological Releases	Thistles	90
	Spotted Knapweed	120
	Leafy Spurge	265
	Toadflaxes	45
GPS Mapping	Standard list	2939 locations
Three way cost shares	Leafy Spurge	120
Two way cost shares	Spotted Knapweed	14
	Thistles	114
	Leafy Spurge	36

Appendix 3

The Henrys Fork Cooperative Weed Management Area Description:

The HFCWMA includes all the Land in Fremont County Idaho plus the south west portion of Yellowstone National Park that drains into the Henrys Fork, the Bechler Subdistrict) and that portion of Teton County Wyoming that lies within the Ashton District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The HFCWMA comprises 1.5 Million acres of which twenty five percent is in private ownership. (See attached Map)

