

Henry's Fork Cooperative Weed Management Area 2007 Final Report



EARLY DETECTION / RAPID RESPONSE – BYU-Idaho volunteers assist the HFCWMA by hand pulling Dyer's Woad.

INTRODUCTION

The Henry's Fork Cooperative Weed Management Area (HFCWMA) is a partnership effort to manage, contain, control, 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 contains 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 cooperators in HFCWMA include Fremont County, Targhee National Forest, Yellowstone National Park, Idaho Department of Lands Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Transportation, Bureau of Land management, Teton County Wyoming, Natural Resource and Conservation Service and several private land owners.

The HFCWMA uses integrated weed management techniques including to biological and chemical methods to contain, control and eradicate noxious weeds. 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. Of special concern are those species that pose a high risk to invade the HFCWMA or expand their current limited range. These species, including Dyer's Woad, Rush Skeletonweed, Tamarisk, and Purple Loosestrife, are treated as early detection rapid responses (EDRR) situations in the CWMA.

During 2007 the HFCWMA steering committee met six times. They successfully revised and updated the strategic plan during 2007. They also launched several new geographic initiatives aimed at increasing landowner participation in weed control, continued an aggressive EDRR response to Dyer's Woad, and grew the Falls River Leafy Spurge Project.

WHAT'S BEING DONE

Treatment using herbicides:

2007 was the first year for the **Antelope Flat Initiative**. The project assisted private landowners to spray 30 acres of Leafy Spurge, 150 acres of Canada thistle, and 10 acres of Spotted Knapweed in pastures and rangeland. 20 acres were mapped using GPS units.



The **Bitch Creek Spray Day** was accomplished in partnership with the Upper Snake River CWMA. Staff and equipment from the BLM, USFS, IDF&G and Fremont, Teton, Jefferson, Bonneville counties joined forces to treat leafy spurge in headwaters of this tributary of the Teton River. The CWMA provided the herbicide. By joining forces, 100 acres of leafy Spurge were treated in a few hours that otherwise would have taken days. The project is going to help to reduce the spread of a lot of seed downstream.

2007 was the first year for the **Henry's Lake Outlet Initiative**.

The project assisted private landowners to spray 50 acres of Leafy Spurge, 100 acres of Canada thistle, and 20 acres of Spotted Knapweed in pastures and rangeland. The county provided the application in most cases. 20 acres were mapped using GPS units.



2007 was the first year for the **North Fork Initiative**. The project assisted private landowners to spray Leafy Spurge, Canada thistle, and Spotted Knapweed in pastures and rangeland. The project treated 5,921 acres with herbicide, mapped 4,217 acres, and treated 220 acres with biological controls.

Employees of the **Sand Creek Wildlife Management Area** are responsible for control of noxious weeds on the WMA. The purpose of this project was to treat as many acres of all noxious weeds on the WMA as time allowed. The three employees on the Sand Creek WMA were able to treat 1,325 acres of noxious weeds and map 1,495 acres of noxious weeds. The weeds that

were treated were musk thistle, Canada thistle, diffuse knapweed, field bindweed, houndstongue, leafy spurge, puncturevine, and spotted knapweed. . The main areas that were treated on the WMA were the Rick's Pasture area, the Chester Wetlands Segment, and the Wilcox property adjacent to the Chester Wetlands.

The purpose of the Chester **Wetlands** project was to treat as many acres of Canada and Musk thistle as time allow on the WMA. The three employees on Sand Creek WMA were able to treat 500 acres of Canada thistle and 1 acre of musk thistle on the Chester Wetlands Segment this year using herbicide. We were able to map a total of 800 acres of Canada thistle and 1 acre of musk thistle. In addition, we mapped and treated .5 acre of Scotch thistle that occurs near our office.

The purpose of the **Cooperative work day on Sand Creek WMA** project was to treat as many acres of musk thistle on the WMA as time allowed. This work day was done in conjunction with the Fremont County Weed crew, consisting of Elliot Huntsman, Jace Rydalch, and Bryce Fowler. The crews of 6 people were able to treat and map 200 acres of musk thistle in the July Creek area of the Sand Creek WMA. We had excellent cooperation between IDFG and Fremont County this year, and hope to continue to have cooperative work days in the future.

Treatment using grazing:

The Fall River Canyon is heavily infested with leafy spurge. The canyons steepness, inaccessibility, habitat values and proximity to water lend itself to an integrated approach to leafy spurge control. The **Fall River Noxious Weed Project** started grazing leafy spurge with goats in May using 50 yearlings, 350 does, and 250 kids. This is the second full year of being able to stop seed production. The project was completed in a month ending with the public weed workshop at the Harbough Ranch. We continue to work with BYU-Idaho on the project and had several professors from across the west participate in a beetle release on the south end of the property the day after the weed workshop.

The flea beetles that were released have thrived to the point that we able to collect them and attendees were able to take them to their properties for release. The grazing by the goats has significantly changed the

distribution of flea beetles on the property. The goats transport the beetles and the beetles more effectively impact the spurge when the canopy has been grazed.

The Hess, Harbaugh and Loosli properties all show great signs of getting ahead of the leafy spurge. Areas where once the spurge was so thick you could hardly walk through it are now full of grasses. The leafy spurge flea beetle population has flourished allowing for the collection of several thousand to populate other projects. In addition there was quite a bit of spot spraying this season with 2-4-D and also hand pulled mullet. 147 acres were treated.



Over all, landowners are very happy with the results we are seeing on the project and very excited that as a result of the project and the weed workshop, that we are now getting other property owners involved in the project as well. The Fall River project will almost double in size next year, to 300 acres and have more land owners in getting involved. We now have our first property owner on Conant Creek involved in the project. We appreciate all the help and support from the Henry's Fork CWMA. We are making a difference and it is being noticed by the county residents.

Treatment using insects:

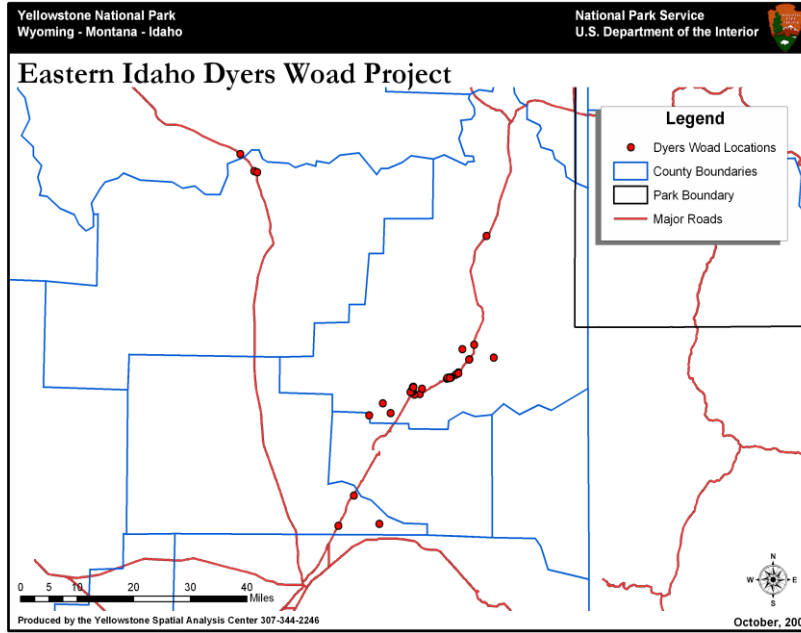


The 2007 **Bio Control Project** resulted in the placement of 32 colonies of *Aphthona nigricutis* on leafy spurge near Ashton. Additionally 12 colonies of *Cyphocleonus achates* were released on spotted knapweed near Ashton. During 2007 the CWMA assisted ISDA Biological Control Specialist, Joseph Milan, to establish an *Oberea erythrocephala* rearing facility in the Conant Creek area. If successful, this winged insect holds some promise to disperse and attack leafy spurge throughout the Falls River watershed.

At the Fall River Ranch a group of students from BYU-I collect flea beetles from the north side of the Fall River and released them on the south side. Students established a test plot for ongoing research to be monitored by the University over the next 10 years.

Early Detection and Rapid Response

The **Eastern Idaho Dyer's Woad Early Detection Project** was started in order to gather information on



infestations in a five county area. As a result of information gained in a five county 2006 Dyer's Woad survey effort in eastern Idaho which confirmed that Dyer's Woad was worthy of EDRR status in the area, Fremont County declared Dyer's Woad as an EDRR species in 2007 and supported increased management efforts. Treatment and monthly surveys of all known Dyer's Woad infestations in the county were conducted by Fremont County Weed Control and a project contractor, with additional assistance from BYU-Idaho Agricultural Ecology students. An active Dyer's Woad education and awareness program was instituted involving multiple press releases, contacts with county citizens and distribution of various publications. Between June 5 and September 9 nine surveys were conducted of all

previously reported Dyer's Woad locations in the county totaling about 32 locations. Dyer's Woad was confirmed at 13 locations totaling less than 10 acres. All infestations received multiple treatments throughout the summer, with additional Dyer's Woad plants found at 8 of the 13 locations following initial treatment. During surveys for patch extension, one new location was detected. Special efforts were made to survey the Eastern Idaho Railroad tracks since 75% of the known locations occur on railroad right-of -ways.

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Henrys Fork CWMA organized an Integrated Pest Management Workshop for interested landowners to learn more about using prescriptive goat grazing, biological control, and herbicides to control noxious weeds, especially leafy spurge. Additionally, the HFCWMA co produced a noxious weed pocket calendar with the Upper Snake River CWMA.



GOALS FOR 2008

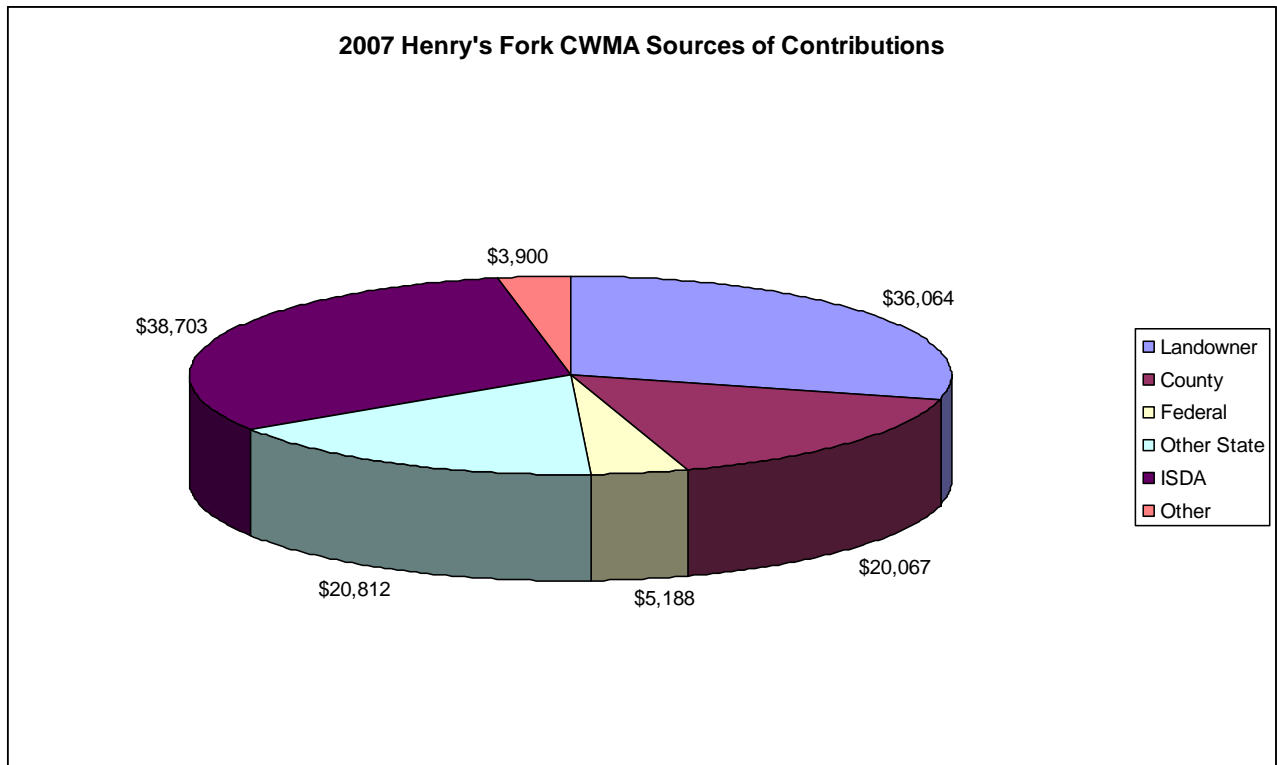
2007 proved to be a banner year for the Henry's Fork CWMA and 2008 promises to bring more successes. Goals for 2008 include:

- Expanding the landscape scale special initiatives started in 2007 to treat more acres.
- Continue the Early Detection / Rapid Response effort targeted towards Dyer's Woad.
- Plan, fund, implement, and monitor biological weed control projects in the HFCWMA. Several insectaries will be harvested during 2007 and these insects will be moved to new sites. We will continue to involve students in the harvest and monitoring of Bio-agents,
- Expand the use of goats as an effective tool to combat noxious weeds.
- Initiate cooperative "spray days" and "mapping Days"
- Launch a CWMA wide information and education initiative.



CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CWMA

Fremont County as well as state and federal land managing agencies 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) totaling \$38,314 have been matched with local cash and services totaling \$86,031. Collectively, these partners provide the resources needed to implement the programs of the HFCWMA. During 2007, a total of \$ 124,345 in cash and in-kind services were contributed in direct support of HFCWMA project implementation.



Appendix # 1

Henry's Fork CWMA Steering Committee List						
Name	Title	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Phone
Chris Lowman	Chairman	3563 E Ririe HW	Idaho Falls	ID	83402	525-7167
Dave Rydalch (retired May 2006)	Vice Chairman	49 W 1 N	St. Anthony	ID	83445	624-3102
Dave Rydalch	Secretary	49 W 1 N	St. Anthony	ID	83445	624-3102
Kyle Moore	Range Conservationist	P.O. Box 858	Ashton	ID	83420	652-7442
Craig McClure	West Dist. Resource M	PO Box 86	Mammoth	WY	92190	(307)344-2168
Keith Hobbs	Park Manager	3489 Green Canyon R	Island Park	ID	83429	558-7368
Ken Beckmann	District Conservationist	315 E 1 N	St. Anthony	ID	83445	624-7391
Kirk Finn	Maintenance Coord.	PO Box 97	Rigby	ID	83442	745-7781
Kim Ragotzkie	Regional Habitat Biolog	4274 Commerce Circle	Idaho Falls	ID	83401	525-7290
Steve Smart	RC&D Coordinator	302 Profit St.	Rexburg	ID	83440	356-5213 x117
Tammy Egbert	RC&D Program Asst.	302 Profit St.	Rexburg	ID	83440	356-5213 x104
Mark Harbaugh	Landowner	3618 Hwy. 32	Ashton	ID	83420	652-7070
Bryce Fowler	Weed Supervisor	49 W 1 N	St. Anthony	ID	83445	624-3102
Kari Dingman	Wildlife Technician	2885 N. River Rd.	St. Anthony	ID	83445	390-0612
Reed Sommer	Landowner	1659 N. 3000 W.	Rexburg	ID	83440	356-6548
Scott Neville	Landowner	2263 W. 1000 N.	Rexburg	ID	83440	356-4130
Jerome Fox	Range Conservationist	1405 Hollipark Dr.	Idaho Falls	ID	83401	524-7537

Appendix 2 – 2006 AOP HFCWMA Accomplishments:

Project name	Weed Species	Acres treated
Biological Releases	Spotted Knapweed	60
	Leafy Spurge	160
Herbicide treatment	Canada thistle	1100
	Diffuse Knapweed	5
	Dyer's Woad	7
	Field Bindweed	10
	Leafy Spurge	4,377
	Musk Thistle	281
	Puncturevine	20
	Scotch Thistle	0.5
	Spotted Knapweed	120
	Houndstongue	100
Noxious Weeds Mapped	Canada thistle	1120
	Diffuse Knapweed	5
	Dyer's Woad	7
	Field Bindweed	10
	Leafy Spurge	2700
	Musk Thistle	301
	Puncturevine	20
	Scotch Thistle	0.5
	Spotted Knapweed	60
	Houndstongue	100
Public Contacts		19,372

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)

