

2007
UPPER SNAKE RIVER COOPERATIVE WEED
MANAGEMENT AREA
End of Year Report



Adult Flea Beetles attacking Leafy spurge near Moody Creek in Madison County.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Upper Snake River Cooperative Weed Management Area (USRCWMA) was established by the Bonneville, Teton, Madison, Jefferson and Bingham County Commissioners in partnership with the state and federal agencies that manage lands within those counties. The USRCWMA provides a forum to coordinate area wide activities to detect, prevent, contain, control, and eradicate noxious weeds on public and private lands. In the USRCWMA, we believe that sharing funds, equipment, staff, and ideas across jurisdictional boundaries in a coordinated and cooperative weed fighting strategy will result in more effective "on-the-ground" weed control. The USRCWMA supports an area wide integrated noxious weed control program that uses all available tools and techniques to combat noxious weeds. A steering committee provides the local leadership. Steering committee meets monthly to plan and implement its programs. During 2007 the USRCWMA revised and updated its strategic plan.

The USRCWMA covers Bingham County, Teton County, Madison County, Bonneville County, and a portion of Jefferson County. Noxious weed of major concern include Leafy Spurge, Spotted Knapweed, Diffuse Knapweed, Russian Knapweed, Canada Thistle, Musk Thistle, Plumeless Thistle, Hoary Cress, Dalmation and Yellow Toadflax, Purple Loosestrife, Dyer's Woad, Rush Skeletonweed, Houndstounge and Tamarisk. The rapid spread of these noxious weeds is a serious threat to the ecology and economy of eastern Idaho.

II. WHAT'S BEING DONE – Twenty-two cost-share projects were implemented during 2007. Projects included information and education projects, land treatment projects, landowner cost share projects, mapping and inventory projects, and biological control projects. Some of the projects have been underway for several years and are yielding very succes

EDUCATION

Many people living, working and recreating in the Upper Snake River CWMA are still not aware of noxious weeds and the impacts they have on our environment and economy. During 2007, the USRCWMA provided



several public educational opportunities including workshops and developing printed materials. During March, local residents attended a Weed Awareness Workshop in Jefferson County. The Upper Snake and Henrys Fork CWMA's produced 10,240 **POCKET CALENDARS** for distribution in Eastern Idaho. The calendars will be distributed through a variety of sources including agencies, counties and at informational meetings.

2007 was the first year of the **WEED WARRIOR WORKSHOP**, a two day event held in Idaho Falls. The goal of this project was to provide training for new

employees and provide experienced employees enough recertification credits for their existing licenses. Basic classes were offered to help new employees understand the issues involved in weed management and control. Advanced classes were offered to more experienced employees to enhance their knowledge. The work shop included classroom as well as field tours. Over 100 individuals attended over the two days. Plans are underway for a follow up session in 2008.

INVENTORY

In the USRCWMA inventory and mapping noxious weeds is a critical step to planning actions that result in containment and control. During 2007 students from all five Bingham County High Schools participated in the **MAPS AND MORE PROJECT**. Students mapped 9,498 acres and documented 484 weed points, 132 acres of weed lines, and 335 acres of weed areas. Students also assisted 2 other student mapping groups in training and project development. Students assisted BLM in the establishment and learned protocols for Bio-Control monitoring along the Snake River.



2007 was the first year for the **JEFFERSON MAPPING PROJECT**. The Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District teamed up with the Rigby FFA and the CWMA to map noxious weed infestations in Jefferson County. Using GPS units the student team mapped for 5 weeks covering the dikes along the Snake River, railroads that run from County Line through Ririe, Rigby, Menan, and Roberts, and some private property in Roberts. In addition to mapping the known species such as Leafy spurge, Spotted knapweed, Russian knapweed, Field bindweed, Canadian thistle and Musk thistle the team discovered and mapped Houndstounge, Scotch thistle, Diffuse knapweed, and Perennial Sowthistle

WEED CONTROL PROJECTS



The Bonneville County Weed Control,(BCW), promoted noxious weed control efforts by cost sharing with private landowners through the **SWAN VALLEY PROJECT**. Once a management plan has been developed BCW treats the property with various herbicides. The landowner is responsible to pay for the herbicide and the CWMA reimburses BCW for the application. Weeds treated include Spotted knapweed, Canada thistle, Musk thistle, Diffuse knapweed, Leafy spurge, Houndstongue, and Field bindweed. 110 acres were treated while 300 acres were inventoried, and 300 direct contacts were made.

The **DAN CREEK PROJECT** targets Musk thistle, Canada thistle, Houndstongue, Black henbane, and Leafy spurge on rangeland and in riparian areas. The landowner is responsible to pay for the herbicide while the CWMA reimburses BCW for the application. Much of the work was accomplished using backpack sprayers in a seek and destroy approach. The project has enabled BCW to keep the weeds contained, but with houndstongue the effort is very challenging.



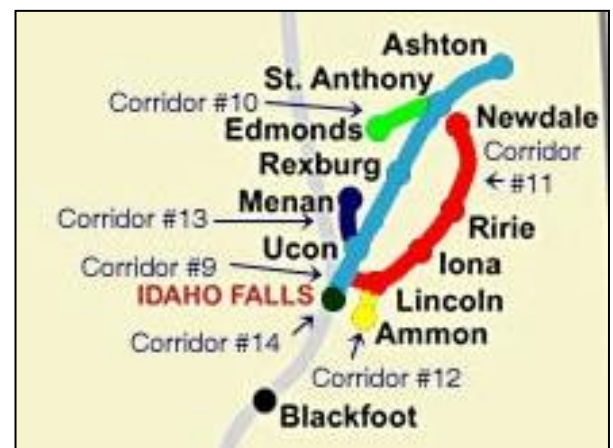
The **SPOTTED KNAPWEED CONTROL SOUTH OF DRIGGS PROJECT** continues to be successful in combating the spread of Spotted Knapweed throughout Teton County. During 2007 twenty-two private landowners participated in the Milestone cost-share program. The county covered half of the chemical cost and the landowners covered the other half. Most of the landowners that participated live on lots between ¼ and 5 acres in size. The cities of Driggs, and Victor and several farmers were also involved. The county treated approximately 142 acres along roadsides, bike paths, and within and

adjacent to the city of Victor to help prevent the spread of Spotted Knapweed by vehicles, pets, and people. This project has been ongoing for five years now. While Spotted Knapweed is still spreading, this program has helped slow the spread, and more importantly, it has been an excellent educational and promotional tool to create awareness and motivate private landowners.

The objectives of the **JUNIOR MASTER GARDENERS BIOLOGICAL CONTROL PROJECT** were to 1) educate young people about noxious weeds and different ways to control them, and 2) release insects to control Canada Thistle along the Teton River and some of its tributaries. This program was created by three local Master Gardeners. The Teton Regional Land Trust helped instruct the club on noxious weeds and using GIS to monitor weed and bio release sites. Three landowners along the Teton River also participated in the project. Twenty colonies of *Ceutorhynchus litura* and twenty colonies of *Urophora cardui* were release at several sites.

The **TETON AREA SPURGE AND KNAPWEED PROJECT** targets Leafy Spurge infestations primarily in northern Teton County and Spotted Knapweed infestations from Driggs north to the county line. The county treated approximately 40 miles along Highway 33 and 21 miles north of Felt for Leafy Spurge. Biological control was purchased and released to control Spotted Knapweed. We released ten colonies of *Cyphocleonus achates* and thirteen colonies of *Larinus minutus/obtusus*

The Eastern Idaho Railroad, aka **RAILDOGS**, operates a short line railroad that runs throughout Southern Idaho. This unique project involves Bonneville County, Jefferson County, and Madison County partnering with Raildogs to control Musk thistle, Canada thistle, Leafy spurge, Field bindweed, Houndstongue, plumeless thistle, Puncturevine, Spotted knapweed, and Yellow toadflax. Raildogs supplies the high line truck and a custom applicator. Each county supplies an applicator. Using a handgun the area from the rail to the fence or property line is sprayed. The CWMA and Raildogs shared the cost of the herbicide to treat this important transportation corridor. Sixteen noxious weed species were treated on seventy acres.



An unbelievable amount of gravel and topsoil, from numerous different pits, is transported throughout Teton Valley each day. The **TETON GRAVEL PITS AND LANDFILL PROJECT** targets noxious weeds at the source. This project enabled the county to specifically direct weed control efforts at gravel pits which are often the source of spreading noxious weeds. Six different pits were treated for an estimated 230 acres. As a result of the Teton Gravel Pit Initiative, the County has worked with Thad Barrett from the US Forest Service to create a gravel pit inspection program to certify gravel pits that meet specific noxious weed free standards. Six pits were inspected this year, two passed with restricted-time permits. Control efforts appear to be successful this fall.



The **LEAFY SPURGE CONTROL AT CARTIER WMA PROJECT** was completed in 45 days, using 658-1,145 head of goats, all does and kids. Herding was done by foot and horse with the assistance of a herding dog and two guard dogs. A serious drought in 2007 resulted in significantly reduced grass growth and the leafy spurge plants were not as robust as previous years. There was no measurable precipitation during the entire project, so the only summer re-growth occurred in the low swales where spurge roots were down into the

water table. The complete lack of spring flooding in 2007 did have the benefit of allowing the bio-control insect populations to flourish this year. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation helped fund this project again in 2007. A summary of this very successful seven-year project will be presented in January 2008 at the Idaho Weed Conference.

The **FOREST WEED CONTROL PROJECT** is an important weed fighting effort within the USRCWMA. Weeds are sprayed using slip in sprayers, ATVs, horses and back packs. Over 4,000 acres were spot treated with herbicides as a result of this project. Some weeds were mechanically removed. We also have a biological control program in place. Canada, scotch, and musk thistle, houndstongue, leafy spruce, spotted knapweed, black henbane, field bind weed, and dalmatian toadflax were treated in the project area. The herbicide, dye, and surfactant supplied by the CWMA, as well as the help of other partners in the CWMA, was used as match to secure a \$10,000 internal Forest Service grant to fund seasonal employees and vehicles used on this project. In turn these crews participated in the CWMA sponsored **SPRAY DAYS** at Bitch Creek, Highway 33 and Menan.

SPRAY DAYS

The **BITCH CREEK LEAFY SPURGE SPRAY DAY** was a cooperative effort with the Henrys Fork CWMA and the Upper Snake River CWMA. Our objective was to contain the Leafy Spurge along the border of Teton and Fremont Counties. Over twenty-three people, representing private landowners, multiple counties, US Forest Service, ID Fish and Game, and the BLM participated in this extremely successful spray day. Approximately 140 acres of Leafy Spurge were treated and



over 200 acres were inventoried. Thanks to the efforts of so many individuals and organizations, this project should only take a small crew a day or two to touch up next year.

A post treatment inspection following the **HIGHWAY 33 SPRAY DAY** showed that the 90 acres of chemical treatments were 90% effective. Eleven people representing 5 different organizations treated one of the worst areas of the project.

A post treatment inspection of the **ROADHOUSE RIVER BEND SPRAY DAY** showed that the 120 acres treated was greater than 90% effective. 18 people representing 6 different organizations and 1 private individual. The treated area was made up of county right-of-way, rail road plus right-of-way, private land, and BLM. What was great about this project is the fact this land is next to the Snake River and has potential for wildlife habitat. Once the noxious weeds are under control which may take one more year a re-vegetation effort will be put into place to turn all of this land into habitat for wildlife.

The **MENAN LEAFY SPURGE CONTROL PROJECT** continues to target leafy spurge in the Menan and Lewisville areas of Jefferson County. Ditch banks, riparian areas, roadsides, and non cropland are already infested or threatened by this aggressive invader. Throughout the summer the Jefferson County Weed Control continued to treat roadsides and Right of Ways while private landowners treat their lands. In September, 2007 CWMA partners from the Forest Service, Jefferson, Bonneville, Fremont, Clark and Madison counties joined forces with private land owners to complete a **MENAN LEAFY SPURGE SPRAY DAY**. Approximately 200 additional acres were treated.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

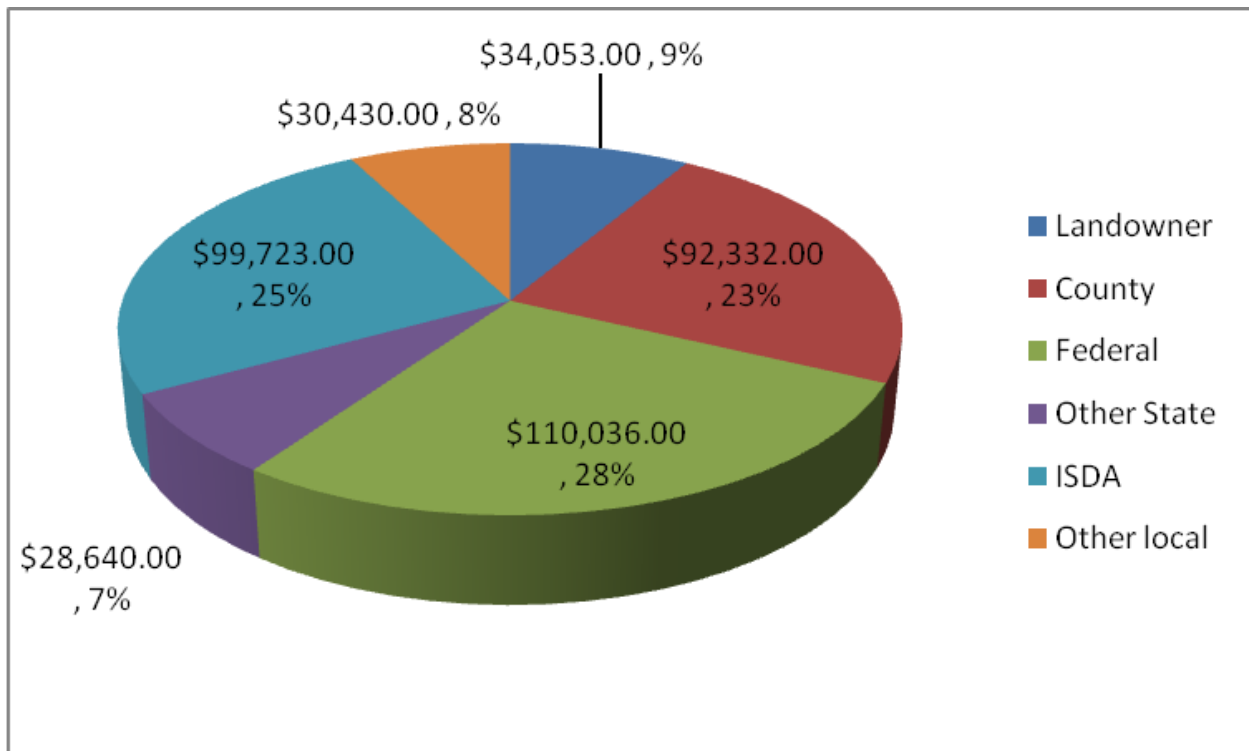


Since 1994, the Palisades Mitigation Project has assisted partners within the USRCWMA to place thousands of colonies of biological control agents on Leafy Spurge, Spotted Knapweed, Canada thistle, Musk thistle, Purple loosestrife, and Yellow toadflax. A long-term goal of the PMP is to establish insectaries throughout the watershed on several species of noxious weeds. During 2007, four species of biological agents, (66 colonies) were purchased and released on Spotted Knapweed and Canada thistle in Teton County. During 2007 the USCWMA completed the conversion of hundreds of biological agent release sites dating back to 1993 to GPS coordinates and GIS maps.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CWMA

During 2007, a total of \$ 295,491 in cash and in-kind services were contributed from non-federal and federal sources in direct support of USRCWMA project implementation. Sixty-three percent of all contributed match , (\$185,455), was provided by non federal sources including private landowners, local groups, cities, counties and state agencies.

2007 ISDA Grant	MATCH (Non-Federal)	MATCH (Federal)	Total (12/31/07)
\$99,723	\$185,455	\$110,036	\$395,214



PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

The USRCWMA will continue to implement the strategic plan it developed in 2007. Goals include:

- Focus on Early Detection / Rapid Response to Rush Skeletonweed, Dyer's Woad, and Tamarisk.
- Plan, fund, implement, monitor, harvest and redistribute biological weed control agents.
- Continue cooperative "spray days".
- Expand the use of student mapping teams.
- Targeted noxious weed treatment projects with private landowners.
- Launch the Educational outreach initiative identified in the 2008 AOP.

Appendix I - Steering Committee

Upper Snake River CWMA Steering Committee List							
Name	Title	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Phone	email
Greg Hanson	Chairman	3659 E. Ririe Hwy.	Idaho Falls	ID	83401	(208) 523-1412	gehanson@fs.fed.us
Kim Ragotzkie	Vice - Chairman	4279 Commerce Circle	Idaho Falls	ID	83401	(208) 525-7290	kragotzk@idfg.state.id.us
Tammy Egbert	Secretary	302 Profit Street	Rexburg	ID	83440	(208) 356-5213	tammy.egbert@id.usda.gov
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Dave Radford	RC&D Chairman	605 N. Capital	Idaho Falls	ID	83402	(208) 529-1360	dradford@co.bonneville.id.us
Thad Berrett	Range Technician	Box 777	Driggs	ID	83422	(208) 354-2312	tberrett@fs.fed.us
Jim Robertson	Range Technician	Box 777	Driggs	ID	83442	(208) 354-2312	jrobertson01@fs.fed.us
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Paul Muirbrook	Weed Supervisor	83 Frontage Rd.	Blackfoot	ID	83221	(208) 785-8066	pmuirbrook@co.bingham.id.us
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Brian McLain	Jeff. Co. Ext. Agent	134 N. Clark Rm 30	Rigby	ID	83442	(208) 745-6686	bmclain@uidaho.edu
Ken Knoch	Parks Director	2135 S. Ammon Rd.	Idaho Falls	ID	83406	(208) 529-4211	ammonparks@ida.net
Wade Bowcutt	Weed Supervisor	P.O. Box 567	Rigby	ID	83442	(208) 745-9224	bowcutw@yahoo.com
Jerome Fox	Range/Weeds Tech	1405 Hollipark Dr.	Idaho Falls	ID	83401	(208) 524-7535	jerome_fox@blm.gov
Cleve Bagley	Soil Cons. Technici	263 East 4th North	Rexburg	ID	83440	(208) 356-6931	cleve.bagley@id.usda.gov
Howard Johnson	District Conservatio	3862 E. 300 N.	Rigby	ID	83442	(208) 745-6664	howard.johnson@id.usda.gov
John O'neill	Habitat Biologist	4279 Commerce Circle	Idaho Falls	ID	83401	(208) 525-7290	joneill@idfg.state.id.us
Kirk Finn	Maintenance Coord	P.O. Box 97	Rigby	ID	83442	(208) 745-7781	kfinn@itd.state.id.us
Ryan Newman	Natural Res. Specia	1359 Hansen Ave.	Burley	ID	83318	(208) 678-0461	rnewman@pn.usbr.gov
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Amanda Hickman	Admin. Assistant	3862 E. 300 N.	Rigby	ID	83442	(208) 745-6664	amanda.hickman@id.nacdn.net

Appendix II - Project Summaries: Upper Snake River CWMA 2007

Weed species	Acres Revegetated	Acres Biological Treatment	Acres with Herbicide Treatment	Acres with GPS/GIS Mapping	New infestation identified. ED/RR response underway
Dalmation Toadflax			86	4.9	1
Leafy spurge		663	1,032	219.3	45
Spotted knapweed	4	165	2,294	1768	24
Yellow toadflax		200	21	0.2	
Canada thistle	75		1,828	468.3	
Musk thistle	150	20	2,076	522.2	
Scotch thistle	70		250	324	
Field Bindweed			21.5	113.9	
Diffuse Knapweed			2.5	40	
Dyer's Woad			1		
Perennial Pepperweed			1	0.9	
Perennial Sowthistle			1		
Puncturevine			3	0.2	
Black Henbane			18	31.5	
Russian knapweed			44	1549.5	
Houndstounge			1,426	242.9	
Plumeless thistle			3	3	
Jointed Goatgrass				4.8	
Milium				0.2	
Poison Hemlock				0.6	
Oxeye Daisy				0.1	
Salt Cedar				0.1	
White Bryony				14.9	
Whitetop				0.5	

