

**Camas Creek
Cooperative Weed Management Area**

**End Of The Year Report
Fiscal Year 2009**

**Office of the Camas County Weed
Superintendent
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Management Agencies Working Toward A Common Goal**

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Camas Creek CWMA
End of the Year Report For 2009

1). Introduction: Who Are We?: The Camas Creek Co-Operative Weed Management Area is located in Camas County. The total land mass encompassed within this geographical area of operations approaches 800,000 acres with approximately 69% of that held in public ownership. Terrain is variable from flat to hilly farm and rangelands, to more severely sloped mountains. Elevations range from approximately 4,200 to 10,000 feet. Annual precipitation is variable averaging from 10” to 14” with a significant amount of this accruing as winter snow. The average temperature in midsummer ranges from 80 to 85 degrees during the day to near freezing at night.

In 2009, in accordance to the CWMA’s strategic plan, Terry Lee Camas County Weed Superintendent performed his duties under the direction of the nine-member Camas Creek Steering Committee. (Appendix I)



Figure 1: Deryl Geren

Deryl Geren completed his first year working for the CWMA as a summertime assistant/technician. Deryl retired from Idaho Power and I must say man can that guy work, thank you Deryl.

The Camas Creek CWMA is meeting its primary objective of proactively leveraging “other” private and public inputs and bringing resources to bear on a common problem.

Accordingly and based upon the goals of its strategic plan, the CWMA continues to coordinate with three county and twenty-three agency cooperators in a coordinating and cost sharing capacity in accomplishing its goals (Appendix II).

Under this model, the Camas Creek CWMA area of operations encompasses all of Camas County. (Appendix III).

With its headquarters office centrally located in Fairfield, the Camas Creek CWMA, in 2009, has continued to strive to create an environment of fiscal efficiency through preplanning, project prioritization, cooperation and coordination for all of the diverse land ownership interests, both public and private, within the watershed.

The underlying strategic role of this coordination, indeed the entire CWMA program, is centered around implementing cooperative actions designed to contain and control the spread of especially leafy spurge, rush skeletonweed, dalmation toadflax and Spotted knapweed to prevent declines in rangeland carrying capacities, wildlife habitat and the Camas Prairie's traditional agricultural economic base.



Figure 2: Spraying Leafy spurge (Greg Potwin USFS, Terry Lee CCCWMA)

2). What Are We Doing About The Problem?: In its 2009 operating year, the Camas Creek CWMA used an integrated approach including biological control agent releases on

Leafy spurge, Canada thistle and knapweed infestations. Mechanical control methods, including pulling, bagging and burning, were applied in controlling satellite populations of both knapweed and rush skeletonweed.

Herbicides, according to label requirements, were used for containment and control as appropriate. Both professional and public education was emphasized wherever possible and included but not limited to: Fair displays, newspaper releases and overall public awareness.

For a breakdown of seven categories representing the CWMA's integrated approach, both proposed and actual, see Appendix IV – a histogram entitled “Breakdown of Integrated Pest Management Approaches.”

In addition to the completion of all ISDA Cost Share projects the program completed their contract with the Camas County Road and Bridge Department to perform roadside herbicide applications on 374 miles of Camas County roads. In consideration of this assignment of maintenance responsibilities, the Camas County Road and Bridge paid the CWMA a lump sum cash payment of \$40,000.00.

This annual payment amount from Camas County is sufficient to cover depreciation on program-owned equipment and will allow the CWMA to begin to accrue a cash revolving fund balance. That fund will be used in the future to offset preseason bulk herbicide purchases and be dedicated to future equipment acquisition and replacement.

By offering its in-kind assistance, the CWMA has also leveraged the active participation of the City of Fairfield in a continuing weed control program on city roads, streets, alleys, waste areas and vacant lots within the city limits.

3).The Southern Idaho Bio-Control (SIBC).

History of Southern Idaho Bio-Control

Here's a little history of the SIBC program. The Bug Crew, formerly known as the “KidKnappers,” began in 1998 with the leadership of Nan Reedy and the Camas Bug Crew. Nan and the Camas Crew were given one objective; “Get rid of the Knapweed!” The Crew selected nine sites to begin their battle. Baseline data on the nine selected sites were recorded, and then small populations of insects were released, with subsequent releases of different species for four more years. Vegetative data was carefully gathered at each site for three consecutive months per year over a period of five years. The Camas “KidKnapper” program was so successful that neighboring counties started to notice and the program took off.

Because of the success demonstrated in Camas County, other counties joined in to create The Southern Idaho Bio-Control program. This program changed its focus from

one Bug Crew intensely studying a few sites to four Bug Crews identifying as many sites as possible in their respective counties and releasing insects at these sites. In addition, the Bug Crews began adding new weed species to the program. All sites were prepared prior to insect release by gathering and recording vegetative data using methodology created by the USFS Forest Health Protection, the agency that provides SIBC with technical assistance. A list of 2009 insect releases is included in this report. **(See appendix VI)** This report has also been forwarded to the Nez Perce Bio-Control Center in Lapwai, Idaho.

SIBC is funded through many sources beginning with the private landowners who have donated their land for the long-term studies. The Wood River RC&D is the fiduciary agency that supports SIBC through grants with land management agencies like the US Forest Service, Forest Health Protection and the Bureau of Land Management.

Forest Health Protection and Bureau of Land Management, as well as the county cooperative weed management agencies and soil conservation districts, provide both cash and non-cash contributions to SIBC. The Wood River RC&D is the fiduciary agency, which administers SIBC' funding. All of the funding SIBC receives (from BLM, Forest Health, CWMA's and Soil Conservation Districts) is channeled through the Wood River RC&D. They act as our fiduciary umbrella.

Through the continued support of the cooperating agencies and organizations, this program has grown to include six counties and 153 bio-control monitoring sites. **(Article written by Becky Petroch SIBC Administrator)**

In operating year 2009, another area in which CWMA staff dedicated a disproportionate amount of time and resources, was in the eradication of small and random infestations of Rush Skeleton weed.



Figure 3; “Nothing I like better than the smell of burning weeds and kibbles and bits in the morning, (Deryl Geren)

Camas Creek CWMA continues to place an emphasis on steering committee involvement. This is partially accomplished through frequent mailings and updates that are sent throughout the year. Although the culture at Fairfield insures that numerous impromptu meetings occur between CWMA staff and steering committee members on an almost daily basis, the steering committee held two formal meetings in 2009.

These meetings lasted an average of 4 hours each and allowed the committee to discuss everything from ISDA cost share projects to enforcement issues to what emphasis should be placed on next years projects. The Camas Creek CWMA held its annual steak fry in April hosted by Rod Gonsales (Steering committee member).



Figure 4: Looks like another beautiful morning for spraying

The CWMA completed its annual county audit by the accounting firm of Jones, France and Basterrechea of Gooding in November 2009.

The Camas Creek CWMA purchased \$114,393.00 in herbicides in 2009.

Terry Lee graduated from Leadership Idaho Agriculture class 29, and I must say this was one of the best experiences of my career.

The Camas Creek CWMA again used ISDA's recycling program and shredded 864 herbicide containers.



Figure 5: Life is good on the prairie

During 2009, the Camas Creek CWMA received a grant through the Bureau of Land Management in the amount of \$43,000.00. The total cost of this project was \$52,906.55.

Other activities that have contributed to strengthening the Camas Creek CWMA program in 2009 are as follows: Legal notices advertising herbicide application schedules and Title 22 requirements were routinely published as required.

The Camas Creek CWMA purchased pocket calendars and pens for the Camas Creek Steering committee and Landowners involved in the cost share program at a cost of \$657.12

Terry Lee attended various weed meetings and recertification training for the Noxious Weed Free Forage and Straw Program.

Terry Lee Camas Creek CWMA administrator, Dennis Strom CWMA Steering Committee Chairman and Rod Gonsales CWMA Board Member attended the Idaho Weed Conference in Nampa.

4). Breakdown of Contributions to the CWMA: For a fast visual representation, see “Appendix V” – a pie chart entitled: “Camas Creek CWMA 2009 Coordinated Expenditures.”

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture’s Cost Share Program contributed a total of \$45,771.55 or 11% of total program inputs.

Camas County continues to provide direct fiscal support by funding all salaries, benefits and wages related to program labor from county tax revenues at \$73,100.00 per year.

Camas County also contracts with the CWMA for \$40K per year of roadside maintenance. This latter amount is paid as a lump sum cash advance to the CWMA at the beginning of each new fiscal year in October and is beginning to serve as a revolving account to offset mid-winter and early spring bulk herbicide purchases.

Total Camas County cash and in-kind contributions totaled \$113,100.00 in 2009 and represented 27% of total program inputs.

Counting the members of the CWMA Steering Committee, a total of 30 private landowners and contractors contributed extensive manpower, herbicide, equipment and technical assistance to overall program goals and demonstration projects during 2008. This resulted in private contributions totaling \$179,792.00 or 42% of total program inputs.

The Bureau of Land Management had placement of unprecedented resources into Camas County in the Amount of \$43,000.00. Total BLM inputs in the Camas Creek watershed this year represented 10% of program activity costs.

Total other inputs were \$42,558.00 coming from the Camas Creek CWMA or 10%.

5). What are the CWMA’s Plans for Next Year?: The plans for 2010 are relatively simple (See Annual Operating Plan 2010). The CWMA will strive to maintain the status quo it has achieved in terms of building and maintaining cooperator and private landowner participation.

The program will strive to accomplish, on budget, those cost share items submitted as part of its 2010 ISDA cost share request.

The program will fundamentally continue to provide for the long-term success of the program, and to comply with ISDA reporting requirements.



Figure: 6 Checking for Eurasian watermilfoil is hard work

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry S. Lee, Camas County Weed Superintendent and Administrator CCCWMA

Dennis Strom, Camas Creek CWMA Steering Committee Chairman

Ken Backstrom, Camas County Board of Commissioners Chairman

Appendix I Steering Committee List

Name Email	Title	Address	City	Zip Code	Phone	
Dennis Strom	Chairman	P.O. Box 137	Hill City	83337	(208)764-2596	
Jim Kramer	Landowner	Rt. 1 Box 1065	Fairfield	83327	(208)764-2378	
Rod Gonsales	Landowner	Rt. 1 Box 27	Corral	83322	(208)764-3825	
Ellsworth Weatherly	Landowner	P.O. Box 48	Fairfield	83327	(208)764-2674	
Gary Gill	Landowner	P.O. Box 458	Fairfield	83327	(208)764-2520	
Max Wilson	Landowner	Rt. 1 Box 2045	Corral	83322	(208)764-2306	
John Shelly	Advisory position US forest service	P.O. Box 189	Fairfield	83327	(208)764-3202	
Terry Gregory	Advisory position F&G	P.O. Box 128	Hill City	83337	(208)764-2489	
Scott Uhrig	Advisory position BLM	P.O. Box 2 B	Shoshone	83352	(208)732-7232	

AppendixII: Project Summaries

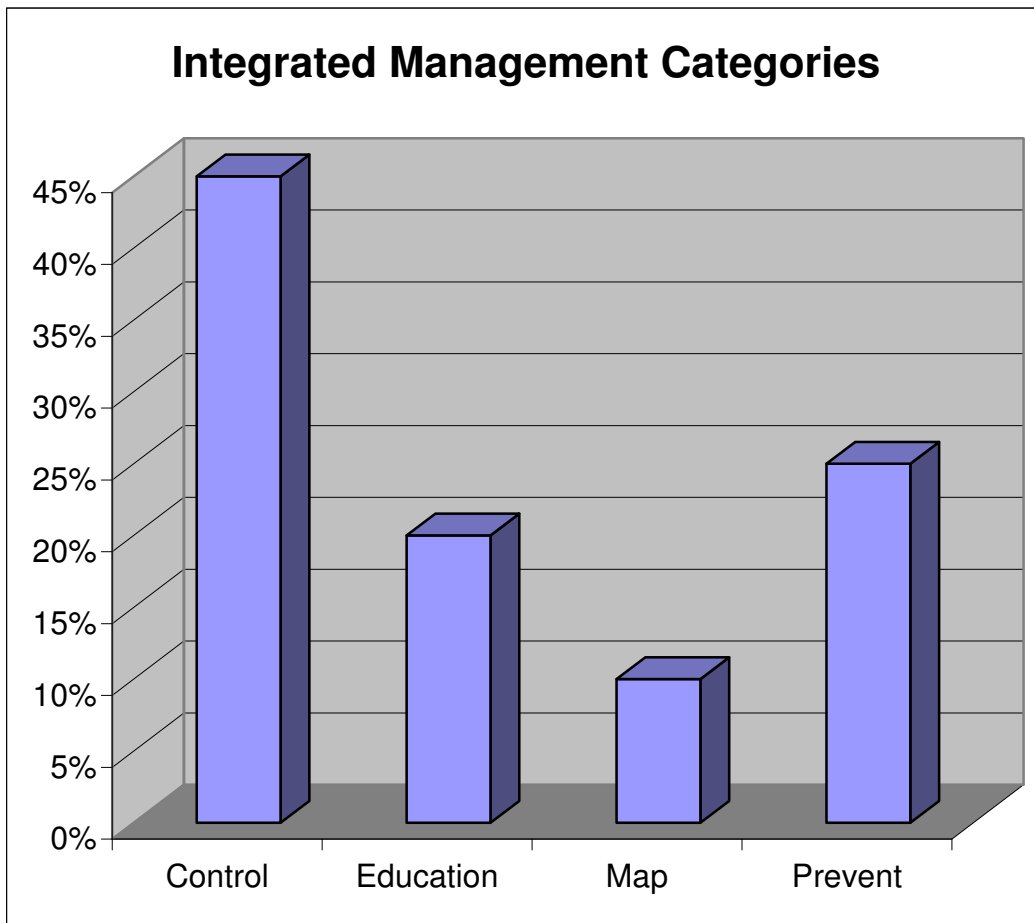
Category	Weed Species	Acres Treated
Revegetation		240
Biological Releases	Diffuse Knapweed	1,000
Treated	Kochia	305
	Scotch Thistle	35
	Diffuse Knapweed	8,510
	Spotted Knapweed	150
	Rush Skeletonweed	210
	Leafy Spurge	640
	Hoary Cress	1,800
	Canada Thistle	1,285
	Russian Knapweed	100
	Yellow Toadflax	10
	Field bindweed	1,450
	Horray alyssum	150
	Houndstongue	60
Public contacts		85
GPS/GIS Mapping	Diffuse Knapweed/Bio	600

Appendix III Map of CWMA



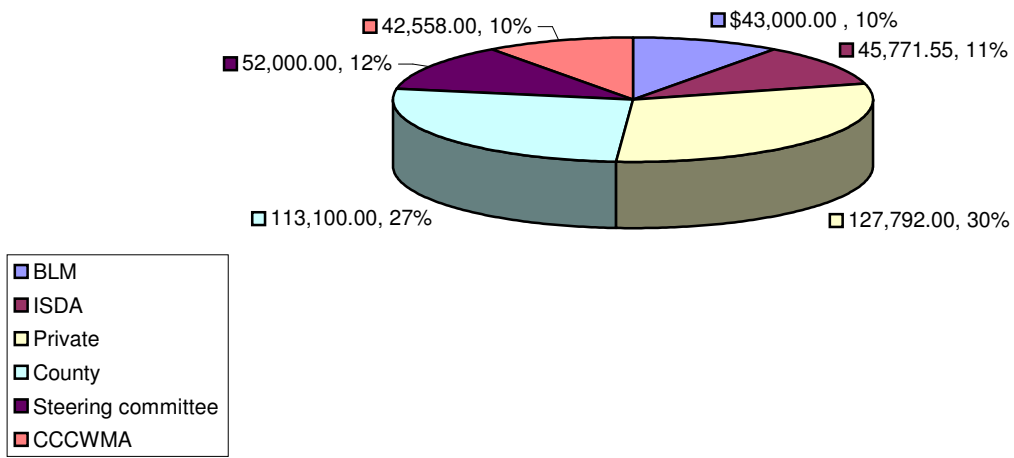
The current area of the Camas Creek CWMA is all lands within the Camas County boundaries.

APPENDIX IV: HISTOGRAM



APPENDIX V: PIE CHART

Camas Creek CWMA 2009 Coordinated Expenditures



Appendix VI

2009 Bio-Control Releases Camas Bug Crew SIBC

Site Name	Target Weed	Date	Bio-agents and number	latitude	longitude
Beaver Creek	Diffuse Knapweed	8/19/09	100 Cyphodeonus achates	43.26.52.7	114.33.55.5
Bill's North 40	Diffuse Knapweed	6/8/09	500 Bangasternus fausti	43 22 48	114 42 06.4
Bill's North 40	Diffuse Knapweed	8/19/09	100 Cyphocleonus achates	43 22.48	114.42.06.4
Boy's Cabin - thistle	Canada Thistle	8/19/09	100 Hadroplantus litura	43 25 04.5	114 47 52
Chimney Creek	Leafy Spurge	7/9/09	50 Oberea	43 23 17.2	114 50 11.2
Christian Camp	Canada Thistle	8/19/09	100 Hadroplantus litura	43 25 04.5	114 47 53.1
Gordon Schmit	Diffuse Knapweed	8/19/09	100 Cyphocleonus achates	43 20 42.3	114 40 02.3
Gordon Schmit - Thistle	Canada Thistle	8/19/09	100 Hadroplantus litura	43 20 33.3	
Homer Creek	Leafy Spurge	7/9/09	50 Oberea	43 23 20.5	114 50 11.2
J. Schmit	Diffuse Knapweed	8/19/09	100 Cyphocleonus achates	43 20 30	

Krahn's "KnapCity"	Diffuse Knapweed	7/1/09	1600 BangasterhUs fausti T	4321.07.0.	11443 252
Minnehaha	Canada Thistle	8/19/09	100 Hadroplantus litura	43 23 57.1	114 37 34.3
Morgan's Pond ..	Diffuse Knapweed	6/17/09	500 Bangasternus fausti ..	GPS malfunction	VWillrecollect points
Morgan's Pond	Diffuse Knapweed	8/19/09	100 Cyphocleonus achates	GPS malfunction	Will recollect points
North Minnehaha	Diffuse Knapweed	7/1/09~	800 Bangasternus fausti	4324 02.3	1143732.8
North Minnehaha	Diffuse Knapweed	8/19/09	100 Cyphocleonus achates	43 24 02.3	114 37 32.8
Rand Hay Shed	Diffuse Knapweed	8/19/09 >	100. Cyphodeonusachates	43 2051A	11439 08.0
Rodman Chicken House	Diffuse Knapweed	8/19/09	100 Cyphocleonus achates	43 20 38.8	114 37 32.2
Rodman's Railroad	Diffuse Knapweed	8/19/09	100 Cyphocleonus achates	4320 40	1143]39.5
Rodman's Thistle	Canada Thistle	8/19/09	100 Hadroplantus litura	43 20 38.8	114 37 32.2
Spring Creek	Canada Thistle	8/19/09	100 Hadroplantuslitura	431529.4/	• 114' -Q1(Λ")... .> ...
South Sage	Diffuse Knapweed	8/19/09	100 Cyphocleonus achates	43 24 18.8	114 34 30.0
Toone's Kryptonite	Diffuse Knapweed	8/19/09	100Cyphocleonus achates	' 43 .25 '58A> ...//	11434 39.1<
Toone's Organic Hayfield	Canada Thistle	8/19/09	100 Hadroplantus litura	43 18 09.3	114 46 21.5
Toone's Thistle Tomb	Canada Thistle	8/19/09	100 Hadroplantuslitura	..L-1S! ·14.3	...•• 11446 30.8

! 25 Releases in 2009