

Highlands Cooperative Weed Management Area 2009 End of Year Report



Introduction

The Highlands Cooperative Weed Management Area was developed to facilitate effective treatment and coordinate noxious weed control efforts. The Highlands CWMA has developed common management objectives, set realistic management priorities, and identified priority weed species.

The goals of the Highlands CWMA are to: Prevent the introduction, reproduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive exotic plants; Reduce the extent and density of established noxious weeds to levels that are acceptable; Implement the most economical and effective control methods for target weeds; Implement an integrated management system using appropriate methods of treatment and control; Educate the public as to the importance of proper weed management and get the needed media coverage to show what is being done.

The area covered by this Agreement includes Bear Lake, Caribou, and a portion of Bonneville Counties, Lincoln County, Wyoming and Rich County, Utah.

The major weeds of importance in the area include Dyers woad, Leafy spurge, Perennial pepperweed, and Yellow toadflax. Other noxious weeds such as Canada and musk thistle as well as hoary cress also receive attention. Major efforts are being made to control these weeds each year. In addition, reconnaissance for new invaders is done at every weed control activity. With the additional weeds added to the Idaho Noxious weed list the highlands CWMA has also focused on weeds such as hound's tongue and salt cedar.

The Chairperson of the Highlands CWMA for 2009 was Marvin Smith (Rich County, UT). Bear Lake Soil and Water conservation district services and financial administrator and secretary. Cooperators in the CWMA include private landowners, county government, state and federal land management agencies, as well as interested individuals and organizations.

Summary of Year 2009 Projects

Cooperators in the Highlands CWMA once again took up the cause to protect our environment from the threat of noxious weeds. Using the tools and strategies outlined in the strategic plan we were able to coordinate several noxious weed management activities. We controlled weeds with herbicides and biocontrol agents as well as mapped and recorded our activities with GPS. Below is a description of some of these accomplishments.

Coordination Meetings

Monthly coordination meetings were held prior to the field season to establish objectives, goals, finalize the annual operating plan, receive direction from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, and plan the summers' events. During the field season short meetings were held in conjunction with activity days.



Herbicide Treatments

Highland's cooperators treated 955 acres with herbicides. Noxious weeds treated included; yellow toadflax, white top, Russian knapweed, dyer's woad, perennial pepperweed, spotted knapweed and musk thistle. Scheduled work days were used to involve private landowners in the coordinated treatment of the targeted noxious weeds. Work on yellow toadflax, perennial pepperweed white top were the biggest events of the treatment activities. Landowners received herbicide, were given training when needed and then reported their treatment activities. All herbicides that were purchased were used up during the season.

Workday participants included landowners from Idaho Wyoming and Utah. Most land management agencies from state and federal agencies as well as county weed department employees were involved.

Herbicide Treatment Results

Acres Treated	955
Acres Inventoried	4000
Contacts	200

One of our biggest challenges is yellow toadflax. The Highlands focuses the majority of its resources fighting this weed. Landowner interest and participation has been excellent again this year.

Working in conjunction with neighboring states we are also working on perennial pepperweed which is a problem in some of the major water ways.



Herbicides Purchased

Product	Amount	Target species
Telar XP	680 ounces	White top, Perennial Pepperweed, Yellow toadflax
Milestone	42.5 gallons	Yellowtoadflax, spotted knapweed
Surfactant	30 gallons	All listed above

Biological Control Projects

Highlands cooperators continue to use biological control measures to manage noxious weeds. Cooperators used Highlands funds to purchase and distribute insects for musk and Canada thistle. Monitoring of previous release sites (as shown in pictures) was also an important task.



Biological Control Results

Acres Treated	200
Acres Inventoried	20

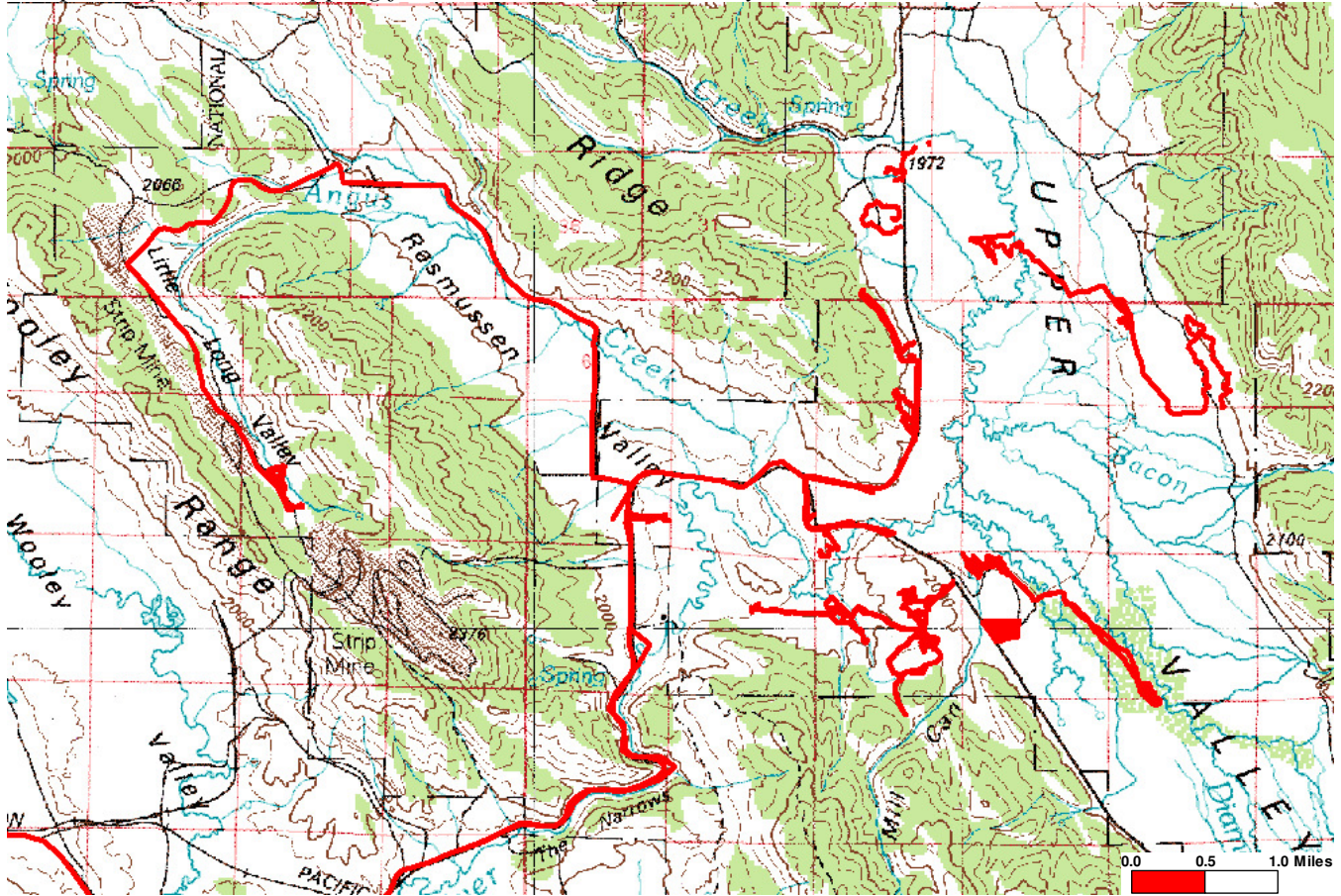
GPS Mapping

Highland's cooperators see the value of GPS/GIS technology in the assistance of noxious weed management. One of these uses relates to effectively and inexpensively recording where treatment work is being done. To accomplish this task, GPS units were acquired and used during field work. Using the stored data in the GPS, along with the applicators records, we were able to record treatment activities. We intend to make this information into a treatment history database to evaluate and improve our herbicide application efforts.

GPS Mapping Results

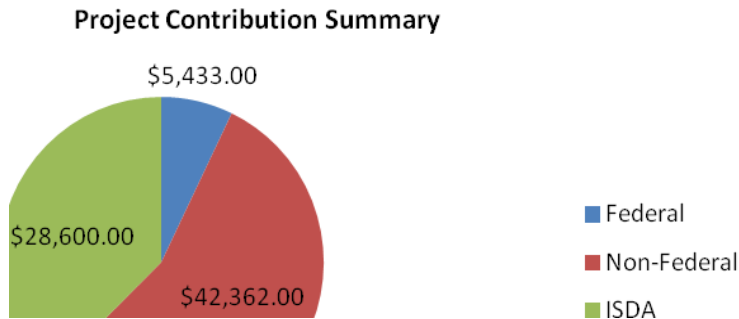
Acres Inventoried	10000
Contacts	30

Sample Map of GPS mapping for Yellow Toadflax workday



Financial Contributions

Total contributions towards ISDA cost share projects for 2009 was \$76,395. The following chart shows a breakdown of these contributions.



Summary

Highlands cooperators were again able to focus their resources to accomplish some great work related to noxious weed management in Southeast Idaho. Landowners look to this organization to help solve their difficult weed issues. We have taken steps to better track our efforts to help everyone involved. Listed below is a summary of the 2009 accomplishments.

Project	Contacts	Acres Treated	Acres Inventoried
Chemical Treatment	200	955	4000
Biological Control	20	200	300
GPS Mapping	30	-	10000
Total	250	1155	10700

We have laid the ground work for many of the projects for 2010. In accordance to the strategic plan we will follow up with previous projects and renew efforts to fight new invaders and weeds that may be added to the state noxious weed list.

Appendix I

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Appendix II – Highlands Map

Highlands 2009

