

Power Cooperative Weed Management Area 2009 End of Year Report

Bannock Creek/Russian Knapweed



In 2009 over 600 acres of Russian Knapweed was treated in pastures and idle land on the Fort Hall Reservation. Pictured above, a pasture treated with Milestone in early spring 2009, this picture shows excellent control.

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Introduction

The Power Cooperative Weed Management Area (PCWMA) is a cooperative effort to control the introduction of new, invasive species and the spread of existing noxious weeds in Power County and surrounding areas. The Power CWMA is intended to bring together those responsible for weed control in and around Power County to develop common management objectives, facilitate effective integrated weed control and coordinate treatment efforts.

The cooperators will jointly:

- Establish control priorities.
- Develop and implement common inventory and mapping techniques.
- Use an integrated weed management approach to control noxious weeds.
- Coordinate the use of resources and manpower.
- Treat individual weed species/infestations.
- Facilitate an increase in public noxious weed awareness and control.

The Power CWMA comprises approximately 900,000 acres in Power County, located in central southeastern Idaho. American Falls Reservoir is on the north boundary with the Snake River flowing southwest into Cassia County. The area is primarily agricultural with nearly half of the land ownership being private. The urban areas include the cities of American Falls, Rockland and the community of Arbon. The PCWMA is divided into six zones, which closely follow the geographical areas and voting precincts. The zones include Pleasant Valley, Neeley to Coldwater, American Falls area, Rockland Valley, Arbon Valley, and Fort Hall Reservation. Each zone has its own control and management strategies depending upon the noxious weeds present.

The major weed problems in the Power CWMA are two fold. The actual largest noxious weed acreages are Field Bindweed, Jointed Goatgrass, Canada Thistle and Russian Knapweed. These weeds have been around for many years and have become widespread in some zones. Although desired, eradication is not likely, but they must be controlled and contained to reduce their economic impact and prevent their spread to uninfested areas. There are several other noxious weeds, which are relatively new to Power County and are considered top priorities. These include Dyers Woad, Leafy Spurge, Hoary Cress, Scotch Thistle, Salt Cedar, Oxeye Daisy, Puncturevine, Spotted and Diffuse Knapweed. Dyers Woad and Leafy Spurge are only known to be in several small spots. Prevention and eradication are a must for these weeds because of their ability to spread and their persistence once established. Hoary Cress and Scotch Thistle are two additional invaders that have scattered, light infestations that are being controlled. Both reduce livestock grazing due to competition with desirable forages and degrade wildlife habitat. Because of the potential to spread if left untreated and their invasive characteristics they are an ongoing problem. Spotted Knapweed was brought into Arbon Valley years ago from sheep hauled in from Montana. Diffuse Knapweed is believed to have been brought into the Rockland zone through contaminated CRP seed. Both have spread in CRP fields

Comment [dg1]: Curtis, do we need to add puncture vine?

Also, should we list we are going to be increasing surveillance for yellow starthistle and hoary alyssum?

and pastures and have become an ongoing annual battle to control. Other efforts included monitoring and control of Spotted and Diffuse Knapweeds which are short-lived perennials that produce thousands of seeds from each plant. They also reduce desirable forages, increase erosion and reduce aesthetic value.

The Power CWMA is a cooperative effort between Power County, the Idaho Department of Agriculture, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Department of Transportation, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Shoshone Bannock Tribes, University of Idaho Fort Hall Extension, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service, private landowners and the cities of American Falls and Rockland. Funding has been obtained from the Idaho Department of Agriculture, The Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, private landowners, and Power County. Contributions of labor, equipment and materials were acquired from all cooperators.

The Power CWMA would like to thank the County Commissioners of Power County, especially Commissioner Vicki Meadows, for their continued support of weed control in our area. The Power CWMA would also like to thank Matt Voile and his staff of the Idaho Department of Agriculture for their service and commitment to increasing the level of noxious weed control in Idaho and the Power Cooperative Weed Management Area.

Summary of Fiscal Year 2009 Projects

Education/Awareness:

This year the Power Cooperative Weed Management Area wanted to increase landowners and public weed awareness. We again displayed weed billboard signs along highways promoting weed awareness and involvement in controlling weeds. We received many good weed calls and comments. We also continued a weed reward project by placing articles in the newspaper and wanted posters encouraging identification and reporting of new invaders. We received several good tips about new weeds to our area. We plan to continue the Weed Rewards Project in 2010 and distribute new noxious weed booklets, along with displaying weed awareness sign: **GOOD NEIGHBORS CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS**. We also participated in the Idaho weed awareness campaign by contributing \$500 along with other Eastern Idaho counties and CWMA's to produce and air radio and television ads promoting invasive weed identification, education and control. We distributed 200 Idaho Noxious Weed booklets to landowners, students and public.

The Fort Hall Extension office distributed 50 weed brochures to tribal members and conducted one class on weed identification, control and prevention. In addition, one pesticide applicator course was offered to 25 participants to increase public awareness of weeds and control measures.



Inventory/Mapping:

A critical part of integrated weed management is a current inventory of noxious weed infestations. In 2009 we received \$5,000 cost share for a mapping project. We hired and trained three students to inventory and GPS map noxious weeds in various areas throughout Power CWMA. New invaders locations were mapped, weeds along county roads, areas along American Falls Reservoir and Snake River, several thousand acres of CRP, fire areas, BLM and Forest rangeland. Also the students attended seminars and learned to take the GPS weed data and make color maps of the areas and weeds inventoried and then distributed them to participating partners.

In 2009, the University of Idaho Fort Hall Extension program began mapping rangelands on the Fort Hall Reservation located in Power County. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribe’s Agricultural Resource Management Program also began using a GPS truck mounted unit that mapped areas sprayed for weeds in these areas as well.



Prevention/Eradication:

Our New and Few Invaders project proved very successful again this year. Power CWMA Partners found new weeds and checked old weed sites. Grants were used to purchase herbicides to assist landowners in treating high priority, low acreage weeds throughout PCWMA. Sixty-five private landowners along with state and federal partners participated in aggressively seeking and destroying these new and low level invaders. Pictured below: New & Few Invaders Workday treating, Oxeye Daisy at East Fork of Rock Creek.



Weed Control/Rehabilitation:

In 2008 Power CWMA cooperators treated over 1000 acres of noxious and invasive weeds with herbicides. Applications varied from treating single Salt Cedar and Leafy Spurge plants with backpack sprayers to monitoring and spot spraying Spotted Knapweed with ATV's on thousands of acres of CRP and rangeland to boom spraying large patches and pastures with trucks. Several species including Scotch Thistle, Musk Thistle, Poison Hemlock and Dyers Woad were found and treated in new sites. Also weeds in old sites returned or expanded this season requiring extra time and expense to control.



The Bull Canyon/Roy Fire Noxious Weed Control Project involved Power County, BLM, State Lands and private landowners. Approximately 100 acres of Poison Hemlock, Scotch Thistle, Canada Thistle, Houndstongue and Field Bindweed were sprayed in rangeland, roadsides, pastures and fallow farmland. We covered several thousand acres surveying and treating scattered noxious weed patches.



Canada Thistle Stem Mining Weevil

The Bannock Creek Project involved Sho-Ban Tribes, BIA, U of I Fort Hall Lessees, and Power County. Approximately 700 acres of heavy Russian Knapweed and other noxious weeds were treated. Also several pastures are being restored.

The Biological Control Project received \$900 this year; we purchased and distributed 10 releases of Canada Thistle Stem Mining Weevil. Also we received and released Canada Thistle Galls, Field Bindweed mites and 1 new release for Punchervine. We also contributed \$1000 to the Dyer's Woad Biological Coalition.

Danielle Gunn (U of I Fort Hall) assisted Power County Weed Control in releasing Bio Agents at West Fork Creek, Arbon Valley and also monitored the success of past releases

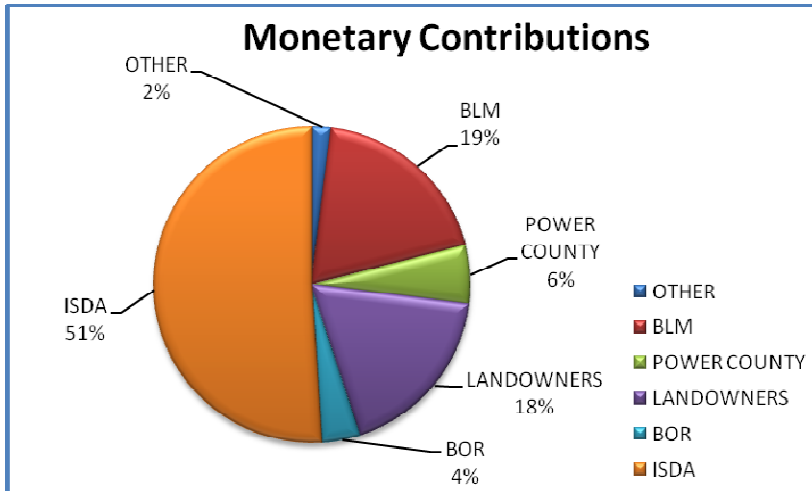
Danielle Gunn



Overall the 2009 weed season was very successful. We are enjoying greater public weed awareness and cooperation thanks to state and local efforts. We found and treated many new previously untreated patches. We are seeing several weed species reduced by 10% or more each year. Conservatively 20,000 acres of weed infested lands were surveyed and treated. The following charts show \$50,095 of cash was contributed and \$44,022 in kind time equipment and materials were used in fighting noxious weeds in Power CWMA. Thanks again to all our cooperators for all the good work.

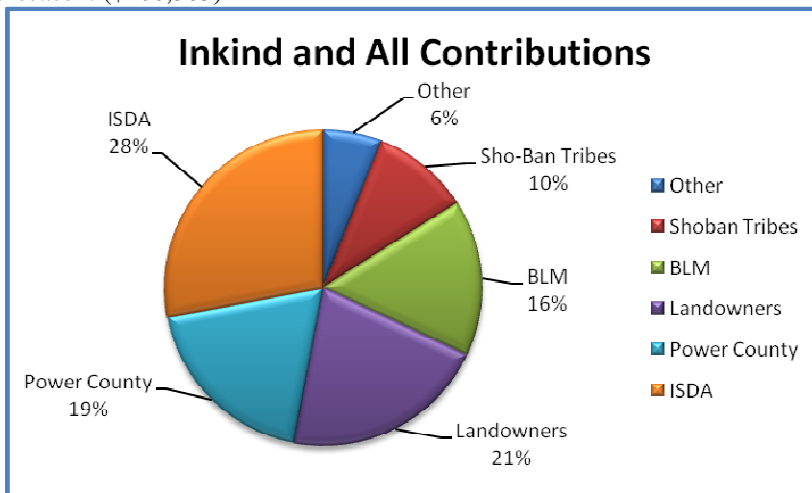
Contributors to the Power CWMA

Integrated weed management projects require funds for purchasing herbicides, equipment, labor and fulfilling contracts. For fiscal year 2009, cash contributions were obtained from the Idaho Department of Agriculture, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, Landowners, Power County and others



Total cash contribution for 2009: \$56,317.

The contributions to Power CWMA were often in the form of time, equipment and material not just funds. Below is a summary of all the contributions made to the PCWMA during the 2009 season. (\$100,565)



The Power CWMA committee would like to thank all our weed project contributors.

Appendix I

Power Cooperative Weed Management Area Committee Membership List 2008

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Appendix II

Power CWMA Project Summaries

2009

New & Few Invaders Project

<u>Weed Species</u>	<u>Acres Treated</u>
Musk Thistle	82
Hoary Cress	47
Spotted Knapweed	80
Diffuse Knapweed	10
Russian Knapweed	35
Scotch Thistle	33
Black Henbane	21
Poison Hemlock	41
Dyers Woad	5
Leafy Spurge	.25
Salt Cedar	1
Perennial Pepperweed	3
Syrian Beancaper	.1
Purple Loosestrife	0
Puncturevine	1
Rush Skeleton Weed	1
Oxeye Daisy	2
Houndstongue	80
Jointed Goatgrass	29
Total Acres	471

Gross Acres surveyed and treated: 9,000

Bull Canyon/Roy Fire Noxious Weeds Project

<u>Weed Species</u>	<u>Acres Treated</u>
Canada Thistle	75
Field Bindweed	310
Houndstongue	68
Scotch Thistle	4
Poison Hemlock	8
Total Acres	465

Gross Acres surveyed and treated: 7,000.

Bannock Creek/Russian Knapweed Project

<u>Weed Species</u>	<u>Acres Treated</u>
Musk Thistle	6
Scotch Thistle	2
Spotted Knapweed	2
Poison Hemlock	2
Russian Knapweed	686
Houndstongue	4
Total Acres	<hr/> 702

Gross Acres surveyed and treated: 4,000.

Mapping Noxious Weeds Project

<u>Weed Species</u>	<u>Acres Mapped</u>
Jointed Goatgrass	1000
Canada Thistle	1200
Field Bindweed	1,500
Diffuse Knapweed	1,000
Spotted Knapweed	1,000
Russian Knapweed	1,000
Musk Thistle	1,000
Scotch Thistle	1,000
Hoary Cress	100
Poison Hemlock	300
Dyers Woad	50
Black Henbane	150
Perennial Pepperweed	3
Rush Skeletonweed	3
Leafy Spurge	1
Salt Cedar	1
Houndstongue	2,500
Puchervine	10
Oxeye Daisy	10
Total Acres	<hr/> 11,818

Gross Acres surveyed and mapped: 30,000.

Biological Control Project

<u>Weed Species</u>	<u>Bio Released</u>
Canada Thistle	12
Field Bindweed	4
Spotted Knapweed	1
Total Release Sites	17

Contributed to Dyers Woad Biological Project

Restoration Project

	<u>Acres Reseeded</u>
Reseeded grass on pastures previously treated for Russian Knapweed at Bannock Creek	50

Weed Awareness/Education

Weed Pocket booklets and Weed Newsletters	Total Public Contacts 2500
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Weed Sign Message	Thousands
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Fort Hall distributed Weed Booklets-50
2 educational workshops reached 50 people.

Supplemental Terrestrial Weed Project.

<u>Weed Species</u>	<u>Acres Treated</u>
Canada Thistle	200
Field Bindweed	775
Jointed Goatgrass	700
Total Acres	1675

Appendix III

Power CWMA

