

2009
Adams Cooperative
Weed Management Area
End of Year Report

Adams CWMA Steering Committee

Adams County Weed Control

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Introduction

The Adams Cooperative Weed Management Area encompasses all of Adams County in west central Idaho, including the upper Weiser River, its tributaries, Rapid River and upper Little Salmon River watersheds. The western boundary is the Snake River. (See map page 11)

The Adams CWMA formed in 2001 as a means to bring together private landowners and others responsible for and interested in weed management in Adams County. The group developed common goals and priorities and sought to share resources and find funding to combat the spread of noxious and invasive weeds. A strategic plan was developed that included a prioritized list of known noxious weeds and new invaders. *This strategic plan was updated in 2005 and in 2007.*

The Adams CWMA goals are to prevent introduction, reproduction and spread of noxious and invasive weeds, to reduce established infestations, to inform the public about the harm exotic weeds cause and to implement an integrated weed management system. The group supports and works closely with the county weed department and helps obtain the tools, equipment and personnel necessary for an effective program.

There are twenty-four (24) listed species of noxious weeds within the Adams CWMA using the revised 2007 Idaho Weed List. Our number one priority weeds are **Mediterranean sage, Hoary alyssum, Orange hawkweed, Dyers woad, Hoary cress, Perennial pepperweed, Yellow starthistle, Diffuse knapweed, Spotted knapweed and Leafy spurge**. These weeds are the main focus of our group activities each year. The group has also focused on providing information about new invaders and other weeds of concern within the CWMA boundaries.

The Adams CWMA co-chairpersons are Julie Burkhardt and Mike Correia. The numerous Adams CWMA Partners and Cooperators are listed in the Appendix.

2009 Summary

Priority Projects/ Spray Days

Whitetop/ Perennial Pepperweed Project

Whitetop (Hoary cress) and Perennial pepperweed are both top priority weeds in the Adams CWMA. There are about 50 very small infestations (most less than 1/8 acre) mainly located in the southern part of the county and in the Hornet Creek and Bear areas. Several more very small patches of both Hoary cress and Perennial pepperweed were discovered this year. Patches treated for the past several years show very good results. We continue to find a few small patches of both Whitetop and Perennial pepperweed around the CWMA. We

believe the increased number of locations is not necessarily the result of spread of these weeds but rather that the CWMA's information efforts have led to more reports of locations. Whitetop and Perennial pepperweed are well under control within the CWMA and on-going efforts should keep it that way. Adams County Weed Control spent several days working on White top and Perennial pepperweed in addition to the hours spent by CWMA members.

Dyers Woad Project

There are three very small infestations of Dyers woad that have been sprayed or hand pulled for the past several years. This year, Adams County Weed Control treated all three known infestations. To our knowledge, virtually no plants in the known infestations have been allowed to go to seed over the past several years.

Northwest Youth Corp (NYC) and Idaho Youth Conservation Corp (IYCC)

The Northwest Youth Corp, an organization based in Portland, OR, provides summer jobs for youth and a needed service for conservation groups and government agencies. NYC members perform jobs such as trail building or clearing, bridge building or repair, weed control work, stream restoration and many other resource related projects.

The Adams CWMA has been pleased with the work of the Northwest Youth Corp the past three years. Their enthusiasm (and their group size) is just what is needed to follow up on our two larger project areas. This crew gives our small group many more hands and eyes on the ground as we seek out the ever-decreasing and elusive "Med sage" and Yellow star thistle. We look forward to working with the crew whenever possible.

The Idaho YCC was new to the Adams CWMA this year. We were approached by the Superintendent of the Council Schools to provide funding for a crew leader to support a crew funded by a grant from Idaho Department of Labor. This crew consisted of local youth who needed summer employment. The Adams CWMA was able to provide several weeks of work for this crew doing follow-up hand chopping on Mediterranean sage. The crew also did weed work and other trail maintenance for our partner, Friends of the Weiser River Trail.

Mediterranean Sage Project

Volunteers spent hundreds of man-hours chopping and spraying scattered Med. sage plants over about 1100 acres south of Council and west toward the Weiser River. We were able to expand our project area and do a more thorough job with the help of the NYC. For the most part, areas we've concentrated on over the past few years show much improvement. However, the NYC discovered areas we've not spent much time on and were able to concentrate their efforts on these areas once they were located. However, a contractor working on Leafy spurge located an outlier near the Weiser River that was previously unknown to our group. It has been mapped and will be a priority for inspection next spring.

Yellow Starthistle Project

Yellow starthistle remains a high priority for eradication in the Adams CWMA. One project workday was scheduled to spot spray and hand pull plants within the project area, including the small satellite infestation found in 2005. A crew of ten joined in on the 80-acre Yellow starthistle project area on BLM and private lands near Goodrich. The crew used backpack sprayers to treat steep, south-facing slopes where small patches and single plants were hiding. ATVs with spray units were used on some of the less steep slopes and isolated patches were monitored and treated.

Plants continue to persist throughout the project area. Most are quite small and therefore difficult to spot. This area is grazed intensively which contributes to the small plant size. The grazing is good in that it keeps the plants from flowering but it makes finding them more of a challenge.

Big Bar Diffuse Knapweed Project

2009 was the seventh year of treatment at Big Bar in Hells Canyon on the Payette National Forest. CWMA partners worked with the Council and New Meadows Ranger District weed crews to treat the Big Bar dispersed camping area, the parking areas and the steep hillside between Allison and Eckels Creeks concentrating on Diffuse knapweed. Other weeds in the area include Spotted knapweed, Dalmatian toadflax, Hounds tongue, Japanese knotweed, Scotch thistle, Poison hemlock, Puncturevine, Poison ivy, Hoary cress and Perennial pepperweed.

The upper slopes in the area are showing signs of good success with fewer Diffuse knapweed plants found each year. This year, crews finished the area in record time. However, many weed species are still thriving in the lower areas and campsites, including two newly discovered Whitetop populations. These areas are difficult to treat because of the trees and the proximity to the river which limits treatment options, and numerous, well-hidden campsites that are challenging to maneuver around. In all, about 100 acres were treated.

Orange Hawkweed Project

Orange Hawkweed remains a high priority for eradication in Adams County. Project Coordinator Mike Correia believes great progress has been made toward this goal. Mike continued to treat affected areas in 2009. He has found that the amount of Orange Hawkweed in the New Meadows area has diminished significantly. He notes that ungrazed areas make it much more difficult to find and treat Orange hawkweed due to the tall grass and that plants are much hardier without grazing pressure. The CWMA is hopeful that this noxious invader can one day be eradicated in Adams County.

A set of test plots using several herbicide treatments and timing were installed on private land in Meadows Valley. The plots were inspected during our annual tour. We will continue to monitor these sites with the help of DuPont

representatives to determine if alternative herbicides or other treatments are feasible.

Cuprum Area Knapweed Project

A fourth year project was conducted in the town site of Cuprum. Last year, Cuprum residents joined the CWMA and the weed department to work on Spotted knapweed and other weeds in their area. The main weed species treated on this workday were Spotted knapweed and Dalmatian toadflax. Spotted knapweed and Canada thistle had definitely declined from the previous year but scattered plants were still around. Spotted knapweed and Dalmatian toadflax showed positive treatment results in several areas with dramatic reductions of weeds in certain areas.

Rubicon Diffuse Knapweed/Spotted Knapweed Project

The area near the Evergreen saw mill at Tamarack (Rubicon) was treated in early August for a fourth year. The target weeds were Spotted and Diffuse knapweed but there is also Canada thistle, Sulfur cinquefoil, Bull thistle, Yellow toadflax and Hounds tongue. Nearly 300 acres in the Rubicon/Tamarack area were covered during this workday. This area is looking better each year. Crews are dispersing further afield to find weeds to treat and infestations near the staging site have been dramatically reduced. This area is heavily used and these weeds have the potential to infest nearby US Forest Service lands.

Leafy Spurge Project

Leafy spurge treatment in the county line-to-Alpine area is in its fourth year. This invader has been a high priority for the group but the widely scattered nature of the infestations and the dense vegetation along the Little Weiser River corridor make it difficult to treat as a project. This year, several weed warriors noticed a noticeable reduction in the density and vigor of spurge plants. We are encouraged by this but recognize that we still have work ahead of us. We had a very good turnout for this project and are confident that landowners are on board with seeing continued success. Protection of the Indian Valley area and the Little Weiser River corridor above Alpine is critical. The several very small infestations of Leafy spurge in the Meadows Valley were also treated.

Several landowners in this corridor are participating in a river restoration project through a DEQ grant. We look forward to working with these same landowners to continue our leafy spurge treatment as these sites improve.

Contractor Leafy Spurge Project

This year the CWMA selected two contractors to work on Leafy spurge. This was mainly due to the availability of each. We decided to have some work completed earlier in the season and some work in fall. Since much of the work is in more difficult terrain, we want to see if there is a difference in treatment success due to treatment timing. Using a contractor allows a larger area to be treated than could be possible using only volunteers on project workdays.

Little Salmon River Corridor Project

One workday was conducted in the Little Salmon River corridor along Highway 95. Cooperators included Idaho County, USFS, IDL, BLM, private landowners and Adams County Weed Control. Crews worked along approximately 12 miles of Highway 95. The main target was Spotted knapweed but Diffuse knapweed, Orange hawkweed, Puncturevine, Rush skeletonweed, Dalmatian toadflax and several thistle species were treated as well. The highway corridor alternates between Idaho and Adams counties four times in this area and passes through or near state and federal lands. This cooperative effort will benefit landowners and land managers alike since travel corridors represent a huge spread vector.

Bio-control

A number of bio-control releases were made around the Adams CWMA this year. While these did not involve cost share dollars, we have included this discussion because bio-control is part of our strategic plan and it is important to our overall weed management plan.

Spotted knapweed

Several releases of *Cyphocleonus achates* insects were done on private land in the Cuprum area.

Leafy spurge

Releases of *Apthona spp.* were made in the Goodrich area on both BLM and private land.

Canada Thistle

Several releases of the Canada thistle gall fly *Urophora cardui* were made in the New Meadows area in the last two years. Inspections were done by Adams County Weed and Joey Milan, BLM/ISDA of the releases from last spring. Establishment has been confirmed at these sites and monitoring is occurring annually at one of the sites. Next year will mark three years of monitoring records. Data analysis can be initiated at that time. Releases of the Canada thistle gall fly were also made at the Lafferty Campground northwest of Council.

Purple Loosestrife

Several releases of *Hylobis transversovittatus* were done on private land in the Council area. These areas previously had large Purple loosestrife infestations and releases done about eight years ago had tremendous success. These subsequent infestations may have been from seed banks.

Dalmatian Toadflax

In 2003 a stem boring weevil, *Mecinus janthinus*, was released on populations of Dalmatian toadflax along the Wildhorse River. Recent monitoring has shown that these insects have significantly reduced density of Dalmatian toadflax in the area. Two historical release sites were included in Idaho's Standardized

Monitoring Protocol (SIMP). These sites were first examined in 2007. Since that time, one site has shown a 100% reduction of Dalmatian toadflax and the other, a 71% reduction. The biological control agent populations on site have increased dramatically and spread well on their own. These sites will likely not have much Dalmatian toadflax in the future.

Information and Education

Summer Weed Tour and Seminar

Despite there being no available cost share funds for I&E, the Adams CWMA steering committee sponsored a half day classroom seminar and half day tour for participants on June 30th 2009 in New Meadows, ID. CWMA members recognize that on-going information and education opportunities mean keeping the weed issue in front of landowners and will ultimately lead to more weed treatment over time. The morning session covered topics such as how to identify weeds and other plants, how bio-controls work and how to pick the right spray equipment.

New Equipment

Hose for Skid Tank

300 feet of new hose was purchased for the skid tank. This piece of equipment gets quite a bit of use by landowners and the new hose makes it easier to access steeper areas where a vehicle cannot go.

Safety Signs

Two large signs (4'x4') with spring-loaded, tripod bases were purchased to set out during project work days. These signs alert motorists of weed control activity in the area.

Grass Hand Seeders

Cyclone-type hand seeders were purchased for use by staff and landowners. These seeders can be used to rehabilitate burn areas or for post-weed treatment reseeding.

Work Accomplished This Year

Work was accomplished throughout Adams County by members of the Adams CWMA and other contributors (see page).

Total acres treated – chemical = 5,000

Total acres treated – mechanical = 1,200

Total acres treated – grazing = none

Total acres treated – bio-control = 90

Total acres inventoried = 6,200

Total acres revegetated 100

Total acres New Invaders = none

Total number of public contacts = approx 300

2009 Chemical Purchases:

Chemical	Quantity	Project(s)
Tordon 22K	25 G	All projects
Outpost	17.5 G	Leafy spurge
Transline	2.5 G	All projects
Milestone	2.5 G	All projects
AquaNeat	10 G	All projects
Vanquish	2.5 G	L. spurge, Med sage
Cimarron Max	2.5 G	WT & PP
Surfactants	10 G	All projects
Dyes	12.5 G	All projects

Acres Infested by Noxious Weeds within the Adams CWMA

Common Name	Latin name	Gross Acres	% Gross Ac. Infested	% Avg. Density
Buffalobur	Solanum rostratum	1	1	1.00
Canada thistle	Cirsium arvense	142,000	30	5.00
Dalmatian toadflax	Linaria dalmatica	3,500	1	1.00
Diffuse knapweed	Centaurea diffusa	300	40	80
Dyer's woad	Isatis tinctoria	5	100	1.00
Field bindweed	Convolvulus arvensis	200,000	80	1.00
Hoary alyssum	Berteroa incana	12,000	10	1.00
Houndstongue	Cynoglossum officinale	5,000	80	1.00
Japanese knotweed	Polygonum cuspidatum	9	100	1.00
Jointed goatgrass	Aegilops cylindrical	30	100	25.00
Leafy spurge	Euphorbia esula	170,000	10	1.00
Mediterranean sage	Salvia aethiopis	1,200	80	1.00
Orange hawkweed	Hieracium aurantiacum	130	25	1.00
Oxeye daisy	Chrysanthemum leucanthemum	400	80	10.00
Perennial pepperweed	Lepidium latifolium	5	100	1.00
Poison hemlock	Conium maculatum	15	100	5.00
Puncturevine	Tribulus terrestris	400	10	5.00

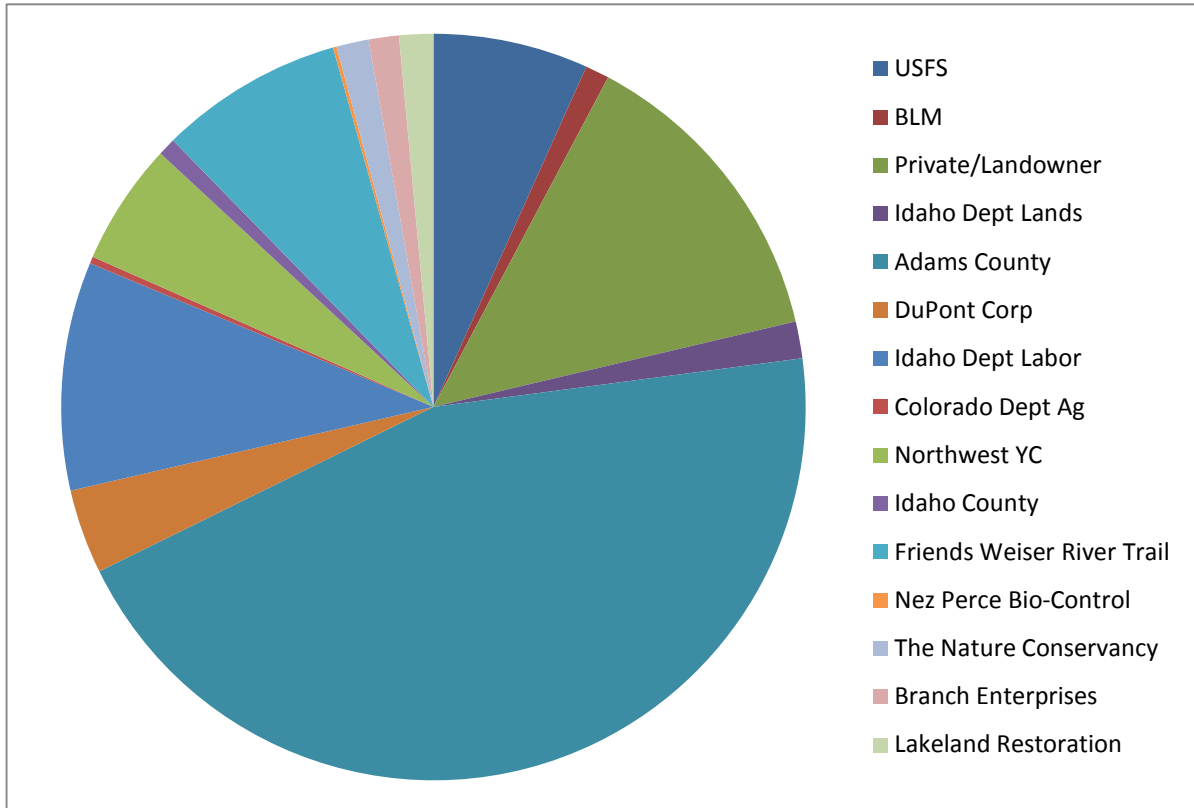
(goatheads)				
Purple loosestrife	Lythrum salicaria	5,000	80	10.00
Rush skeletonweed	Chondrilla juncea	152,000	80	10.00
Scotch thistle	Onopordum acanthium	150,000	30	5.00
Small bugloss	Anchusa arvensis			
Spotted knapweed	Centaurea maculosa	600	30	10.00
Whitetop	Cardaria draba	200	100	10.00
Yellow starthistle	Centaurea solstitialis	90	50	1.00
Yellow toadflax	Linaria vulgaris	1,300	80	1.00

2010 Work Plan

- Project workdays are planned for Mediterranean sage, Yellow starthistle, Leafy spurge, Spotted knapweed and Diffuse knapweed. There are at least seven (7) projects planned around the Adams CWMA for 2010.
- Work will continue on Hoary cress, Perennial pepperweed, Orange hawkweed and Dyers woad by CWMA members.
- The CWMA will hire the Northwest Youth Corp or similar group to assist with Mediterranean sage and Yellow starthistle follow-up.
- The CWMA will hire a contractor to work on Leafy spurge outliers over selected areas in the southern end of the county.
- Biological controls will be acquired and released as they become available.
- Mapping and inventory of specific weeds will occur in selected areas.

Details can be viewed in the Adams CWMA 2010 Annual Operating Plan

2009 Contributors to Adams CWMA Projects



<u>Contributor</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-Kind</u>
USFS	\$13,798	6.70%		\$13,798
BLM	\$2,107	1.00%		\$2,107
Private/Landowner	\$27,732	13.60%	\$2,372	\$25,360
Idaho Dept Lands	\$3,257	1.60%	\$1,000	\$2,257
Adams County	\$91,742	44.80%		\$91,742
DuPont Corp	\$7,500	3.70%		\$7,500
Idaho Dept Labor	\$20,240	9.90%		\$20,240
Colorado Dept Ag	\$600	0.30%		\$600
Northwest YC	\$10,855	5.30%		\$10,855
Idaho County	\$1,570	0.80%		\$1,570
Friends Weiser River Trail	\$16,363	8.00%	\$200	\$16,163
Nez Perce Bio-Control	\$300	0.10%		\$300
The Nature Conservancy	\$2,868	1.40%		\$2,868
Branch Enterprises	\$2,689	1.30%		\$2,689
<u>Lakeland Restoration</u>	<u>\$3,034</u>	<u>1.50%</u>		<u>\$3,034</u>
Totals	\$204,655	100.00%	\$3,572	\$201,083

APPENDIX

Adams CWMA 2009 Contributors List

<u>Contributor Category</u>	<u>Cooperator</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Federal Gov.	USDI Bureau of Land Management	Pat Kane	208-384-3407
Federal Gov.	USDI BLM	Joey Milan	208-384-3487
Federal Gov.	US Forest Service (Payette NF-Council)	Maura Laverty	208-253-0114
Federal Gov.	US Forest Service (Payette NF- New Meadows)	Pete Grinde	208-347-0338
Non-Federal Gov.	Idaho Department of Lands	Diane Green	208-634-7125
Non-Federal Gov.	University of Idaho Cooperative Extension	Gordon Keetch	208-253-4279
Non-Federal Gov.	Adams County Commissioners	Mike Paradis	208-253-4458
Non-Federal Gov.	Adams County Weed Control	Dave Klaw	208-253-4669
Non-Federal Gov.	Idaho County Weed Dept.	Carl Crabtree	208-983-2667
Non-federal Gov.	Idaho Department of Labor	Ben Phillips	208-332-3570
Other	Adams Soil and Water Conservation Dist	Ferrel Crossley	208-253-4770
Other	The Nature Conservancy	Art Talsma	208-350-2204
Other	The Nature Conservancy	Mike Larkin	208-257-3237
Other	Nez Perce Bio-Control Center	Paul Brusven	208-843-9374
Other	Idaho Power	Sarah Tyrer	208-388-6722
Other	Friends of the Weiser River Trail	Patricia Heldt	208-257-3564
Other	DuPont	Bill Kral	208-734-9726
Other	Branch Enterprises	Dave Bunker	541-372-2931
Other	Lakeland Restoration	Dave Kluttz	208-448-2222
Private Landowners	6 Private landowners on CWMA steering Committee		
Private Landowners	53+ Private landowners participated in cost share projects/programs in 2009		

