

# **Blaine County Cooperative Weed Management Area**

## **End of Year Report Year 2009**



# Introduction

The Blaine County Cooperative Weed Management Area was developed to facilitate effective treatment and coordinate control efforts over the long-term. The Blaine County CWMA has developed common management objectives, set realistic management priorities, and identified priority weed species.

The Blaine County CWMA (BCCWMA) has organized into four watershed working groups.

- Big Wood River Watershed
- Little Wood River Watershed
- Fish Creek Watershed
- Upper Salmon River Watershed

This organizational structure allows stakeholders in each of the four geographic zones to address noxious weed issues that directly affect them and creates a sense of “ownership” within the individual working groups. Each watershed has unique factors and priority weed species that may differ from the other watersheds.

The goals of the Blaine County 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 accomplished.

The area covered by this agreement includes all of Blaine County.

The weeds of major importance in the area include Spotted and Diffuse Knapweed, Leafy Spurge, Dalmatian Toadflax, Scotch Thistle and Yellow Toadflax. Major efforts are being made to control these weeds each year. In addition the CWMA is actively involved in managing the threat of new invaders moving into our area as well as the movement of established threats moving to new areas within the management area

The chair of the Blaine County CWMA and is acting county commissioner Larry Schoen. John Cenarrusa and Malia Leonard are the current acting co-chairs. Cooperators in the CWMA include private landowners, county government, non-profit land and environmental organizations, state and federal land management agencies, as well as interested individuals and organizations.

## Organizational Structure

For the 2009 season, the BCCWMA decided to continue utilizing a project-priority approach, instead of the watershed approach we have taken in the past. We felt that we had projects that crossed these boundaries and that this new approach would better serve us in our weed-control plans.

## Project Summaries:

Category	Total acres treated
Chemical	2500
Mechanical	20
Grazing	5
Biocontrol	40
Inventoried	1500
Revegetated	50
EDRR (on state list)	0
Public Contacts	70000

Chemical/description	quantity	purpose
Vanquish	20 gallons	Knapweeds
Roundup equivalent	105 gallons	Toadflax/Scotch Thistle/Knapweeds
Banvel equivalent	65 gallons	Leafy Spurge
2,4-D	40 gallons	Knapweeds
Curtail	100 gallons	Scotch Thistle/Canada Thistle
Tordon	30 gallons	Toadflax/Knapweed/R. Skeletonweed

### Gross Infested Acres

Common Name	Scientific Name	Gross Acres	Percent of Gross Acres Infested	Average Density (%)
<b>Example:</b>				
1. Black Henbane	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	10000	40%	60%

1. Black Henbane	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	50	0.5	75.00%
2. Bohemian Knotweed	<i>Polygonum bohemicum</i>	0	0	0.00%
3. Brazilian Elodea	<i>Egeria densa P.</i>	0	0	0.00%
4. Buffalobur	<i>Solanum rostratum</i>	0	0	0.00%
5. Canada Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	104000	5	20.00%
6. Common Crupina	<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>	0	0	0.00%
7. Dalmatian Toadflax	<i>Linaria genistifolia ssp. dalmatica</i>	55000	1	50.00%
8. Diffuse Knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	175000	40	30.00%
9. Dyer's Woad	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	2050	5	30.00%
10. Eurasian Watermilfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	0	0	0.00%
11. Field Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	20000	6	30.00%
12. Giant Hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	0	0	0.00%
13. Giant Knotweed	<i>Polygonum sachalinense</i>	0	0	0.00%
14. Hoary Alyssum	<i>Berteroa incana</i>	0	0	0.00%

15. Houndstongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	21000	5	6.00%
16. Hydrilla	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	0	0	0.00%
17. Japanese Knotweed	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	0	0	0.00%
18. Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	0	0	0.00%
19. Jointed Goatgrass	<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>	0	0	0.00%
20. Leafy Spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	90000	0.5	30.00%
21. Matgrass	<i>Nardus stricta</i>	0	0	0.00%
22. Meadow Knapweed	<i>Centaurea pratensis</i>	0	0	0.00%
23. Mediterranean Sage	<i>Salvia aethiopsis</i>	1	0.25	50.00%
24. Miliium	<i>Miliium vernale</i>	0	0	0.00%
25. Musk Thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	0	0	0.00%
26. Orange Hawkweed	<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	0	0	0.00%
27. Oxeye Daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>	0	0	0.00%
28. Parrotfeather Milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	0	0	0.00%
29. Perennial Pepperweed	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	50	1	1.00%
30. Perennial Sowthistle	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	0	0	0.00%
31. Plumeless Thistle	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>	0	0	0.00%
32. Poison Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	9000	1	40.00%
33. Policeman's Helmet	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	0	0	0.00%
34. Puncturevine	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	50000	0.02	40.00%
35. Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	0	0	0.00%
36. Rush Skeletonweed	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	180000	2	20.00%
37. Russian Knapweed	<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	5000	6	50.00%
38. Saltcedar	<i>Tamarix</i>	0	0	0.00%
39. Scotch Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	0	0	0.00%
40. Scotch Thistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	200000	0.25	20.00%
41. Silverleaf Nightshade	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	0	0	0.00%
42. Skeletonleaf Bursage	<i>Ambrosia tomentosa</i>	0	0	0.00%
43. Small Bugloss	<i>Anchusa arvensis</i>	0	0	0.00%
44. Spotted Knapweed	<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>	80000	5	25.00%
45. Squarrose Knapweed	<i>Centaurea squarrosa</i>	0	0	0.00%
46. Syrian Beancaper	<i>Zygophyllum fabago</i>	0	0	0.00%

47. Tall Hawkweed	<i>Hieracium piloselloides</i>	0	0	0.00%
48. Tansy Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	0	0	0.00%
49. Toothed Spurge	<i>Euphorbia dentata</i>	0	0	0.00%
50. Vipers Bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	50	2	1.00%
51. Water Hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia crassipes M.</i>	0	0	0.00%
52. White Bryony	<i>Bryonia alba</i>	0	0	0.00%
53. Whitetop	<i>Cardaria draba</i>	3000	3	40.00%
54. Yellow Devil Hawkweed	<i>Hieracium glomeratum</i>	0	0	0.00%
55. Yellow Hawkweed	<i>Hieracium caespitosum</i>	0	0	0.00%
56. Yellow Starthistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	0	0	0.00%
57. Yellow Toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	10000	25	55.00%

### Project Highlights for the 2009 season:

#### **Priority #1 - Neighborhood Working Group Initiative/Multi-agency workdays**

Unfortunately, many of our multi-agency workdays had to be cancelled due to our unseasonably late and wet spring. By the time it actually stopped raining in early July, our volunteer base for the Ski Education Weed-out were gone for the summer and agencies were scrambling to make up for lost time on their own properties. Our Church Farm spray day with the Wood River Land Trust was rescheduled for the fall but was not needed then; the land was decided to be leased for grazing but the great news is that the cattle are knocking back a majority of the weeds. This land is planned to be leased next year but we will be keeping a close eye on it. The Northwood Weed-Out and Sheep Bridge Spray-Day were among those days cancelled and unable to be rescheduled. The following are projects that were able to get off the ground and we are crossing our fingers for a more seasonable spring in 2010.

#### Silver Creek Work Day

One spray-day was held on The Nature Conservancy property at Silver Creek Preserve in mid-June during a rare break in the rain. Canada thistle was targeted with ATV's and backpack sprayers and post-fire area and open areas were addressed. The CWMA has been very active in reseeding sprayed areas in past years and we are starting to see progress. Below are photos of a 25 acre retired pasture infested with Canada thistle. Grasses and other native varieties are becoming established enough in this area that irrigation is not planned for next year. On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, our AmeriCorps intern helped to organize a hand-pull weed-out in the sensitive riparian areas and was followed by planting of native seeds.



Left: 2007 Right: 2009

### West Fork Fish Creek Workdays:

Workdays in the west fork of the Fish Creek drainage to combat Scotch thistle took place on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and July 30<sup>th</sup>. Blaine County Weed Department brought a huge water tank for fill ups and Scotch thistle and Knapweed was sprayed all day.

### Busterback Ranch/Upper Salmon Workday:

We held a multi-agency workday on Busterback Ranch on August 18<sup>th</sup> to combat Yellow toadflax. We were pleased to find that our efforts on Yellow Toadflax have had a huge success so we again spent the day spot-spraying satellite infestations.

### City Help

The CWMA was able to donate herbicide to the cities of Bellevue, Hailey, Ketchum, and Sun Valley to supplement their spraying programs. 5 gallons of Vanquish and 10 gallons of 2,4-D was given to each city and the herbicide was applied to priority areas and right-of-ways.

### Herbicide Incentive Program

Targeted mailings were sent to landowners in the Fish Creek, Little Wood, and Big Wood watersheds to inform them of their specific noxious weed threat and to offer herbicide to help them control weeds. We had a great response and a lot of wishes for the program to be repeated. See appendices for letters sent out.

### ***Priority # 2 - Mapping***

The Blaine County CWMA applied and was approved for an AmeriCorps mapping intern through the Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute. Our intern Mike Kruse was with us for three months and covered a lot of ground and we now have most major road accesses and canyons mapped. We kept busy leaning the new Trimble Juno unit and trying new weed mapping software. On June 24<sup>th</sup>, a representative from The Nature Conservancy hosted a workshop teaching summer help about GPS units and weed mapping protocol. Mike quickly learned the perils of driving in the backcountry after a very wet spring and the truck had to be rescued twice after encounters with what looked like shallow innocent puddles.



**Oops!**

### ***Priority # 3 – Contract Projects***

#### Big Wood/SNRA/FS Project

A total of 60 acres within our project boundary in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area were sprayed between July 1 and September 30<sup>th</sup> by licensed contractor. We estimated this affected a gross area of 1454 acres and noxious weeds addressed were Spotted knapweed, Yellow toadflax, Canada thistle, and a few small patches of Rush skeletonweed.

#### Little Wood Dyers Woad Project

In Craters of the Moon National Monument, the CWMA helped Parks service crews by providing a pack service to haul water and supplies to an area that is closed to motorized vehicles where Dyers Woad is increasing. Working around the rain, we managed to pack over 300 gallons of water to 4 cache sites so that Parks Service staff could backpack satellite infestations of Dyers Woad. The contractor was also able to do some horseback spraying of several sites along the lava perimeter and in total, approximately 30 acres of scattered Woad was treated. This project continues to be a great success and we hope to address further infestations that were found this year by a BLM aerial survey.



**Mule packing water**

**Priority #4 - Bio-control**

With the efforts of the Southern Idaho Biological Control (SIBC) “Bug Crew”, 4950 biological control agents were released on 13 different sites and the kids are now monitoring a total of 36 release sites. The Bug Crew created a float for the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade and hosted an informative booth at the county fair. The crew was also busy learning how to use their new GPS units and GIS software to better track their program. The SIBC was highlighted in a dedicated article in *Rangelands* Magazine and in the Blaine County Soil Conservation District summer newsletter. Their great summer was topped off by a visit from representatives from the Office of the Inspector General in Washington D.C.

**Education and Outreach Initiatives**

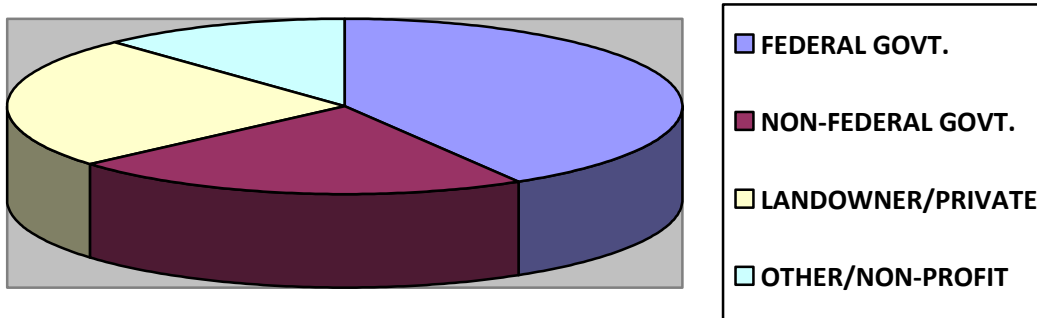
Blaine County CWMA was invited to set up an informative display at a stop on the Hailey Public Library Garden Tour on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Many home gardeners picked up copies of the Idaho Noxious Weed Booklets donated by Blaine County Weed Department and had their questions answered. The Blaine County CWMA banner was hung over major roadways in the cities of Hailey, Ketchum, and Sun Valley. We always get a huge response from the banner and we are thankful to have the old defunct banner replaced through a joint effort between Blaine County Weed Department and the BLM. The Blaine CWMA once again sponsored the Range Report on local radio station KECH95 and advertisements developed by The Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign ran for 3 months during the active season



**Figure 1 - Banner in Hailey**

**Contributions to the Blaine County CWMA**

The following pie chart shows a break down of all contributions obtained for the Blaine County CWMA in the 2009 season excluding ISDA Cost-Share Funds. A total of **\$103,187** cash funds, contributed time, equipment, and supplies were received.



**Plans for next year**

The Blaine County CWMA hopes to continue the cooperative spirit through multi-agency workdays and outreach and education efforts. We are looking forward to improving our existing projects and delving into new ones.

**Appendices:**

Please see hard copy