2009

CUSTER COUNTY CWMA

Logan Brower Custer
County Weed
Superintendent

Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign

Pulling Together

Against Invasive Weeds

[CUSTER COUNTY CWMA 2009]

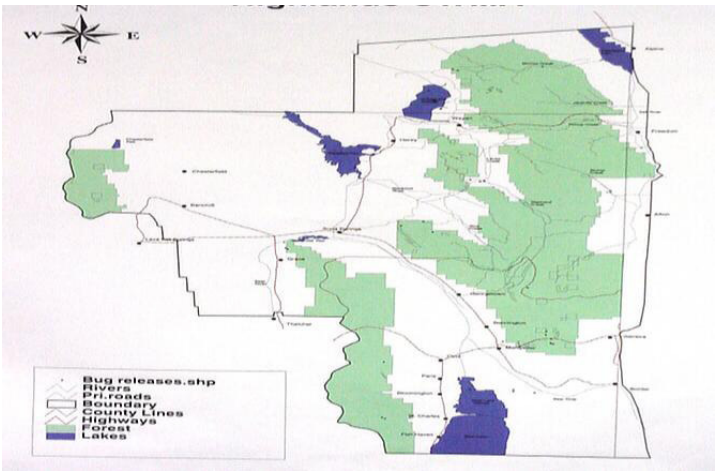
The following is an overview of the 2009 Summer spray season. Included in this document are major projects that took place during the spray season, descriptions of the CWMA, proposals for 2010 spray season, as well as additional highlights of the year.

Introduction:

The CUSTER COUNTY Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) was designed to bring forth both awareness and control of noxious weeds in the Custer Co. area. On a yearly basis CUSTER COUNTY CWMA works towards the following goals of noxious weed control: Education, Prevention, Control, Inventory, and Monitoring.

Seeking to educate the public on the importance on noxious weed control is a great asset in the hierarchy of control. Education leads to prevention, an understanding of control needs, and additional individuals looking for infested areas. Prevention is crucial in maintaining the natural integrity of uninfected areas. Various IPM (Integrated Pest Management) practices are brought forth for control. Monitoring and Inventory show successes as well as needs for change in long term noxious weed control. Employment of such practices creates a beneficial noxious weed control plan in the CUSTER COUNTY CWMA. The CUSTER COUNTY CWMA seeks to facilitate effective treatment and coordinate control efforts over the long-term. The CUSTER COUNTY CWMA has developed common management objectives, set realistic management priorities, and identified priority weed species.

The area of the CUSTER COUNTY CWMA originally covered all of Custer County and consisted of approximately 3.15 M acres. With instructions from the State and over objections of this CWMA, our current boundary encompasses less than a third of the original boundary; however we work closely with the Lost Rivers, Frank Church, Blaine, and Lemhi CWMA's to manage the territories in which we share borders. In addition, we continue to do work in these areas using other funding sources.



The CUSTER COUNTY CWMA is mainly involved in the control of leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, and various thistles (Canada and Musk). They continue to be a problem in riparian areas, county roadways, rangeland, and private land owner properties. Movement of these weeds is impacted by travel, recreation, and overall land usage. The weeds impact the usability of the land ranging from habitat,

rangeland (both domestic and wildlife), to recreational land use. The CUSTER COUNTY CWMA is also seeing increasing infestations of hoary alyssum, whitetop, yellow toadflax, and dalmatian toadflax but limited to specific areas. Weeds considered as "New Invaders" to the CUSTER COUNTY CWMA include: rush skeletonweed, Scotch thistle, and houndstongue.

To help address leafy spurge and spotted knapweed the County has had a cost share program in place since 1985. Landowners can qualify for chemicals at half cost the first year and at cost for the next four years, if they sign a contract to maintain a weed control program for 5 years. The Chairperson of the CUSTER COUNTY CWMA is Gary Chamberlain. Cooperators in the CWMA include private landowners, county government, University of Idaho, state and federal land management agencies, as well as interested individuals and organizations.

Summary of 2009 Projects:

2009 proved to be a busy year as well as a year of transition for the CUSTER COUNTY CWMA. The season for the CUSTER COUNTY CWMA began with the hiring of its first full time Weed Superintendent, Logan Brower, as well as one month of solid rain in June. In addition to the transition stage for the CWMA, numerous spray projects, new as well as existing, were deemed important enough to spend several days for management. During these projects the CUSTER COUNTY CWMA worked with bordering CWMAs, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA), and private landowners. The Following is a breakdown of spray projects within the CUSTER COUNTY CWMA:

Big Creek unfortunately is a new infestation of Scotch thistle in the CUSTER COUNTY CWMA and is considered a "New Invader" to the area. This project took place in the Pahsimeroi Valley. The infestation, approximately 180 acres, takes in both the CUSTER COUNTY and LEMHI CWMAs. The infestation was originally a small patch adjacent to a rancher's field. Against the recommendation of the previous weed supervisor the land owner farmed the ground and spread Scotch thistle throughout his land. Big Creek, a tributary of the Pahsimeroi River, runs through the patch yielding an easy transportation method for seed down the Pahsimeroi River drainage. Four days were spent with several agencies represented.

Second year scotch thistle plants under the landowners pivot

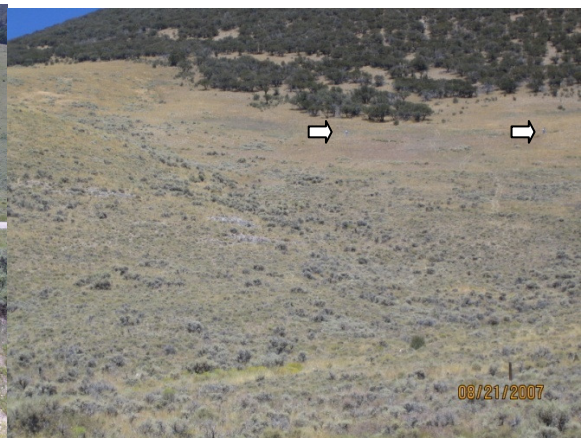
First year scotch thistle plants spread throughout the rancher's field

Additional information on the Big Creek project will be presented in proposals for the 2010 spray season.

Continual cooperation on the old French Creek Trailer Court took place this summer. Two days were spent spraying spotted knapweed and yellow toadflax on private, public and state ground. We have been working on this project for several summers and seen successes in the area. However, we are beginning to see a large spread of spotted knapweed in two other neighboring trailer courts; one upriver (Saturday Mtn.) and one down river (Old Sawmill). The general consensus suggests that the infestation of spotted knapweed started in the French Creek area and has spread to the other two. We will be seeking funding for an expansion of this project in 2010.

Willow Creek Summit continues to be a yearly project between the CUSTER COUNTY, LOST RIVERS CWMA and BLM. Several years ago a State Cost Share program was conducted on Willow Creek Summit. We have been constantly monitoring and conducting cleanup work to maintain the progress that has been accomplished over the past years of working on Willow Creek Summit.

Spray crew for the day: Lost River CWMA as well as BLM (not in photo)



Spraying took place on ATVs but mostly backpack sprayers. There are two sprayers right under the timber line.

Educational Outreach:

The CUSTER COUNTY CWMA was fortunate to be involved in an exciting outreach to the teachers of the area. The class was sponsored by the University of Idaho Extension and Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission and hosted by CUSTER COUNTY Department of Noxious Weeds. The title of the class was "Weeds and Bugs," and over 30 individuals attended. Teachers were able to receive college credit to maintain their teaching certification. Licensed applicators also received re- certification credits.

The CUSTER COUNTY CWMA has been working with the Challis High School Envirothon program for several years. Students have become a major part of CUSTER COUNTY CWMA's biological control

program. Several days were spent collecting various bio-controls as well as attending a fifth grade field trip to teach elementary students about noxious weeds.

High School Student Collecting *Cyphocleonus* for spotted knapweed

Cyphocleonus: spotted knapweed weevil

CUSTER COUNTY CWMA Priorities 2009:

1. **Funding for Extra Temporary Positions**
    a. This summer the CUSTER COUNTY CWMA hired three seasonal employees. Two sprayers returned from prior seasons and we hired a new individual for the seasonal work force.
2. **Funding to Continue Salmon River Bottoms Spraying**
    a. Four days were spent on the Salmon River spraying noxious weeds off of state, public and private lands on the river right-of-way. The work was completed with two drift boats, supplied by employees, and backpack sprayers.
3. **Funding to Purchase Two ATV's and Sprayer Accessories to Allow Herbicide Applications**
    a. CUSTER COUNTY CWMA purchased two additional ATVs equipped with 25 gallon spray systems including: side boom sprayers and handheld spray wands. LOST RIVER CWMA employees assemble the sprayers for CUSTER COUNTY. The addition of the two ATVs gives the CWMA a total of four ATVs. We have noticed a major decrease in upkeep on the spray trucks since the purchase of the ATVs.
4. **Leafy Spurge Insectaries Treatment**
    a. During the Salmon River Bottoms spray project leafy spurge was treated chemically around the insectaries.
    b. Several other insectaries borders throughout the CUSTER COUNTY CWMA were treated throughout the summer. Insects were also collected at this time and transported to other leafy spurge patches.
5. **Disturbed Ground Restoration Project**
    a. This was new project for the CUSTER COUNTY CWMA. It was received by the public very well. Approximately twenty individual private landowners took advantage of free seed for bare ground. The CUSTER COUNTY CWMA purchased the seed through a local Feed and Seed store and the BLM housed and distributed the seed. Roughly 40 acres of bare

ground was seeded. The CUSTER COUNTY CWMA will seek to expand this project next summer.

6. **Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA) Cooperative Noxious Weed Management Project**
   a. Valley Road Fire Perimeter Project: In 2005, over 40,000 acres burned 14 mile miles southeast of Stanley, Idaho in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA). Nearly 80% of the fire burned at high and moderate severity. The fire severely altered the soil-hydrologic function within four major tributaries to the Salmon River (Warm Springs, Fisher, Fourth of July, and Champion creeks). The absence of desired vegetation that normally competed with noxious weeds provided an environment conducive to expansion of weed populations within the burned area, and establishment of new populations in areas adjacent to, or down-stream from the fire perimeter. High levels of recreational impact in this area, such as off-highway vehicles, stock users, hikers, and sight-seers, increased the potential for spread of noxious weeds throughout the burned area. This year, contract sprayers monitored and treated 30 acres of noxious weed infestations within the Valley Road Fire perimeter.

Contributions and Expenditures:

The following shows the contributions and expenditures during the 2009 CUSTER COUTNY CWMA. Agencies included in the contributions and expenditures include representatives from the BLM, County, ISDA, and U.S. Forest Service. The Custer County Weed Department expenditure for the 2009 spray season was $111, 080. 84.

State In-Kind Match:

Amount Contributed	Contribution Category	Cooperator	Contact	Contact Phone
$1,055	Federal Govt.	Sawtooth National Recreation Area	Dave Cottle	(208) 774-3014
$2,451	Federal Govt.	Challis BLM	Leigh Redick	(208) 879-6205
$4,200	Landowner/Private	Seeding Project: 40 Landowers	Leigh Redick	(208) 879-6205
$2,208	Private	Challis High School Insectaries Treatmet	Jackie Ingram	(208) 879-2255
$10,000	Non-Federal Govt.	Custer Co. Expense Seeding/Insectaries Treatment	Logan Brower	(208) 833-5229
$20,004	Grand Total			

Federal In-Kind Match:

Amount Contributed	Contribution Category	Cooperator	Contact	Contact Phone
$16,200	Federal Govt.	US Forest Service RAC	Tom Gionet	(208) 879-4116
$40,284	Non-Federal Govt.	Custer County Weed Department	County Clerk	(208) 879-2360

		Employee Salaries and Benefits		
$32,746	Non-Federal Govt.	Custer Co. Operating Expense	County Clerk	(208) 879-2360
$89,231	Grand Total			

Chemicals Purchased with ISDA grant Funds:

Chemical	Quantity	Purpose
Bulls Eye Dye	5 gal	
Razor Pro	10 gal	Salmon River Bottoms Spray Project
Milestone	10 gal	Salmon River Bottoms Spray Project
Amine 2;4-D	10 gal	Salmon River Bottoms Spray Project, Leafy Spurge Insectaries Treatment
Outpost 22K	2.5 gal	Leafy Spurge Insectaries Treatment
Attach Surfactant	2.5 gal	Salmon River Bottoms Spray Project, Leafy Spurge Insectaries Treatment

Gross Infected Areas:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Gross Acres	% of Gross Acres Infected	Average Density (%)
1. Black Henbane	*Hyoscyamus niger*	100	50	5
2. Bohemian Knotweed	*Polygonum bohemicum*	0	0	0
3. Brazilian Elodea	*Egeria densa P.*	0	0	0
4. Buffalobur	*Solanum rostratum*	1	10	10
5. Canada Thistle	*Cirsium arvense*	10,000	40	80
6. Common Crupina	*Crupina vulgaris*	0	0	0
7. Dalmatian Toadflax	*Linaria genistifolia ssp. dalmatica*	250	20	20
8. Diffuse Knapweed	*Centaurea diffusa*	1	50	25
9. Dyer's Woad	*Isatis tinctoria*	0	0	0
10. Eurasian Watermilfoil	*Myriophyllum spicatum*	0	0	0
11. Field Bindweed	*Convolvulus arvensis*	0	0	0
12. Giant Hogweed	*Heracleum mantegazzianum*	0	0	0
13. Giant Knotweed	*Polygonum sachalinense*	0	0	0
14. Hoary Alyssum	*Berteroa incana*	5	50	20
15. Houndstongue	*Cynoglossum officinale*	50	40	40
16. Hydrilla	*Hydrilla verticillata*	0	0	0
17. Japanese Knotweed	*Polygonum cuspidatum*	0	0	0
18. Johnsongrass	*Sorghum halepense*	0	0	0
19. Jointed Goatgrass	*Aegilops cylindrica*	0	0	0
20. Leafy Spurge	*Euphorbia esula*	4000	75	40
21. Matgrass	*Nardus stricta*	0	0	0
22. Meadow Knapweed	*Centaurea pratensis*	0	0	0

23. Mediterranean Sage	*Salvia aethiopis*	0	0	0
24. Milium	*Milium vernale*	0	0	0
25. Musk Thistle	*Carduus nutans*	2000	75	70
26. Orange Hawkweed	*Hieracium aurantiacum*	0	0	0
27. Oxeye Daisy	*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*	0	0	0
28. Parrotfeather Milfoil	*Myriophyllum aquaticum*	0	0	0
29. Perennial Pepperweed	*Lepidium latifolium*	5	10	40
30. Perennial Sowthistle	*Sonchus arvensis*	200	10	25
31. Plumeless Thistle	*Carduus acanthoides*	0	0	0
32. Poison Hemlock	*Conium maculatum*	5	20	30
33. Policeman's Helmet	*Impatiens glandulifera*	0	0	0
34. Puncturevine	*Tribulus terrestris*	0	0	0
35. Purple Loosestrife	*Lythrum salicaria*	0	0	0
36. Rush Skeletonweed	*Chondrilla juncea*	10	30	40
37. Russian Knapweed	*Acroptilon repens*	50	20	50
38. Saltcedar	*Tamarix*	1	10	10
39. Scotch Broom	*Cytisus scoparius*	0	0	0
40. Scotch Thistle	*Onopordum acanthium*	200	15	30
41. Silverleaf Nightshade	*Solanum elaeagnifolium*	0	0	0
42. Skeletonleaf Bursage	*Ambrosia tomentosa*	0	0	0
43. Small Bugloss	*Anchusa arvensis*	0	0	0
44. Spotted Knapweed	*Centaurea maculosa*	20,000	75	25
45. Squarrose Knapweed	*Centaurea squarrosa*	0	0	0
46. Syrian Beancaper	*Zygophyllum fabago*	0	0	0
47. Tall Hawkweed	*Hieracium piloselloides*	0	0	0
48. Tansy Ragwort	*Senecio jacobaea*	0	0	0
49. Toothed Spurge	*Euphorbia dentata*	0	0	0
50. Vipers Bugloss	*Echium vulgare*	0	0	0
51. Water Hyacinth	*Eichhornia crassipes M.*	0	0	0
52. White Bryony	*Bryonia alba*	1	10	50
53. Whitetop	*Cardaria draba*	1000	75	75
54. Yellow Devil Hawkweed	*Hieracium glomeratum*	0	0	0
55. Yellow Hawkweed	*Hieracium caespitosum*	0	0	0
56. Yellow Starthistle	*Centaurea solstitialis*	0	0	0
57. Yellow Toadflax	*Linaria vulgaris*	4000	25	75

Plans for Next Year

1) Spray roadsides for the State, County, and select Forest Service road system.
2) Monitor, collect, disseminate, and establish biological releases with the help of the Challis Envirothon Team (currently have approximately 400 sites),
3) Monitor past state cost-share projects to meet our obligation for the funding of those projects;
4) Continue our efforts to GPS and estimate acres for all known and new noxious weed sites (currently have approximately 80 % of the sites GPS located and acres estimated)
5) Implement any new state cost-share projects within the in the priority order listed below:

a. Obtain funding for Extra Temporary Positions for the Custer County Department of Noxious Weeds
b. Subcontract city of Challis and Clayton spray project. Treatment of streets, allies and vacant lots.
c. Obtain funding for new invaders to the CUSTER CO. CWMA.
d. Obtain funding for spotted knapweed and yellow toadflax treatment on upper Salmon River trailer courts, subdivisions, surrounding public ground: Sawmill Trailer Court, French Creek, Saturday Mtn. Trailer Court, and Spring Gulch.
e. Salmon River Bottoms Spraying Continuation Project.
f. Noxious weed insectaries treatment project.
g. Mapping hardware, software, and training for the CUSTER CO. CWMA.
h. Educational outreach to the community within the CUSTER CO. CWMA.
i. Disturbed ground restoration project, seeding for county road sides
j. Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA) Cooperative Noxious Weed Management Project

6) Continue the county cost-share program for leafy spurge and spotted knapweed. Approximately 50 % of these contracts call for the county to do the work for the landowner. More property owners will be encouraged to participate;
7) Work with private landowners to develop programs to control noxious weeds on their property through the use of all the tools available to them;
8) Continue to do custom work for individuals and encourage the use of private contractors available in the area in the hope that they can become successful and be in a better position to do more of this type of work;
9) Continue educational efforts through the use of news articles, letters, phone calls, personal contacts, displays, etc
10) Seek to host training and re-certification class for public and private applicators.
11) Work with bordering CWMAs to limit the spread of noxious weeds.

Summary of Treated Acres:

Total estimated acres treated – Chemical	**2920**
Total estimated acres treated – Mechanical	**0**
Total estimated acres treated – Grazing	**0**
Total estimated acres treated – Bio-Control	**150**
Total estimated acres treated – Inventoried	**4200**
Total estimated acres treated – Revegetated	**40**
Total estimated acres treated – New Invaders	**160**
Total estimated public contacts	**1070**

Project Summaries

Project Name	Weed Species	Agencies Involved	Actual Acres Treated/ Monitored
Weed Treatment Total		Custer Co. Weed Dept	3070
	Leafy Spurge		300
	Spotted Knapweed		650
	Canada Thistle		200
	Russian Knapweed		15
	Black Henbane		60
	Toadflax		15
	Hoary Alyssum		30
	Hoary Cress		100
Biological Collection	Sp. *Cyphocleonus and Apthona*	Custer Co. Weed Dept. Challis School Dist	150
Willow Creek Spray Day	Spotted Knapweed	Custer Co. Weed Dept., Butte Co. Weed Dept., BLM	50/200
Big Creek Scotch Thistle	Scotch Thistle, Canada Thistle	Custer Co. Weed Dept., Lemhi Weed Dept., BLM, Forest, Private Landowner	150/640
Elkhorn Spray Day	Leafy Spurge, Spotted Knapweed, Canada Thistle	Custer Co. Weed Dept., Butte Co Weed Dept., BLM, Private Landowner	200/640
French Creek Spray Day	Spotted Knapweed, Yellow Toad	Custer Co. Weed Dept., BLM	50/640
Morgan Creek Spray Project	Spotted Knapweed, Canada Thistle, White Top	Custer Co. Weed Dept., Forest Service	25/1000
East Fork Spray Project	Spotted Knapweed, Canada Thistle, Houndstongue	Custer Co. Weed Dept., BLM	200/640
Big Hill Spray Day	Spotted Knapweed, Houndstongue	Custer Co. Weed Dept., BLM	40/200
City of Stanly Spray Day	Spotted Knapweed, Leafy Spurge, Yellow Toadflax	Custer Co. Weed Dept., SNRA Weed Crew, Private Landowners	25/500

In addition to these spray day projects numerous jobs for private landowners where completed by the Custer County Spray Crew, which included treatment on various non-native invasive and noxious plants.

Weeds & Bugs Workshop
July 14, 2009 ~ Challis, ID
Evaluations Summary

a. *Evaluation scale:*
    i. *1 - Outstanding*
    ii. *2 - Good*
    iii. *3 - Average*
    iv. *4 - Poor*
    v. *5 - Unacceptable*

2. *NOTE: All scores were averaged based on 24 responses.*

a. Overall Workshop Experience: 1.3
b. Location of Workshop: 2.6
c. Length of Workshop: 1.5
d. Educational Materials Provided: 1.2
e. Overview of Weeds/Rangelands in Idaho (Dr. Karen Launchbaugh): 1.1
f. Activities for your Classroom (Ingram/Skeen): 1.3
g. Plant Identification (Sarah Baker): 1.3
h. Integrated Pest Management (Logan Brower): 1.3
i. Biological Control in Idaho (Joey Milan): 1.4
j. Noxious Weed Control on Public Lands (Ace Hess): 1.2

3. What would you suggest to improve this workshop?

a. Bigger room.
b. Presentations organized into folder at beginning of workshop, instead of handing out as we go.
c. None.
d. Location of workshop.
e. A cooler room.
f. Room was small, but not your fault!
g. Different location.
h. Bigger room.
i. More room.
j. Well done.
k. Larger, cooler room.
l. It was all great!
m. Air conditioning.
n. Great workshop, good handouts, enjoyable.
o. I thought for the day, it was excellent!
p. Better seating, larger room, table.

4. **What was the most valuable item you learned from this workshop?**
    a. Bio-control.
    b. All the different types of weeds.
    c. Good info. Bio-control very interesting and informational.
    d. All good!
    e. The importance of pest management.
    f. A lot of great information!
    g. The types of noxious weeds.
    h. Identification of noxious weeds.
    i. Resources available for weed management and education.
    j. New information on biological control.
    k. Identifying weeds.
    l. Plant identification.
    m. Bio-control.
    n. Importance of weed control.
    o. Bugs!
    p. Plant identification.
    q. Handouts and contacts made.
    r. Everything!
    s. Very informative; good stuff!
    t. Cooperation of the agencies/counties.
    u. General overview.

5. **Would you recommend this workshop to your colleagues?**
    a. 19 responded: Yes!
    b. Heck yes!
    c. Definitely.
    d. Yes, most definitely!

6. **Additional comments or suggestions.**
    a. Good job! Informational and very enjoyable!
    b. More in-depth class for more experienced applicators.
    c. Great job by all presenters! I learned a lot! Thanks!
    d. Great job!
    e. Excellent job!
    f. Good snacks.