NORTHSIDE TRI-COUNTY
COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA

2009 ANNUAL END OF YEAR REPORT

Office of the Inspector General checking out the Bio-Control benefits in Southern Idaho.

Prepared by
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TCC Chairman & Noxious Weed Control Superintendent
Gooding, Jerome and Lincoln County Idaho

INTRODUCTION
The Northside TriCounty CWMA (TCC) is a cooperative effort to control the introduction of new invasive weed species and the spread of State Designated Noxious Weeds in the Jerome, Lincoln and Gooding area.

VISION
The TCC is intended to bring together those responsible for weed management and control for the purpose of developing common management objectives, facilitate effective treatment, and coordinate treatment efforts. The cooperator will jointly establish control priorities, treat individual weed species/infestations, coordinate the use of resources and manpower, develop common inventory techniques and mapping, facilitate an increased awareness in the detriments of Noxious Weeds.

MISSION
To make residents, landowners and land managers conscious of the environmental and economic degradation caused by invasive exotic plant species and encourage cooperation, collaboration, and coordination within the TCC to prevent new infestations and manage existing populations of noxious weeds.

AREA
The TCC is comprised of the counties of Gooding, Jerome and Lincoln, State of Idaho. Stakeholders in this effort are numerous and include:

Bureau of Land Management, Shoshone Field Office
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Idaho Department of Lands
Idaho Department of Transportation
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
National Park Service
Cities of, in alphabetic order, Bliss, Dietrich, Eden, Gooding, Hagerman, Hazelton, Jerome, Richfield, Shoshone, and Wendell.
County Highway Districts, also in alphabetic order, Bliss, Dietrich, Hagerman, Hillsdale, Jerome, Kimama, Richfield, Shoshone, Wendell and Westpoint.
Eastern Idaho Railroad
Union Pacific Railroad
Northside Canal Company
Big Wood Canal Company
Wood River RC&D

WEED MANAGEMENT AREA GOALS

1. Prevent the introduction, reproduction and spread of Idaho State Designated Noxious Weeds.
2. Prevent the introduction, and reproduction of exotic plant species.
3. Reduce the extent and density of established Idaho State Designated Noxious Weeds.
4. Implement an integrated weed management system using all appropriate available methods and tools.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

The following management objectives and treatment priorities are assigned to specific infestations to provide direction for the intensity and sustained effort of control actions, and to coordinate management efforts of the cooperators. It is intended that these objectives and priorities will focus limited resources where they are most effective in managing noxious weeds.

A. Management Objective Definitions
    1. **Prevention** Prevent establishment of Idaho Designated Noxious Weeds that are not present in the TCC.
    2. **Eradication** Attempt to totally eliminate an Idaho Designated Noxious Weed Species from the TCC.
    3. **Contain** Prevent the spread of the weed beyond the perimeter of patches of infestation areas. Will tolerate existing weed densities within established infestation areas, but control to eradicate outside those areas.
    4. **Control** Prevent seed production throughout the target patch and reduce the area of coverage by the weed. Prevent the weed species from dominating the vegetation, while accepting low levels of the weed.
    5. **Tolerate** Accept the presence of the weed at a level that is below the threshold of acceptable resource impacts. Species is not inherently invasive as environmental or biological elements are keeping the population within acceptable limits or control is not feasible under current technology.

B. Management Priorities
    1. Prevent the establishment of Potential Invaders
    2. Eradicate New Invaders
    3. Treat satellite infestations of established invaders and/or treat transportation corridors and areas of concentrated activities such as roads, trails, parking lots and gravel pits.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

A. Comprehensive Inventory

The TCC will follow guidelines set-forth by the ISDA GIS Coordinator. The minimum information to be stored includes species, date, and size of infestation, plant phenology, and treatment methods.

B. Weed Management Actions

The personnel under the direction of the TCC will use the flow chart shown in Appendix A.

C. Weed Control Methods

The following management techniques of Noxious Weed control will be considered on a site specific and plant species basis.

1. **Physical/Mechanical.** The use of physical or mechanical methods of weed control can be effective on small infestations of annual or biennial species. Hand grubbing, mowing, tilling and burning are commonly used to physically destroy weeds or interfere with their reproduction. To be effective, treatment must take place before seed production. Repeated mowing or tilling during the growing season is sometimes required with some weed species.

2. **Biological.** Biological weed control involves the deliberate introduction and establishment of natural enemies to reduce the target plant's competitive or reproductive capacities. Insects are the most common agents released against noxious weeds. Plant pathogens, such as fungi, are increasing in use. Livestock have also been effective in reducing densities and limiting spread of certain weed species.

3. **Herbicide.** Herbicides are an effective and efficient tool for the control of noxious weeds. Herbicide application and rates are dependent on specific site characteristics, target plant, location, non-target vegetation and land use. Herbicides are an important method of treatment when control or eradication so the management objective. Environmental concerns make it critical to follow all label instructions, site directions and safety precautions when using any herbicide.

4. **Cultural Land Use.** Cultural practices are activities that purposefully enhance and maintain the growth of desired vegetation. Practices that retain, enhance or introduce desirable plant species that out-compete or dominate exotic plant species can serve as prevention, control and/or follow-up. Examples that are applicable to the TCC are seeding, planting, fertilizing and retaining brush and grasses. Grazing prescriptions that are designed to maintain or enhance perennial vegetation in a healthy state or maintain soil cover are an important practice in slowing the spread of problem plants. Minimizing the extent and duration of exposed soil during management actions can also reduce the risk of problem plant establishment.

5. **Prevention.** Attempt to determine where the infestation originated. Based upon these findings follow the Priority/Management Objective Flow Chart, and notify the area the infestation came from and offer any help merited.

WEED MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND TREATMENT SPECIFICS BY SPECIES

A. Early Detection and Rapid Response

The following weeds have been designated as Statewide EDRR Noxious Weeds. None of these listed species exist in the TCC area and will be treated according to EDRR standards. They include, Bouncing Bet, Brazilian Elodea, Giant Hogweed, Hydrilla, Policeman's Helmet, Squarrose Knapweed, Syrian Beancaper, Tall Hawkweed, Water Hyacinth, Yellow Devil Hawkweed. Other species considered under the EDRR umbrella for the TCC include, Bohemian Knotweed, Dalmation Toadflax, Giant Hogweed, Hoary Alyssum, Houndstongue, Jointed Goatgrass, Johnsongrass, Milium, Oxeye Daisy, Parrotfeather Milfoil, Plumeless Thistle, Tansy Ragwort, Buffalobur, Common Crupina, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Matgrass, Meadow Knapweed, Orange Hawkweed, Scotch Broom, Small Bugloss, Toothed Spurge, Vipers Bugloss, Yellow Starthistle, Yellow Toadflax and Yellow Hawkweed.

B. Containment

The following weeds have been designated by the TCC as "containment" species. All exist in the TCC and are being treated to contain them. They include, Diffuse Knapweed, Field Bindweed, Leafy Spurge, Perennial Pepperweed, Poison Hemlock, Puncturevine, Purple Loosestrife, Scotch Thistle, Spotted Knapweed, and Whitetop.

C. Control

The following weeds have been designated by the TCC as "control" species. Control by definition allows the Control Authority a wide range of methods for treatment of these weeds. They include the "known to be within the TCC, Canada Thistle, Saltcedar, White Bryony, Black Henbane, Dyer's Woad, Japanese Knotweed, Mediterranean Sage, Perennial Sowthistle, Silverleaf Nightshade, and Skeletonleaf Bursage.

TCC ACTIVITIES 2009

Prevention

- The TCC continued notification of gravel pit operators in Blaine County that topsoil from Dalmation Toadflax contaminated areas was not welcome in the Tri-County area. No potential sales of this product were anticipated in the TCC area due to the demand for this product in Blaine County.

- The TCC displays at the local county fairs. Gooding, Jerome and Lincoln County fairs draw up-words of 50,000 people for all three venues. The displays were of an informative nature. They focused mainly on control methods and the results of treatments. Informational booklets were available with contact information included.

- The TCC continues to control the infestation of Dyers Woad located in Northern Lincoln County. Infestations were located and treated in early May, re-treated and monitored throughout the season.

- The TCC actively participated in the Weed Free Forage and Straw Program. Inspectors from this office certified 1690 acres of alfalfa and timothy hay this season.

- In 2009, Parottfeather Milfoil was treated and monitored by TCC personnel. Tamarisk is being controlled when found with Arsenal and/or mechanical methods. Mediterranean Sage has been identified in a larger area in Lincoln County. TCC personnel treated approximately 150 acres and will conduct educational programs in February 2010 to inform landowners of the problem and recruit their help in controlling this pest.

Education

- The TCC participated in and conducted public meetings, school programs, and participated in three County Fairs this past season.
- The TCC contracts with Southern Idaho Biological Control. (SIBC) Each member of the TCC team evaluates properties for possible Bio-Control introduction and assists in bio-gathering and placement. The SIBC is presently operating in Blaine, Camas, Gooding, Jerome, Twin Falls and Lincoln Counties under the direction of Becky Frieberg. Becky can be reached at SIBC 203 Lucy Lane Gooding, Idaho 83330 or petrochb@yahoo.com.

Inventory/Mapping

- The TCC utilized GPS technology to map & update all infestations found in the area.

Eradication

- The TCC has taken an active role in the eradication efforts on an infestation of Yellow Starthistle in Jerome County. This small infestation continues to be monitored and has shown no above ground growth since 2006.

Containment

- As mentioned, the TCC contracts with the SIBC. The target species are Purple Loosestrife, Diffuse Knapweed, Spotted Knapweed, Canada Thistle, Poison Hemlock, Puncturevine and Leafy Spurge.

Control

- All Highway Districts in the TCC were involved in the process of controlling Noxious Weeds on their respective properties. The methods used consisted mostly of herbicide treatments along with mowing. The Bureau of Land Management, Shoshone Field Office, under the leadership of Scott Uhrig and Tony Owen continued to treat transportation corridors within BLM controlled properties. Big Wood and Northside Canal Companies continue to control weeds on their properties with herbicide applications and implementation of mowing.

The TCC plans to continue the search for "new" noxious weeds and keep up our association with the SIBC for bio control. Further we plan to keep up our efforts with landowner contacts through the TCC Cost Share Program as it has been a great asset to us in the fight against noxious weeds.

APPENDIX I

Steering Committee
(Joint Weed Board)

Chairman
Terry D. Ruby
Tri-County Weed Supt.
1370 S 1700 E
Gooding, Idaho 83330
208-934-4413
tcc83330@yahoo.com

Vice Chair
Jack Bell
Jerome County Landowner
194 S 300 E
Jerome, Idaho 83338
208-324-4296

Board Member
Jerry Nance
Lincoln County Commissioner
814 E Hwy 24
Dietrich, Idaho 83324
208-544-2480

Board Member
Tom Faulkner
Gooding County Commissioner
1636 Clover Creek Rd.
Bliss, Idaho 83318
208-352-4346

Board member
Joe Davidson
Jerome County Commissioner
610 BMK Lane
Jerome, Idaho 83338
208-324-8406

Board Member
Glenn Bradley
Lincoln County Landowner
890 W 620 N
Shoshone, Idaho 83352
208-886-2808

Board Member
Rich Curtis
Gooding County Landowner
2193 S 1700 E
Gooding, Idaho 83330
208-308-1800

Board Member
Scott Uhrig
Bureau of Land Management
400 West F Street
Shoshone, Idaho 83352
208-732-7232

APPENDIX II
Project Summaries

Category	Weed Species	Comments	
Biological Releases		**Agent** **Number**	
	Diffuse Knapweed	Bangasternus fausti **4200**	
		Larinus minutus **300**	
		Cyphocleonus achates **3155**	
	Canada Thistle	Hadroplantus litura **2200**	
	Leafy Spurge	Apthona spp **1000** Oberea erythrocephala **1000**	
Treated		**Acres Treated Tri-County**	**Acres Owned/Treated by Cost Share Applicants**
	Whitetop	**35**	
	Russian Knapweed	**350**	**680**
	Diffuse Knapweed	**100**	**470**
	Scotch Thistle	**1550**	**17,055**
	Canada Thistle	**600**	**420**
	Poison Hemlock	**25**	**25**
	Dyer's Woad	**120**	**1260**
	Puncturevine	**22**	**325**
	Musk Thistle	**15**	**250**
	Field Bindweed	**0**	**78**
	Spotted Knapweed	**25**	**250**
	Rush Skeletonweed	**235**	**420**
Totals		**3,077**	**21,233**
Public Contacts	N/A	Three County Fairs, Newspaper Articles, and personal contacts	
		Approximately **60,000**	

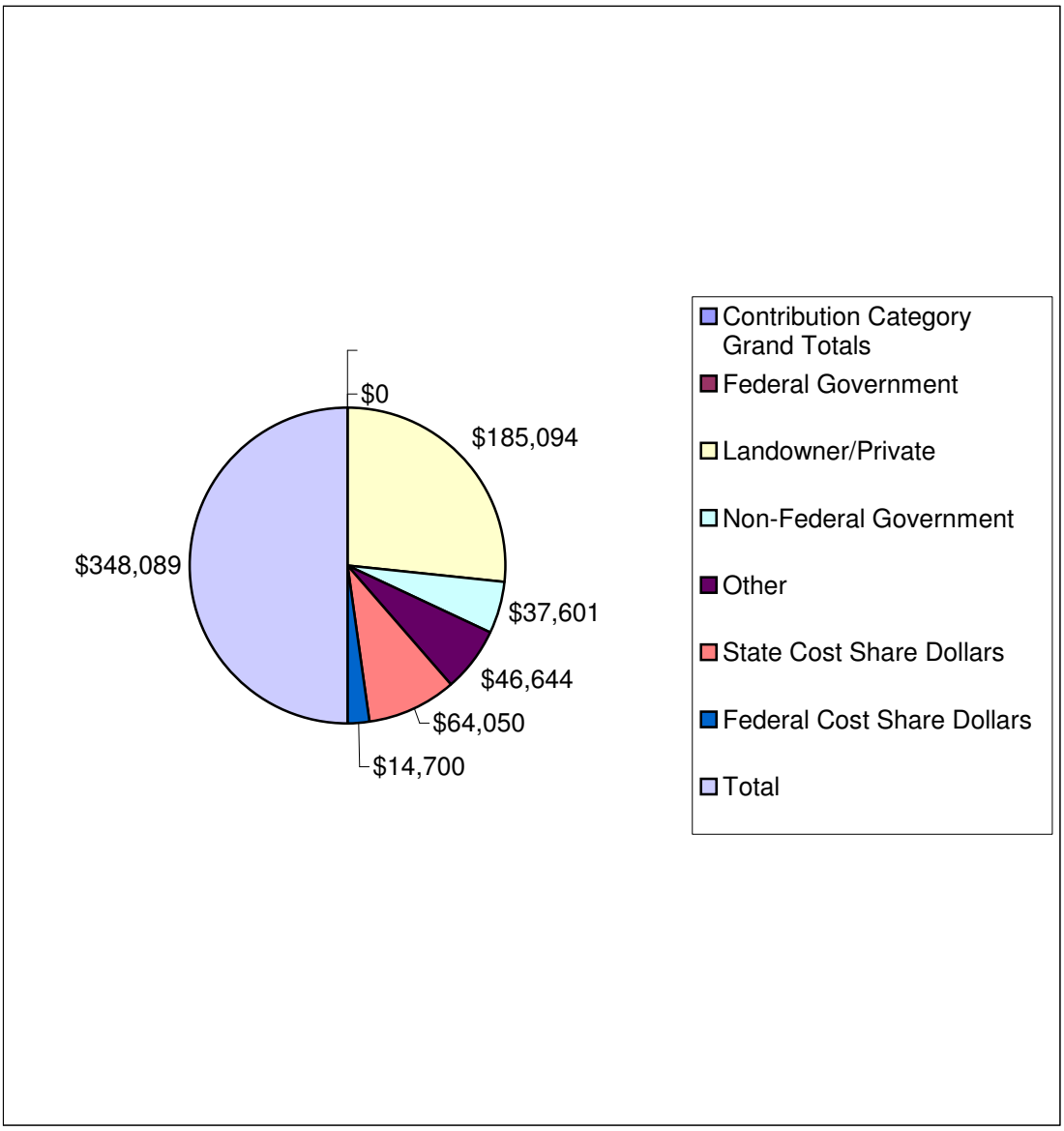
APPENDIX III
GRANT FUNDED CHEMICAL PURCHASES

HERBICIDE	QUANTITY	PURPOSE
Bronc Plus Dry E.D.T.	**300 lbs**	**TCC Cost Share Program**
Platoon	**160 gallons**	**TCC Cost Share Program**
Outpost 22K	**40 gallons**	**TCC Cost Share Program**
Milestone VM	**158 gallons**	**TCC Cost Share Program**
Milestone VM	**24 Qts**	**TCC Cost Share Program**

APPENDIX IV
GROSS INFESTED ACRES

Common Name	Scientific Name	Gross Acres	Percent of Gross Acres Infested	Average Density (%)
Canada Thistle	Cirsium arvense	1,600,000	20.0000%	10%
Diffuse Knapweed	Centaurea diffuse	1,620,000	60.0000%	40%
Dyer's Woad	Isatis tinctoria	800	8.0000%	4%
Field Bindweed	Convolvulus arvensis	1,500,000	1.0000%	10%
Japanese Knotweed	Polygonum cuspidatum	720,000	0.0001%	10%
Leafy Spurge	Euphorbia esula	1,620,000	0.0100%	20%
Mediterranean Sage	Salvia aethiopis	100	7.0000%	5%
Musk Thistle	Carduus nutans	30,000	0.0600%	15%
Parrotfeather Milfoil	Myriophyllum	50	0.0200%	25%
Poison Hemlock	Conium maculatum	1,500,000	26.0000%	40%
Puncturevine	Tribulus terrestris	1,600,000	25.0000%	10%
Purple Loosestrife	Lythrum salicaria	800	0.6300%	20%
Rush Skeletonweed	Chondrilla juncea	1,600,000	50.0000%	10%
Russian Knapweed	Acroptilan repens	1,600,000	0.0500%	60%
Saltcedar	Tamarix	1,500,000	0.0070%	10%
Scotch Thistle	Onopordon acanthium	950,000	1.0000%	40%
Skeletonleaf bursage	Ambrosia tomentosa	40	2.0000%	10%
Spotted Knapweed	Centaurea maculosa	4,000	5.0000%	20%
White Bryony	Bryonia alba	1,500,000	0.0010%	10%
Whitetop	Cardaria draba	1,600,000	0.0130%	10%

APPENDIX V
FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
TO
TCC FOR 2009



APPENDIX VI
LANDOWNER NOTIFICATIONS
2008

County	Weed	Notifications	Cert Control Notices
LINCOLN	Scotch Thistle	104	39
	Canada Thistle	10	
	Russian Knapweed	5	
	Field Bindweed	3	
GOODING	Scotch Thistle	22	7
	Canada Thistle	1	
	Russian Knapweed	3	
	Musk Thistle	4	
	Puncturevine	11	
	Rush Skeletonweed	2	
JEROME	Scotch Thistle	16	10
	Canada Thistle	2	
	Russian Knapweed	2	3
	Musk Thistle	12	1

Summary:

Totals	**197**	**60**

TCC COST SHARE APPLICATIONS

LINCOLN COUNTY **26**

GOODING COUNTY **12**

JEROME COUNTY **9**

BIG WOOD CANAL COMPANY NOT INCLUDED IN TOTALS. PROPERTIES ARE LOCATED IN ALL THREE COUNTIES.