

**2009
End of Year
Report**

Upper Snake River Cooperative Weed Management Area

A flower falls, even though we love it;
and a weed grows, even though we do not love it.



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The Upper Snake River Cooperative Weed Management Area (USRCWMA) comprises Bonneville, Teton, Madison, Jefferson and Bingham Counties in partnership with state and federal agencies which manage lands within those counties. The USRCWMA coordinates area-wide activities to detect, prevent, contain, control, and eradicate noxious weeds on public and private lands. Noxious weeds of major concern include: Leafy Spurge, Spotted Knapweed, Diffuse knapweed, Russian knapweed, Canada thistle, Musk thistle, Plumeless thistle, Hoary Cress, Dalmation and Yellow Toadflax, Purple Loosestrife, Dyer's Woad, Rush skeletonweed, Houndstounge and Tamarisk. The rapid spread of these noxious weeds is a serious threat to the ecology and economy of eastern Idaho.

The USRCWMA shares funds, equipment, staff, and ideas across jurisdictional boundaries in a coordinated and cooperative weed fighting strategy that will result in more effective "on-the-ground" weed control. The USRCWMA supports an area wide integrated noxious weed control program that uses all available tools and techniques to combat noxious weeds. A steering committee provides local leadership and meets monthly to plan and implement its programs. The steering committee membership is detailed in Appendix A. The committee met five times during 2009.

Project Progress

Twelve cost-share projects were implemented during 2009. Projects included herbicide treatments, biological treatments, mapping and inventory projects, and information education workshops.

Forest Weed Control

The Forest Weed Control Project was productive again this season. However, spring rain made early treatments difficult and led to favorable growing conditions for weeds. Musk thistle and Hounds tongue continue to be the most difficult weeds to control in the project area. Spotted knapweed and Leafy spurge are persistent in established areas, but treatments are keeping them from dominating the area and spreading rapidly. The Palisades Ranger District had five seasonal employees dedicated to this project and the Teton Basin District had a two person crew working on the project throughout the summer. Funding to support these crews and the equipment comes from the Forest Service budget, agreements with the Bureau of Reclamation, Bonneville Power Administration, and from funding through the Eastern Idaho Resource Advisory Committee. Most public contacts for this project came from the crew's encounters with people recreating on the National Forest. The herbicide provided through the CWMA as part of the cost share program is a vital part of this project. Herbicide treatments continue to be the main tool for weed treatment in the project area. However, areas to release or supplement biological control agents are always considered.



Palisades Ranger District
Sprayers



BLM Sprayer at the Garden
Pritchard Spray day

River Corridors

Jefferson County

In 2009 Jefferson Co. sponsored a spray day project along the Snake River flood control dike. This project is part of an ongoing effort to clean up the water ways in Jefferson County. On October 15, 2009 CWMA partners from Jefferson Co., Bonneville Co., Idaho

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The Spray Day targeted knapweeds, Leafy spurge, and thistles.

Dept. of Fish & Game gathered at the Menan boat landing for the spray day targeting Knapweeds, Leafy Spurge, and thistles along the river dike and riparian areas. Approximately forty four acres were treated on county and private lands. This area has been sprayed annually for the past few years, and it's clear the project is making significant improvements. Jefferson County also released twenty colonies of the Oberea stem boring agents at previously selected locations. In addition to the work this season, Jefferson County will complete an aerial application on a known Russian knapweed infestation in the southwest region of the county next spring as part of this project. John Erickson is a livestock producer who owns range land in Roberts that borders the Snake River. His three hundred acres of grazing once sustained approximately 250 cow calf pairs now is only able to maintain about 25. The BLM manages an estimated hundred acres of bordering land that is in the same condition. Cost sharing with Mr. Erickson and the BLM will increase our efforts ten fold. Herbicides will be our contribution with these two partners providing the aircraft application. This type of cooperation is what will make this project successful.

Teton County



Bitch Creek Spray Day along River Corridor

This project was a cooperative effort with Fremont County in the Henrys Fork CWMA. The goal is to control Leafy Spurge in the area near Bitch Creek, which is the border between Fremont and Teton Counties. Most of the land treated was privately owned pasture which recently was taken out of CRP. This land borders the forest service land, county roadsides, and land along the Bitch Creek drainage. Due to the successful control this project has had during the previous two years, Teton County was able to expand the scope of this project from Hatches Corner and Felt to the Fremont County line. Seventeen participants representing private landowners, Fremont, Bonneville, Jefferson, and Madison counties, BLM, Forest Service, and Fish and Game came to support the spray day. An estimated 240 acres of Leafy Spurge was treated as well as 60 acres of Musk Thistle and 2 acres of Spotted Knapweed. Thanks to this project and the help of an attentive landowner we were able to locate and treat a small infestation of Spotted Knapweed on the banks of Bitch Creek before it went to seed. There were eight public contacts made, and \$4,965 of in-kind match in the form of labor and equipment.

Teton Land Trust



Releasing Canada thistle biological controls.

The Teton River Corridor Integrated Weed Management Project helped private landowner efforts to control Canada thistle along the Teton River corridor and adjacent lands in Teton Valley, Idaho. Teton Regional Land Trust, based in Driggs, Idaho, initiated the project because of the negative impacts Canada thistle can have on wildlife habitat and the productivity of agricultural lands. The project took an integrated approach by using biological control insects and herbicide. The Land Trust released seven colonies of *Urophora cardui* (stem gall fly) and twelve colonies of *Ceutorhynchus litura* (stem mining weevil) in six locations along the Teton River corridor. In addition to biocontrol releases, approximately 1060 acres along the Teton River corridor were treated for Canada thistle with the

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herbicide Milestone. The project resulted in approximately 23 public contacts.



Spraying Leafy Spurge in Bonneville County



BCW works on Dan Creek range land



ATV's were used to spray the Tex Creek WMA



Madison County employee fills his herbicide tank for the sprayday

Rangeland Pilot Project

The Rangeland Pilot Project is a cooperative effort with Bonneville county and private landowners. This year it consisted of three areas: Swan Valley, Dan Creek, and Tex Creek.

The Swan Valley project finished its 9th successful year. Landowners were notified or called about weeds on their private lands. Once a management plan was developed, and it was determined that herbicides would be the best option then Bonneville County Weed (BCW) would treat the property with various herbicides. Landowners & BCW split the cost 50/50. This program has become more popular each year and as the area continues to grow. Weeds treated include Spotted knapweed, Canada thistle, Musk thistle, Diffuse knapweed, Leafy spurge, Hounds tongue, and Field bindweed. Land owners paid \$11,287.33 in labor which converted to treating 985 acres of weeds. Estimation of 2000 acres inventoried with 500 direct contacts made.

The Dan Creek area has been running for eight years. This project is in the heart of Bonneville County's valuable rangeland. Numerous ranchers free-range their cattle in the area and know how important it is to protect the land and the riparian areas against noxious weeds. In this project BCW cost share 50% of the total cost of weed control. Landowners paid \$3,514.04 for their weed control in which 536 acres of weeds were treated. These continued efforts have enabled BCW to keep the majority of weeds contained, with challenges concerning hounds-tongue.

The area around Hudman was implemented to protect Idaho Fish and Game properties on the Tex Creek WMA, has been successful in reducing the amount of noxious weeds present. Weeds such as Musk thistle, Canada thistle, Black henbane, and Leafy spurge were present. This year BCW had little landowner involvement as Mr. Hudman was out of town for the summer, but received full cooperation with his staff to ensure that the program continued to be a success. Adjacent landowners are continually becoming involved. A cash match of \$678.87.00 spent to treat 77 acres of weeds.

Rexburg Bench

The Rexburg Bench Project was a combination of one spray day and multiple days for Madison County employees to identify and spraying noxious weeds on more remote areas of the county. Several days were spent in canyons that were extremely difficult to access and have been unattended for many years. Roadsides that border conservation crop lands and the U.S. Forest Service's property were sprayed and inventoried. One project sprayed an area of Plumeless Thistle that followed where bio-controls have been very effective against Leafy Spurge. There were approximately 436 acres treated with herbicide and approximately 920 acres inventoried. This project sprayed less than anticipated due to the CWMA using the area to collect and redistributed bio-controls for Leafy Spurge.



Picture from GPS unit of Rush skeleton weed found

Noxious Weed Mapping

Bingham County

Bingham County hired Weed Mapping Teams. These teams were able to document 7030.8 acres of weed infestation data using GPS units. Beyond this, the teams were able to inventory an area once found to contain bugloss. This project totaled 92.2 acres of on foot inventory and resulted in a success of finding no new infestations. They also inventoried 533.5 acres of land in search of Rush Skeleton weed and found two new points and one area of infestation. In addition to mapping the teams collected over 1,500 Cyphocleonus, made five bio-control releases in Bingham County, collected monitoring data of established insectaries, and assisted BLM in out of area collections. Licensed team members assisted Bingham County in treating 60 acres of weed infestations with herbicide. Mapping teams also assisted in weed education by working at the Eastern Idaho State Fair.

Jefferson County

Jefferson County Weed Control hired high school students in the spring and trained the teams to use the Juno GPS units purchased using cost share dollars from ISDA this year. One of Jefferson County's Weed Employees was designated field supervisor for the mapping team and worked with them through the season. Training on weed identification, mapping procedures, and equipment operation was completed prior to any field work. The mapping team was involved in bio release projects and spray work using backpacks on local railroads and water ways. There were significant finds by the team in the field, such as Rush Skeleton weed and Salt Cedar in our gravel pits and on the river banks. These infestations could have gone undiscovered until they were of significant size, but were discovered as single plants or only a few in numbers. Approximately 382 acres were mapped during the season and hundreds of acres were surveyed. The team was also involved in a variety of public awareness events and a Milfoil project with Bonneville, Jefferson, Madison, and Fremont Counties, that surveyed several water bodies in our region. The interest and cooperation in this program from our private and public landowners is exciting and fostered a great relationship.



Teams practice using new GPS units during training

Bonneville County

BCW teams successfully inventoried nearly 35,000 acres of land in 2009. With the use of a Trimble 3E's, Trimble XT'S, and Archer GPS units there was at least one employee out mapping almost every day. Some 10% of the lands mapped were infested with the following weeds: Spotted knapweed in Swan Valley; Hoary cress west of Ririe; Houndstongue in Dehlin, and thistles in Bone. With this data BCW sent out close to 100 enforcement letters and was able to build better relationships with many landowners. It is important to BCW that they know where they can protect the non-infested lands and can continue to protect them from future weed invasions.



Juno GPS unit

GPS Units

Jefferson County

Jefferson County bought two GPS units with their own funds and six Juno SB Handheld units with ISDA grant funds. The units were used to train the mapping teams, and were used over the course of the year for various projects including the county mapping project also funded by the ISDA.

Madison County

Late in the year Madison County bought four Juno II GPS units and anticipates using them for next year's mapping and spray identification projects. The units will be a major step up in helping to identify the location of noxious weeds, chemical and mechanical applications, and biological releases in Madison County.

Highway 33 Knapweed

Madison County Coordinated two spray days along Hwy 33 in Madison and Jefferson Counties. This spray day has been a long standing project, but was not done in 2008. Several counties, BLM and Fish and Game participated this year making the project very successful in treating Spotted knapweed, Russian knapweed and Leafy Spurge. Approximately 102 acres were treated and roughly 180 acres were inventoried. The terrain was very difficult and required extensive caution while working this spray day. This event was well attended and very successful.



Junior Master Gardener 4-H Club Pulling Knapweed along the bike path.

Teton Knapweed and Thistle

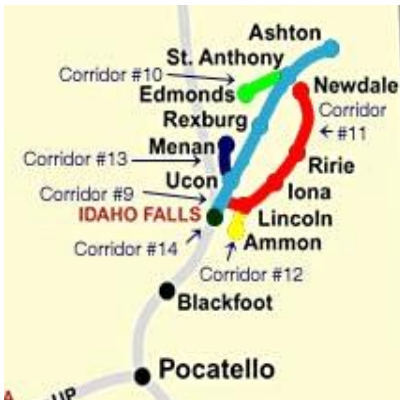
This project evolved in 2009 to include Musk Thistle and Canada Thistle as well as Spotted Knapweed. This year the project grew immensely, there were sixty-six private landowners involved in the project as well as the City of Victor. Several subdivisions and homeowners associations participated as well as a number of farmers and gravel pit owners. Approximately forty additional contacts were made as we met with other individuals and evaluated their projects. The Junior Master Gardener 4-H Club also spent a Saturday morning pulling Spotted Knapweed along the bike path between Driggs and Victor. Herbicide treatment included approximately 1,681 acres of Musk Thistle, 652 acres of Canada Thistle, and 511 acres of Spotted Knapweed. There was \$32,819 of in-kind match in the form of labor and equipment.

Bingham Russian Knapweed

Following the success from last year's Russian Knapweed Project, Bingham County Weed Control worked with landowners to further control Russian knapweed. Troublesome areas were located during 2008 and were treated this year with the help of previous project information. This project is an essential key to controlling Russian

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Knapweed in this area. During the 2009 year, 225 acres were treated and 11 public contacts were made.



Map of the Raildogs area treated

Raildogs

Eastern Idaho Railroad, also known as the RailDOGS, is the short line railroad that runs throughout Southern Idaho. This project involves Bonneville County, Jefferson County, Madison County, and the Eastern Idaho Railroad. This year Raildogs supplied the truck, which was Watco contracted to the counties for the labor portion of the application. Weeds treated included: Musk thistle, Canada thistle, Leafy spurge, Field bindweed, Houndstongue, Plumeless thistle, Puncturevine, Spotted knapweed, and a little Yellow toadflax. \$1,500.00 was used to purchase herbicide. Raildogs paid \$3260.00 cash match for additional herbicide and the labor contracted to the Counties. Over a few days, a combination of crews from different counties drove the right-of-way on ATV's to treat the weeds. Jefferson County also had a small crew that backpacked the impassable areas. 465 acres of weeds were treated with an in-kind contribution from counties of \$2274.00.



ATV purchased

Madison County Equipment

Madison County purchased one flat bed spray truck and an ATV that they built a sprayer for. Both vehicles were used consistently throughout the spray season in Madison County. The truck and ATV helped immensely to reach difficult areas with noxious weeds. The ATV was also used extensively with our successful biological collections and released for Leafy Spurge bio-control. More than 736 acres were sprayed and over 500 acres were inventoried. Both pieces of equipment were an essential part of the counties successful program for 2009.



Jefferson County's Weed Warrior Workshop

Weed Warrior Workshop

This workshop was developed over 3 years ago to train Jefferson County's seasonal applicators. This year there were over 300 people reached for the workshop with an attendance of 149 people that attended the two day event. Licensed and non-licensed applicators took training to learn about weed control techniques, weed identification and control, pesticide safety, and took a field trip to see these issues first hand. With the \$2,582.17 spent Jefferson County matched \$48,521.00 worth in labor and effort from the non-federal attendees, and the federal partners involved had over \$61,00.00 in total match.

Jefferson Weed Workshop

This project has not yet, been accomplished. The projected date is March 2010. Last year, the project had a higher attendance than expected and was able to give one credit toward a Pesticide Applicators License. Jefferson County anticipates this year's workshop to be the same as last year.

Goals for 2010

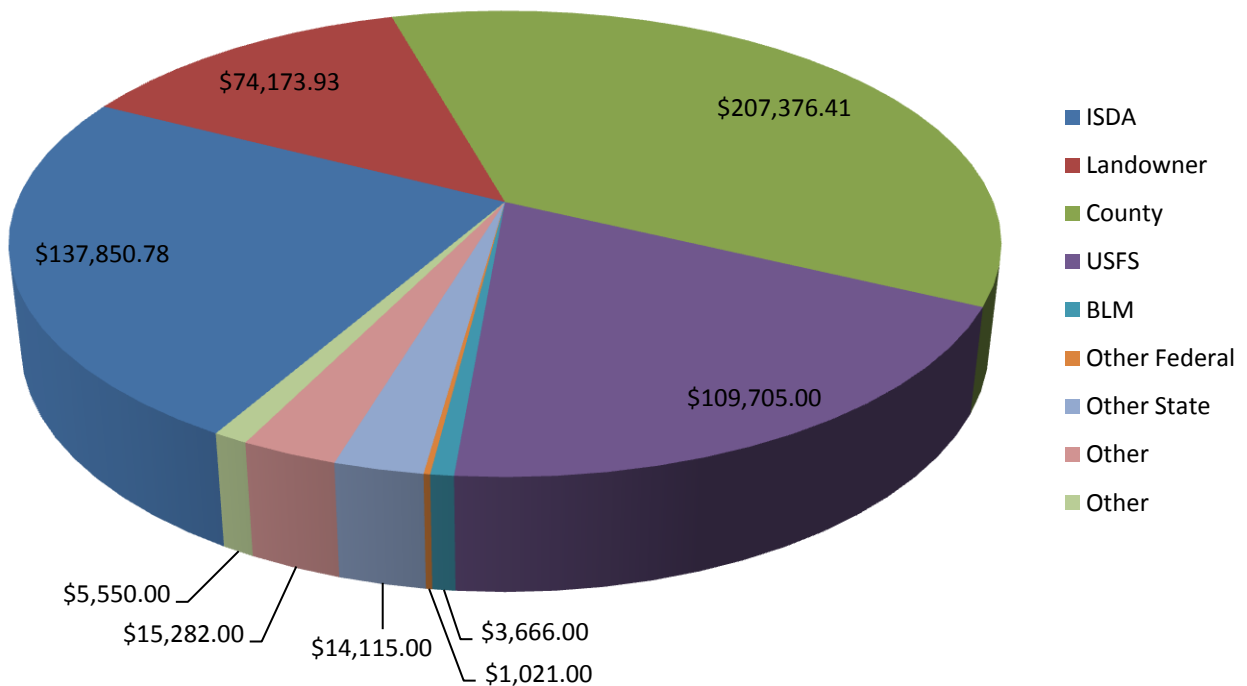
The USRCWMA will begin to implement the new strategic plan it developed in 2009. Goals include:

- Plan, fund, implement, monitor, harvest and redistribute biological weed control agents.
- Continue cooperative successful "spray days".
- Expand the use of student mapping teams.
- Targeted noxious weed treatment projects with private landowners.
- Create a cooperative planning map using previously mapped areas of each county.
- Support the Henrys Fork CWMA in their cooperative efforts.

Contributions to the CWMA

Grant dollars received from the Idaho Department of Agriculture (ISDA) totaled \$137,850.78, and were matched with local cash and in-kind services to total \$568,740.12. Collectively, these partners provide the resources needed to implement the programs of the USRCWMA. During 2009, a total of \$430,889.34 in cash, in-kind services, and grant money were contributed in direct support of USRCWMA project implementation.

2009 Upper Snake River CWMA Sources of Contribution



Appendix A: Steering Committee

Upper Snake River CWMA Steering Committee List							
Name	Title	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Phone	email
Paul Faulkner	Chairman	4279 Commerce Circle	Idaho Falls	ID	83401	(208) 525-7290	pfaulkner@idfg.idaho.gov
Mitch Whitmill	Vice - Chairman	P.O. Box 567	Rigby	ID	83442	(208) 745-9224	jeffersonweed@yahoo.com
Tammy Egbert	Secretary	302 Profit Street	Rexburg	ID	83440	(208) 356-5213	tammy.egbert@id.usda.gov
Paul Muirbrook	Weed Supervisor	83 Frontage Rd.	Blackfoot	ID	83221	(208) 785-8066	pmuirbrook@co.bingham.id.us
Jeffrey Pettingill	Weed Supervisor	605 North Capital	Idaho Falls	ID	83402	(208) 529-1397	jpettingill@co.bonneville.id.us
Dave Radford	RC&D Chairman	605 N. Capital	Idaho Falls	ID	83402	(208) 529-1360	dradford@co.bonneville.id.us
Jim Robertson	Range Technician	Box 777	Driggs	ID	83422	(208) 354-2312	tberrett@fs.fed.edu
Ben Eborn	Weed Supervisor	89 North Main	Driggs	ID	83442	(208) 354-2961	beborn@uidaho.edu
Steve Hobbey	Weed Supervisor	P.O. Box 580	Rexburg	ID	83440	(208) 356-3191	shobbey@co.madison.id.us
Blaine Smith	Madison Co. Weed Dept.	P.O. Box 580	Rexburg	ID	83440	(208) 356-3191	marsha@archibaldins.com
Steve Smart	RC&D Coordinator	302 Profit Street	Rexburg	ID	83440	(208) 356-5213	steve.smart@id.usda.gov
Heath Hancock	Lands Resources Manager Senior	3563 E. Ririe Hwy.	Idaho Falls	ID	83401	(208) 525-7167	hhancock@idl.state.id.us
Ken Knoch	Parks Director	2135 S. Ammon Rd.	Idaho Falls	ID	83406	(208) 529-4211	ammonparks@ida.net
Greg Hanson	Forest Service Ranger	3659 E. Ririe Hwy.	Idaho Falls	ID	83401	(208) 523-1412	gehanson@fs.fed.us
Scottie Minnie	Range/Weeds Technician	1405 Hollipark Dr.	Idaho Falls	ID	83401	(208) 524-7535	jerome_fox@blm.gov
Cleve Bagley	Soil Cons. Technician	263 East 4th North	Rexburg	ID	83440	(208) 356-6931	cleve.bagley@id.usda.gov
Howard Johnson	District Conservationist	3862 E. 300 N.	Rigby	ID	83442	(208) 745-6664	howard.johnson@id.usda.gov
Gale Harding	Madison Co. Ext Agent	P.O. Box 580	Rexburg	ID	83440	(208) 356-3191	gharding@uidaho.edu
Kirk Finn	Maintenance Coord.	P.O. Box 97	Rigby	ID	83442	(208) 745-7781	kfinn@itd.state.id.us
Debra Nace	District Conservationist	1120 Lincoln Rd., Suite A	Idaho Falls	ID	83401	(208) 522-5137	debra.nace@id.usda.gov
Amanda Hickman	Admin. Assistant	3862 E. 300 N.	Rigby	ID	83442	(208) 745-6664	amanda.hickman@id.nacdnet.net
Mark Arana	Natural Res. Specialist	1359 Hansen Ave.	Burley	ID	83318	(208) 678-7206	marana@pn.usbr.gov
Tamara Sperber	Asst. Stewardship Director	P.O. Box 247	Driggs	ID	83422	(208) 354-8939	tamara@tetonlandtrust.org
Wayne Jones	Bonn. Co. Ext. Agent	2925 Rollandet	Idaho Falls	ID	83402	(208) 529-1390	wjones@uidaho.edu

Appendix B: AOP Accomplishments

Biological Releases	
Weed Species	Acres treated
Canada thistle	95
Spotted Knapweed	69
Leafy Spurge	450
Russian Knapweed	44

Herbicide Treatment	
Black Henbane	1
Canada thistle	2817.5
Field Bindweed	121
Leafy Spurge	654.5
Musk Thistle	4151.5
Puncturevine	9
Rush Skeletonweed	0
Russian Knapweed	132
Spotted Knapweed	1988
Yellow Toadflax	0.1
Houndstongue	1066
Saltcedar	1
Plumeless Thistle	50
Dalmation Toadflax	5
Whitetop	22

Noxious Weeds Mapped	
Weed Species	Acres treated
Black Henbane	633
Purple Loosestrife	1
Canada thistle	3289
Diffuse Knapweed	5
Leafy Spurge	750
Musk Thistle	3000
Spotted Knapweed	160
Russian Knapweed	297
Spotted Knapweed	597
Houndstongue	220
Saltcedar	4
White Bryony	77
Plumeless Thistle	53
Whitetop	130
Dalmation Toadflax	6
Rush Skeketonweed	6
Perenial Pepperweed	5
Dyers Woad	2
Field Bindweed	1302

Public Contacts	2355
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Appendix B: Area Description

The area covered by Upper Snake River Cooperative Weed Management Area (USRCWMA) includes all lands within Bingham, Teton, and Madison County, Idaho. It includes all lands to the south of Highway 33 in Jefferson County except the cropland area around Mud Lake and Terreton. It includes all lands within Bonneville County that are north of the Palisades Ranger District's southern boundary. Land ownership is inter-mingled federal, state, county, and private holdings. The USRCWMA is bordered by the Henry's Fork, Jackson Hole, Wyoming , Highlands, Utah/Idaho, Power County, Blaine County, Lost River, and the Continental Divide CWMA's. The CWMA contains approximately 3,515,838 acres.

