

Management of Invasive Weeds Idaho County Weed Control Title II Project Status Report 2003

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Project Goals and Objectives: The Control and Containment of Invasive Weeds on and adjacent to the Nez Perce National Forest that potentially impacts Forest Natural Resources, integrated with existing community based interagency weed management partnerships.



Project Description: This project proposed two general strategies to reduce the spread and future impacts of weeds on the Nez Perce National Forest: 1) Treat key road networks both on and off the Nez Perce National Forest. And 2) Treat and manage weeds along key Private/Forest interface areas within highly susceptible habitats.

This project focused on road systems that begin off the National Forest in infested habitats and extend deep into the national forest. These roads act as a spread vector, moving invasive weeds into the heart of the National Forest. In addition important private/forest interface areas within susceptible habitats were managed under a priority system to gain control of invasive weeds that are on the boundary of the National Forest and pose a future risk to the areas natural resources.

This project is viewed as an investment in the sustainable operations of a very large and complex cooperative weed management program in Idaho County. This project represents a critical emphasis area for the existing community based partnerships and was integrated and coordinated with on-going partnerships under the Salmon River Weed Management Area and the South Subbasin of the Clearwater Basin Weed Management Area.

Accomplishments for 2003:

The road complexes and interface areas were integrated into a cohesive weed management strategy associated with the Salmon River Weed Management Area and Clearwater Basin Weed Management Area. The 40 miles of road outlined in table 1 were monitored and treated as needed. A total of 747 acres of priority weeds were treated during the field season of 2003. There were fewer acres treated along the road networks than planned. This was due to the patchy and scattered distribution of invasive weeds on the National Forest and the results of previous treatments. Actual treatment acres along the interface areas far met planned expectations. Much of the weed treatment along the interface areas focused on private land weeds that had the potential to spread on the National Forest. Additional involvement of the landowners adjacent to the National Forest provided additional priority sites. The target weeds included Yellow starthistle, spotted knapweed, rush skeletonweed, Leafy spurge and hoary cress.



All Title II funds contributed to the local economy through the use of locally owned private companies. All herbicides and supplies were purchased locally through Primeland Cooperative-Grangeville. Buck Shot Weed Control and MaryAnn Carlin, local spray contractors employing a total of three individuals, completed weed treatment of the transportation networks. The treatment of Key Private/Forest Interface Areas was completed through a contract with Carlson Aviation, a small company from Riggins, Idaho. Carlson Aviation employed 3 individuals for the project.

Administration, technical assistance and logistical support were provided by the Forest Service and Idaho County through other funding sources.

Table 1

Complexes	Specific Roads	Total Miles	Actual Acres
Grangeville-Salmon Rd Complex	Salmon/Grangeville, Free Use, Banner Ridge, Skookumchuck, Bouffard Ridge, Slate Creek, Nut Basin, John Day Creek	160	43
Salmon River Road	Riggins to Vinegar Creek Boat Ramps	32	80
Island Complex	Cow Creek, Race Creek, Papoose, Squaw Creek, Rapid River, Whitebird Ridge	54	22
Elk City/Red River Complex	Crooked River, American River, Red River, Red River Hotspr. Rd Sweeney Hill, Whitewater Road, Elk Creek	62	42
Mt Idaho/Clearwater Complex	Sally Ann, 1106 Road, Green Creek/Lighting Creek, Western Half of Elk City Wagon Road, 650/1106 Road, Cove Rd.	53	42
Clear Cr/Big Cedar Complex	Clear Creek, Leich Creek, Big Cedar, Tahoe Ridge, Potato Hill, 286 Road	42	18
TOTALSs		403	247
Components	Weed	Focus	Actual Acres
Bull Run Cove /Whitebird	Yellow starthistle, Spotted knapweed	Eastern front of yellow starthistle	100
Nut Basin	Yellow starthistle, hoary cress	Battle line area for yellowstar	200
Deer Cr/Larry Mtn	Yellow starthistle	West edge and battle line area	200
TOTAL			500