

Palouse Cooperative Weed Management Area
Latah and Clearwater Counties
Noxious Weed Spray Project - 2003 Summary

OK, so this isn't going to be your normal perky everything went peachy report. Preliminary results indicate another great year for the Palouse Weed Partnership, but we must admit, it was a learning experience. We can only hope. In order to save money the Partnership decided to hire some individuals for weed survey and control that work directly for the Palouse Weed Coop, rather than contracting out all of the work. Perhaps in the long run, this strategy may work, but in the short term here's what we learned.

"Gearing Up" for spraying is not easy. It involves purchasing of the normal items like, spray tanks, backpack sprayers, hose, pumps, nozzles, etc. But there's also the small things like tie downs, tools, eye saline, chemical vests, measuring cups, flagging. And there's also the BIG things like ATV's and pickups and trailers, storage sheds. And the "being there", every day, when the crew leaves, making sure they get back safe, and directing their activities on a daily basis. Rescuing them when they run out of gas.

Thanks to last years Craig Wyden funds we did purchase an ATV, and thanks to this years funds we put the miles on spraying and inventorying many of our worst weeds Tansy Ragwort, being just one of them. Why do we hate Tansy Ragwort so much? It spreads like wildfire, and its poisonous to livestock. We are winning the battle though.



More things we learned, when you give someone a "weeds of the west book", and they say, "I don't really need this because I know all of the weeds, I just use books like this to figure out the scientific name",,,, BEWARE. You know how you hire a crew, and the person that is majoring in Range, wears the cowboy boots, and hat, is the one you expect to do the best, but it turns out the person whose past experience was detailing cars is the best hand you've got? Well it was one of those summers. Car detailer shown at left, doing inventory and control work at the same time.



Yet more things we learned,,,Finding out the spray mix that this certified applicator was applying was wrong for a number of weeks, after suggesting that he call the County Weed Sups for help with mixing, but he didn't because "I think I've got it figured out". Or catching that person driving down the road in a pickup with the wand from the ATV that is in the back of the pickup stuck out the pickup window, spraying while driving. Convincing folks (after flipping the ATV, tank and all, several times), that YES, they actually need to get off and walk once in a while.

How about having to go back and re-spray a good weeks' worth of work because someone missed the plants? But when you're dealing with Tansy Ragwort, that's easy to do. Can you find the Tansy rosette at left? Or how about this mature tansy plant on the right? Doesn't exactly jump out at you does it?



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The absolute miracle is that no one got hurt. Thank God. Because the icing on the cake was when the wonder cowboy fell asleep at the wheel on the way out to a spray job and ran off the road. OK, so the chairperson had to hire a therapist after this summer, but we did learn a lot.

We learned that good weed spray programs count on diversity. Thank Goodness we had CPTPA (Clearwater Potlatch Timber Protective Association) spraying for us also, they are a well tuned machine. They went through the gotta buy a lotta junk mode a couple of years ago. And thank god we still had funds left to hire some contractors, that REALLY know what they are doing. We still managed to spray over 1200 acres, effectively, and inventory well over 3,000 acres. We had to go back a few times for some of it, but we got er done. And now we know what to do better next year. We set up a wash station for the Tansy Ragwort area, we sprayed lots of different species in the the general forest (and farm) areas, and we will probably be setting up a biocontrol site for Tansy Ragwort. We held a great weed ID class, and set up another successful booth at the Latah and Clearwater County Fairground.



Nine partners are involved in this effort and one more has joined us just recently: Potlatch Corporation, Idaho Department of Lands, US Forest Service, Bennett Lumber Company, University of Idaho Experimental Forest, Clearwater Potlatch Timber Protective Association, Latah and Clearwater County Noxious Weed Control, and Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Council. The City of Troy has just let us know that they want “in”

Item	Federal Agency Contribution	Title II Contribution	Contribution from Partners
Field Work/Site Survey	3000		
Contract Admin	4000		2794
Contract Cost		5000	8500
Workforce Cost	5000	4000	14380
Materials and Supplies	5000	7000	10712
Monitoring			2500
Equipment/Travel	8800		3892
TOTAL	25800	16000*	42278

*Overhead taken out by the Nez Perce National Forest

Thank You
Suzanne Qualmann
Palouse CWMA Chair