

**Hells Canyon National Recreation Area  
North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee  
Title II Funds Accomplishment Report  
September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

**Noxious Weed Treatment:**

North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee (NCRAC) funded Hells Canyon NRA for the treatment of noxious weeds in Hells Canyon. The project was co-sponsored by the Western Whitewater Jetboat Association. As a result, one contract was advertised and awarded for inventory, spring/summer treatment of all target species and fall re-treatment of Rush Skeletonweed sites within Hells Canyon, Idaho. The target species were Scotch thistle, Yellow Starthistle, Dalmation Toadflax, Leafy Spurge, and Rush Skeletonweed.

The contract was awarded to Gary McClure of Riggins, Idaho. All areas treated are located in roadless sites, accessible only by foot, horseback, or jetboat. The contract included a total of 200 gross acres to be inventoried and 52 net acres to be treated. To date, the contract results are as following:

Contract	Spring/Summer	Fall
Inventory – 200 gross acres	100 complete	100 gross-scheduled 10/06
Treatment(river bars)- 25 net acres	25 complete	
Re-treatment Rush Skeletonweed-18 net acres		18 net acres in 10/06
Treatment Upland Sites-9 net acres	9 complete	

In conclusion, all spring/summer inventory and treatment work has been done in a timely manner. The fall work is scheduled for mid Oct. but dependent on rains. At this time, we plan to coordinate with the Western Whitewater Jetboat Association to begin a monitoring program for these sites as well as identify restoration sites.

The allocated budget via Idaho Title II funding is as follows:

Beginning Budget:	\$20,000
Burden Rate:	1,600
Contract Cost:	<u>18,350</u>
Total Remaining:	50.

We have been very fortunate to be able to compliment Forest Service funding with Idaho and Oregon Title II funding allowing us to consistently manage both sides of the Snake River Corridor. This additional funding also provides us with the ability to more

effectively “fight the war on weeds” as well as being responsible to our partners. We thank you for providing us these opportunities.



Treated Yellow Starthistle near Wildhorse Butte, HCNRA-Idaho



View of same treated Yellow Starthistle site near Wildhorse Butte on the hike in.



Small Scotch Thistle site.

## Hells Canyon Trail Maintenance and Brushing:

Several contracts were let to accomplish the trail maintenance and brushing operations that the RAC committee funded with Title II funds. Bids for these contracts came in much lower than the government estimate. As a result, there is funding left over from this field season.

On August 6<sup>th</sup>, two lightning strikes started a wildfire in the Granite Creek/Devils Farm area resulting in a 35,000 acre wildland fire use incident. Because of the fire, area closures were put in effect by order, not allowing any access by the public in the fire area. The fire closure area included Devils Farm and Sheep Creek, which were 4 of the 8 bid items.

There were several problems with the contracting process. One contractor abandoned their project, another contractor reviewed the area to be worked, decided that they could not do it for the price they bid, and were not allowed to renegotiate. Thus the last minute scramble to award these bid items took most of the summer. Many contractors were already committed to projects for the 2005 field season. Potential contractors were able to do a field review before bidding. Both items have been awarded now, but will not be completed until the 2006 field season. All contracts went to Idaho Contractors except for one.

For the 2005 field season, 67.6 miles were opened by the trail maintenance contracts, and 2.5 miles received brushing. Some of these trails had not been maintained properly since the early 1990's. There are 43 more miles to be maintained and 9 miles of heavy brushing to be completed by August 2006.

Total funds spent/obligated as of current date are \$21,881.00. There is approximately \$26,000.00 of un-obligated funds. Because of the fire, it may be necessary to fund additional claims in 2006 if contractors find conditions to be exceeding project descriptions.

The following photos are from the Carbonate Hill Trail #189. This trail had only been partially maintained in the last decade. The contractor cut between 300-400 trees/mile out on portions of this trail. Also, when this trail was opened up, it was found that there were two puncheons with bad decking and are not safe to stock to cross. There is one other puncheon on the Casey Mountain Trail #218 that is in need of repair. It is our desire to find funding for more small project trail contracts to repair these areas.

Posters were placed at all portals into the wilderness and at the Hells Canyon NRA office in Riggins indicating the projects were funded by Title II dollars granted by the North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee (see posters attached at the end of the document).



Carbonate Hill Trail before maintenance.



Carbonate Hill Trail after Maintenance.



Another view of the trail after maintenance.



Example of the brushing out that was accomplished.

## Northwest Youth Corps:

The Seven Devils Horse Pasture Fence Restoration was a highly successful project! The youth crew was outstanding to work with. There were approximately ten youth and several leaders, whom tore down the old fence and removed it from the area. Walco dumpsters were rented to facilitate the removal of the old barb wire. There was almost two miles of fence that needed to be removed and replaced. Supplies for a New Zealand High Tensile Fence were purchased with the RAC funds, and the new fence was constructed. Cost of the fence supplies totaled \$2,890. The Northwest Youth Crew received payment of \$13,834.73 for two weeks of work; the crew also participated in removing a fence from around Windy Saddle Campground, removing and piling hazard trees from Windy Saddle Campground, preparing and painting the Seven Devils Workstation buildings. The Forest Service contributed one month worth of time for one GS-11 and one GS-5, and 2 weeks for a GS-4. The project was in coordination with the Nez Perce Nat. Forest.

Leadership for this group was excellent, promoting a good work ethic to the youth. They were a hard working group and are highly recommended for future projects!



New Seven Devils Horse Pasture Fence



Seven Devils Workstation with a fresh coat of paint.



Windy Saddle Campground with Hazard trees and fence removed.

## Forest Road #517 – Seven Devils Road:

Contract has been awarded to finish the last 2 miles of this road. Work should begin in October, to be completed before season ending snowfall. Dana Taylor, Wallowa-Whitman Supervisor's Office in Baker City, Oregon, is the COR for this project. She can be contacted at 541-523-1274.

