

September 2005 Update Palouse Cooperative Weed Management Area

Partners: Latah County, Potlatch Corporation, Bennett Lumber, Clearwater County, Clearwater RC&D, Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute, Clearwater Potlatch Timber Protective Association (CPTPA), ITD, University of Idaho Plant Soil and Entomological Sciences, U of I Forest, City of Troy, US Forest Service (Palouse RD, Forest Heath Protection, and Rocky Mtn Research Station)

Priority 1: Tansy Ragwort

Prevention: This 3'X5' sign was designed by the CWMA with help from Diana Jones, the Clearwater National Forest Landscape Architect. Several copies will be posted in the Meadow Creek and Gold Creek drainages. A wash station is fully functional now which will help prevent weed spread from logging equipment into adjacent pastures.



Flea Beetle Releases: With help from Potlatch Corporation and the partners in the weed management group, a Graduate Student from Hungary has been releasing a swiss strain of Tansy Ragwort Flea Beetles. These beetles lay eggs in the spring that feed on the roots of the plant.

Contract Weed Control: *Perfection Weed and Pest*, a Lewiston based company has been helping with chemical control for several years now. Final figures are not in for this year from Perfection since they are still out spraying. The area they are treating covers approximately 600 acres scattered over an area larger than 5000 acres.

Overall the Tansy Ragwort program has been a huge success. We have kept the infestation out of local farm and rangelands.

Priority 2: Inventory of New Invaders - Leafy Spurge

The milky sap from this plant can blind you. Populations were inventoried (along with the snakes in Potlatch Canyon!) and found to be near **Driscoll Ridge Road** and the **Middle Fork Potlatch Canyon**. Biocontrol agents were released in the canyon. Kootenai County Noxious Weed Agent, Nina Eckberg, was generous enough to share some Plateau® herbicide that will also be used to control the weed.



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Priority 3: Education: Wow, did we meet a lot of people this year! Here's how:

- Cedar Ridge Neighborhood Co-op Weed ID
- Range Permittee Weed ID and Mgmt Workshop
- General Public Weed ID Workshop
- Fair Booth at Latah County Fair
- Brochure Reprinting with help from Inland Empire and Selkirk WMA



Priority 4: New Invaders and Other Weed Control

This is where RAC committee dollars were spent. We can't report about our weed accomplishments without sharing a moment of silence for our friend and co-worker Rick Roe. Rick died of a heart attack in July. He was the CPTPA weed warrior and much more than that. He was an ex-marine, retired phone company worker, EMT, volunteer deputy, and more. In those capacities he volunteered at just about every community function there was. He was a father and a grandfather. In 2005, Rick controlled weeds on over **1072 acres**, the majority of which was chemical control. A number of long days were also spent running hand crews pulling or clipping weeds. Dalmatian and yellow toadflax, rush skeletonweed, poison hemlock, scotch broom, tansy ragwort, yellow and orange hawkweed, and Canada thistle were his targets. More details are available upon request.

Neighborhood Coop Program – Alan Martinson, with Latah County Noxious Weed Control has started to implement a program that will **reach out to non-industrial private landowners**. The Neighborhood Coop Program has become a great way for CWMA's to help local landowners learn more about weeds, help their dollars go farther, and cross land ownership boundaries more effectively. The Cedar Ridge Cooperative is the first one for the Palouse CWMA. They are in the process of organizing to fight this year and will be posed to strike next year. We hope this program is infectious!

Financial Contributions – the numbers

Partner	Cash Contribution
Potlatch Corp.	\$4,000
Potlatch Corp. (grad student)	\$10,000
IDL	\$3,000
U of I Forest	\$1,000
Bennett Lumber	\$1,000
City of Troy	\$200
Clearwater County	\$100
Latah County	\$7,000
USFS – Program Funds	\$20,000
USFS – RAC Funds	\$16,560
USFS Centennial Fund	\$18,400
ISDA	\$29,807
TOTAL	\$111,067

Spreadsheets showing expenditures by project and in-kind contributions are available.