



Wilderness Airstrip Weed Treatment 2005 & 2006 Status Report and Request for 2006 Funding



Wilson Bar Airstrip



Yellow Pine Bar Airstrip



Mackay Bar Airstrip

This project focuses on invasive weed treatment and inventory at backcountry airstrips in the Frank-Church-River of No Return Wilderness and in association with the FC-RONRW Cooperative Weed Management Area. Contract invasive weed treatment and inventory are planned at public, state and private airstrips including the following:

Public airstrips: Wilson Bar and Chamberlain

State airstrips: Stonebreaker

Private airstrips: Allison Ranch, Campbell's Ferry, James Ranch, Mackay Bar, Shepp Ranch, Whitewater Ranch, Yellow Pine Bar, Copenhaver, Badley Ranch.

Current Project Status:

Public Airstrips - Nez Perce National Forest

- Wilson Bar: Contract was awarded to local contractor through Basic Ordering Agreement for fall treatment, \$3,250 for 50 acres of herbicide treatment. University of Idaho Botanist conducted intensive plant inventory for new invader species. This RAC project funded the jet boat transportation for the U of I botanist.

Public Airstrips - Payette National Forest

- Chamberlain : Intended to be joint project with Stonebreaker airstrip (IDFG). Participating Agreement with IDFG was late in being approved as a result Chamberlain airstrip (USFS) was treated with Forest Service seasonal work crew, August 2005; 26 acres. RAC funds were not used for this project in 2005.

State Airstrips - Payette National Forest

- Stonebreaker Ranch: Participating Agreement was late in being approved by the Forest Supervisor (Sept 2005). Contract for inventory and treatment was advertised and bids came in much higher than expected. No RAC funds have been expended at this time. Plan to continue with this project in summer of 2006.

Private Airstrips - Payette National Forest

- Badley Ranch: Participating Agreement has been signed by Forest Supervisor. Contract was obligated to local contractor through Basic Ordering Agreement for fall treatment, \$4,000 for 80 acres of herbicide treatment. Project area was inventoried for invasive weeds in October 2005. Few weeds were detected resulting in \$0 for treatment.

Private Airstrips - Nez Perce National Forest

- Mackay Bar: Treated by volunteers (Western Whitewater Association) in May under ISDA Cost Share Agreement. Will coordinate with private landowner for follow-up treatment in 2006. University of Idaho Botanist conducted intensive plant inventory for new invader species. This RAC project funded the jet boat transportation for the U of I botanist.
- Copenhaver: Landowner Association decided not to participate with contract weed treatment. They indicated a desire to treat the airstrip themselves and will contact H. Lyman for herbicides when they are ready to implement. University of Idaho Botanist conducted intensive plant inventory for new invader species.
- Shepp Ranch: Non-restricted Use herbicide was purchased using RAC funding and applied by private landowner.
- Whitewater Ranch: Non-restricted Use herbicide was purchased using RAC funding and applied by private landowner
- Allison Ranch: Herbicide was purchased using RAC funding and applied by private landowner (caretaker) who is a licensed applicator.
- Campbell's Ferry: Non-restricted Use herbicide was purchased using RAC funding and will be available to the private landowner for application.
- Yellow Pine Bar. Private landowner has elected not to treat private airstrip at this time.
- James Ranch: Treated by volunteers (Western Whitewater Association) in May under ISDA Cost Share Agreement. Will coordinate with private landowner for follow-up treatment in 2006.

Funds requested and approved (1st year 2005): **\$15,120**

Funds obligated in FY 2005: **\$6000**

Remaining 2005 funds to be spent in 2006: **\$9,000**

2006 - 2nd year funds request: **\$7,500**

Total request for 2006: **\$7,500**

2006 Planned Activities:

Public Airstrips - Nez Perce National Forest

Wilson Bar: **\$2,500** Provide second year follow-up weed treatment in 2006.

Public Airstrips - Payette National Forest

Chamberlain: **\$4,500** for contract weed inventory and treatment.

State Airstrips - Payette National Forest

Stonebreaker Ranch: **\$9,500** for contract weed inventory and treatment (summer treatment with follow-up fall treatment).

Private Airstrips - Nez Perce National Forest

Coordinate with private landowners for their treatment of private airstrips in 2006.

No RAC funds anticipated.

Submitted by;

Howard Lyman

Noxious Weed Program Coordinator

Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness

(01/19/06)