



STDP Project Update Noxious Weed Revegetation



Project Summary

This project will attempt to establish competing vegetation, such as a native lupine, in these disturbance areas that will resist spotted knapweed invasion.



Roadside Invasions...

In the Oregon East Cascades area, the spotted knapweed population is increasing, especially in areas receiving repeated disturbance along roadsides and in agricultural areas. Noxious weeds are reaching crisis proportions both economically and ecologically in the western United States. Reductions in biodiversity, wildlife and livestock forage, increased bare ground, and soil erosion are occurring at an accelerated rate. In the East Cascades area, the spotted knapweed population is increasing, especially in areas receiving repeated disturbance along roadsides and in agricultural areas.



Spotted Knapweed



Options for the Future

Roadside Native Lupine

Native plants are being tested for their capability to out-compete spotted knapweed. Three sites have been selected representing frequent, high disturbance (roadsides and abandoned fields) and infrequent high disturbance (forest openings). Herbicide will be used to eliminate as much existing knapweed as possible from the project sites. Native and non-native species will be chosen for their rooting depth, phenology, and ability to utilize existing resources on a site-by-site basis.

The Lava Butte site is a cinder berm representative of roadside noxious weed problems on the Deschutes National Forest. Density, cover, and nested frequency data will be collected from plots prior to and following herbicide application. Local native seed will be collected this summer from desirable plant species and appropriate non-native seed will be purchased. At the Lava Butte site, native dwarf lupine and grasses will be included in the seed mix. Seed should be hand broadcast in late fall.

Data would be collected annually for the next 3-5 years to determine the effectiveness of the native plantings to survive and increase while negatively impacting knapweed populations.



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