

2004 Idaho Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) Accomplishment Summary

Adams CWMA

Adams County started off the year with the addition of a new head weed man. Last season's projects focused on large areas of mapping and inventory of weed infestation. This year was focused on control of those populations. The Adams CWMA worked in 16 different project areas, with great results: total acres treated with herbicide this year were 3,213, and 20 acres were inventoried. The educational efforts were also emphasized this season, with a tally of 10,257 weed warriors educated. County Commissioners took a great step toward developing a long-term weed program by increasing funding support of the weed control program this year.

Black Snake CWMA

With CWMA support, students developed printed material and presentations, gave talks, worked with local media, created usable maps, and went door-to-door addressing weed issues in their communities. New mapping efforts focused on Conservation Reserve Program lands, again using students. Thirty-seven landowners participated in a "Neighborhood Watch" program where the CWMA assisted landowners with training, equipment, and chemicals. The CWMA sponsored two workshops/tours in cooperation with the Blackfoot River Watershed Council.

Blaine CWMA

2004 was the first year that the BCWMA utilized an approach organizing into four watershed working groups. Their cost share dollars for each watershed consisted of priority weed objectives covering a high level of diversity in weed management practices within each watershed. This process allowed the CWMA to better identify and attack individual watershed issues, resulting in a cumulative effort of 3,468 acres of herbicide treatment and 700 acres of weed inventory and monitoring. In addition, there were 50 biological control agent releases, 7 acres were revegetated, and 12,500 educational contacts were completed throughout.

Boise Basin CWMA

The CWMA attributes the excellent involvement and treatment of over 2,097 acres of Spotted knapweed and an additional 633 acres of Dalmatian toadflax and other invaders to three community spray days where private landowners obtained information on weed identification, use of equipment, and safety. After attending, landowners could "check out" backpack sprayers in order to treat their property. The Atlanta area project alone resulted in 773 acres being treated.

Camas Creek CWMA

Educational activities included fair displays, newspaper and television releases, development of weed awareness signage, and a new interpretive brochure. A top priority is the eradication of Rush skeletonweed and control of knapweed within the CWMA boundaries. The CWMA continued to support the Fairfield Bug Crew consisting of two students and one teacher. The Bug Crew maintains and monitors Spotted Knapweed biological control agent insectaries. This season's focus on controlling invasive species resulted in 14,816 acres being treated with herbicides in the CWMA; additionally, 200 biological control agent releases were accomplished, and an estimated 500 educational contacts were made.

Clearwater Basin CWMA

This six-million-acre CWMA is divided into three distinct sub-basins within the region. The overall operating plan is developed from the three individual annual operating plans that independently target weed control objectives for the year. The combined effort of this CWMA in the 2004 season resulted in the herbicide treatment of 1,497.2 acres of invasive species. In addition, the group completed 10,000 acres of inventory work, 200 biological control releases, treated 79.7 acres of new invaders under the Early Detection Rapid Response system, and completed an estimated 200 educational contacts.

Continental Divide CWMA

Chemical control projects were completed in the Mud Lake, Medicine Lodge, and Beaver Creek areas. Sheep were used along Medicine Lodge Sinks to reduce seed production and canopy cover of Leafy spurge. Insects were also used to control Leafy spurge: 200 biological control releases were completed this season. An estimated 2,123.0 acres were treated in 2004 with herbicides. In addition, another 1,600 acres were treated using organized grazing to control weedy species, and an estimated 200 educational contacts were completed.

Custer County CWMA

The CWMA, although funded at a very minimal level this season through ISDA cost share, had a very successful treatment season. The CWMA continued to organize and work with local groups to complete weed control objectives. The CWMA completed 1,800 acres of herbicide weed control and established 7 new populations of weed-eating insects to help wage the war against invasive weeds.

Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness CWMA

The CWMA, along with the Western White Water Association, landowners, and USFS personnel, treated the Campbell's Ferry area, targeting approximately 446 acres infested with Spotted knapweed and Sulfur cinquefoil. Also, the CWMA inventoried and mapped an additional 4,360 acres of weeds and completed 10 new biological control releases. There

was also a small grazing project implemented that grazed weeds on 20 acres, combined with an estimated 1,000 educational contacts.

Henry's Fork CWMA

Projects included supporting two students and one teacher from South Fremont Junior High School to map noxious weed locations. The students mapped over 800 locations. Several weeds were targeted with biological control agents, including Leafy spurge, Spotted knapweed, and Dalmatian toadflax. Chemical was used to control a total of 191 acres. Control focused on some of the following noxious weed species: Leafy spurge, Diffuse and Spotted knapweed, Yellow and Dalmatian toadflax, Dyer's woad, Purple loosestrife, and Black henbane. Additionally, 2,939 acres were mapped, 104 biological control agent releases were completed and combined, with an estimated 2,000 educational contacts.

Highlands CWMA

The CWMA continued to be involved with local schools by giving presentations and sponsoring an essay contest. A students' essay contest was held again this season, with 454 submitted essays. The "Bag of Woad" program resulted in the collection of 52 tons of Dyer's woad. Additionally, an "Adopt an Area" program was developed where groups signed up to keep an area free of Dyer's woad during the summer months. Five workdays were sponsored, with 800 participants treating 1,000 acres. Additionally, 816 acres were treated with herbicide, 30 new release sites for biological control agents were established, and 8,942 educational contacts were recorded.

Inland Empire CWMA

The CWMA had special guests this season: Rob Mangold, Director, Forest Health Protection, from the Washington, D.C., office, and Janet Valle, U.S. Forest Service Pesticide Coordinator from the Ogden, Utah field office. These special guests were here to observe the success of the "on-the-ground projects" in Idaho and to take examples of Idaho's success with suggestions to Washington, D.C., to improve the National program. The success of Idaho's program could be used as a prototype to be shared with other states. In addition to this great meeting, the CWMA treated 7,521.2 acres with herbicides, inventoried 1,284.6 acres, monitored 1,608.5 acres, completed the release of biological control agents on 82 new sites, and completed 34,403 educational contacts.

Jordan Valley CWMA

The Jordan Valley CWMA emphasis this year was on the mapping and control of Leafy spurge in the Jordan/Boulder Creek watershed. This project was coordinated by three Student Conservation Interns. These interns worked in conjunction with all other CWMA partners to accomplish the task of mapping 50,000 acres of private, state, and federal lands. In addition, the CWMA completed 1,300 acres of herbicide treatment, 200 acres of

monitoring activity, 305 biological control releases, and made an estimated 200 educational contacts.

Joseph Plains CWMA

This year the CWMA continued last year's successes in the implementation of containment zones, targeting priority weeds in weed-free zones. New invaders like Spotted knapweed and Leafy spurge were a priority for the CWMA. Treatment focused on new outbreaks of established invaders and maintaining containment lines. Biological control efforts focused on Yellow Star thistle. Prevention and education activities included placing "Weed Wanted" posters at Hammer Creek Campground. Additional completed objectives included, 3,437.7 acres herbicide treatment, 2,250 acres inventoried, 410 acres were monitored, 5.4 acres were treated under Early Detection/Rapid Response status, 375 acres were revegetated, and an estimated 4,100 educational contacts were made.

Lemhi CWMA

Chemical treatment areas include Clear Creek, Kertley Creek, Mormon Ranch, Rooster Comb, and Pine Creek, focusing on Rush skeletonweed, Leafy spurge, Spotted knapweed, and *Berteroa incana*. Ninety-five landowners participated in the herbicide cost share program, and three community spray days were held in Leadore, Salmon, and Gibbonsville. Control accomplishments included: 2,555 acres treated with herbicide, 375 acres inventoried, 1,080 acres monitored, 26 biological control releases, 38,000 acres managed through goat grazing, 375 acres were reseeded to desirable species, and an estimated 2,500 educational contacts were made.

Lost River CWMA

The LRCWMA ran noxious weed prevention advertisements in the *Arco Advisor* and sponsored a mailing of information on target weeds to landowners. The "Bug Bombing" project - releasing biological control agents by helicopter - targeted portions of the Lost River Range and White Knob Mountains. Butte County sponsored two tours in Howe and Antelope Creek. The "War on Weeds" project involved using six local high school students to map areas of the INEEL. Highway 93, right-of-ways, and several drainages associated with Craters of the Moon National Monument were mapped. Additionally, 622.5 acres were treated with herbicide, 101,880 acres were mapped and inventoried, 990 new colonies of insects were released, and an estimated 500 educational contacts were made.

Lower Gem CWMA

This was the first year for the Lower Gem CWMA, the program was a big success and the local interest in the organization is growing. Some of the CWMA's accomplishments are as follows: herbicide treatment was accomplished on 276 acres. In addition inventory and mapping was completed on 233 acres, 20 biological control release sites were established as well as an estimated 250 educational contacts.

Lower Weiser River CWMA

The CWMA held its fourth annual hay exchange on Highway 95 at the opening of elk season. Two tons of uncertified hay was exchanged for certified noxious weed-free hay. The fourth annual weed tour was a huge success; tour participants got an up-close look at the nannies grazing Leafy spurge along the banks of the pristine Weiser River. All known sites of Yellow starthistle and Dalmatian toadflax were mapped and treated. Education was promoted through an Open House and by sponsoring a high school poster contest, private applicator training, and county fair booth. CWMA accomplishments included: 3,280 acres of herbicide treatment, 556 acres inventoried, 18,759 acres monitored, 10,000 acres grazed, 314,972 educational contacts were made, and 175 acres were reseeded to desirable species.

Minidoka Snake River Corridor CWMA

The CWMA had two working spray days this year that targeted several weed species. The first work day focused on White top, Scotch thistle, and Canada thistle. The second work day focused on Russian knapweed, Skeletonweed, and Scotch thistle. In addition, the CWMA accomplished the following: a total of 3,171 acres were treated with herbicide, 2,240 acres were inventoried, 850 educational contacts were made, and 6 acres were restored with beneficial revegetation.

Northside Tri-County CWMA

Education and prevention activities included inspections of gravel pits, displays at local county fairs, and conducting public meetings. Eradication efforts focused on Dalmatian Toadflax, Dyer's woad, and Perennial pepperweed. The CWMA supported a "Bug Crew" where students from the local schools maintained and monitored biological control agent insectaries. Additionally 1,501 acres were treated with herbicide, there were 450 additional biological release sites, and 500 educational contacts were completed.

Palouse CWMA

Projects included Meadow Creek Tansy ragwort populations seed head destruction, hosting a weed identification class, and placing booths at the Latah and Clearwater county fairs. The CWMA continued the second year of a two-year project to establish a public vehicle wash station in an area infested with Tansy ragwort. In addition, 1,390 acres were treated with herbicides, 86 acres were inventoried, 1,500 acres were monitored for regrowth, and 500 educational contacts were completed.

Power CWMA

The Power CWMA displayed weed billboards promoting weed awareness and control along highways. They also sponsored an award program for tips leading to the discovery of new invaders, and two students were hired to map portions of the CWMA. Control efforts resulted in 665 acres of weeds being controlled through the use of herbicides. In addition,

10,100 acres were inventoried and mapped for weed infestation, 16,200 acres were monitored for the presence of invasive weeds, 23 new releases of biological control agents were completed, along with 150 confirmed educational contacts.

Salmon River CWMA

Several species within the CWMA are targeted for eradication. The CWMA continues to monitor those areas to confirm eradications. It worked with University of Idaho Early Detection Team to survey for Orange hawkweed, Toothed spurge, Matgrass, Dyer's woad, and Japanese knotweed. Treatment was focused on satellite infestations and transportation corridors. The CWMA sponsored three field trips, one range management workshop, and one calibration workshop. In addition, 3,638.8 acres were treated with herbicide, 6,000 acres were inventoried, 297 acres of monitoring, an additional 298 acres were treated under Early Detection/Rapid Response guidelines, topped off with an estimated 8,000 educational contacts being made.

Selkirk CWMA

New invaders and small infestation control was a priority in 2004. An intensive effort to reduce the seed and transplant source of Scotch broom was conducted on a 120-acre island. Biological control efforts included hosting a Spotted knapweed field day and supporting a Biological Control Liaison. "Neighborhood Cooperative" projects treated 3,753 acres involving 94 cooperatives and 342 landowners. In addition, 860 acres were inventoried and mapped, 946 biological control agent sites were established, 5 acres were revegetated, and a total of 5,492 educational contacts were completed.

Shoshone Basin CWMA

Russian knapweed, Whitetop (Hoary cress), and other priority weeds were treated in the Deep Creek, Duck Springs, and Cottonwood Creek projects areas. Additionally this CWMA has grown from having one large landowner cooperator to having 23 in the last year. Herbicide treatments were applied to 3,057 acres, 13,230 acres of mapping were completed, as well as re-seeding on 153 acres, topped off with 275 new educational contacts.

South Fork of the Boise River CWMA

The CWMA sponsored five community spray/biocontrol days where private landowners obtained information on weed identification and use of equipment. Residents also learned how to collect, identify, and successfully release new populations of biological agents in the weed war. Follow-up roadside spraying was done in those communities. Local 4-H members assisted with a certified noxious weed-free hay exchange. Additionally, the CWMA sprayed 328.5 acres, had a total of 101 new biological releases, and had 250 new educational contacts.

Tri-State Demonstration CWMA

The CWMA participated in many educational efforts, including spending two days with seventh graders at Jennifer Junior High, participating in “Project Learning Tree,” and sponsoring the Second Annual Herbicide Application Workshop and two weed tours. Fourteen thousand acres were inventoried using the “SWAT” team and fixed wing survey. The team had a great year, treating 8,640 acres with herbicide, inventory and mapping was completed on 78,500 acres, and monitoring on 1,303 acres. Additionally, 502 acres were reseeded with desirable species, and 970 educational contacts were made.

Upper Payette CWMA

Several cooperative spray days were conducted treating the Lowman, Canaday Ranch, City of McCall, and Montour areas. Eurasian watermilfoil removal projects were conducted on the Horseshoe Bend Millpond, Montour Wildlife Recreation Area, and Payette Lake, resulting in 27,000 (significant reduction indicating success) pounds of E. watermilfoil being removed from Payette Lake alone. With assistance from CWMA partners, Horseshoe Bend High School students conducted a small study on the effects on Rush skeletonweed density using horse grazing. Neighborhood projects in Boise and Gem Counties resulted in the application of 6,383 acres of herbicide treatment, 579 acres reseeded to desirable competitive species, and 640 educational contacts.

Upper Snake CWMA

The USCWMA sponsored two spray days, and 3,772 acres were mapped by high school students in the Solutions Program. Sixteen species of insects (570 colonies) were released on various infestations of Leafy spurge, Spotted knapweed, Canada thistle, Musk thistle, Purple loosestrife, and Yellow toadflax. Chemical treatments focused on Swan Valley, Dan Creek, Tex Creek Wildlife Management Area, and right-of-ways owned by the Eastern Idaho Railroad. In addition, 4,955 acres were treated with herbicide, 900 acres were treated by goat grazing, 2 acres were reseeded, and 30,474 educational contacts were made.

Utah-Idaho CWMA

Over 161 tons of Dyer’s woad was collected through the “Bag of Woad” program. The program was sponsored by several local businesses and received local newspaper and radio coverage. The fifth annual essay contest received submissions from five different high schools. Five spray days were conducted and the Bannock Showcase project completed its sixth season targeting Leafy spurge with a combination of goat grazing, chemical control, and insect releases. Season tallies were: 14,274 acres sprayed, 78,937 acres inventoried, 77,419 acres monitored, 5,300 biological control releases, 1,500 acres grazed to control weeds, 1,500 acres reseeded, and 50,000 educational contacts made. Simply outstanding!

Statewide Programs

Eurasian Watermilfoil Task Force

The objective of this task force, a subcommittee of the Idaho Invasive Species Council, for 2004 was to complete an initial assessment of the scope of the distribution of Eurasian watermilfoil in Idaho. This year's rating process was designed to find the outer boundary of infestations in the state by buffering known milfoil locations to locate water bodies within a 50-mile radius of the known sites. At the conclusion of 2004, the task force reported that the eastern part of our state is still free of E. watermilfoil and made recommendations to the Idaho Invasive Species Council on how to keep those water bodies clear of E. milfoil. A new hybrid milfoil has been found and identified in Coeur d'Alene Lake. Thirty-one new lakes and water bodies across the state were diver inventoried for the presence of milfoil.

Hawkweed Biological Control Consortium

The goal of the consortium is to support and fund the screening and, ultimately, the importation of biological control agents for Hawkweed. Host specificity testing was completed for two root-feeding flies. Additional insects were acquired and shipped to CABI Bioscience laboratory for testing. Host specificity testing continued on all species of interest in 2004. Open field tests, and other tests on a gall wasp and gall midge, are expected to be completed in 2005.

Hoary Cress Biological Control Consortium

The goal of the consortium is to support and fund the screening and, ultimately, the importation of biological control agents for Hoary cress. Seven phytophagous insects have been selected for further study as biological control agents. Nearly two-thirds of all plants on the plants test list have been completed and are continuing to make good progress. The growth, vigor, and herbivory studies on hoary cress infestations between Europe and the Western U.S. were completed.

Houndstongue Biological Control Consortium

Efforts in 2003 focused on conducting research on the environmental safety of the Houndstongue root-weevil. Non-target attack monitoring continued in southern Alberta and southern British Columbia. Suspected 'spill-over' effects were noted, but research is ongoing. Plant material of threatened or endangered listed Boraginaceae species was obtained, allowing for host range experiments with the Threatened or Endangered target plants to begin testing.

Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign

Efforts continued to strengthen the Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign's role in creating public awareness and education on the impacts of noxious weeds on Idaho's economy, ecology, and agriculture. Approximately one million Idahoans and approximately 250,000 out-of-state citizens have been educated about noxious weeds through three focus avenues: establishing a knowledge threshold by utilizing the media, establishing a pilot education program in Idaho schools, and developing cooperative partnerships.

Lucky Peak/Barber Pool Conservation Area

The 2004 objectives included reducing the Scotch thistle infestations within the Conservation Area and monitoring the 2002/2003 biological control release on Purple loosestrife. Two hundred acres of the Conservation Area were searched, resulting in the treatment of over 61 acres of Scotch thistle.

Nez Perce Biocontrol Center

The Center receives information regarding biological control agent releases, then enters the information into a database and provides reports and maps of agent distribution to public and private land managers. The Center, with assistance from the University of Idaho, conducted biocontrol workshops throughout the state to increase awareness and implement the use of biological control organisms for weed control. In addition, greenhouse rearing and plant garden rearing projects were emphasized; as a result, the training involved and then collection and release of biological control agents, numbers at 300 new biological sites.

Rush Skeletonweed Task Force

The mission of the Task Force is to spot and reduce the spread of Rush skeletonweed and reduce its impact by maximizing the effectiveness of integrated control methods across all land ownerships. In 2004, efforts focused on the insect *Bradyrrhoa gilveolella*. The insect is being reared in Bozeman, Montana, in preparation for release. Both a laboratory colony and insectary have been established in Idaho. Five new releases of *Bradyrrhoa* were accomplished in 2004. In addition, the Nez Perce BioControl Center began efforts to rear a population of this root-feeding moth for hopeful wider releases next season.

University of Idaho

An eradication mapping system was assembled for in-field mapping of infestations using IPACs and ArcPad software. Surveys were conducted by a four-person crew. Surveys were conducted throughout the state, focusing on species that were considered to be in low densities in those areas. There were 30 workshops/presentations held, with 903 people attending. The Erickson Weed Diagnostic Lab received 372 plants for identification, and the Pacific Northwest Extension Bulletin on Ox-eye Daisy is complete and due for dispersal in the spring of 2005.