

2008 Utah Weed Control Conference Abstracts

THE BONNEVILLE CWMA “PURGE YOUR SPURGE” MYRTLE SPURGE/ NATIVE PLANT EXCHANGE

Sage Fitch and Phil McCraley
Salt Lake County Public Works
7125 S 600 W
Midvale, UT 84047
sfitch@slco.org

The Bonneville CWMA recently purchased a new portable educational display that we would like to feature at the CWMA conference. The display will showcase the 2007 “Purge your Spurge” myrtle spurge/ native plant exchange along with other educational elements.

The “Purge your Spurge” myrtle spurge/ native plant exchange was held on two Saturdays in April 2007 and was hosted at the Salt Lake REI. It was wildly successful with over 6,500 pounds of myrtle spurge removed. That’s over 3 tons! Participants and volunteers donated a total of 747 hours for collection, restoration, and event coordination. Over 17 volunteers donated their time to dispose of the collected myrtle spurge and hand out over 1,400 free native plants. The event was sponsored by Salt Lake County, the Great Salt Lake RC&D, the Salt Lake Conservation District, Utah Association of Conservation Districts, Intermountain Native Plant Growers Association, Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities, and many more!

CANYON COUNTRY CWMA: WORKING SUCCESSFULLY WITH PARTNERS

Wally Dodds, Garfield County Weed Supervisor, CWMA Chairman
P.O. Box 806
Panguitch, UT 84759
dodds@scinternet.net

During 2005 - 2006, project partners worked together to establish a cooperative weed management area (CWMA) in Garfield and Kane Counties. To-date, project partners include: BLM, USFS, NPS, Upper Sevier River Watershed, Garfield and Kane counties, UDOT, State Parks, Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, Upper Sevier and Canyonlands Conservation Districts, Utah State University Extension, Department of Agriculture, and Color Country RC&D.

Part of the great success we have had with this CWMA has been the ability to garner funding for specific projects and of willing participation of all the partners.

This past year we sponsored four different weed project days: knapweed treatment in Tropic; knapweed treatment along Muddy Creek; Scotch Thistle Days with Orderville High School and whitetop treatment in Sandy Creek. With these projects, we were able to spray approximately 400 acres of knapweed, and intensively treat 60 acres of whitetop and 20 acres of scotch thistle.

All project partners listed above participated in at least some of these project days, with the majority participating in more than one.

SANPITCH CWMA: GREAT PARTNERS, GRANTS AND INNOVATIVE PROJECTS

Kevin Bailey and Matt Palmer

Matt Palmer

325 W 100 N

Ephraim, UT 84627

matt.palmer@usu.edu

The Sanpitch Cooperative Weed Management Area (SCWMA) incorporates a large area in Central Utah spreading over four counties consisting of Sanpete, Utah, Juab and Millard Counties. The SCWMA has strong support with Sanpete County, Utah County, Juab County, US Forest Service, UDAF, BLM, NRCS, Sanpitch Watershed group, USU Extension, Utah DWR, Farm Bureau, UDOT, and local land owners. Working together this group has brought in approximately \$32,000 in grant funding and provided over \$50,000 in matching and in-kind funds in the past two years. The grants provided resources to develop community weed control projects in areas with large noxious weed infestations. One project title the Larson Farm Whitetop Project combined weed control with research, public education, and re-vegetation. Utilizing the expertise of Utah State University Extension a study was set up to test three herbicides and four grass seeds to determine the best approach to reclaim Whitetop infested land on the west bench of the North Sanpete Valley. The findings from this study will be utilized to educate surrounding landowners on the best methods of land restoration. Another grant provided funds to pay youth groups \$5/lb for musk thistle seed heads. This educational program involved 8 youth groups and brought in 1,500 lb of thistle seed heads with GPS points and photos of the thistle patches that were picked. The Sanpitch CWMA has accomplished great weed control and educational program that have greatly benefited land owners in the Sanpitch river drainage area.

SUMMIT CWMA: YELLOW TOADFLAX MAPPING AND CONTROL

Mindy Wheeler and Barbara Carey
PO Box 520604
SLC, UT 84152
wheelermindy@yahoo.com

The Summit County CWMA together with members of the Wasatch County CWMA scheduled and completed 2 work days for yellow toadflax control at the county line between Summit and Wasatch Counties close to the Wasatch Cache National Forest. Yellow toadflax populations were mapped during a weed survey in 2006, so paper maps and GPS's were handed out to volunteers to target the most threatening and outlying populations to hopefully contain the infestation. We had heard through a private applicator that an early application of a mix of Escort, 2,4-D and a good surfactant was effective on yellow toadflax. This application was done in early July. We then did another application in late September (after the first frost) with 1.5 oz of Telar and a good surfactant, again trying to target the most threatening and outlying populations. We intend to put some native seed down in the spring (native, short-lived perennial grasses mostly) to increase competition for the toadflax.

The first application was somewhat effective, but some thought we might have created bare spots for more yellow toadflax to invade. The result of the second application is yet to be determined. It was an interesting learning experience in trying to direct people to walk/drive beyond the largest infestations and concentrate on the outlying populations. Although the work days were successful, it might be helpful to give a short sit down talk about weed control vs weed management, specifics about yellow toadflax, and safety before beginning. It is difficult when everyone (including myself) wants to get started before they have to go, or before the weather might turn, or....

SUMMIT CWMA: BIOLOGICAL WEED CONTROL – USING GOATS TO CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS

Sterling Banks
USU Extension Service
P.O. Box 127
Coalville, Utah 84017
sbanks@ext.usu.edu

During the summer of 2007 a weed control demonstration plot was conducted in Summit County, Utah comparing goat grazing versus a traditional herbicide treatment to control noxious weeds. The project was co-sponsored by Utah State University Extension Service, Summit County Weed Board and Summit Cooperative Weed Management Area. Funding for this project was made possible through a mini grant provided by Western Region SARE, Western IPM and USDA, CSREES.

A four acre demonstration site was established at the Park City Mountain Ski Resort. The site included four one acre treatment plots. Plots included control/untreated, herbicide treatment, once grazed treatment and twice grazed treatment. Weeds studied in the plot area were Musk Thistle, Spotted/Russian Knapweeds and Dalmation Toadflax. Milestone was the herbicide treatment (5fl. oz./acre) used at the demonstration site. Twenty five goats were used to graze the two other plot areas.

The Milestone herbicide treatment proved to be an effective weed control option (90-95% control) for certain weeds in the demonstration site. The two grazing treatments proved to have mixed results. The once grazing treatment showed limited success, while the twice grazing treatment showed more promise in its effectiveness in reducing seed formation on weeds.

Conclusions determined from the project are as follows: Milestone herbicide is an effective weed control option for Thistle and Knapweed control. Weeds need to be grazed at least twice during the growing season and more than one year in order for goat grazing to be an effective weed control option.

UINTAH CWMA PROJECTS

Milton Billings
364 South 1500 East
Vernal, UT 84078
mbillings@co.uintah.ut.us

This year is the first year that we have tried to work this many grants in one season. It was manageable because of the help and encouragement that we received from our CWMA Steering Committee. Members of the Steering Committee also wrote up three grants.

The Lower Ashley Creek Project is funded by NRCS in the amount of \$2414. This has been a five year project. The first three years received more funding for the initial establishment of the project. The last two years are monitoring years. We have been working with the NRCS over the past four years as a pilot program to control Perennial Pepperweed. We have one year left on this grant. The money for this project went directly to the land owners and they reimbursed the county of labor and herbicide.

The Tamarisk Beetle release was written for \$6,489 by State Ag Inspector, Bob Puck. It was a UDAF GIP grant.

Miles Hanberg wrote a grant for a Spotted Knapweed project for \$783 which was used at Matt Warner. Miles also wrote a grant for Hoary Cress control in the Bookcliffs area called Meadow Creek. This grant was for \$3,530.

Last year was the first year of an NRCS grant to control Pepperweed and Russian Olives. We were awarded \$6,450 on this grant because the NRCS observed the success we have had with the Lower Ashley Creek Project.

The Upper Ashley Creek project is provided by the Forest Service, the Grazing Improvement Program, and the USDA Animal and Plant Inspection Service as a one year grant for \$5,000. This grant is controlled through the Utah Weed Supervisors Association.

UTAH SQUARROSE KNAPWEED MANAGEMENT AREA: UTAH WEED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

RB Probert and Jeff Banks

RB Probert
BLM Field Office
35 E 500 N
Fillmore, UT 84631
richard_probert@blm.gov

Jeff Banks
USU Extension
160 N Main
Nephi, UT 84648
jeffb@ext.usu.edu

During the late 1800's and early 1900's the Tintic Valley and surrounding mountains were booming with gold and silver mining. The valleys raised dryland wheat which was stored in area silos and later shipped to different mills for processing. Through the years, livestock producers have used the land as a major grazing area for sheep and cattle. There are also many different species of wildlife that utilize the area. The aggressive Squarrose Knapweed and other noxious weeds have destroyed much of the native vegetation. Because of these weeds the area is no longer used for dryland farming and grazing has been greatly reduced. Through the years, minor attempts have been made to control these weeds in this part of the state. In 1996, the Utah Squarrose Knapweed Management Area was formed. Because of the efforts of this CWMA, major accomplishments have been made in controlling Squarrose Knapweed and other weeds in the management area. During this time a Knapweed inventory was completed. Approximately 80,000 acres have been treated for weed control with about 70% success. 26,000 acres have been revegetated to a desirable state. Biological control agents have been released throughout the control area with some areas showing a 50% reduction in plant density. Research has been done on plant biology, reseeding, herbicide effectiveness, biological control and grazing. An annual field day is held to review the progress of the control efforts. The group also created an educational pamphlet, video, and display relating to the project. The Utah Squarrose Management Area has come a long ways since 1996, but there is still a long way to go. Only with continued support can the group accomplish the goal of reducing the impacts of these weeds on the Utah West Desert ecosystem.

WASATCH COUNTY CWMA: THISTLE ERADICATION

Quintin Lewis, Bert Webster, and Steve Smith

831 Pinion Circle
Heber City, UT 84032
Weedfighter.s@comcast.net

This report pertains to three species of thistle which have been successfully removed from an approximate three to four acre area located in Heber Valley of Wasatch County. The species controlled are *Cardus nutans* (Musk Thistle), *Onopordum acanthium* (Scotch Thistle), and *Cirsium arvense* (Canada Thistle). These species have been the focus of a concentrated effort over the past six year's to determine if eradication is possible. This fall only one small Scotch Thistle was located in the area. The majority of thistles were removed during the first three to four years of treatment with maintenance and monitoring since that time.

The site is located along a concrete lined irrigation canal known as the Timpanogos Canal. Following construction it was drilled with a seed mixture of which Crested and Intermediate Wheatgrasses which are now the dominant species. In spite of the successful seeding, the three thistle species thrived and threatened to overcome the wheatgrasses.

An Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program was applied to the area which could be referred to as a High Intensity High Frequency (HIHF) control method. (This name was borrowed from a grazing management system.) Along with the competition from the grasses which were already in place, insects were established in the Musk and Canada Thistle. The remaining tools were chemical and mechanical controls, but repetition and timing were the critical factors.

This method is quite labor intensive and expensive but quite effective if treatments are repeated more than once per year. Monitoring will still be required and removal of some plants is required in the future especially if there are thistle stands in close proximity.

The presentation will explain the HIHF system and how to make it work effectively.