

Lassen County's Dalmatian Toadflax "Be Gone" 2008 Supplemental Project Proposal

Contract Lead group and contact Person(s) Lassen County.

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Please confirm, If selected, all projects described in this proposal will be in 1 contract. This is confirmed, 1 contract with Honey Lake RCD.

WMA Structure and Partners:

Lassen County Noxious Weed Management Area, Lassen SWAT began mapping, cooperative prevention techniques, and treating outlier populations of yellow starthistle in 1994. With success this group added other CDFA "A" rated noxious weeds and included some "B" and "C" rated species. The most current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) includes 33 groups and agencies. Lassen SWAT meets quarterly with several smaller committees meeting on an "as needed" basis.

Lassen County's WMA's LONG TERM Prioritized Goals RESULT in ERADICATION

The coordinated project to treat dalmatian toadflax in Lassen County will include efforts by 9 of the Lassen SWAT groups and agencies. Dalmatian toadflax is an "A" rated Noxious Weed in California.

- Bureau of Land Management-Eagle Lake Field Office (BLM/ELFO)
- Susanville Indian Rancheria (SIR)
- Lassen County Agriculture Commissioner's Office
- Lassen Lands and Trails Trust (LLTT)
- Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (HLVRCD)
- The City of Susanville
- Lassen County Susan Ranch Park
- Lassen National Forest
- UC Davis Agriculture Extension Service

Past Performance of WMA and Partners in Weed Control:

The Lassen County's WMA Meets quarterly with focused committee meetings as needed. Examples of individual committees are: Noxious weed educational events, funding, display design etc.

The Lassen County's WMA has an MOU with 33 signatories, Strategic Plan and Vision Statement as well as individual species project plans.

Under AB 1168 & SB1740 Lassen SWAT has undertaken the following projects:

- Mapping, detection and the strategic plan were all accomplished. Data gathered was put into GIS and provided to partners as requested.
- Dalmatian toadflax has been eradicated by the BLM in several areas along the Bizz Johnson Trail and on private property along the Susan River by the Lassen County Department of Agriculture.
- The Susan River Tall Whitetop Project Survey was completed in 2001 and members of Lassen SWAT initiated several portions of the project starting at the top of the watershed.
- Several noxious weed education projects were completed by the WMA including a County Fair Display.

- A component of the Tall Whitetop Project included groups of students participating in an Adopt-A-Site project to bring a 100' x 50' portion of the river to a healthy riparian system. This included learning the different tools to control invasive non-native plant species. Students participated in several events to prepare for this adoption and one 4-H group took their knowledge to a conference in Washington DC.
- The Lassen County Department of Agriculture has provided a continuing education class (AG 116) to provide the community with the knowledge to maintain their private applicators license.
- SB 1740 and matching funds provided a weed crew. This crew treated "A" rated noxious weeds (972 acres - 98 sites). Accomplishments included weed survey, site evaluation, GPS/GIS, and individual site IPM preparation. Also several sites were controlled so re-vegetation with native species was included in the toolbox.

Other cooperative projects completed by the Lassen County Weed Management Area:

- Designed and distributes "*Selected Noxious Weeds of Northeastern California*" A Field Identification Guide.
- Designed and distributes Noxious Weed flyers: *Spotted Knapweed*, *Perennial Pepperweed*, *Yellow Starthistle* and *Scotch Thistle*.
- The Lassen County Department of Agriculture carries out a comprehensive weed detection program on private lands.
- Lassen SWAT cooperators survey and map using GPS/GIS federal, tribal, state and city lands in Lassen County.
- Lassen SWAT has provided display and staff for Chico State University AG Day. Focus is on noxious weed spread prevention to 900 area children/year.
- All elementary school field trips contain a noxious weed "*What are noxious weeds and how do you keep them from spreading*" component.

General In-kind contributions: As projected by WMA partners over the period of this proposed grant (not counting expenses included as in-kind line items in the budget). This does include time and mileage for WMA meetings, WMA educational events, and cooperative control projects involving more than one member of the WMA, funded WMA projects through other grants. = **\$66,000**

Proposed Project

Project Title: - Lassen County's Dalmatian Toadflax "Be Gone"

Project Goal: The goal is to eradicate the California Department of Food and Agriculture "A" rated noxious weed Dalmatian toadflax from Lassen County.

What are the project's long-term benefits and/or region-wide significance:

Dalmatian toadflax is found along roadsides and on rangelands. This species aggressively invades native plant communities and is non-palatable to most herbivores. It is very difficult to control however individual populations of this species have been eradicated in by Lassen SWAT crews and crews from the Lassen County Department of Agriculture. In the past the well timed treatment and using Telar has been successful. As dalmatian toadflax invades an area the local wildlife leave, the food sources are displaced by this non-native plant. Dalmatian toadflax is known to spread after a wildfire. An example of this is the Devil Fire. This 2001 wildfire in the hills south of Susanville burned areas known to be infested with dalmatian toadflax. After the fire the spread was rapid and will continue to spread without a coordinated effort by several land managing groups and agencies. Survey and treatment of this species is critical.

Priority Topic area being Addressed (from request for proposal announcement): This project addressed priority area # 1; these projects will treat pioneer, outlier populations. A map is attached.

Project Objectives and Methods – list milestones and performance measures:

Objectives: Dalmatian toadflax detection and eradication will be conducted on private and public lands. The Lassen SWAT crew lead (a BLM employee) will lead this project. The crew will be trained by the BLM and be licensed by the Lassen County Department of Agriculture. The two person crew will survey and map using GPS/GIS and

treat the infestations included in this project. Trained representatives from the participating groups and agencies will coordinate all treatments and participate in the treatment of dalmatian toadflax. Surveys will also be conducted outside the detection site. This will include the Bizz Johnson Trail, Southside Trail, forest, meadows and range on public as well as private lands. Materials to be used will be Telar and a spreader.

Task 1: The Lassen SWAT crew will **survey** previous infestation sites for dalmatian toadflax. Survey will continue outside the original infestation to determine the possible spread. All “A” rated noxious weed species, if any, will be noted in this survey. Surveys will be performed by Lassen SWAT crew, Lassen County Department of Agriculture staff and BLM staff.

Task 2: The Lassen SWAT crew and partners from the Lassen SWAT groups and agencies will **treat** all known infestations and new detections of dalmatian toadflax within the project area.

Task 3: A computerized GIS map of the project site will be created with the locations of detected dalmatian toadflax plants/populations and treatment sites. There will also be a record of previously detected locations that have been sprayed and considered controlled.

Performance measures: We will follow CDFA’s weed monitoring protocol, measuring the cover of weeds or counting individual plants when feasible.

Performance measures:

1. Evaluate the treatment success by surveying and monitoring the project area using BLM monitoring BMPs.
2. Based on the results of the treatment, follow up sprays may be required.
3. Survey and photograph the treated areas just before treatment, and 1 year after treatment.
4. Evaluate treatment success the following year and prepare a plan to treat any stragglers.