

Tri-State Weed Management Area 2004 Operating Plan

This Annual Operating Plan (AOP) describes management actions and activities cooperators would like to accomplish in the coming year. Although not an all inclusive list, it gives a good idea of the activities and serves as a reminder of work being accomplished through cooperative efforts of Tri-State participants. Since Tri-State crosses state boundaries, we often have the same entity working on some aspect of Integrated Weed Management (IWM), but in a different state. Please note Appendix 1 for a key to cooperators and their acronyms utilized in the action tables.

1) INVENTORY

Inventory and database population activities will continue to be a top priority and the major focus of some cooperator's time. This inventory database stores the institutional memory of cooperators for use in planning future management strategy.

Action Item	Lead
Maintain and update established Tri-State/Hells Canyon GIS system.	TNC
Provide inventory data to GIS coordinator for inclusion into the GIS system.	BLM, LC, WR, IDFG, TNC
Continue second year of inventory collection utilizing electronic field data recorders.	TNC, IDFG, CBLM
Finalize boundaries of Ecological Areas for focus of Strike Team efforts.	CBLM, ITNC
Determine strategy for inventory of existing Biological Control Agents.	NPBC, CBLM, IDFG
Continue processing and testing of the various remote sensing techniques for weed inventory applicability.	TNC
Trial use of a standard inventory database utilizing multiple cooperators.	BLM, TNC, IDFG
Inventory crupina found in the Cache Creek area.	WR, FS
Inventory common bugloss in the Rogersburg area. Cooperators keep an eye out for this species along the Snake River corridor.	AC, WR

2) EDUCATION/AWARENESS/MARKETING

These action items include both internal education as well as education of the public at large. Internal education focuses on assuring a well trained and confident cooperator team to implement the management strategy. The education of external publics about the impact of weeds to natural processes, native plant communities, wildlife, and economics furthers the importance of this issue and potential to gather resources adequate to slow or stop future weed spread.

Action Item	Lead
Continue to integrate Lewis County landowners in the weed control activities of the TSWMA. Explore strategies for cost share herbicide and rehabilitation treatments.	LC, CBLM, Private Landowners
Utilize fair display in cooperation with other WMA's to educate about weeds in the area.	CBLM, Counties
Continue to have on-hand a wide variety of educational materials available for distribution at all opportunities for weed education.	CBLM
Continue to solicit media coverage for all noteworthy events.	TNC
Cooperators participate in educational tours about weed problems in and without the WMA as opportunity arises.	All
Continue "Noxious Talk" speech programs with FFA in Enterprise area.	WR, WC, TCWMA
Increased efforts with the boating public to pull knapweed and dalmation toadflax at	BLM, FS

Action Item	Lead
campsites through seasonal river staff and bulletin board information.	
Support research needs as determined by the cooperators, both financially and with in-kind contributions.	All
Conduct 3 rd annual herbicide safety and calibration workshop. Work to get state certification credits in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.	CBLM, ISDA, IDFG
Support and encourage efforts to authorize multiple year treatment opportunities and authorization of all available control tools such as aerial application and chemicals available for use. Efforts currently underway include the Forest Service Herbicide Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Bureau of Land Management Vegetation Treatment EIS.	All
Develop and distribute boater weed education pamphlets through the Hell's Canyon permit process.	CBLM, FS
Develop weed education signs for important access points in the WMA	IDFG, CBLM, ITNC

3) PREVENTION/DETECTION

The easiest and most cost effective method of noxious weed control is prevention of new infestations. All cooperators should build into their every-day field activities prevention measures to insure we are not increasing the weed spread through our movements. The following prevention activities should be used where appropriate.

- Wash equipment when transporting from one area to another.
- Communicate new infestations to each other.
- Target roads, gravel pits and travel corridors for weed control to prevent spread.
- Coordinate information from outside the WMA boundary for potential migrations of new invaders.
- Utilize contract stipulations requiring all contractors to clean heavy equipment before starting a job in the WMA.
- Continue to implement weed free hay requirements.
- Individuals must take personal responsibility to assure they are not contributing to weed spread. Assure animals, footwear, clothing and camping equipment are cleaned before moving into a weed free area of the WMA during the course of field work.
- Revegetate disturbed soil from construction or maintenance activities.
- Provide noxious weed identification training for field going employees.
- Sign trailheads or other access points for weed awareness and weed prevention techniques.

4) CONTROL METHODS

Chemical Control

Priority 1 – Eradicate New Invaders

Weed Species	Acres	Location	Responsible
Leafy Spurge	3	Corral Creek drainage – 6 sites of leafy spurge treated in the past. Visit each site for initial treatment if necessary, revisit and retreat a minimum of two times after initial treatment.	CBLM
Russian Knapweed	10	Rydempski flats – 3 sites treated in the past. Conduct initial visit along with follow-up treatment and monitoring as needed. Re-visit and treat if necessary single plant site in Billy Creek.	CBLM, IDFG
Rush Skeletonweed	70	Garden Creek Ranch – retreat inventoried sites around the ranch headquarters area. Initial treatment plus follow-up treatment and monitoring a minimum of one more time.	CBLM, ITNC
Dalmation Toadflax	10	Initial inventory and treatment along river corridor in Snake River zone. Focus of volunteer workgroup. Continue to treat inventoried and new populations in the Grande Ronde zone via horseback and raft	ITNC, CBLM, Jet boat group, WR, CJWMA
Yellow Starthistle	100	Focused inventory and initial treatment of spot infestations in the Snake Zone above the confluence with the Salmon River. Focused treatment in Special Ecological Areas along upper Corral Creek, on the Precious Lands, and Zumwalt Prairie.	FS, BBLM, WC, WR, CJWMA, NPT, OTNC
Purple Loosestrife	1	Inventory and initial treatment if necessary along Snake and Salmon Rivers. Known populations upstream of WMA.	All
Common Bugloss	2	Focused inventory of plant in Rogersburg area along with second year treatment. Conduct initial visit along with follow-up treatment and monitoring as needed.	WR, AC, WC, FS, BBLM
White Top	50	Begin focused work to treat sites inventoried last year in the Billy Creek-Madden Creek Area. Conduct initial visit along with follow-up treatment and monitoring as needed.	ITNC, IDFG
Perennial Pepperweed	10	Begin systematic inventory and initial treatment along the Snake River Zone.	IDFG, CBLM, Volunteers
Common Crupina	50	Conduct initial visit along with follow-up treatment and monitoring as needed in the Billy Creek Zone.	IDFG
Spotted Knapweed	30	Continue to treat significantly reduced populations in the China, Eagle and Wapshilla Travel corridors. Conduct initial treatment along with post treatment monitoring and follow up treatment as necessary.	IDFG, CBLM

Priority 2 – Contain/Confine

Weed Species	Acres	Location	Lead
Yellow Starthistle	1,000	YS Zone along the lower Snake and Salmon Rivers. Focused treatment on Deer, Corral, Eagle, China, Wapshilla, Billy, Maloney, Grand Ronde, travel corridors. Treatment along expanding edges of established populations where feasible.	BLM, FS, IDFG, Counties
Dalmation Toadflax	200	Focus on travel corridors in the Salmon River Zone. Continue to treat via horseback and vehicle where accessible in the Grand Ronde zone.	IDFG, CBLM, WR

Weed Species	Acres	Location	Lead
Scotch Thistle	50	Treatment in old farm fields and rehabilitation areas in flats along streams and travel corridors.	IDFG, CBLM, ITNC
Leafy Spurge	50	Where possible, continue to treat along the Grande Ronde River corridor utilizing raft and vehicle access where possible.	BBLM, WR, CJWMA, PL

Biological Control

Luckily for our WMA, the optimal time to collect and distribute biological control agents for our target weeds occurs after herbicide treatment has been concluded. Therefore, this activity can occur without hindering other control methods. The following biocontrol opportunities are listed in order of importance, although they will likely all get done.

Target Weed	Agent	Location	Lead
Yellow Starthistle	Eustenopus villosus	All areas where inventory shows lack of insects.	CBLM, IDFG, PL
Yellow Starthistle	Laurinus curtis	Focus on Maloney creek initial releases and where inventory shows lack of insects.	CBLM, LC, IDFG, PL
Dalmation Toadflax	Mecinus janthinus	Initial releases along the Salmon Zone via Raft and Jet Boat.	BLM, ODA, IDFG, volunteers, NPBC
Leafy Spurge	Aphthona sp. cocktail	Continued release along the Grand Ronde Zone.	WR, PL, AC

Hand Control

This method of weed control is the most time consuming and expensive. Although acreage is small, care should be taken not to underestimate the value of this activity. Most of this treatment method is occurring in areas of rare plants. Weed encroachment is threatening the integrity of these in-tact native communities.

Target Weed	Acres	Location	Lead
Yellow Starthistle	3	Palouse Golden Weed site LCC51	ITNC
Yellow Starthistle	.5	Idaho Hawksbeard site at Red Barn in Corral Creek	ITNC
Yellow Starthistle	3	Spalding's silene site in LCC 65	ITNC
Yellow Starthistle	5	Zumwalt Prairie Sensitive species sites	OTNC
Dalmation Toadflax	10	Roadside along Snake River County road with correctional inmates.	AC

5) MONITORING/EVALUATION

Each cooperator will be responsible for monitoring their treatments. Information should be kept on acres treated, which herbicides were applied, rate of herbicide application, effect of herbicides, effect of released bio-control agents, etc. At the end of the field season an evaluation of participants activities will be initiated. This evaluation will be used to assess treatment effectiveness, success of bio-control agents, etc. The information shared will allow participants to adjust their treatment methods to more effectively combat target species. This evaluation will be essential in determining future activities within the Tri-State WMA. The following monitoring is scheduled to take place:

- Cave Gulch – second year of success monitoring for the three fields to include the adapted bluebunch wheatgrass, a readily available mix of native species, and the standard non-native mix.
- Continue monitoring of established bio-control sites to incorporate target weed density transects.
- Initial monitoring of native plant garden success.
- Initial success monitoring of Deer Creek Road system rehabilitation.

6) REHABILITATION/RESEARCH

- Continue intensive and focused restoration efforts of native bunchgrass communities around the Spalding’s silene populations and the Garden Creek Headquarters.
- Begin road bank rehabilitation work along Corral Creek and North Bench Roads.
- Continue “rehabilitate as you treat” program in remote areas. Monitor success of sites previously treated.
- Outplant native plant plugs in the North Bench Common Garden Site as part of the Great Basin Restoration Initiative project trialing native plant materials for potential future restoration materials.
- Conduct cooperative revegetation project in critical wintering elk habitat in the Deer Creek drainage.
- Continue research of native plant community recover post fire in the corral creek drainage.
- Begin focused research on yellow starthistle biocontrol effects.

Appendix 1 – Cooperator Acronyms

AC	Asotin County Weed Control
BBLM	Baker Bureau of Land Management
BLM	Bureau of Land Management – inclusive
CBLM	Cottonwood Bureau of Land Management
CJWMA	Chief Joseph Wildlife Management Area
FS	Forest Service – Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
IDL	Idaho Department of Lands
ITNC	The Nature Conservancy of Idaho
LC	Lewis County Weed Control
NPBC	Nez Perce Biocontrol Center
NPC	Nez Perce County Weed Control
NPT	Nez Perce Tribe
OTNC	The Nature Conservancy of Oregon
PL	Private Landowners
SCA	Student Conservation Association
TCWMA	Tri-County Weed Management Area (Oregon)
TNC	The Nature Conservancy - inclusive
UI	University of Idaho
WC	Wallowa County Weed Control
WR	Wallowa Resources