

IMPACT

 University of Idaho
Cooperative
Extension System

Bonner County Extension Office, PO Box 1526, Sandpoint, ID 83864 208/263-8511 Phone 208/263-6191 Fax

Panhandle Weed Management Area (PWMA) Cooperative Weed Management Program



Dedicated to the
Management &
Control of
Noxious Weeds

The Situation

Noxious weeds are very evident in the five northern counties of Idaho and adjacent portions of Washington, Montana, and British Columbia. Some weeds, like Spotted Knapweed, Meadow Hawkweed, and common Tansy have taken over entire fields, while new species are invading along transportation corridors and in disturbed areas. Noxious weeds have a significant economic impact on agriculture, forestry and real estate values, and can seem overwhelming to an individual landowner or agency. However, if everyone joins forces, working on common goals, progress can be made.

Our Response

On November 20, 1998 a weed meeting was held in Coeur d' Alene to generate an action plan for fighting noxious weeds. From this meeting the PWMA was formed, encompassing the five northern counties of Idaho; Lincoln, Sanders, and Mineral Counties in Montana; Spokane and Pend Oreille

Counties in Washington, and the Regional District of East Kootenay in British Columbia.

The PWMA goals include restoring our area, as close as possible, to its natural vegetation, mapping weed populations, increasing public awareness and knowledge in weed management techniques, preventing new invaders, keeping weed-free areas clean, and pursue funding for joint weed management efforts.

Achievements

- ✓ Three watershed subgroups were formed under the PWMA to work on specific projects in the St. Joe, Coeur d' Alene, and combined Kootenai, Clark Fork and Pend Oreille drainages.
- ✓ Prepared and distributed 35,000 Regional Noxious Weed Brochures.
- ✓ Prepared and sent flyers, in local tax notices, about property owner responsibility for weed control and management.
- ✓ Hosted weed awareness bus tours in Bonner and Boundary counties.
- ✓ Prepared and manned Noxious Weed Displays at five Northern Idaho County Fairs.
- ✓ Funded and prepared aquatic weed signs and posters at boat ramps, tackle and marine shops and other locations to alert boaters of the risks of transporting aquatic weeds (Eurasian Watermilfoil and Loosestrife).



To enrich education through diversity the University of Idaho is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educational institution.

University of Idaho and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating

All contents copyright and copy; 1999-2001. All rights reserved.

- ✓ Secured a \$20,000 grant from the Idaho Department of Agriculture to fund basin wide weed operating plans.
- ✓ Prepared briefing papers on things to do to prevent the invasion and spread of weeds in forestry, agricultural and home activities.
- ✓ Sponsored a weed identification and information station at the Idaho Forestry Contest to help increase understanding and awareness of noxious weeds with junior high school and high school students.

Cooperators

This effort would not have been possible without the cooperation of the following: British Columbia, Regional District of East Kootenai, North Idaho, Washington and Montana county weed supervisors, University of Idaho, County Extension Educators, IDT, USFS, IDL, Idaho Nursery Association, County Commissioners, and private landowners.

The Future

- ✓ The PWMA will continue to hold watershed-planning meetings to develop weed management plans.
- ✓ Seek further grant monies for specific watershed cost share weed management projects.
- ✓ Up-date and continue to distribute Regional Noxious Weed awareness brochures.
- ✓ Initiate a region wide mapping program to identify and measure weed management and awareness progress.
- ✓ Up-date weed awareness pamphlets and send out in all tax notices in North Idaho.
- ✓ Create demonstration weed control plots near highway and travel routes to show the effectiveness of weed control treatments.

For More Information

Gene Gibson
 Extension Educator, Livestock/Youth Programming
 University of Idaho, Bonner County
 P O Box 1526, Sandpoint, Idaho 83864
 Phone 208-263-8511 Fax 208-263-6191
ggibson@uidaho.edu