

2004 LEMHI CWMA ANNUAL REPORT

Leafy Spurge Goat Grazing

Team Lead: Chris Tambe

This was the 4th growing season that goats grazed leafy spurge scattered across approximately 38,000 acres of public and private lands located between the drainages of Kirtley Creek and Tower Creek in Lemhi County, Idaho. This is an ongoing project designed to reduce spurge biomass, reduce or eliminate seed production and overall reduce spurge to levels where chemical application can be utilized to reduce and eventually control spurge across this large area. With the repeated grazing for 4 growing seasons, the goals of spurge reduction are being met across the entire project area. With the reduction of heavy concentrations of spurge in many areas, the operator was able to split herds and cover more ground than in previous seasons with fewer animals. Biological controls (insects) continue to show impacts to leafy spurge stands with the favorable habitat conditions being created by grazing. Some stands of spurge have virtually disappeared as a result of grazing and insect impacts. Plans for the 05 growing season include continued grazing on approximately two thirds of the area and an herbicide contract to treat a large section from a previous contract boundary north towards the epicenter of this large infestation.

Kirtley Creek Leafy Spurge Contract

Team Lead: Chris Tambe

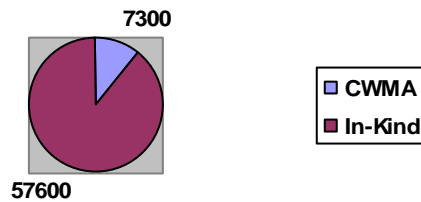
This was the 4th year of an herbicide contract to treat leafy spurge on the southern and east end of the large infestation being managed with grazing, insects and limited herbicide application. This contract area is the edge and the holding line of spurge spread to the south, except for a few small infestations in the Leadore area which are also being controlled in-house by the County, BLM and the US Forest service. This contract program has been very successful in reducing spurge to almost total eradication. Plans for 05 may be to handle this area in-house by CWMA cooperators, and instead expand north with a new contract to begin treating spurge toward the epicenter of the area discussed above.

Citizens Against Weeds

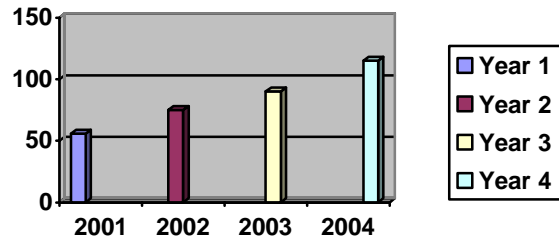
Team Lead: Mike Overacker

This is the fourth year for this project that reimburses private landowners for a portion of the herbicide costs they incur while treating noxious weeds on their property. This is a very popular program that grows in participation each year; from 56 landowners in 2001 to over 115 in 2004. The herbicide reimbursement project is very cost effective in that for every \$1.00 of CWMA money spent, the landowners contribute \$8.00 of their own money or in-kind labor. They inventoried over 9,000 acres for noxious weeds, and treated 2,300 for weeds located during inventory.

Landowner Contributions



Participants in Citizen's Against Weeds



This project also has spray equipment available to loan private landowners to aid them in their weed control efforts. We currently have about 10 backpack sprayers and 4 sprayers that fit on the back of an ATV for loaners.

Another aspect of this project has been "Community Spray Days". The CWMA has been involved with spray days in the communities of Salmon, Leadore and Gibbonsville, and in drainage-wide efforts in Carmen Creek, Sandy Creek and Hayden Creek. The CWMA has partnered with Resource Advisory Council in the drainage wide efforts for extra herbicide dollars, and they have resulted in many more landowners getting involved with hands on weed control.

Weed Superintendent

Team Lead: Mike Overacker

The position of Lemhi County Weed Superintendent has been funded since 2001 by the combined efforts of Lemhi County, ISDA, Salmon BLM and Salmon-Challis National Forest. In 2004, each entity contributed \$10,400 to funding this position full time. Since having a full-time weed supervisor that also serves as the chair of the Lemhi CWMA, project numbers have increased from 3 in 2000 to 16 separate weed projects in 2004. Citizen support and community efforts have doubled with having the support of a person who is fully dedicated to the weed program and weed control in Lemhi County.

Re-Seeding Project

Team Lead: Shannon Williams & Mike Overacker

This year completed the original plan for the re-seeding project. A “belly” seeder was purchased for citizens to use in reseeding disturbed areas. A dry-land pasture seed mix was also purchased for the project. Grass seed was distributed to private citizens to be used in re-claiming noxious weeds sites after herbicide control.

Shannon Williams also developed an educational presentation on re-seeding after weed control and presented it as part of the Noxious Weed Short Course – expanded version.

Noxious Weed Education

Team Lead: Shannon Williams

Cattlemen’s Winter School – Weed Night: This educational program was held on January 20 with 40 people in attendance. Topics included weed identification, county cost share program and developing a weed management plan.

Noxious Weed Short Course: Due to the high level of interest in this program in 2003, the committee reformatted the program for 2004. We had the short version and long version. Both versions featured Celestine Duncan with Weed Management Service as the guest presenter. The short version was held in the evening focusing primarily on weed identification, biology and control. The long version included weed identification, biology, and control along with herbicide movement in soil. Other presenters included the Nature Conservancy presenting their yellow star control program in Hells Canyon area. Shannon Williams also presented a workshop on reseeding after weed control.



Community Spray Days: Community spray days are part of the Citizen’s Against Weeds project, but a great deal of education also happens at these events. Participants were encouraged to bring a sample of the weeds they would like to control for identification and control plans.

Project Learning Tree: Managing Weeds with an Integrated Approach: Shannon Williams was invited to present a workshop on noxious weeds as part of the Project Learning Tree in-service for teachers titled “Weeds and Fire”. She did a 45 minute presentation discussing the various facets of an integrated weed control plan. Katie McFarland, intern, developed a card game to go with the presentation in which participants had to exchange cards till they came up with an integrated weed control plan.

Lemhi County Fair Weed Booth: All of the cooperators help in designing and manning the county fair booth. Katie McFarland, intern, took the lead in organizing the display and gathering supplies. She created cards that discussed the weeds found in the county, how to identify them, their biology, and how to control them.

Soil Conservation District Stewardship Ride: This year the CWMA teamed with the Lemhi SCD District on their annual stewardship ride. The ride was to take place in the Badger Springs/ Carmen Creek allotment. This is an area where the goats had been grazing for 3 years to control leafy spurge and where the Goldstar Houndstongue project took place. It was an excellent opportunity to educate people about these two noxious weeds and what was being done about them.



Noxious Weed Science Day: This was an educational event for 7th graders attending Salmon Junior High. It was a cooperative effort between the Junior High science teachers, Nancy M. Cummings Research, Education and Extension Center, Weed Goats 2000 and CWMA partners. Eighty-eight youth attended workshops on identification & prevention, herbicide control and reseeding, biological control and grazing control. To reinforce was taught at the science days, 7th graders played the Noxious Weed card game developed for the project learning tree workshop the next day in class.



Train the Trainer: An integral part of education is to have people who can do the training locally. Funds were utilized by Mike Overacker, weed superintendent, and Shannon Williams, Extension Educator, to attend state training and national trainings. Mike attended the Idaho Weed Conference and Shannon attended the National Society for Range Management Meetings in Salt Lake City.

Mormon Ranch / Flying B Project

Team Lead: Tommy Gionet

In 2003 the Middle Fork Ranger District(MFRD) under the direction of Tommy Gionet requested \$12,000 to assist in the inventory and treatment of noxious weeds on the Mormon Ranch, Flying B Resort and Federal lands adjacent to the property. With the assistance of Idaho Fish and Game and Flying B Resort, the Forest Service inventoried and treated approximately 60% of the project area. Due to the fire activity and environmental conditions, the project was not completed in 2003 and was rolled into a 2004 project.

In 2004, the MFRD let a contract to complete the majority of the inventory and treatment work identified in the original project area. The FS did part of the project. Both the contract and FS work was successful in completing the inventory and treatment of the project area. There were 1630 acres inventoried and treated for noxious weeds. Some of the vectors and problem areas were treat twice.

