

# ***PALOUSE COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA***

## ***2004 END OF YEAR REPORT IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE***



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***INTRODUCTION:***

The Palouse Cooperative Weed Management Area (Palouse CWMA) is located in North Central Idaho, and encompasses most of Latah and Clearwater County, and small portions of Benewah and Shoshone Counties. The Palouse CWMA was formed because land ownership in the region is intermingled among private landowners, non federal government, and federal government, and, as we all know, weeds don't pay attention to property boundaries. It made sense to cooperate in the war on weeds.

The main goals of the Palouse CWMA are to prevent the introduction, reproduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive exotic plants: reduce the extent and density of established noxious weeds to levels that are acceptable; implement the most economical and effective methods of treatment and control; and to educate the public as to the importance of proper weed management.

Major noxious weeds in the Palouse CWMA are Tansy Ragwort, Rush Skeletonweed, Scotch Broom, Dalmatian Toadflax, Matgrass, Spotted Knapweed, and Orange and Yellow Hawkweed, and Canada Thistle.

Members in the Palouse CWMA include Bennett Lumber Company, Idaho Department of Lands, Clearwater and Latah County Noxious Weed Control, University of Idaho Experimental Forest, US Forest Service Clearwater National Forest, Potlatch Corporation, and Clearwater-Potlatch Timber Protective Association. We have a Memorandum of Understanding for the Palouse CWMA members.

Other partners include The University of Idaho – PSES, Idaho Transportation Department, The City of Troy Idaho, and The Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute.

The Palouse CWMA chairman is Alan Martinson, Latah County, co-chair is Suzanne Qualmann, Forest service, and Dick Hodge is the secretary / treasure.

## **SUMMARY OF 2004 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** **GOOD NEWS and BAD NEWS**

### **COORDINATION MEETINGS:**

**GOOD NEWS!!** Six coordination meetings were held through the year. They were on February 27, April 13, July 7, September 2, October 27, and November 9 with different partners hosting the meetings. Several smaller meetings relating to our priorities were also held as needed.

### **TANSY RAGWORT: 'THE BUGS HAVE ARRIVED!!'**

#### **TANSY RAGWORT CHEMICAL CONTROL:**

**GOOD NEWS!!** Seed head clipping and spraying has kept the Tansy Ragwort population within the Meadow Creek and Gold Creek drainages. The population Tansy Ragwort in the Meadow Creek drainage is approximately 3270 acres (gross), and the population in Gold Creek is 318 acres (gross). This year we worked with the University of Idaho Plant, Soil and Entomological Sciences, the US Forest Service Research and Forest Health Branch and the PCWMA partners to establish geographic locations which will be our nursery sites for future Biocontrol releases. We then sprayed everything outside of these core areas.

Twelve miles of roadsides were sprayed by ATVs and pickups, and over 49 acres of forest, trails, and meadows were sprayed by backpacks within the gross infestation area. 9 - 10 garbage bags of seed heads were clipped throughout the year and destroyed.

**BAD NEWS!!** The spraying and seed head clipping isn't keeping up, and the Tansy Ragwort is slowly spreading in the Meadow Creek drainage. Last year the population in meadow creek was a little over 2,000 acres and this year it has spread to a little over 3000 acres. Most of the spread is very scattered individual plants. This has led the Palouse CWMA to pursue a Biocontrol release.

#### **TANSY RAGWORT BIOCONTROL:**

**GOOD NEWS!!** With high hopes for a Biocontrol release of the Tansy Ragwort Flea Beetle (*Longitarsus jacobaeae*) in 2004, several CWMA partners and Dr. Mark Schwarzlaender, University of Idaho PSES, toured the Meadow Creek area to find release spots.

**BAD NEWS!!** Dr. Schwarzlaender couldn't find enough plants for the initial releases. We did decide on the future locations of the nursery areas though. He said we have lots of Tansy plants in the area, but the density of the plants wouldn't support an initial field release of the flea beetles.

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**GOOD NEWS!!** Dr. Schwarzlaender agreed to raise bugs for us this year and do the field release in the summer of 2005. On May 10<sup>th</sup> several Palouse CWMA members, Dr. Schwarzlaender and his assistant, Brad Harmon, went to Meadow Creek and dug up over 140 Tansy Ragwort plants to be brought back to Moscow and transplanted in the greenhouse. On June 10<sup>th</sup> the flea beetle eggs, purchased in Montana, were transferred to the Tansy plants in the greenhouse.



Rick Roe, CPTPA, Al Heimgartner, Potlatch Corp, and Dr. Mark Schwarzlaender, U of I PSES, digging Tansy plants in Meadow Creek to take back to the greenhouse at U of I in Moscow.

**GOOD NEWS!!** Between August 19<sup>th</sup> and September 8<sup>th</sup> about 65 adult flea beetles were collected from the greenhouse Tansy Ragwort plants. These adults will lay the eggs for the 2005 release, and from August 22 through September 7<sup>th</sup> 2250 eggs were harvested. The beetles are expected to lay eggs into December.



Left, Robert Barkley, Idaho Department of Lands, and Rikki Osborn, Idaho Transportation Department, look at Tansy Ragwort Flea Beetles that were collected in the greenhouse. At right, the Tansy Ragwort rearing area at U of I PSES.



**GOOD NEWS!!** On a very rainy August 24<sup>th</sup>, 15 – 20 Tansy Ragwort plants had pollination bags placed over their flowers. These plants will supply Tansy Ragwort seed for the 2005 release sites in case the Tansy plant density isn't high enough. The seeds were collected on September 28<sup>th</sup>.



At left, a wet, soggy Brad Harmon, U of I PSES, putting pollination bags on Tansy Plants for seed collection

**GOOD NEWS!!** The Palouse CWMA looks forward to our release of the Tansy Ragwort flea beetles in 2005. We have 2 sites selected, and we will be releasing 2 strains of the flea beetle. The Swiss strain that we purchased from Montana, and the Oregon strain, that Dr. Schwarzlaender is going to acquire. We also plan to have a University of Idaho graduate student from Dr. Schwarzlaender's Biocontrol program on board the project for 2005.

**TANSY RAGWORT INVENTORY:**

**GOOD NEWS!!** Only 2.9 additional actual acres of Tansy Ragwort was discovered this year in the 1200 acres that was inventoried. Unfortunately, these are mostly individual plants and very scattered. It is very likely there are more plants that we are missing.

**TANSY RAGWORT PREVENTION:**

**GOOD NEWS!!** The wash station pump house is built! After getting the base for the wash station laid in the fall 2003, the pump house was finished in October of 2004. It will be used to house the pump and hoses for the wash station, which will be used to hose down and wash logging equipment as it leaves the Meadow Creek area. Logging operations are expected to begin sometime in 2005.



The Meadow Creek wash station, alongside the road in background, and the pump house, hiding in between the trees on the right, ready for use in 2005.

**TANSY RAGWORT EDUCATION:**

**BAD NEWS!!** The informational sign we wanted to put up didn't get done.

**GOOD NEWS!!** The sign is designed, most of the materials purchased, and it will go up in 2005. It will be about 4' x 8' and contain information on Tansy Ragwort, the Tansy Biocontrol program, and noxious weed prevention.

**GOOD NEWS!!** Over 25 informational flyers were put up in the Tansy area. The flyers contained information on preventing the spread of noxious weeds by ATVs and motorcycles.



Alan Martinson, Latah County Weed Superintendent, putting up an informational flyer in the Tansy area.

## **NEW INVADER INVENTORY:**

**GOOD NEWS!!** The woman who did our inventory work 2003, wanted to come back and do our inventory work for 2004. We focused on the Moscow Mountain area.

**BAD NEWS!!** In July, her husband took a job near Dillon Montana. She decided to go with him (I can't imagine why!!), and we were left without someone to finish our inventory project. We only received half of the requested amount from ISDA for our inventory project.

**GOOD NEWS!!** Approximate 90 – 100 miles of road around Moscow Mountain were inventoried with the following results:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Acres</u>
<u>Canada thistle</u>	<u>.3</u>
<u>Dalmatian Toadflax</u>	<u>.1</u>
<u>Hoary Cress</u>	<u>.5</u>
<u>Orange Hawkweed</u>	<u>2.7</u>
<u>Houndstongue</u>	<u>5.7</u>
<u>Perennial Sowthistle</u>	<u>4.0</u>
<u>Rush Skeletonweed</u>	<u>2.3</u>
<u>Spotted Knapweed</u>	<u>18.0</u>
<u>Yellow Hawkweed</u>	<u>46.6</u>
<u>Tansy Ragwort</u>	<u>2.9</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>~83</u>

## **EDUCATION:**

**BAD NEWS!!** Our education priority did not receive ISDA funding for 2004.

**GOOD NEWS!!** The Palouse CWMA thought education was important enough to do, so we found some funds to allocate towards education.

**GOOD NEWS!!** Our June weed ID class filled up fast. The class was held at the Scenic 6 Park in Potlatch, and we had about 35 people attend.



Dr. Rich Old, at our weed ID class, sharing his knowledge on weeds and how to identify them.

***BAD NEWS!!*** We had to turn over 10 people away from the Weed ID class.

***GOOD NEWS!!*** We are considering having 2 classes in 2005

***GOOD NEWS!!*** Denice Moffat of Moscow won the weedeater that the Palouse CWMA gave away at our Latah County Fair booth. To enter the drawing, people had to take an (easy) weed quiz. We gave out over 50 “Idaho Noxious Weed” books, and lots of other publications. We also had a booth at the Clearwater County Fair.

***GOOD NEWS!!*** Alan Martinson, Latah County Weed Department, conducted weed management workshops for the Latah County Master Gardeners, a University of Idaho Range Management Class, and Project Learning Tree.

***GOOD NEWS!!*** Between the weed class, the fairs, workshops, personal contacts and requests, over 500 contacts were made in 2004.

### **GENERAL SPRAY PROGRAM:**

***BAD NEWS!!*** Our spray crew from 2003 decided not to come back for 2004 (could be GOOD NEWS, see our 2003 end of year report). We will have use contractors for general spraying, which will cost us more.

***GOOD NEWS!!*** CPTPA continues to do the majority of our general spray program.

They are becoming very familiar with our CWMA and where our weed problems are.



Rick Roe, CPTPA, doing roadside spraying.

**GOOD NEWS!!** On June 9<sup>th</sup>, five CWMA partners went on a “checkup tour” of areas we have been spraying for the last 2 to 4 years. We are making progress!!! The Spotted Knapweed and Yellow Hawkweed were not nearly as bad as we expected them to be.

Suzanne Qualmann, USFS, Robert Barkley, Idaho Dept of Lands, and Rick Roe, CPTPA, looking at maps during the “checkup tour”.



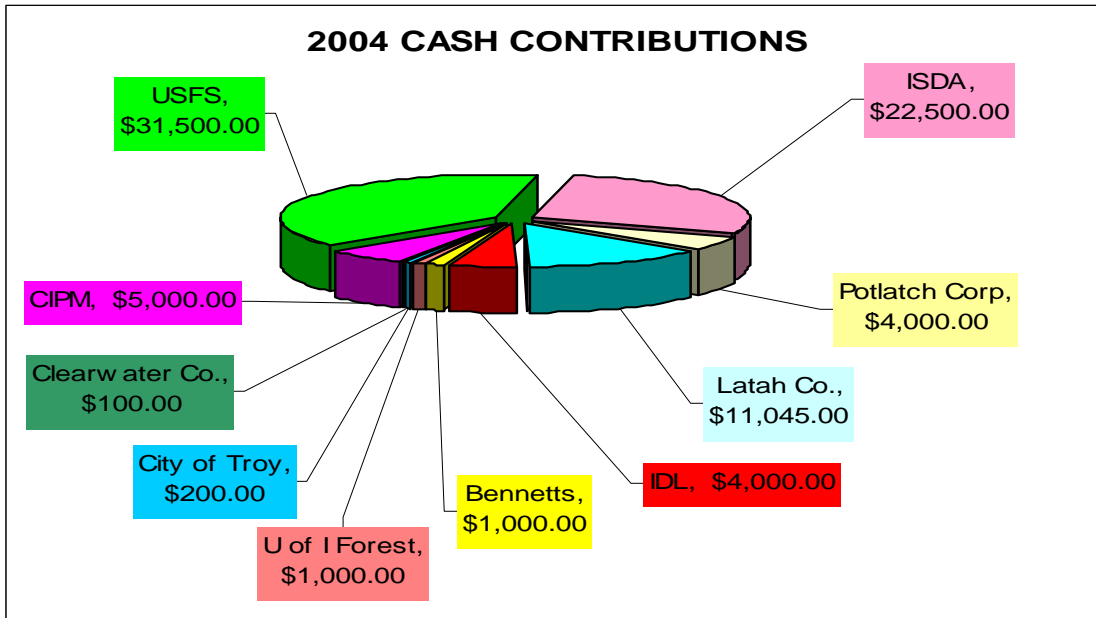
**GOOD NEWS!!** We continue to focus our general spray program on high use areas like campgrounds, trailheads, and roadsides. In 2005 over 1350 acres were treated for noxious weeds.

### **GENERAL BIOCONTROL:**

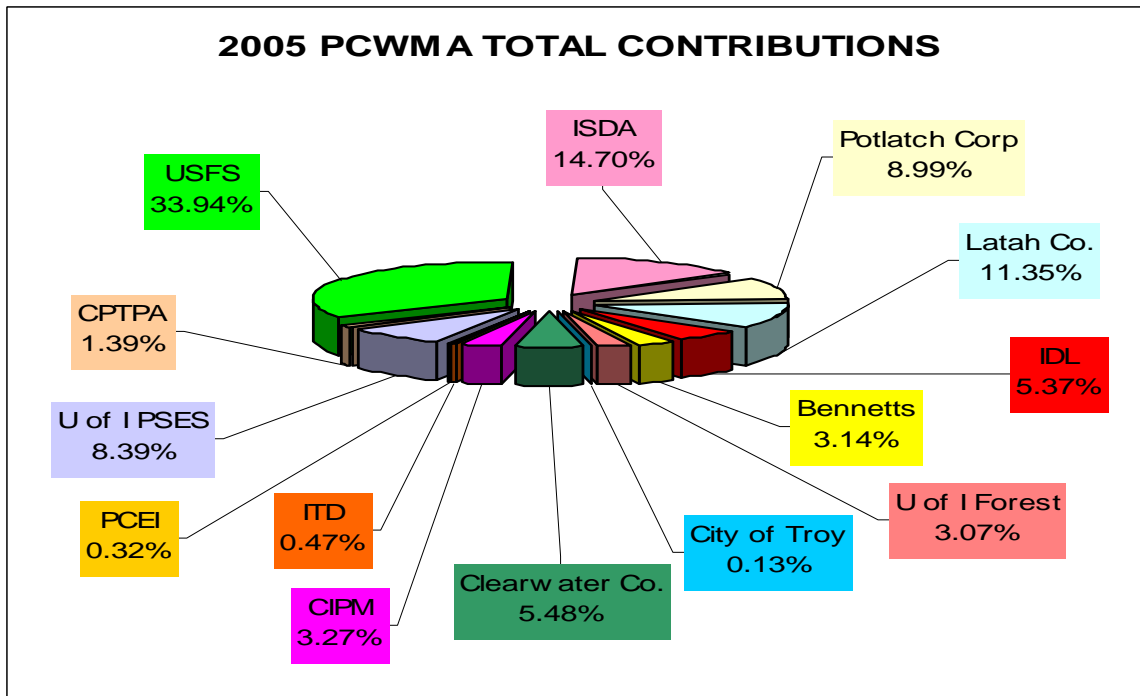
**GOOD NEWS:** In addition to the Tansy Biocontrol project, 2 other Biocontrol releases were done in 2004. 400 Galerucella were released at the Purple Loosestrife site near Helmer Idaho, and 200 Mecinus were released on Dalmatian Toadflax near Kendrick Idaho.

**2004 PALOUSE CWMA CONTRIBUTIONS:**

The following chart shows a breakout of all cash contributions made to The Palouse CWMA in 2004. A total of \$80,345.00 cash was received. Our most ever!!!



The chart below shows a break down of cash funds, contributed time, equipment, and supplies for the Palouse CWMA. \$154,067.50 is the total. Again, our most ever!!!



**NEXT YEAR: 2005**

The Palouse CWMA looks forward to a great 2005!! Our Plans include:

- Releasing the Tansy Ragwort Biocontrol agents in the field at two nursery sites in Meadow Creek, and getting a University of Idaho Graduate Student on the Tansy Ragwort project.
- Continuing to inventory and GPS the new invader populations in a specific drainages or regions within the Palouse CWMA, and map the information.
- Sponsoring the Weed ID class again, as well as having booths at the Latah and Clearwater County Fairs. We will also sponsor some weed management workshops in 2005.
- Going after the new invaders, state or county noxious weeds with small or localized populations within the CWMA.
- Investigating a mobile wash station. It would be used to clean logging equipment before leaving one area and traveling to a new area.
- Continuing our general spray program in the Palouse CWMA, focusing on high use areas like campgrounds and camping areas, trailheads, and roadsides.

For more details on our 2005 activities, see the 2005 Annual Operating Plan.

## ***APPENDIX 1 – Steering Committee***

### **OFICERS**

<b>CO-CHAIRMAN</b> Alan Martinson Latah county PO Box 8066 Moscow, ID 83843 208-883-7210 <a href="mailto:amartinson@latah.id.us">amartinson@latah.id.us</a>	<b>CO-CHAIR</b> Suzanne Qualmann Palouse Ranger District, USFS 1700 Hwy 6 Potlatch, ID 83855 208-875-1739 <a href="mailto:sjqualmann@fs.fed.us">sjqualmann@fs.fed.us</a>	<b>SECRETARY / TREASURE</b> Dick Hodge Clearwater R, C & D Council 836 Hathaway Moscow, ID 83843 208-882-2672 <a href="mailto:djhodge@turbonet.com">djhodge@turbonet.com</a>
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### **MEMBERS**

Ross Applegren U of I Experimental forest PO Box 441133 Moscow, ID 83844 208-885-7517 <a href="mailto:rapple@uidaho.edu">rapple@uidaho.edu</a>	Robert Barkley Idaho Department of Lands 3130 State Hwy 3 Deary, ID 83823 208-877-1121 <a href="mailto:barkley@idl.state.id.us">barkley@idl.state.id.us</a>	Myron Emerson Bennett Lumber Products PO Box 49 Princeton, ID 83857 208-875-1121 <a href="mailto:myron@blpi.com">myron@blpi.com</a>
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Robin Welter Clearwater Potlatch Timber Protective Association PO Box C Elk River, ID 83827 208-826-3486 <a href="mailto:clwelter@tds.net">clwelter@tds.net</a>	Dennis Williams Clearwater County PO Box 812 Orofino, ID 83544 208-476-4918 <a href="mailto:ccweeddept@orofino-id.com">ccweeddept@orofino-id.com</a>	

### **OTHER PARTNERS**

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***APPENDIX II – Project Summaries***

PROJECT	WEEDS	TREATMENT	ACRES	COMMENTS
Tansy Ragwort	Tansy Ragwort	Inventory	1200	Of the 1200 acres inventoried 2.9 additional acres of Tansy Ragwort was found
		Chemical	Over 49 acres, and 12 miles of road were sprayed	
		Physical	40acres	Clipped seedheads
		Bio Control	0	10 release areas were identified on the ground for 2005 release

Inventory	Species		Acres	
	Canada thistle	Inventory, GPS and Map	.3	90 to 100 miles of roadsides around Moscow Mountain were inventoried
	Dalmatian Toadflax		.1	
	Hoary Cress		.5	
	Orange Hawkweed		2.7	
	Houndstongue		5.7	
	Perennial Sowthistle		4.0	
	Rush Skeletonweed		2.3	
	Spotted Knapweed		18.0	
	Yellow Hawkweed		46.6	
	Tansy Ragwort		2.9	
	TOTAL	83.1		

Education	All Noxious, Invasive and Other Weeds	Educate and give advice	Over 500 people	Weed ID Class, Fairs, Workshops
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General Spray	Spotted Knapweed, Orange and Yellow Hawkweed, Rush Skeleton Weed, Canada Thistle, Houndstongue.	Chemical	1350 acres sprayed	
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***Thank you,  
Alan Martinson  
Palouse CWMA CO-Chairman***

# Palouse CWMA 2004 End of Year Report