Lower Weiser River Lower & River



2013 Weed Tour

Dr. Ann Kennedy, WSU talks about weed suppressive bacteria and why dirt really is cool.

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WELCOME TO THE LOWER WEISER RIVER CWMA

The Lower Weiser River Cooperative Weed Management Area is a grass roots organization dedicated to the noxious weed war. The strategy of this weed management area is to increase and foster cooperation among private landowners, local, state and federal agencies as well as others who have an interest regarding the impact the spread of noxious weeds is having on our land. We continue to strive to educate all age groups of the importance of noxious weed identification, prevention, eradication and control options of all types. We realize the importance of using all the tools in the toolbox and make every effort to improve the way in which we battle these silent invaders.

Our CWMA encompasses 932,000+ acres in Washington County. The foremost weed problems include leafy spurge, scotch thistle and rush skeletonweed. Large scale efforts are being made each year to contain/control these species. New invaders threatening our area include yellow starthistle, common Crupina, Dalmatian/yellow toadflax, and three varieties of knapweed. Revegetation has become a priority in numerous areas with private landowners seeding areas of their own volition after the neighborhood effort is complete. CWMA on the ground projects are "Neighborhood Projects" with a landowner/manager acting as the Project Coordinator who organizes all resources including personnel, meals and equipment and other resources needed to complete a project. An application process (advertised in local papers) takes place late summer/early fall ensuring all landowners have the opportunity to apply for assistance in their area. Board members volunteer their time to sift and score the projects at which time they are prioritized in the order funds will be applied for through the Idaho State Department of Agriculture Cost Share Grant.

Harmon Horton serves as Chairman of the Weed Advisory Board (steering committee) with Bonnie Davis, County Weed Superintendent serving as the appointed Recording Secretary/Grant Administrator. The Weed Advisory Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Weed Department at which time they review/approve all claims related to CWMA activities in addition to conducting regular monthly business. If it were not for the dedication of these individuals and without the support of our County Commissioners none of this would be feasible.

PROJECT SUMMARY of ACRES

CATEGORY	WEED SPECIES	ACRES TREATED	ACRES COVERED	(OTHER)
Treated	Canada Thistle	39.01	145.39	
	Dalmatian Toadflax	.25	10.0	
	Diffuse Knapweed	15.20	20.0	
	Field Bindweed	2.20	5.0	
	Hounds Tongue	43.15	160.30	
	Jointed Goatgrass	36.45	44.20	
	Leafy Spurge	515.52	1773.35	
	Oxeye Daisy	2.0	20.0	
	Poison Hemlock	41.73	80.85	
	Puncturevine	60.98	102.50	
	Rush Skeletonweed	176.27	740.33	
	Scotch Thistle	391.28	1283.72	
	Spotted Knapweed	6.5	105.0	

CATEGORY	WEED SPECIES	ACRES TREATED	ACRES COVERED	(OTHER)
	White Top	57.84	179.56	
	Yellow Starthistle	12.0	70.0	9.5
Total herbicide				
treated acres		1400.38	4740.20	9.5
Biological	Canada Thistle	5.0	5.0	
	Diffuse Knapweed	15.0	15.0	
	Leafy Spurge	70.0	70.0	
	Purple Loosestrife	80.5	80.5	
	Spotted Knapweed	5.0	5.0	
Total treated bio		175.5	175.50	
Total Revegetation	Jointed Goatgrass			10
Weiser River Corr. Leafy Spurge Total goat graze				Total grazed 5455 covered 10750
GPS/GIS MAPPING				MAPPED ACRES
	Canada Thistle			18.22
	Common Crupina			5.0
	Dalmatian Toadflax			5.21
	Diffuse Knapweed			12.0
	Field Bindweed			1.5
	Hounds Tongue			62.62
	Jointed Goatgrass			20.28
	Leafy Spurge			302.45
	Poison Hemlock			16.21
	Puncturevine			3.98
	Purple Loosestrife			24.25
	Rush Skeletonweed			522.98
	Scotch Thistle			197.41
	Spotted Knapweed			.11
	White Top			25.16
	Yellow Starthistle			13.0
Total mapped acres (all species)				1230.38
Public Contacts				124,000

HERBICIDE PURCHASES FOR 2013

Chemical/Description	Quantity	Purpose
Surfactants	28.09 gal.	Priorities 1, 2

2-4D's	79.09 gal.	Priorities 1, 2
Glyphosates	1.03 gal.	Priorities 1, 2 jointed goatgrass
Dicamba's	8.02 gal.	Priorities 1, 2
Bullseye spray indicator	59.25 gal.	Priorities 1, 2
Drift Retardant	3.0 gal.	Priorities 1, 2
Escort XP	59.75 oz.	Priorities 1, 2
Foam Preventer	25.23 qts.	Priorities 1, 2
Milestone	2.42 gal.	Priorities 1, 2
Picloram	57.43 gal.	Priorities 1, 2
Plateau	15 oz.	Priorities 1, 2
Telar XP	80 oz.	Priorities 1, 2
Range Star	3.38 gal.	Priorities 1, 2

Common Name	Scientific Name	Gross Acres	Percent of Gross Acres Infested	Average Density (%)
Black Henbane	Hyoscyamus niger	0	0%	0%
Bohemian Knotweed	Polygonum bohemicum	20	8%	30%
3. Brazilian Elodea	Egeria densa P.	0	0%	0%
4. Buffalobur	Solanum rostratum	0	0%	0%
5. Canada Thistle	Cirsium arvense	12,000	20%	12%
6. Common Crupina	Crupina vulgaris	30	40%	40%
7. Common Reed (Phragmites)	Phragmites australis	0	0%	0%
Common /European Frogbit	Hydrcharis morsus-ranae	0	0%	0%
Curlyleafy Pondweed	Potamogeton crispus	0	0%	0%
10. Dalmatian Toadflax	Linaria genistifolia ssp. dalmatica	80	30%	18%
11. Diffuse Knapweed	Centaurea diffusa	500	20%	35%
12. Dyer's Woad	Isatis tinctoria	10	1%	10%
13. Eurasian Watermilfoil	Myriophyllum spicatum	10	0%	20%
14. Fanwort	Cobomba caroliniana	0	0%	0%
15. Feathered Mosquito Fern	Azolla pinnata	0	0%	0%
16. Field Bindweed	Convolvulus arvensis	57,500	20%	5%
17.Flowering Rush	Butomus umbelltus	0	0%	0%
18.Giant Salvinia	Salvinia molesta	0	0%	0%
19. Giant Hogweed	Heracleum mantegazzianum	0	0%	0%
20. Giant Knotweed	Polygonum sachalinense	0	0%	0%
21. Hoary Alyssum	Berteroa incana	0	0%	0%
22. Houndstongue	Cynoglossum officinale	31,900	10%	15%
23. Hydrilla	Hydrilla verticillata	0	0%	0%
24. Japanese Knotweed	Polygonum cuspidatum	0	0%	0%
25. Johnsongrass	Sorghum halepense	20	5%	20%
26. Jointed Goatgrass	Aegilops cylindrica	74,500	50%	40%
27. Leafy Spurge	Euphorbia esula	68,000	40%	35%
28. Matgrass	Nardus stricta	0	0%	0%
29. Meadow Knapweed	Centaurea pratensis	0	0%	0%
30. Mediterranean Sage	Salvia aethiopis	0	0%	0%
31. Milium	Milium vernale	0	0%	0%

Common Name	Scientific Name	Gross Acres	Percent of Gross Acres Infested	Average Density (%)
32. Musk Thistle	Carduus nutans	0	0%	0%
33. Orange Hawkweed	Hieracium aurantiacum	0	0%	0%
34. Oxeye Daisy	Chrysanthemum leucanthemum	2,400	20%	20%
35. Parrotfeather Milfoil	Myriophyllum aquaticum	0	0%	0%
36. Perennial Pepperweed	Lepidium latifolium	14,000	15%	20%
37. Perennial Sowthistle	Sonchus arvensis	0	0%	0%
38. Plumeless Thistle	Carduus acanthoides	0	0%	0%
39. Poison Hemlock	Conium maculatum	10,800	30%	25%
40. Policeman's Helmet	Impatiens glandulifera	0	0%	0%
41. Puncturevine	Tribulus terrestris	15,000	19%	5%
42. Purple Loosestrife	Lythrum salicaria	700	20%	28%
43. Rush Skeletonweed	Chondrilla juncea	70,500	40%	48%
44. Russian Knapweed	Acroptilon repens	290	40%	35%
45. Saltcedar	Tamarix	10	15%	5%
46. Scotch Broom	Cytisus scoparius	0	0%	0%
47. Scotch Thistle	Onopordum acanthium	67,000	20%	25%
48. Small Bugloss	Anchusa arvensis	0	0%	0%
49. Spotted Knapweed	Centaurea maculosa	650	25%	30%
50. Squarrose Knapweed	Centaurea squarrosa	0	0%	0%
51. Syrian Beancaper	Zygophyllum fabago	0	0%	0%
52. Tall Hawkweed	Hieracium piloselloides	0	0%	0%
53. Tansy Ragwort	Senecio jacobaea	0	0%	0%
54.Variable-Leaf Milfoil	Myriophyllum	0	0%	0%
55. Vipers Bugloss	Echium vulgare	0	0%	0%
56. Water Chestnut	Echium vulgare	0	0%	0%
57. White Bryony	Bryonia alba	0	0%	0%
58. Whitetop	Cardaria draba	16,900	40%	30%
59. Yellow Devil Hawkweed	Hieracium glomeratum	0	0%	0%
60. Yellow Flag Iris	Iris psudocorus	0	0%	0%
61. Yellow Floating Heart	Nymphoides pelata	0	0%	0%
62. Yellow Hawkweed	Hieracium caespitosum	0	0%	0%
63. Yellow Starthistle	Centaurea solstitialis	400	20%	13%
64. Yellow Toadflax	Linaria vulgaris	10	3%	2%

LOOKING BACK AT 2013

PRIORITY #1, PHASE I PROJECTS

May-Day brought landowners and volunteers in the small community of Midvale together to concentrate their efforts on small pastures and wasteland areas located in and around town. Cooperators included the mayor, several city council members, private landowners and volunteers. Leafy spurge and rush skeletonweed were the main targets of the fall project day with some focus upon Canada thistle. Weed identification was covered extensively as well as why we use the products we do. The Salubria group entered their second project year treating numerous areas from highway 95 south to the Little Weiser River. They spent a day in May with a follow up day late September treating scotch and Canada thistle, rush skeletonweed, leafy

spurge, white top, and poison hemlock. They cooperatively treated 120 acres and inspected 424 acres. They look forward to next year and seeing the effects of the past two year's treatments. Mann Creek Valley and Thousand Springs are both new projects concentrating on the north and south end of the Mann Creek drainage. Thousand Springs is a small group that is adjacent to the Phase II Mann Creek Cemetery project with the neighbors treating thistles, poison hemlock and rush skeletonweed. The Mann Creek Valley group is larger taking in hundreds of acres with 15 people participating the first year. Most of this treatment area requires handspraying with over 100 acres treated on this "iffy" weather day. Hounds tongue, poison hemlock, scotch thistle and white top are troublesome to this drainage but leafy spurge is showing up calling for containment and eradication procedures. All Phase I projects are returning in 2014 and look forward to future spray days.

PRIORITY #2 PHASE II PROJECTS

The Advent Gulch and Dixie Creek neighborhood projects treated 278 acres while covering over 847 acres in the rugged country southwest of Cuddy Mountain and the rolling hills southeast of Cambridge. Target species included jointed goatgrass, leafy spurge, rush skeletonweed, scotch thistle, white top and various other noxious species. Private landowners, BLM, and the USFS assisted with these on the ground efforts. They look forward to continuing in 2014 with their weed efforts expanding to new untreated areas. Biological releases were also done in the Advent Gulch drainage to stop the spread of leafy spurge. Ranchers made the releases, reported their data and mapped their release sites. We appreciate the landowner's dedication to weed control. The Valley View group reorganized with a new project coordinator bringing together seven private landowners in a project area over 2,000 acres in size that lies south of the Little Weiser River adjacent to the Adams County line. Leafy spurge, rush skeletonweed, scotch thistle, white top and jointed goatgrass were targeted across the rangeland pastures and waste areas adjacent to the river. Two-days were scheduled but it took nearly four to accomplish their goals due to bad weather. Over 160 acres were treated most of which was hand-gun work. They are excited to be working together again for the good of this area. The Mann Creek Cemetery cooperators though small in numbers returned in 2013 with a new project coordinator targeting scotch/Canada thistle, poison hemlock and skeletonweed. They are an ambitious group turning out with backpacks, ATV and tractor sprayers to clean up their neighborhood. Two days of CWMA assistance have been requested in 2014.

PRIORITY #3 WEISER RIVER CORRIDOR-PURGE THE SPURGE

The nannies began arriving early May with herds being unloaded in the Weiser area on both sides of the river and two-Midvale groups. The purpose of this intensive grazing program is to reduce seed production while stressing leafy spurge plants ultimately reducing the dense stands which infect the banks of the Weiser River and adjacent drainages. 26 private landowners, BLM, Idaho Dept. of Lands, Idaho Dept.

of Transportation, Idaho Power and Washington County Weed contributed to this effort. Bonnie Davis, Weed Superintendent serves as the project coordinator dealing with the contractor, herders and landowners. Private landowners continue to pledge their support to this project providing bedding grounds, assisting with communication and other in-kind resources as needed. The nannies ate their way through 5,455 acres of spurge in just one pass with most areas grazed twice. We estimate the girls covered 10,750 acres this past summer. The areas that were not grazed this past season are for the most part accessible to spray with smaller plant concentrations. One area at the confluence of the Little Weiser and Weiser rivers was not grazed to ensure the goats did not damage the biological site Joe Milan and Lonnie Huter have established (yes, they have escaped into this area before). The BLM has done a great deal of riparian work along the river banks and have requested the goats be kept off and they will treat with herbicides. The project objective is to reduce seed production by 90% and through close monitoring that was achieved. Past biological releases are showing promise and insects were collected in one site within this project area. Cooperators are excited to continue with this long term project. Our thanks to all who have supported this alternative weed control program.

PRIORITY #4 NEW INVADERS

New invaders to our CWMA included yellow starthistle, knapweeds and common crupina. Yellow star thistle found in 2012 was dealt with by handpulling in steep rocky areas by the landowner, Washington County Juvenile Probation youth and the Washington County Weed Department. Herbicide treatment followed by the landowner and weed department to stop the spread on this privately owned ranch. Lonnie Huter, BLM identified an infestation of common crupina. He alerted the CWMA and weed department and made plans to bring a crew in to map and treat the entire area. Plants are growing under sage brush which will make treatment very labor intensive. Due to the government sequester and late grazing of this area it was difficult to locate the plants and exact extent of the infestation. Cooperators will assist the BLM in the spring with this treatment. We will continue to treat all new invaders to our CWMA.

PRIORITY #5 BIOLOGICAL

Biological efforts included the release of Galerucella for purple loosestrife in the Weiser area. Thistle stem gall flies were released on Canada thistle late June north of the Weiser River. We are striving to establish leafy spurge insectaries throughout our CWMA. A collection was done on the Little Weiser River mid-summer and insects were shared with numerous local ranchers in addition to redistributing along the corridor. Thank you to Joe Milan and Lonnie Huter, BLM for coordinating this collection. Late summer releases of Cyphocleonus achates (root boring weevil) were released in the Advent Gulch drainage for the control of spotted and diffuse knapweed. We will continue to monitor this location closely. Although Marvin Hanks, Nez Perce Bio Center has retired he continues to work seasonal and monitors the progress of the Bradyrrhoa gilveolella which he released three years ago on a private

ranch. The jointed goatgrass effort continued with Ann Kennedy, Research Soil Scientist at Washington State University providing bacteria to the CWMA for three-test plots covering 18 acres. This product inhibits specific annual grasses including jointed goatgrass. Monitoring is being done by Tom Yankey, CWMA board member, Rusty Norrie, NRCS and Ms. Kennedy and her students. Biological control is a vital tool in our weed arsenal.

PRIORITY #6 EDUCATION

March kicked off our annual poster contest for youth 4-6th grades. This educational program was introduced to classrooms countywide. The 2013 theme was "Weeds Hitch a Ride". Winners were invited to our June CWMA meeting receiving cash prizes and Washington County Weed Warrior t-shirts all provided by Washington County. The Weed Warrior Newsletter was produced quarterly with printing provided as an inkind service by Idaho Power. The 13th annual CWMA sponsored weed tour was held mid-June and had a diverse group of participants including local teachers who attended a 2-day workshop which covered weed identification and treatment methods. The fair booth always draws a crowd of all ages. Activities such as this have helped to gain the trust of landowners throughout our area.

PRIORITY #7 PHASE III NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECTS

Five years ago our Weed Board and Sifting Committee dealt with the issue of projects supporting themselves after weeds are brought to a manageable level. This was done through a program of phases. Phase I projects are eligible for three years of cost share funding and are encouraged to contribute additional herbicide dollars but is not mandatory. Phase II (projects have completed three years of Phase I) are eligible for three additional years of funding but take responsibility for 1/2 of the herbicide cost. When projects reach Phase III they are responsible for 100% of the herbicide cost and are eligible for one project day per year. This has been a success for everyone involved and makes room for new projects to join the weed battle. This past season we assisted the Middle Valley Ditch and Waterways groups with landowners fighting leafy spurge, jointed goatgrass, rush skeletonweed and scotch thistle. The Lower Pine group treated their neighborhood late May and Up the Creek group opted for early June. Dutch Flat cooperators gathered late September with a small group of ATV sprayers seeking out skeletonweed. Their project coordinator announced his retirement at lunch with a neighbor volunteering to lead the group in 2014. These folks are dedicated and want to protect their investment demonstrating their commitment to the CWMA. The success of these projects is proof that our phase system is working and the dedication of these landowners carries on regardless of funding mechanisms.

2013 PHOTOS OF OUR CWMA ACTIVITIES

CWMA activities are too many to show for each project/or activity. Below are a few of the past events.



Pre-orientation for the early arrivals at the new Mann Creek Valley Project.
Cooperators were told what to expect out of the day including details such as paperwork, mapping and the types of things folks don't always associate with spraying weeds.

2013 TEACHER WORKSHOP

Each year the LWRCWMA sponsors 25 scholarships to our Teacher Workshop for educators around the valley to receive continuing education credits in addition to learning about invasive species and different methods of control. This year each teacher received a copy of the XID weed program which included an hour tutorial by Dan Safford. This is a great opportunity to get our message into the classroom. Thanks to Karen Launchbaugh, U of I for sponsoring the curriculum and to all those who helped make this a success!



CWMA Activities continued



Tonya Capurro aggressively treats leafy spurge in their pastures in the Mann Creek drainage. This is a new invader to this area.

A nanny fresh off the truck seeks out blooming leafy spurge plants.







Each summer weed board members and the county weed superintendent spend a day visiting pre-selected neighborhood projects. They do a visual inspection, meet with the project coordinator and ask questions about the project process and spray day. This also gives the coordinator an opportunity to share their feelings about our process and what is or isn't working.

Financial & In Kind Contributions to CWMA

Amount		
Contributed	Contribution Category	Cooperator
14934	Federal Govt.	Bureau of Land Management
2142	Federal Govt.	United States Forest Service
230	Federal Govt.	Senator Risch-Mike Roach
447	Federal Govt.	NRCS
230	Federal Govt.	Farm Service Agency
110129	Landowner/Private	Private landowners
1142	Non-Federal Govt.	Idaho Dept. Fish and Game
2454	Non-Federal Govt.	Idaho Dept. Lands
500	Non-Federal Govt.	Idaho Dept. Transportation
1380	Non-Federal Govt.	Adams County Weed
92815	Non-Federal Govt.	Wash. County Weed Control
1321	Non-Federal Govt.	Wash. County other departments
4188	Other	Idaho Power
1763	Other	Friends of the Weiser River Trail
115	Other	Cow Dance Consulting
8670	Other	Prescriptive Livestock Services
184	Other	Simplot
1389	Other	Washington State University
835	Other	Hillcrest Cemetery
882	Other	University of Idaho
127	Other	West Central Highlands RC&D
\$245,877	Grand Total	

LOOKING INTO MY CRYSTAL BALL FOR 2014

Control and containment projects will include over 200 private landowners, BLM, Forest Service, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Department of Transportation, Idaho Power, Friends of the Weiser River Trail, and the weed department who will join forces to blur boundaries and work cooperatively for the good of the CWMA. 14 neighborhood projects will focus on knapweeds, yellow starthistle, jointed goatgrass, rush skeletonweed, leafy spurge, poison hemlock, perennial pepperweed, scotch thistle and white top. Projects may begin late April and continue through late October/early November depending on weather and available resources. Cooperators mean to reduce weed presence in heavily infected areas by 75-90%. Many of these areas are critical to livestock grazing and are heavily used for recreation. 30+days are planned in the field working side by side with private landowners and volunteers that feel passionate about controlling weeds.

The goats will return to graze leafy spurge on the banks of the Weiser River. This long term project will include biological releases, herbicide treatments and other seeding efforts. Group work days may be scheduled and Friends of the Weiser River Trail will continue to do extensive weed treatments throughout the growing season. We are working with Joe Milan, Lonnie Huter and private landowners to distribute insects throughout the corridor area. In order to maintain the current level of control one pass grazing each year will be necessary to hold the line on spurge.

New Invaders will continue to be an important part of our weed program. Dedicated weed warriors will continue to monitor previously infected sites and are prepared to respond quickly using all the necessary tools if/when any new outbreaks rarely are reported.

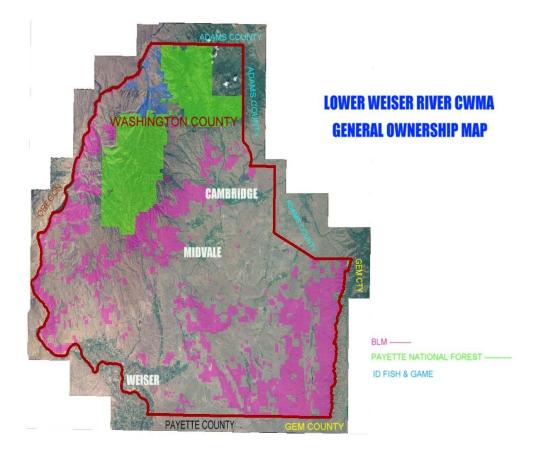
Biological control will target Canada thistle, purple loosestrife, spotted and diffuse knapweed as well as leafy spurge. We will continue to work with the Nez Perce Bio Control Center and Joey Milan, BLM/ISDA Biological Control Specialist. Biological control within our CWMA is showing promising results and we wish to continue with this environmentally sound treatment method.

Education will continue with the expansion of our CWMA website to include more project information as well as information about weeds in our area. The poster contest will be held with winning posters from local youth featured in the 2015 noxious weed calendar. Quarterly newsletters will remain an important educational tool with CWMA members writing articles and Idaho Power publishing this document. The county fair booth will continue in an effort to depict the county theme as well as keeping visitors to the booth engaged in what's happening in the weed world.

Cooperators are already preparing for the coming years activities and look forward to continuing the war against weeds through the spirit of cooperation and grass roots neighborhood projects.

Map of Lower Weiser River Cooperative Weed Management Area





APPENDICES: PRESS RELEASES/NEWS CLIPPINGS, MEDIA

No. PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF CONTRACT

In accordance with Idaho Code 67-2808 the public is hereby notified that the Washington County Commissioners intend to enter into a contract with Ray Holes, DBA, Prescriptive Livestock Services, P.O. Box 177, Grangeville, Idaho 83530 to provide one thousand two hundred (1,200) head of nanny goats with kids or an equivalent volume of yearling animals for a period of thirty to one hundred ninety days for the purpose of grazing Leafy Spurge, a noxious weed along the Weiser River corridor in Washington County, Idaho.

Idaho Code 67-2808 provides that contemplated expenditures in excess of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) must be bid unless the County Commissioners determine that there is only one source reasonably available to fulfill the contract requirements. The County Commissioners have so determined and any person or persons who have knowledge of other sources reasonably available to fulfill the County contractual needs should notify the County Commissioners at the Washington County Courthouse, 256 East Court, Weiser, Idaho, within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this notice or the contract will be awarded to Prescriptive Livestock Services. The contract awarded will be for a sum of money between twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), and one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000). The exact amount not known, but in any case not to exceed one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). The exact terms of the contract may be examined at the office of the Washington County Clerk or the Washington County Weed Department.

UNANIMOUSLY PASSED this 19th day of November, 2012.

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RICK MICHAEL, CHAIRMAN ATTEST: Betty J. Thomas, Clerk

48-18

The article above is the public notice announcing the 2013 notice of contract for the goat grazing of leafy spurge along the banks of the Weiser River.



The 2013 CWMA Fair Booth



The annual poster contest for our youth is featured in the newspaper prior to the contest getting underway as well as after the winners are selected and the prizes are distributed. Here are a few of the 2013 winners.

APPENDICES:

PRESS RELEASES/NEWS CLIPPINGS, MEDIA

ommunity service helps the county

by Bonnie Davidson

The Washington County Juvenile Services Department has had their kids working hard this summer for their community service hours. Their help has been felt at several different locations in the county and is making some good impacts.

The juveniles have helped with the flower beds at the courthouse, they've set up the exhibit hall at the Washington County Fair this summer, they cleaned up after the Weiser Valley Roundup and cleaned up after the Cambridge Rodeo. The juveniles have also helped to weed the community garden at Love INC and you might have spotted them cleaning up at the green house and during Fiddle Week.

Their work has helped in the Washington County Weed Department as well when it comes to fighting noxious weeds. They helped pull yellow starthistle plants by hand in the past month to prevent further spread of the weed. Washington County Weed Superintendent Bonnie Davis said that their help has contributed to their efforts this year.

"We will treat (yellow starthisle) now and again in the late fall-spring depending on the timing of germination. The reason for hand pulling is to prevent them from seeding and this was a difficult area to access due to the rocky area," Davis said.

Davis said that the weed is a winter annual and is not native to the United States but is native to the Mediterranean and Asia regions. The weed grows in canyon grasslands, rangelands, pastures, cultivated fields, roadsides and distributed sites.

It might look interesting with yellow disk flowers and bracts, but it has long sharp spines which can be unpleasant to touch. The plant is also toxic to horses and can cause a slow and painful death and chewing diseases.

The plant is, related to the sunflower and can grow from one to three feet high and the taproot can extend up to six feet. The seed disperses less than five

and chewing diseases.

The plant is related to the sunflower and can grow from one to three feet high and the taproot can extend up to six feet. The seed disperses less than five yards from the plant unless they attach to equipment, livestock, people, wildlife or dogs. Davis said some seeds have been known to be viable for up to 12 years.



Workers from the Washington County Juvenile Services are pictured hand pulling yellow starthistle plants. The plants are then bagged disposed of to prevent spread. Photo courtesy of the Washington County Weed Depart:

"We have a limited number of sites of this particu-lar species in our county. Landowners and our CWMA are working hard in containing and eradicating said locations," Davis said.

Weed Management Area, or

CWMA is currently accepting applications for the 2014 weed season neighborhood projects. For more information or to turn in applications you can contact the weed department at 414-1950 or go to the weed department at 1118 E. Court Street in Weiser.

Weed Project Applications Due September 12

The Lower Weiser River CWMA and Washington County Weed are currently accepting applications for the 2014 weed season for Neighborhood Projects to be conducted within the Lower Weiser River Cooperative Weed Management Area.

Application packets are available at the Weed Dept. office, 1118 E. Court Street. Please call ahead to make arrangements to pick one up as the weed office is not staffed on a full time basis.

Completed applications must be returned by 12:00 p.m. Thursday, September 12th. For more information contact Bonnie at 414-1950

Neighbors helping neighb

by Bonnie Davidson

Most of us who grew up in the area probably remember our parents making us pull weeds at one point or another. Those pesky weeds never seemed to go away. They always seemed to come back the next year and they always throught more back the next year and they always brought more

The Lower Weiser River Cooperative Weed Management Area has been working hard on solving the growing weed problem. Dave Springer was the chairman of the board for the first nine years and said that when they started in 2000 the idea was to manage noxious weeds through a co-operative effort of landowners, state agencies and

federal agencies.
"It's about working with your neighbor whether it's another landowner or a government agency. The idea is if you help them, then they'll help you," Springer said.

Springer said.

He explained that when they began there were three different groups but it just didn't work out as well. So they reduced to just the one group that covers the counts of the view of the west with the covers the counts of the view o large cooperative effort to get rid of the noxious weeds

mage cooperaine tent to get into a tach industs are today.

Washington County Weed Superintendent Bonnie Davise said that it's a very quick and organized way to help prevent the spread and take care of the already existing noxious weeds. It helps landowners and agencies bring the weeds to a more manageable level so that it's easier to take care of on their own. She also explained that as they are seeing funds go down with the grants and other federal and state money the CWMA board has added guidelinate to help new and old individuals coming into the program. The county weed department works alongside the CWMA to begin out with any questions or other areas people might need help with Davis explained that the CWMA is a grassroots organization that really helps bring people together to get a lot more done.

"We help do all the mapping, the mixing and give all



endations." Davis said. "This is the hub that

the recommendations," Davis said. "This is the hub that holds this all together."

The grants and funds application is the most daunting task to the process. Davis said that the application seem like a lot of work but it's really just a lot of redundant information and once you get through it you might realize it isn't as bad as you whought. They make the money go as far as they can and to be sure it is a fair and equitable process they broke it down into three phases. The phases all depend on how many years your area has been doing the neighborhood project.

In the first three years if you're eligible the grant can

doing the neighborhood project.

In the first three years if you're eligible the grant can cover all the costs. The second phase covers those who've been working on the project from four to six years. The landowners pay half which Davis explained gives them a little more ownership. The final phase is for those who've the weeds are much more manageable and so landowners pay the entire amount but they receive one day assistance. That day everyone gets together and helps out with the labor and equipment.

That day 'everyone gest organical labor and equipment.

"This way they don't feel as overwhelmed, they're re-habilitating sites and the weeds aren't as big of a problem when they take it over," Davis said.

Springer said that they can get 10-20 people to cover

a neighborhood so a much larger area is treated.

He also explained that there isn't a lot of local
tax dollars that go into funding the neighborhood projects. Landowners involved help provide
meals, labor and equipment and the only thing that
tax money goes to is to buy the chemicals or whatever else might be needed to attack the weeks.

"Vews as of bother this come, along the state put

9B WEISER SIGNAL AMERICAN, Wednesday, March 20, 2013

"Years ago before this came along the state put into code that it was the landowners responsibility to cover, but that would have broke every rancher and farmer in the county, that was in the 1970s,"

and farmer in the county, that was in the 1970s," Springer said.
From then to the time the CWMA was formed there were lots of different approaches to help with noxious weeds but nothing scenned to work well enough. Since the neighborhood projects have started the acreage has gone up and more people have gotten involved to help.
"It got people started, gave them a boost and got their weeds more manageable and that's how it has evolved and how it's grown." Springer said.
Harmon Horton has taken over as this chairman of the board for the CWMA. He's been working that position for the last three years and said that they've seen a lot more happen in the last 10 years than they have in the last 50 years.

The whole theory was to blur boundary lines wi "The whole theory was to blur boundary lines whether it be private landowner lines or government lines," Hotton said. "The neat part I see in the neighborhood projects is everyone has a concerted effort as a group but as individuals we tend to put it on the back burner. It prioritizes things even if it's for just that day or two."

Horton has coordinated two projects and said that they've seen the weed problem go from being hard to handle to more controllable. Both Davis and Horton said with the best of first horton said with the best of first horton said that their best of first horton said that their best of first horton.

that their biggest efforts have gone to education in the county. Educating people has been another very success-ful way to help with the noxious weed problem. If people

Noxious weeds is everyone's problem, not just the in

APPENDICES:

PRESS RELEASES/NEWS CLIPPINGS, MEDIA





Calendars are distributed throughout the county at various businesses at no charge to educate the public.

APPENDICES: 2014 LWRCWMA Noxious Weed Calendar cont.



The Washington County Weed Advisory Board meets the second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at Washington County Weed Control in Weiser. The public is invited to attend.