

# **LOWER WEISER RIVER COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA 2014 ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN**

## **About our CWMA.**

The Lower Weiser River CWMA is a very unique group as we manage our local cost share program with neighborhood projects. Each project has a coordinator who works directly with all the landowners in his/her particular project area. They arrange for the work force, meals, determine treatment locations and dispatch the crew. The county weed department cooperates with each project by making all herbicide recommendations, accounting for all herbicide, daily treatment records for each cooperator and all in-kind contributions. GPS/GIS data is collected for each project and entered into the database at the weed department. The Washington County Commissioners are committed to this program and allow the weed department to appropriate funds to assist with project expenses, herbicide when necessary in addition to an overwhelming amount of in-kind resources including education and the Weiser River Corridor Purge the Spurge Project. For the 2014 weed season the following priorities were selected by the Steering Committee to receive CWMA support.

## **Priorities and Description**

### **Priority #1 Herbicide, Phase I Projects- Salubria, Midvale Weed Beaters, C. W., Mann Creek Valley and Thousand Springs**

The C.W. Project is comprised of private landowners encompassing 1,500 acres. Ranchers will treat white top, perennial pepperweed, poison hemlock, scotch and Canada thistle, and rush skeletonweed on this rangeland pasture that lies south of Mann Creek Reservoir. Cooperators will gather early May to complete this project with follow up to be done throughout the year. The Salubria project involves numerous land ownerships covering 1,700 acres. White top, poison hemlock, scotch and Canada thistle, leafy spurge and rush skeletonweed will be treated on rangeland that lies on both sides of the Little Weiser River near Cambridge. The Midvale Weed Beaters group includes private landowners and volunteers that will treat pastures and waste areas adjacent to town for the 2014 weed season. Mann Creek Valley and Thousand Springs projects target opposite ends of the Lower Mann Creek drainage. These groups have requested 2 days of assistance with one in the spring to focus on scotch and Canada thistle, hounds tongue, white top and poison hemlock and a follow up day early fall to treat leafy spurge and rush skeletonweed. In addition to project days landowners will continue to treat with herbicides throughout the season. The benefit of neighborhood projects is landowners working together for the same common goal to clean up large blocks of land. Participants learn weed identification, various control methods and how to best contain/control invasive species. If these projects were not funded numerous properties would likely go untreated. Peer pressure is also a helpful tool and it provides the CWMA the opportunity to communicate with landowners.

#### **Measurable Outcomes**

**Total estimated acres to be treated with herbicide:** 998

**Number of acres to be inventoried:** 4,133

**Total number of public contacts:** 180

**Tools/Resources required for this priority:** ATV, backpack, pickup and tractor sprayers, digital cameras, GPS units.

**Tools/Resources to be purchased with grant funds for this priority:** Request herbicide reimbursement.

<b>Total Cost: \$48,354</b>	<b>ISDA Request: \$12, 250</b>	<b>Estimated Match: \$36,104</b>
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**Priority #2 Herbicide, Phase II Projects: Valley View, Advent Gulch, Dixie Creek and Mann Creek Cemetery**

The Mann Creek Cemetery Project brings private landowners together to clean up a rural area located near the head of the lower Mann Creek drainage. This locale is primarily infested with scotch/Canada thistle and poison hemlock. Volunteers will assist landowners for 2 days (May/August) to treat this area. Seven private landowners will target the Valley View area on the Little Weiser River and Adams county line for treatment of leafy spurge, rush skeletonweed, jointed goatgrass, Scotch thistle and white top. This is a 2-day project (May-September) with cooperators focusing on new invaders and satellite infestations. Advent Gulch is located northwest of Cambridge near Cuddy Mountain. Private landowners, BLM, and the US Forest Service will coordinate 2 days of effort (mid-May/early October) to halt the spread of noxious weeds on their rangeland. Weed species include leafy spurge, Canada/scotch thistle, hounds tongue, rush skeletonweed, spotted knapweed and white top. This area supports sizeable deer, elk and bear populations. Biological control will continue throughout this drainage. Dixie Creek cooperators will spend 2 days (May/October) at this site southeast of Cambridge. Scotch thistle, white top, leafy spurge and rush skeletonweed are targeted species. Rehabilitation efforts are underway by the landowners throughout this area. The benefit of these projects is bringing all landowner/managers together to stop these silent invaders. The consequences of not doing the projects is further loss of valuable rangeland as well as infection of public forest land.

**Measurable Outcomes**

**Total estimated acres to be treated with herbicide:** 1,427

**Number of acres to be inventoried:** 8,963

**Total number of public contacts:** 112

**Tools/Resources required for this priority:** ATV, UTV, backpack, pickup and tractor sprayers, digital cameras, GPS units.

**Tools/Resources to be purchased with grant funds for this priority:** Request herbicide reimbursement.

**Priority #3 Weiser River Corridor Purge the Spurge Project**

<b>Total Cost: \$31,362</b>	<b>ISDA Request: \$3,800</b>	<b>Estimated Match: \$27,562</b>
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*The LWRCWMA is requesting financial assistance to pay a contractor to graze leafy spurge along the Weiser River corridor. The objective of this intensive grazing plan is to reduce seed production while stressing leafy spurge plants ultimately reducing the dense stands which infect the banks of the Weiser River. 1,200 nannies with kids will graze approximately 60 miles (both sides) of the river corridor and adjacent properties covering 10,000+ acres of deeded and public land. Herders, the contractor and the project coordinator will gain access by using a recreational trail, managed by Friends of the Weiser River Trail (FWRT). This project relies on Apthona flea beetles and Oberea biological agents to contain/control of spurge. Joey Milan and Lonnie Huter, BLM are working to establish biological control throughout the river corridor with monitoring done annually by Joey’s bio-team. His team and cooperators will continue to release bio agents along the Weiser River. Herbicide treatments will continue by the private landowners and FWRT. One work day is planned for fall which will include herbicide treatments and reseeding of preselected sites. Cooperators will include 27 private landowners, Idaho Power, Friends of the*

Weiser River Trail, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Department of Transportation, Bureau of Land Management, the Washington County Commissioners and Washington County Weed Control. March 16-November 30, 2014 will be the timeline for this integrated weed management program. It is our goal to achieve 90% leafy spurge seed reduction by grazing; treat and map satellite infestations, identify and treat any and all new invaders to this project area. The benefit of doing this project is reducing the seed source and stopping the contamination of the river and lands downstream. If this project didn't occur crops, pastures and other lands would be re-infected with leafy spurge seed and the corridor would be a monoculture of leafy spurge.

**Measurable Outcomes**

- Total estimated acres to be grazed:** 3,900
- Total estimated acres to be treated with herbicide:** 100
- Total estimated acres to be treated with biological agents:** 125
- Total estimated acres to be reseeded:** 50
- Total number of public contacts:** 20,000

**Tools/Resources required for this priority:** Grazing contractor, goats, herders, herd dogs, GPS units, backpack, ATV, pickup & tractor sprayers, 4x4 pickups, biological agents, digital cameras, herbicide and grass seed.

**Tools/Resources to be purchased with grant funds for this priority:** Contractor funding.

<b>Total Cost: \$160,000</b>	<b>ISDA Request: \$80,000</b>	<b>Estimated Match: \$80,000</b>
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**Priority #4 New Invaders**

Prevention of new invaders is a high priority for our CWMA. New invader treatments will be financed through our network of cooperators. Species recognized as new invaders that are not widely established are bohemian knotweed, common crupina, yellow toadflax, Dalmatian toadflax, all knapweed species, Johnsongrass, Mediterranean sage and yellow starthistle. A large yellow star infestation treated 2013 will be followed up on in the coming season by the CWMA as well as the private landowner. The Washington County Juvenile Probation Department will assist with manpower for the hand-pulling of this invader in the steep, rocky areas. April 15-November 15, 2014 are dates treatments may occur. The 2013 fire season burned over 30,000 acres of private and public land within our CWMA. Cooperators are concerned about the spread of spotted knapweed and rush skeletonweed in this area. Mapping and treatment of new invaders will be done throughout the season as well as treatments for scotch thistle and white top in select drainages. Use of weed free forage will continue to be promoted as a means to halt weed spread on public land.

**Measurable Outcomes**

- Total estimated acres to be treated with herbicide:** 150-300
- Number of acres to be inventoried:** 500-750
- Total number of public contacts:** 100

**Tools/Resources required for this priority:** Backpack, ATV & pickup sprayers, GPS units, digital cameras, and herbicide.

**Tools/Resources to be purchased with grant funds for this priority:** N/A

<b>Total Cost: \$7,500</b>	<b>ISDA Request: \$-0-</b>	<b>Estimated Match: \$7,500</b>
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**Priority #5 Biological Control in the LWRCWMA**

Infestations of spotted and diffuse knapweed continue to be found throughout the CWMA in sensitive and hard to treat areas. We will continue to release *Cyphocleonus acates* (knapweed weevil) as well as *Larinus minutus* (stem boring weevil) to bring containment and control to the larger infestations. Leafy spurge insects will continue to be distributed as they become available. We will cooperate with the Nez Perce Bio Center, coordinate efforts with Joe Milan, as well as visit and inspect previous release sites. Releases may occur May 1-September 30, 2014.

**Measurable Outcomes**

**Total estimated acres to be treated with bio control agents:** 175

**Number of acres to be inventoried:** 175-inventory all release sites

**Total number of public contacts:** 450

**Tools/Resources required for this priority:** bio agents, sweep nets, marking ribbon, stakes, coolers, GPS units, digital cameras.

**Tools/Resources to be purchased with grant funds for this priority:** N/A

<b>Total Cost: \$5,000</b>	<b>ISDA Request: \$-0-</b>	<b>Estimated Match: \$5,000</b>
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**Priority #6 Education Projects**

Education and awareness activities will include the 14<sup>th</sup> annual noxious weed tour, a teacher workshop that coincides with the tour, county fair booth, and the poster contest with the winning art work featured in our 2015 noxious weed calendar. The calendars will be printed early fall with 1,500 circulated to the public. A pesticide training/licensing workshop may be held in the spring for those wishing to obtain their Private Applicator’s license. We will continue to work with our local newspapers to educate the residents of our CWMA in addition to publishing our own Washington County Weed Warrior newsletter with the help of Idaho Power. A new CWMA brochure will be created and published and our CWMA website will receive a makeover. Another CWMA roadside sign will be redone as the elements have taken a toll on the wood. A workshop focusing on smaller landowners owning 2-20 acres will be held in an effort to introduce the noxious weed problem including identification and treatment methods. These activities increase local awareness, promote safe and alternative weed control methods, and target local teachers as well as the next generation in responsible land stewardship. All educational activities are sponsored by the LWRCWMA and financed from the county weed budget.

**Measurable Outcomes**

**Total number of public contacts:** 127,350

**Tools/Resources required for this priority:** media outreach including local newspapers, school buses, postage, presenters, instructors and other miscellaneous expenses as needed.

**Tools/Resources to be purchased with grant funds for this priority:** N/A

<b>Total Cost: \$31,400</b>	<b>ISDA Request: \$-0-</b>	<b>Estimated Match: \$31,400</b>
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**Priority #7 Phase III Neighborhood Projects**

*Phase III projects are 100% funded by the landowners/managers. They receive technical and on the ground support from the LWRCWMA members. These are projects which have received cost share funding in the past and have taken sole responsibility for their weed problems. The LWRCWMA will assist the Middle Valley Waterways landowners to combat leafy spurge, jointed goatgrass, rush skeletonweed, scotch thistle and white top. Middle Valley Ditch Company will bear the financial responsibility of all herbicide applied as well as lunch for cooperators and*

volunteers. Lower Pine cooperators will continue their attack on thistles, white top, hounds tongue, leafy spurge and rush skeletonweed. Aphona flea beetles will continue to be released in the rocky, steep canyons that are impossible to access with spray equipment. The Dutch Flat group consists of private landowners and volunteers battling rush skeletonweed southeast of Midvale. Landowners are committed to extensive pre/post project treatments, monitoring and rehabilitation of this area. The Up the Creek project is located at the foot of Cuddy Mountain in Cambridge. Private land in this area adjoins Forest Service where leafy spurge is striving to gain a toe-hold. Micky Gulch lies in the hills on the northeast edge of the Washington/Adams County line. The objective is to contain/control satellite infestations of rush skeletonweed and leafy spurge. Windblown skeletonweed seed threaten our sage and bitterbrush communities that are vital to wildlife habitat. These landowners are a part of the West Central Sage Grouse Planning area and are committed to weed control and rehabilitation to provide viable habitat. Projects are scheduled from mid-May through October. The benefit of doing these projects is protecting the past investment of both cost share dollars and private funds in these areas. If these projects didn't happen waste areas and no man lands may go untreated and could re-infect rehabilitated properties.

**Measurable Outcomes**

**Total Estimated acres to be treated with herbicide: 2,830**

**Number of acres to be inventoried: 20,038**

**Tools/Resources required for this priority:** ATV, UTV, pickup & tractor sprayers, GPS units, digital cameras and herbicide.

**Total Number of Public Contacts: 85**

**Tools/Resources to be purchased with grant funds for this priority: N/A**

<b>Total Cost: \$32,889</b>	<b>ISDA Request: \$-0-</b>	<b>Estimated Match: \$32,889</b>
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<b>Total Cost of all Priorities: \$316,505</b>
<b>ISDA Request (VI. *Subtotal): \$96,050</b>
<b>Administrative Fee (VII.*): \$4,802.50 (5% of the ISDA Request)</b>
<b>Total (ISDA) Request (VIII.*): \$100,852.50</b>
<b>Estimated Match (IX): \$220,455.00</b>