



# Washington County Weed Warriors

Working Together to Fight the War on Noxious Weeds

Volume XIII: Issue II

July 8, 2014

## 2014 Teacher Workshop & Weed Tour

By Jerry Lunsford, Board Member

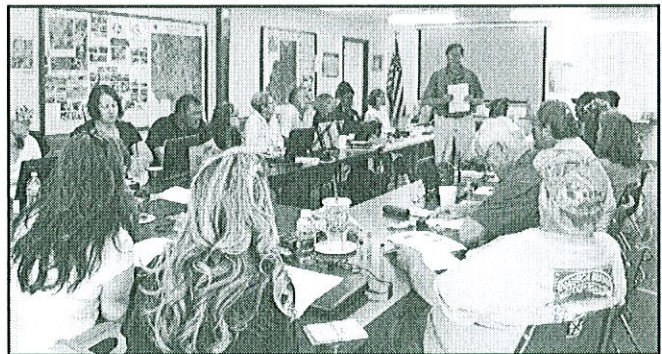
Twenty- three teachers and approximately eighty farmer/ranchers attended the 2014 teacher workshop and weed tour. The teacher workshop started out with Gretchen Hyde from the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission. She presented a “Home on the Range” video of ranchers who had suffered from wildfire dangers. She described the fire triangle and talked about other ecological entities.

Tim Prather (University of Idaho professor), focused on weed identification with the use of computer software. Teachers were involved in an exercise to develop a few classification keys to identify some weed seeds. After this presentation, plants were identified with the use of the software on the computers. The afternoon was spent in the field observing both healthy habitats and those infested with noxious weeds.

The weed tour started at the Washington County Weed office and various speakers presented during the day’s tour stops. Ida Widner, Tom Yankee and Travis Youngberg spoke at Sage Rock Ranch. They discussed habitat, CRP programs, infestations of noxious weeds, and biological control with the use of bacteria for jointed goat grass, cheatgrass, and medusa rye.

Harmon Horton explained to the attendees what a CWMA is and how it operates. Zane Davis, the coordinator of a neighborhood project, spoke about her personal involvement in a local CWMA and with seven other neighbors developing their neighborhood project.

The Lazy Bear Ranch was the site for a great lunch. Tim Wrightman, owner of the Lazy Bear, spoke on the development of his ranch and game preserve. He covered from when he first bought the land as a farm through his work developing the property to what it is now. Tom Wolf, ISDA Aquatic Plants Program Manager, took a dip in the Lazy Bear pond and came up with numerous aquatic vegetation species for the group to look at. He discussed the infestations of zebra and quagga mussels that are being brought from major lakes east of Idaho, and the impact these mussels are having. They are being found closer to Idaho each year, and therefore the boat inspection process is becoming more intense at Idaho’s borders.



*A full house of teachers listen to one of the many informative presentations during the 2014 Teacher Workshop.*

### **Inside This Issue:**

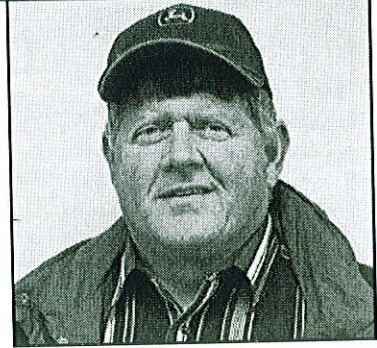
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Both the teacher workshop and weed tour were very informative and very well received by all those who attended.

*(Additional weed tour photos on page 3)*

## Commissioner's Corner

By Kirk Chandler, Washington County Commissioner



By the time you read this, most of the neighborhood projects will have been sprayed. It has been a good year for the weeds with the rains we have received. We were talking at the May weed board meeting about the white top on white top hill north of Weiser. Back in the olden days the county decided that they were going to get rid of it. They bought a cat and cultivated the hill all summer to not let the white top grow and kill it once and for all. Fifty years later we see that it did not do any good. It got me thinking about what we are doing, what the results will be and what it will look like in 50 years. Will we have control of the weeds by then? Will we have spent our money wisely? When you think of all the ways and kinds of sprays that we have used over the years to control our noxious weed, what do we measure our success by?

Last newsletter I mentioned that some counties use large fines and enforcement to compel their citizens to spray their weeds. Our weed supervisor, in most cases, uses a kinder, gentler approach. I would hope that in the future as we look back on what we have accomplished that maybe in the end it will have been that we were able to get together as friends and neighbors for a day or two each year, have a great meal, visit, have some fun times and play like we are spraying and controlling our weeds.

We have had many different ideas to control our weeds. Sometimes we may need to change what we are doing and the way we think of things. Maybe in some cases instead of spending money on weed spray we could spend it on building some fences so we could pasture our weed patches and turn them into a useable plant instead of a weed, kind of like the goat project on the Weiser River. I have spots that I don't have to spray anymore, because the sheep like white top. The saying; "turn lemons into lemonade" may have some application when it comes to weeds. In our grain ground most of the weeds are plants that cattle and sheep like to eat. Instead of spending money on spray we could be selling a product that would bring us some money. Bonnie has addressed the idea of multi-species grazing. What about grazing were we have never grazed before. Back in the olden days we used to have milk cows, pigs sheep, chickens and all sorts of animals that we took care of. Could some of these ideas be of use to you on your place? Think about it.

## Did You Know?

Every year this newsletter brings you updates about Neighborhood Projects conducted through the Lower Weiser River CWMA. Here are a few facts about what these projects collectively accomplished in 2013:

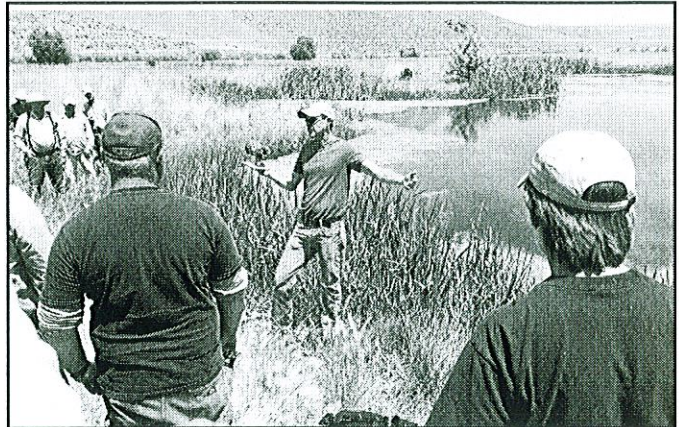
- Total CWMA Neighborhood Project acres treated with herbicide by landowners = 1,400
- Total acres inspected for noxious weeds during project days = 4,7401
- Acres treated with bio-control agents (insects) = 176
- Acres of leafy spurge treated by the goats: = 5,455 grazed and 10,750 inspected

Together these projects add up and are an accomplishment all project participants can be proud of. Keep up the good work everyone!

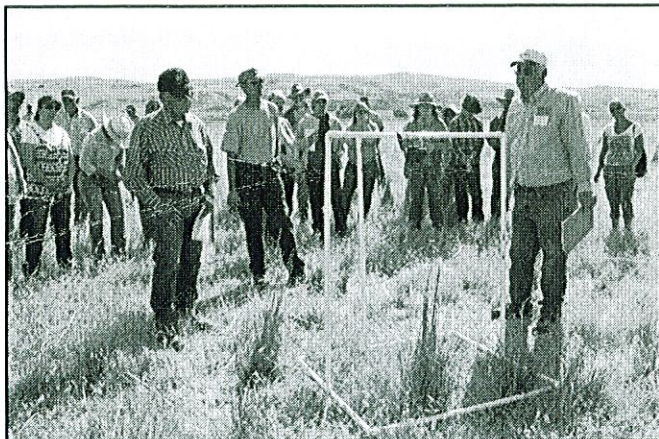
### The 2014 Teacher Workshop and Weed Tour, Continued...



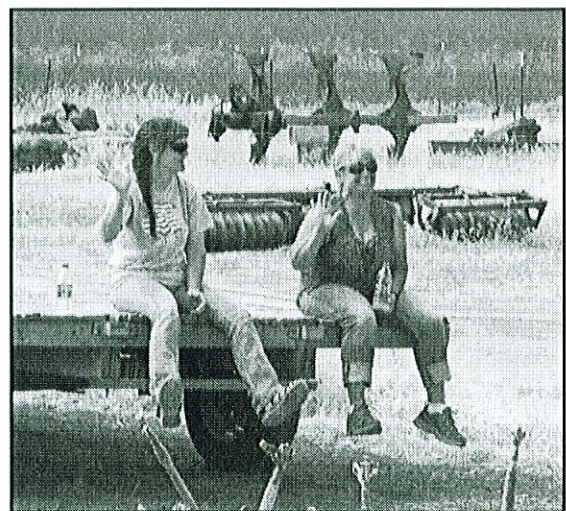
*The wagon train awaits the passengers at the Lazy Bear Ranch. Our thanks to Calvin and Curtis Hickey for arranging for this unique transportation for this part of the tour.*



*Tom Woolf talks about quagga and zebra mussels with tour attendees. Afterwards, he waded into the pond and brought up some aquatic plants to show and discuss. Looks like it was a nice day for wading!*

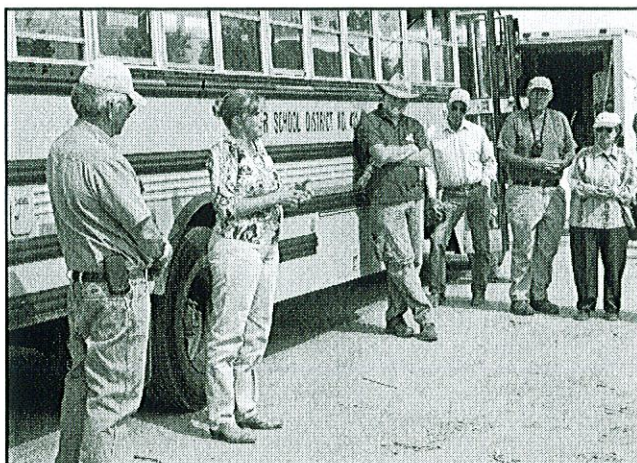


*Tom Yankey demonstrates how the bacteria treatment site is monitored using the frame sent by Ann Kennedy, WSU. Rusty Norrie, NRCS has been assisting Tom with follow up monitoring on the bacteria plots.*



*Our favorite bus drivers who chauffeur us each year on the tour—May West and Patty Dickinson. Not pictured and new to the tour this year was Jesse Fuentez.*

*Our thanks to the Weiser School District and Rod Gerhrke, Bus Supervisor, for taking care of our transportation needs!*

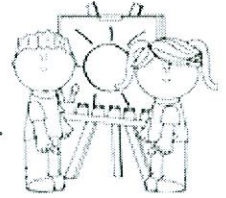


*Zane Davis, co-project coordinator on the Mann Creek Valley project, explains the benefits of being involved in a project with your neighbors.*

## Huge Thanks for Poster Contest Efforts!

*By Royce Schwenkfelder, Board Member*

The 2014 CWMA Poster Contest was a huge success, thanks to many that made it possible. First, we would like to thank our teachers. Without you, and the commitment of time in the classroom, this would be a difficult effort. Your continued support of our teacher workshops and educational efforts, such as this poster contest, show your commitment to weed awareness in our county. Second, we would like to thank all the parents that helped and gave encouragement and motivation to the youngsters who participate. They are the “Weed Warriors” of the future. Third, and most important of all, we would like to thank the participants, and give them big kudos for their creative adaptations of the theme: “Leave the Seeds with the Weeds”.



Ninety seven entries were judged from all the schools in the county by a committee of CWMA board members. As always, judging was a difficult and challenging event, considering all the talent that went into the art. This year, our winners are:

**1st place – Brylee Williams, Weiser**

**2nd place – Rilynn Strasser, Weiser**

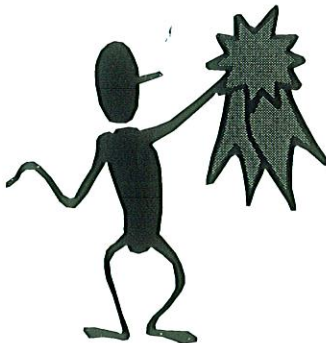
**3rd place – Kaiya Sanchez, Weiser.**

Those receiving top honors for the remaining 9 months of our calendar for 2015 are:

<b>Ana Ramirez – Weiser,</b>	<b>Josey Jones – Midvale,</b>
<b>Kali Branstetter – Weiser,</b>	<b>Larissa Hansen – Midvale,</b>
<b>Katie Russell – Cambridge,</b>	<b>Lauryn Mitchell – Midvale,</b>
<b>Amanda Uhlenkott – Midvale,</b>	<b>Carly Jordan – Cambridge,</b>
<b>Harmony Rebman – Midvale.</b>	

We appreciate and applaud your efforts and look forward to the completion of our 2015 calendar, which will showcase the winners of this year’s contest.

Thank you!



*Several of this year’s poster contest winners pose for a photo!  
From left to right are: Kali Branstetter, Katie Russell, Brylee Williams, Rilynn Strasser, and Kaiya Sanchez. Congratulations to all of this year’s winners!  
(Photo compliments of Roy Braun of Cambridge—Thank You!)*

## Spring 2014—Neighborhood Project Review

By Bonnie Davis, Washington County Weed Supervisor

Each spring we get a second chance or do-over as I like to call it. Once again we have the opportunity to do all the things we didn't get done last year. It might be spraying those annual grasses, applying pre-emergent for puncturevine or treating the poison hemlock and scotch thistle before it is 5-6 feet high.

Another indication of spring is that CWMA Neighborhood Projects begin. It is an exciting time for everyone involved. Project coordinators work at coordinating all the people involved in their project, arranging for lunch and the biggest challenge for everyone is "what will the weather do"? Projects are scheduled mid-December with the hopes it will go as planned on project day and this year it certainly did for the most part.

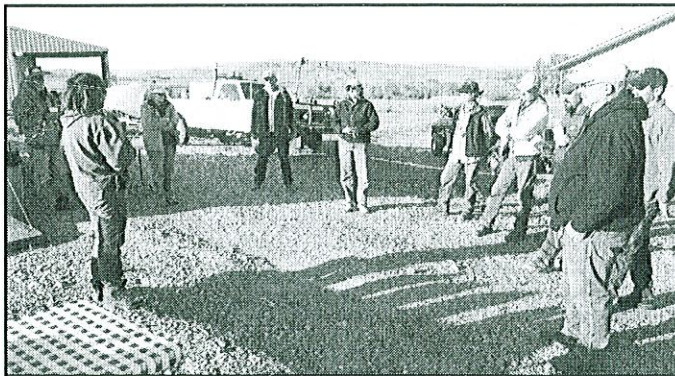
I like to think of projects as a horse race with each project a certain leg of the race. With that said-the race is on:

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### Breaking from Gate #1: Thousand Springs/Mann Creek Cemetery

Project Coordinator, Ralph Graham assumed the coordinator duties late last summer when Linda Gomez moved from our area. Ralph understood that in order for the project to continue someone had to take one for the team. Thank you Ralph!

**Thousand Springs** is in their second year and the group continues to move forth with a positive attitude. While they don't have a large scale project the four landowners treated poison hemlock, perennial pepperweed, white top, scotch thistle, Canada thistle, applied puncturevine pre-emergent and began treatment of young rush skeletonweed plants. Weed warriors included Ralph and Judy Graham, Donna Hall, Ritchie and Lani Scott and the Graham's recruited a family friend, Bill Shields to help them as well.



*Orientation at the start of this year's Thousand Springs project. There are some new folks who joined in this year so introduction were done all the way around the group.*

The **Mann Creek Cemetery** group welcomed Mary Malay, Hillcrest Cemetery District Secretary, to our spray group. Mary has taken over the administrative duties with the retirement of Petra McDaniel who originally coordinated this project. Backpack, ATV and tractor sprayers loaded with herbicide are the first line of defense for this handful of weed warriors. Michael Gomez, Dan Mueller, Lloyd Marks, Jim Rinehart and new landowner Craig Hawkins treated scotch and Canada thistle, poison hemlock, perennial pepperweed, rush skeletonweed, white top and the dreaded puncturevine. Our thanks to the cooks on this project who all contributed to the buffet lunch and to Judy Graham for coordinating it all!

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### Striding out from Gate #2; Midvale Weed Beaters

Midvale Weed Beaters gathered to battle scotch and Canada thistle, white top, poison hemlock, leafy spurge, rush skeletonweed and apply pre-emergent in and around town for the prevention of puncturevine. This is indeed a community effort with all that have a spray rig getting involved to help out their fellow neighbor. Spray day is one of those things you don't want to miss and it is a fact that equipment never breaks down until you get it loaded on spray day. Sharon Widner serves as the project coordinator and this year received a helping hand with the coordinating from Dale Bitner on project day.

*(Continued on Page 6...)*

*(Spring 2014 Neighborhood Project Review Continued...)*

Our thanks to the wonderful cooks who volunteer their time and cooking skills to feed all those hungry sprayers. Claudia Holmes leads the charge in the kitchen at the Church of Christ, Midvale. What a lovely place for everyone to rest a few minutes and enjoy a delicious home cooked meal. Neighbors working with neighbors included: Tracy Bruce, Brian Graham, Rory Landreth, Keith Morgan, Wendall and Karen Ader, Dennis Holmes, Travis Keithly, Lee Seward, Rick Graham, Dave Jordan, Dave Winther, Kenneth Whipple and the City of Midvale. We look forward to another productive day in the fall with this group!



*The morning line up. People fill up on coffee and doughnuts while the machines await their first loads of the day.*



**Running Hard from Gate #3: Mann Creek Valley**

Zane Davis co-ordinate this project located in the heart of the lower Mann Creek Valley. Seven of their neighbors rallied to treat poison hemlock, perennial pepperweed, scotch and Canada thistle, jointed goatgrass, and satellite infestations of leafy spurge and let us not forget rush skeletonweed. This group always encounters challenging weather. Be it rain, hail, some wind, dark clouds and possibly heat by the end of the day; however they always forge on. Our thanks to Stewart Brent, Allen, Tonya and Ross Capurro, Shamus Stone, Dennis White, Peggy Flint, Trent Coleman, CJ and Katie Davis, and of course Marsh and Zane. Our thanks to the cooks Tonya Capurro, Peggy Flint and Zane Davis for lunch! Cooperators will return again in the fall to follow up treat leafy spurge and rush skeletonweed. This is their second year of a coordinated effort and the progress is really showing.



*Dennis White and Peggy Flint treat thistle in their pasture on project day.*



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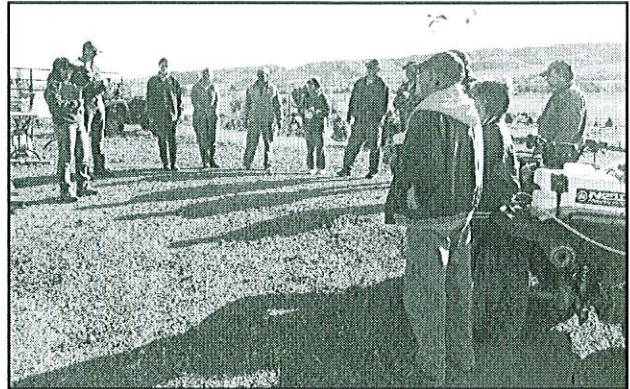
(Spring 2014 Neighborhood Project Review Continued...)

**Charging from Gate #4: C.W. Project**

Chuck Woods, project coordinator has brought this group back together after a one year hiatus. As they completed phase #1 this year they look forward to entering the next chapter and continuing working together as a group. Peggy Woods, Cathy Pursifull, Dennis and Adele Coon, Dan and Emily Gluch, Mrs. and Mrs. Sylvester Gualco, Deb DeHaven, Curtis and Erma Hickey and Mike Biddinger treated white top, poison hemlock, scotch and Canada thistle, and new invader to the area, leafy spurge. This group looks forward to returning in 2015 to continue their efforts. The ladies put together a fabulous lunch where cooperators had a chance to visit and discuss what they had accomplished and what still needed tending to. We look forward to returning to the C.W. again in the spring.



*Curtis and Erma Hickey spraying thistles and white top. A true team effort!*



*Orientation on project day. Looks like a good turn out of neighbors coming together to help neighbors!*



**With a leap from Gate #5: Dixie Creek**

Harold Clure, project coordinator made the trek from Anacortes, Washington once again to coordinate this small but mighty group. Scotch and Canada thistle, white top, leafy spurge and rush skeletonweed are the target plants. Ron and Josiah Jaeger, Doug Hansen, Steve Royer, newcomer to the group Adam Papineau and of course the Clure's spent a warm sunny day spraying weeds in the Dixie Creek neighborhood. Mrs. Clure made sure the crew had a delicious lunch that included the best green salad you have ever eaten! We look forward to returning in the fall.



*Paperwork must be dealt with even during lunch break!*



*Harold Clure, Project Coordinator stops to visit with Steve Royer and his two helpers.*



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*(Spring 2014 Neighborhood Project Review Continued...)*

**Flying from Gate #6: Middle Valley Waterways**

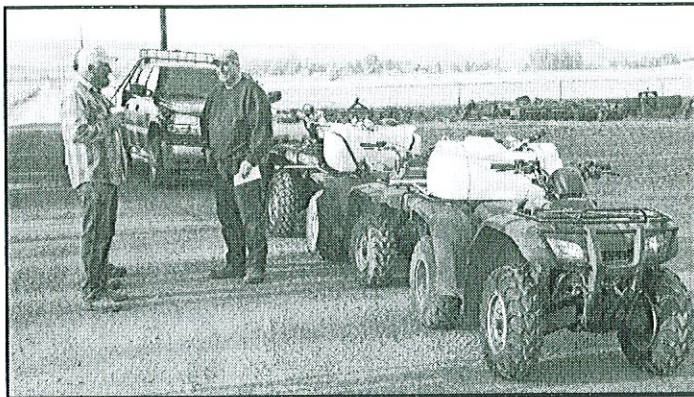
*(By Harmon and Terry Horton, Project Coordinators)*

Another year, another season and the weeds are doing well. However, another installment has been waged on the war with weeds! This year's event was well attended and ran smoothly with many participants and excellent weather. The morning started with coffee, donuts, planning, a short orientation and loading spray rigs; the war has begun.

By 1:00 all the cooperators joined up at the Country Coffee Cabin in Midvale for lunch and afternoon plans were set. Most cooperators had pretty well covered their areas by noon, which shows positive proof that this project is working well in diminishing the targeted weed populations.

Compared with past history and before CWMA community projects, Middle Valley Ditch Corporation (MVDC) was spending around \$2000.00 per year for weed control on the main ditch corridor only. Now the project encompasses somewhat over 3000 acres where irrigation ditches, drain ditches, fence rows, mainline and gated pipe lines are all treated at a cost of a little more than \$2500.00 per year. A bargain made possible by years of cooperation between MVDC, the property owners, the CWMA and Washington County Weed Department.

Thanks to all involved this project is TRULY a SUCCESS STORY in weed control. Thanks again to all the participants that have helped to keep our project alive and make it the successful project that it is.



*Alan Pickett takes a few minutes to visit with Rob Wiggins.*



*Terry Horton, Middle Valley Waterways co-project coordinator assists with making sure all cooperators have all their paperwork filled out before starting spray day!*

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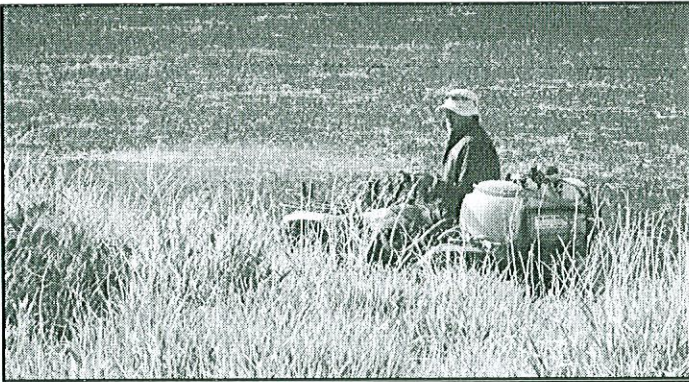
**Tearing up the Track from Gate #7: Lower Pine**

This group formed in '2006 under the leadership of the late Norman Hansen. A few years down the road Norman was ready to hand the reins off to a fellow cooperator, and Monte Spiering became the new project coordinator. The spray crew private landowners Kate and Alexa Noah , Leland Davis, Nick and Debbie Wiebe, Doug Hansen, Sarah Funk and Kelly Wilde from Idaho Power and Jim Shuster, BLM. A special volunteer, Jerry Lunsford, Weed Advisory Board member came and assisted because Jerry loves to kill weeds. Now that he is retired from teaching he makes time in his schedule for helping out others. Whether it be tractors, ATV or UTV's, loads were mixed and vehicles departed to get their work done. Our thanks to Malea Hansen and Debbie Wiebe for a wonderful meal for this group of hungry weed warriors.

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*(Spring 2014 Neighborhood Project Review Continued...)*



*Doug Hansen targets a scotch thistle adjacent to his fields.*



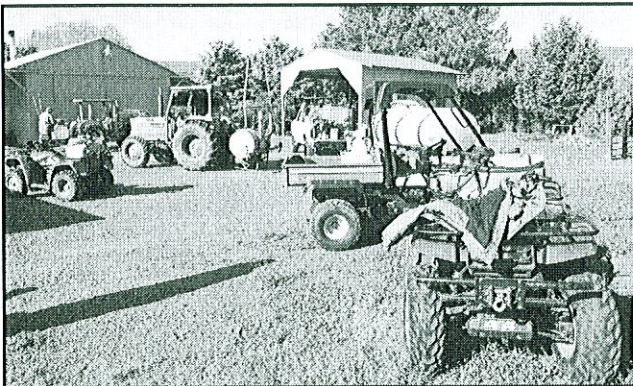
*Jerry Lunsford volunteered his time and equipment to spray on this project. Jerry loves to kill weeds.*

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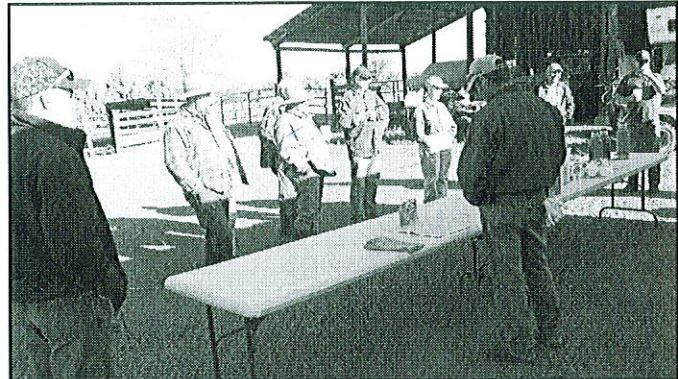
### **A Strong Mover from Gate #8: Salubria**

Private landowners and the BLM gathered together in this quiet little valley to wage war on weeds southeast of Cambridge. In their sights was scotch and Canada thistle, hounds tongue, white top, leafy spurge and rush skeletonweed. Justin Mink coordinated the project, lunch, and even cooked the ham! The ladies do a great job planning the feast for hungry sprayers and no meal is complete without Ruby Braun's mouth-watering rolls. What a treat. Our thanks to Nina Hawkins for allowing us to stage the project in her driveway at a central location for all to load at.

Roy Braun, Laurence and Steven Johnson, Ron, Chris and Josiah Jaeger, Russell and Justin Mink, John, Cecelia and Robert Sachtjen, Alan Jones, Robin Juica (Nina's trusty assistant) and Jim Shuster from the BLM spent a productive day doing what they love "killing weeds". The one misstep of the day was forgetting the morning donuts. Our thanks to Damian for returning and getting them making for very happy sprayers! We look forward to returning in the fall to follow up on leafy spurge and rush skeletonweed treatments.



*Spray rigs come in all shapes and sizes at the Salubria project.*



*Justin Mink, project coordinator does orientation. Sure would be nice if we all had a donut to eat.....too bad they are back in Weiser.*

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### **Jousting for Position from Gate #9: Valley View**

Project Coordinator, Debbie Warren awoke to a breezy day. It wasn't long and her people were calling concerned with Mother Nature's early morning behavior. *(Continued on next page...)*

*(Spring 2014 Neighborhood Project Review Continued...)*

I assured her we were in route and would see what happened; it was breezy but well within legal limits for spraying and the project was a huge success! Our thanks to Rod and Jessie Woodland, Mark Moura, Eric Farrens, Bill Copher, Isaac and Betty Ward, Aaron Barnett, Royce Schwenkfelder, and volunteer Jerry Lunsford. Debbie prepared a delicious lunch, had her first shot of spraying alone that morning as Dan had to go to work and still made it to work mid-morning. Betty and Isaac were kind enough to set up lunch as Betty tended to everyone's needs. I even heard a little rumor that when Isaac stayed behind to help Betty cleanup he might have had a little well deserved nap. At the end of the day smiles were had by all and acres of weeds suffered due to the treatments. Species treated include: jointed goatgrass, scotch and Canada thistle, rush skeletonweed, leafy spurge and hounds tongue.



*Betty Ward assists project coordinator Debbie Warren with setting lunch up. Lunch is a great time to see if anyone needs help and to make sure the work gets completed.*

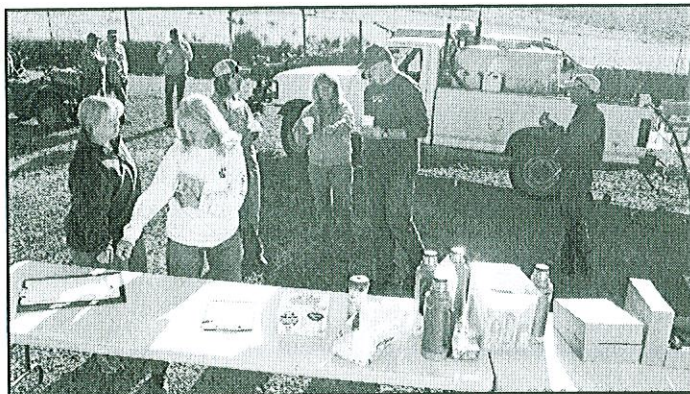


*Mark Moura, S & S Cattle shows off his spray rig.*

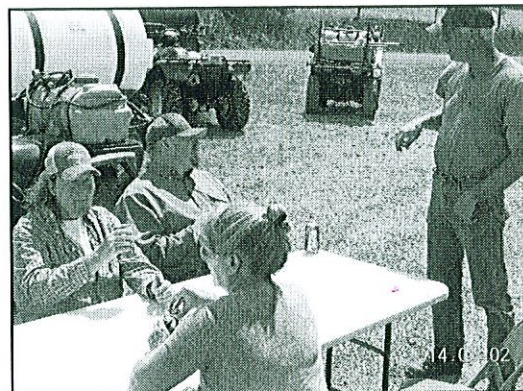
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### **Moving Fast from Gate #10: Advent Gulch**

Early June was indeed the best spray day these cooperators have ever seen. Project Coordinator Justin Mink made sure he mentioned this as that is usually not the case in the gulch. Weeds targeted by landowners included white top, scotch and Canada thistle, leafy spurge, hounds tongue and rush skeletonweed. Charles Edwards, Russell Mink, Roy Mink, Johnny Johnson, Frank Schwarz, and new to the project this year Herb Endicott and mother-daughter team Cindy Oaks and Jaimie Martinez, Jim Shuster-BLM, Sandy Mathis, Liz Stephens and Ross Capurro from the Forest Service and our star volunteer, Jerry Lunsford. A delicious lunch was cooked and delivered by Linda Mink who I am sure can't wait for spray day so that she can prepare meals for all those hungry sprayers! Thank you Linda!



*Cooperators signing in and making their plan for the day.*



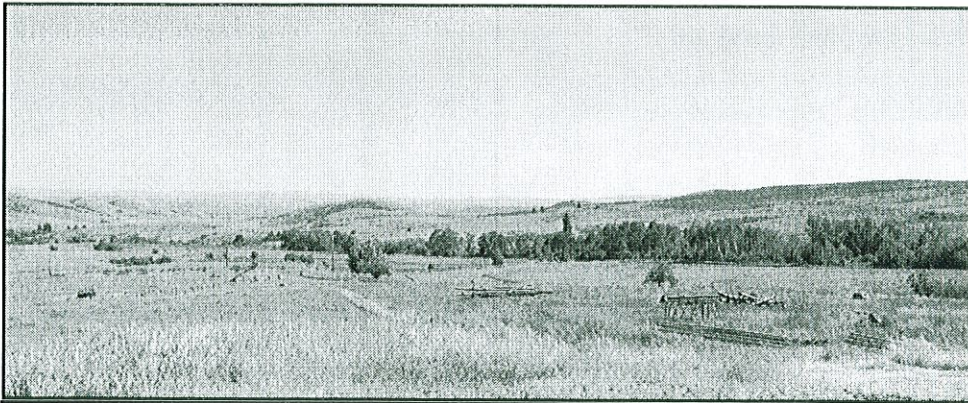
*Forest Service crew Sandy Mathis, Liz Stephens, and Ross Capurro visit with Frank Schwarz during the lunch break.*

(Spring 2014 Neighborhood Project Review Continued...)

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**With a Burst of Speed from Gate #11: Up the Creek**

Victor Ward, project coordinator gathered his cooperators on a beautiful sunny day in early June to treat noxious weeds in the valley below Cuddy Mountain. Randy and Claudia Greenman, Ron Ford, Philip and Heidi Farrens with junior sprayers Trevor and Albert, Charles Edwards, Rusty Anderson and helpers, Liz Stephens and Ross Capurro from the Forest Service and dedicated volunteer, Jerry Lunsford rallied their efforts to control weeds. Noxious weeds in their sights included scotch and Canada thistle, white top, dalmatian toadflax, hounds tongue, leafy spurge and rush skeletonweed. This is a phase #3 project which means the landowners fund the herbicide they apply to their property. This project receives one day of support each year from the CWMA. Thank you to Jackie Edwards for the delicious lunch for the hungry weed sprayers, Jeri Bemis for the delicious salad and to the Ford Ranch for allowing us to stage at your barn.



*View of the valley from the Ford Ranch where we stage. The area shown here is part of the Up the Creek project area.*

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**Charging to the Finish Line:**

These projects have had many benefits. Those involved are very attentive to new plants they see showing up in their neighborhood. There is also a sense of pride with what they have accomplished as a group and are not afraid to stop and chop down a thistle or spray a spurge plant. Another benefit is the getting to know your neighbors both old and new. Remember, this race is always open to new projects and players. If you are interested in becoming involved in a neighborhood project, contact a project coordinator, weed board member, or call Bonnie for more information.



## 2013 Weiser Complex Fire Update

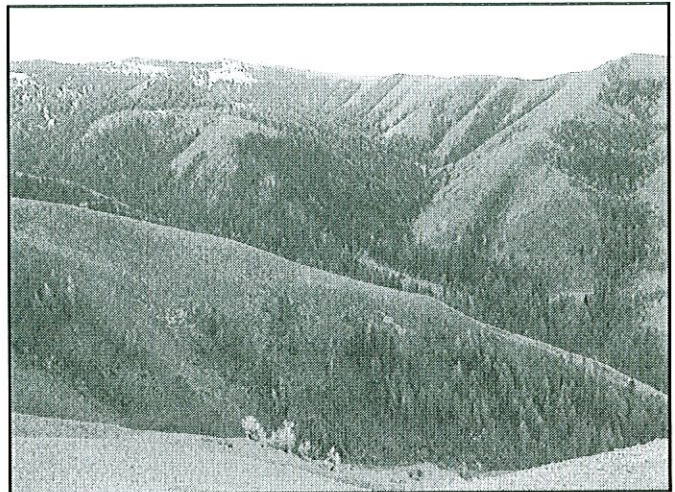
By Andy Bumgarner, USFS

On August 29, 2013 a lightning storm ignited two fires in the Snake River Breaks. The fires grew rapidly and were managed together under a Type 2 fire management team. The fires burned approximately 30,000 acres of private, state, Bureau of Land Management, and Forest Service lands before being declared officially out on October 7, 2013.

Fire intensity ranged from light to severe over a wide range of vegetation types. A majority of the fire burned in grass and sagebrush communities. These areas generally burn quickly and at relatively cool temperatures, which cleans up decadent vegetation, provides a nutrient flush, and results in a stand of healthy, vibrant vegetation. Some of these areas were in good condition with good ground cover of native grasses and shrubs. Other areas were dominated by introduced species such as cheat grass and medusa head rye.

Generally speaking, whichever grass species occupies a site before it burns is what will come back after the burn and usually in abundance and vitality. In burned areas dominated by introduced species, unfortunately the outcome is the same.

Following large fires in areas dominated by introduced species, land managers are often faced with the decision of whether or not to re-seed an area. Hand lines and dozer lines used to stop the progression of the fire are also areas that are sometimes re-seeded. Re-seeding can be difficult and many factors affect it such as topography, slope, soil type, seedling competition, and precipitation levels. Important shrub species such as sagebrush and antelope bitterbrush commonly take a long time to recover after a fire. In many cases, land managers try to



*View of the Weiser Complex Fire and the Sturgill Creek Drainage in early April 2014. Picture shows excellent re-vegetation of open areas that burned at cooler temperatures than timbered slopes.*

re-seed these species with limited success. Re-seeding with native vegetation after a fire in areas with low precipitation levels can be difficult and challenging but is a gamble often worth taking.

Parts of this fire experienced high fire intensity. These areas were dominated by timber such as Douglas fir and Ponderosa pine. These areas do not recover as quickly as the grassland areas, especially after high-severity burning, and can take several years to re-vegetate and stabilize the soils. Often these areas can burn so hot that the soil can become sterile and even hydrophobic. In areas of high snow pack and runoff, soil erosion often becomes a land manager's biggest concern.



*Slow recovery under high fire intensity conditions.*

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*(2013 Weiser Complex Fire Update, Continued...)*

After fires the introduction or spread of already existing noxious weeds is always a concern. Noxious weeds are invaders and look for disturbance opportunities to become established and spread. Their ability to grow early and compete for surface water can lead to dominance in any plant community. Located within this fire on Forest Service lands are rush skeleton weed, white top, knapweeds and Scotch thistle.

Following large wildfires on Forest Service lands the Forest Service has the opportunity to assemble a Burned Area Emergency Response team (BAER). These teams are made up of a variety of resource specialists who assess the damage and potential outcomes of the fire in terms of risks posed to public safety and natural resource investments such as infrastructure and grazing lands. They are able to make recommendations for treatment activities and apply for special funding to implement them.



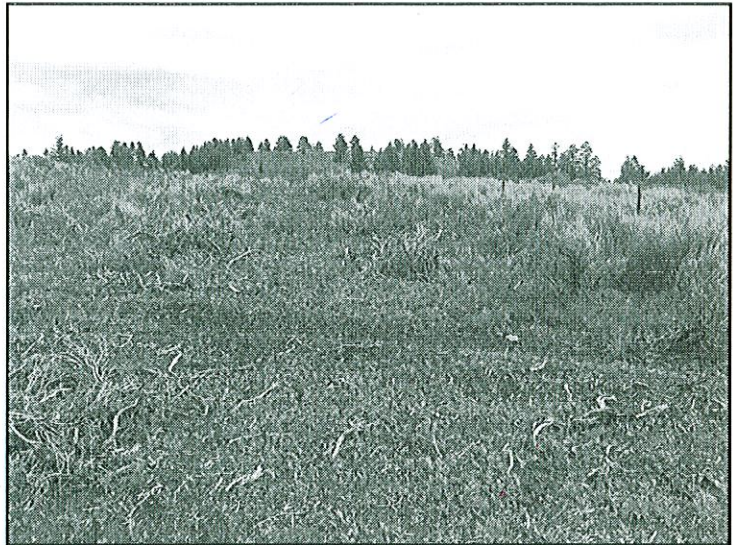
*Picture depicts successful re-vegetation under moderate fire intensity conditions and hydro-seeding of steep road banks.*

In the case of the Weiser Complex Fire, the BAER team recommended several treatments and were successful in getting funding to implement them. Several miles of very steep road embankments were hydro-seeded in an attempt to prevent erosion during spring runoff. Several culverts were purchased and will replace older, smaller culverts which pose a risk of plugging due to increased spring runoff. A retaining wall that was burned during the fire was replaced. A gate was purchased and installed to close the road for public safety.

noxious weed sites within the burned area.

Money was received to hire temporary employees and buy chemicals to treat known

Observations made this spring indicate that the burned areas are recovering better than expected. Some of this is due to the wet warm fall that we experienced where a lot of vegetation was able to re-grow and store much-needed energy for spring growth. The open areas where the fire burned cooler are re-vegetated while the areas of greater fire severity are showing signs of recovery but are not fully re-vegetated. There is sign of high runoff with some small landslides and rills in the steepest parts of the fire but the hydro-seeding on road cut-slopes appears to have been effective. The noxious weeds are healthy and vibrant but there are people and chemicals to treat them.



*Photograph of dozer line that was not re-seeded and is recovering naturally.*

## IDAHO FISH AND GAME EMPLOYEES VOLUNTEER TO CONTROL YELLOW STAR-THISTLE

By Aaron Switalski, IDFG

*Yellow star-thistle (Centaurea solstitialis), an Idaho noxious weed, is a winter annual spread by seed. Yellow star-thistle can be invasive in rangelands, pastures, roadsides, and disturbed areas where favorable conditions are present. One plant can produce 20 or more seeds. A rapid growth rate and aggressive nature give it the ability to compete with native plant communities where it can form dense patches and reduce forage for livestock and wildlife. Yellow star-thistle can also be a grazing hazard to horses, in which it can cause a fatal chewing disease. Additional information on yellow star-thistle can be found at [http://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg\\_ceso3.pdf](http://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg_ceso3.pdf).*

*Five years ago a patch of yellow star-thistle was located by a hunter on a rugged hillside on the Cecil D. Andrus Wildlife Management Area. Each year the Andrus WMA staff spend a great deal of time and money controlling this noxious weed. This year staff received much needed assistance to control yellow star-thistle in the form of an Idaho Fish and Game employee volunteer work project.*

*On June 12, 2014 approximately 35 employees from IDFG's Southwest Region descended on the Andrus WMA. These volunteers scoured a 40 acre section of steep hillside along Idaho Highway 71 where yellow star-thistle was known to exist. It is currently the only known location of it on the Andrus WMA. Volunteers physically picked and pulled over 25 pounds of yellow star-thistle by hand. New plant locations were marked with flags to aid in future weed control efforts. In addition, volunteers physically removed patches of Scotch thistle and trash from over 10 miles of Idaho Highway 71. Additional yellow star-thistle control conducted by Andrus WMA staff since that volunteer day resulted in 10 more pounds removed and additional areas marked for follow-up herbicide treatments.*



*A garbage bag full of yellow star-thistle.*

*The Idaho Department of Fish and Game works cooperatively with the Washington County Weed Department and the Lower Weiser River Cooperative Weed Management Area as part of its noxious weed control program.*



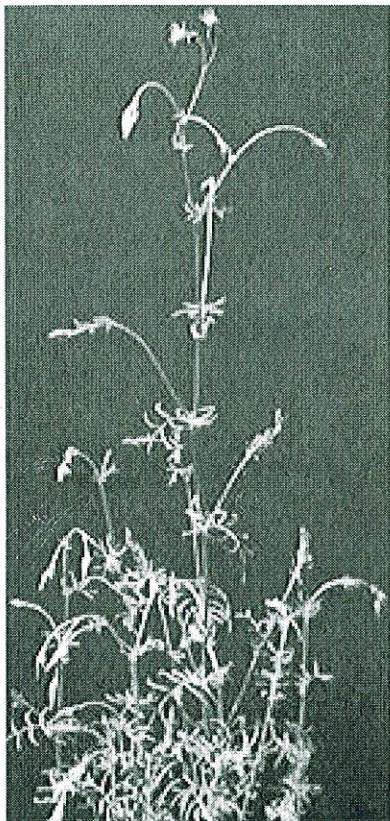
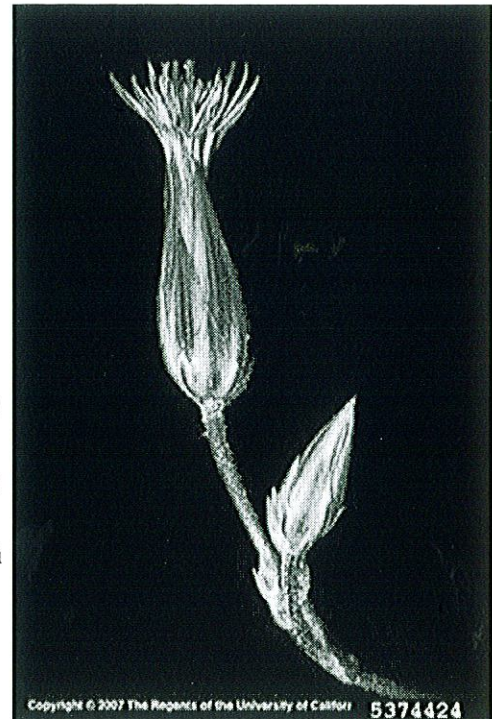
*Some of the IDFG volunteers who collected yellow star-thistle from the Andrus WMA.*

# Common Crupina

By Lonnie Huter, BLM

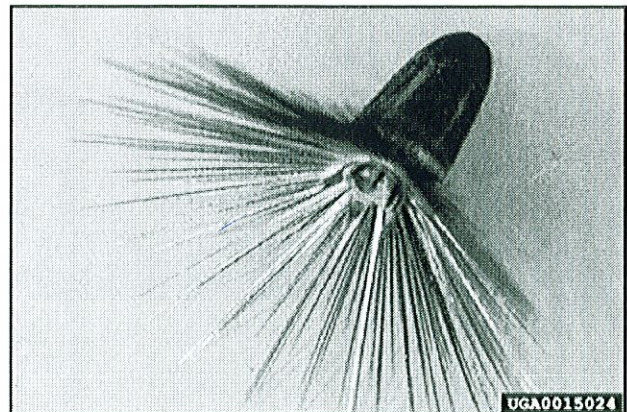
Common crupina (*Crupina vulgaris*) is an alien invader from the Mediterranean region of Europe. The first report of this weed in the US was near Grangeville, Idaho in 1969. The weed infests a variety of sites including southern slopes, pasture, hayfields, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) plantings, gravel pits and roadsides. Common crupina is a winter annual often germinating in the late summer

or fall after rains begin. Plants overwinter as rosettes, bolt in April and flower during May and June. Flowering will continue as long as soil moisture is available. Most seeds fall from the plant at maturity. Seeds that do not germinate during the first year can survive in the soil for up to 3 years. The seeds are quite large 1/8 to 1/4 inch long, with long barbed hairs on the end of the seed. Wind can spread the seed a short distance. Rodents and large animals alike are capable of transporting seeds much longer distances. The seeds are also capable of surviving through the digestive systems of most animals. Treatments include mechanical and herbicides.



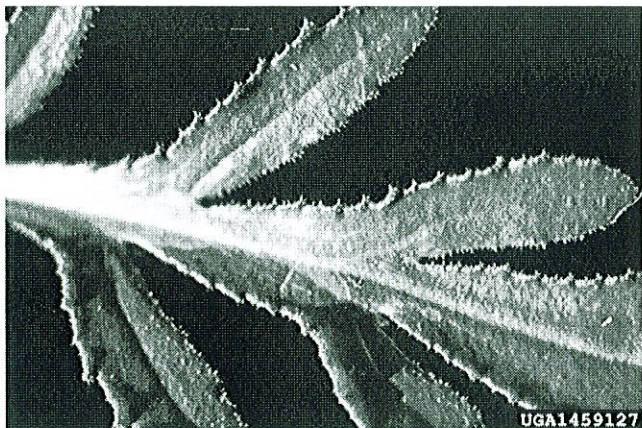
Common crupina was discovered along a two track road on BLM lands in the North Crane area in 2008. The infestation was intermingled with an infestation of spotted knapweed. The

spotted knapweed infestation had been discovered in 2001. Treatment occurred in subsequent years primarily for spotted



knapweed

but also for the occasional common crupina plants. In 2013 the infestation was discovered to have exploded in size and density to encompass more than 50 acres. The densest part of the infestation is on an open, south aspect slope. Chemical treatment has proven to be very difficult due to the terrain and accompanying vegetation but will continue. More survey of the surrounding area will continue in the hopes that the extent of the infestation is not greater.



## Lower Weiser River Cooperative Weed Management Area

### LOWER WEISER RIVER COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA

Washington County Weed Department  
P.O. Box 865  
Weiser, ID 83672  
Phone: 208-414-1950  
Email: [bdavis@co.washington.id.us](mailto:bdavis@co.washington.id.us)  
CWMA Website: [www.cwma.info](http://www.cwma.info)

The Washington County Weed Department provides equal opportunity employment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran, as required by state and federal laws.

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Bruce Gochmour

Calvin Hickey

Jerry Lunsford

Isaac Ward

Royce Schwenkfelder

Ida Widener

Tom Yankey

Tom & Dixie Sutton

Ray Laan

#### Cooperators and Technical Advisors

Bureau of Land Management

Bureau of Reclamation

ID Transportation Dept.

ID Dept. of Fish and Game

ID Dept. of Lands

ID Dept. of Agriculture

Idaho Power

Nat. Resc. Conservation Service

West Central Highlands RC&D

US Forest Service

WA Co. Board of Commissioners

WA Co Extension Service

WA Co. Weed Department

# UPCOMING EVENTS ...

## EVERY MONTH:

The Lower Weiser River CWMA meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 7:00pm at the Washington County Weed Department, 1118 E. Court St., Weiser, Idaho. Meetings are open to the public.

## August 2014:

July 31-August 2nd-Come visit our weed booth at the Washington County Fair

4th-Neighborhood Project Applications are available. Call Bonnie at the Weed Department 414-1950 for more information.

## September 2014:

11th-Neighborhood Project Applications due by noon today at the Weed Department.

15th -Salubria Day #2

17th - Midvale Weed Beaters

22nd -Valley View Day #2

23rd -Dutch Flat

25th -Thousand Springs/Mann Creek Cemetery  
Day #2

29th Micky Gulch

## October 2014:

9th -Mann Creek Valley Day #2

20th -Advent Gulch-Day #2

21st -Dixie Creek-Day #2



Summer