

**LOWER WEISER RIVER
COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA
2015 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 2015 weed season the following priorities were selected by the CWMA Steering Committee to receive CWMA support.

Priorities and Description

Priority #1 Herbicide, Phase I Projects- Mann Creek Valley and Thousand Springs

Phase I projects are eligible for 100% herbicide assistance from cost share funds that may be received.

Mann Creek Valley and Thousand Springs projects target opposite ends of the Lower Mann Creek drainage near Weiser. These groups have requested 2 days of assistance; one spring day to focus upon scotch and Canada thistle, hounds tongue, white top and poison hemlock and a follow up day in the 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: 180

Number of acres to be inventoried: 1174

Total number of public contacts: 50

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.

Total Cost: \$ 18,500	ISDA Request: \$ 5,500	Estimated Match: \$ 13,000
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Priority #2 Herbicide, Phase II Projects: Salubria, Valley View, Midvale Weed Beaters and Thousand Springs

Phase II projects are eligible for 50% herbicide cost assistance from cost share funds that may be received. Landowners are responsible for the remaining 50% of the funding.

The Salubria project involves numerous landownerships covering 1,700 acres. White top, poison hemlock, scotch and Canada thistle, leafy spurge and rush skeletonweed control will continue. Spotted and diffuse knapweed are moving into this area and are considered new invaders to this area. Treatments will occur on rangeland that lies on both sides of the Little Weiser River near Cambridge. Work will take place mid-late May/late September for optimum timing of spurge and skeletonweed treatments. 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. Midvale Weed Beaters includes private landowners and volunteers that will treat pastures and waste areas adjacent to town in 2015.. This area encompasses 283 acres of wasteland and smaller parcels of land that have very little monetary value. Weeds targeted include white top, poison hemlock, scotch and Canada thistle, jointed Goatgrass and rush skeletonweed. The C.W. Project is all private landowners encompassing 1,500 acres. Ranchers will continue treatment on leafy spurge and rush skeletonweed which are new invaders to this area and treatments continue for white top, perennial pepperweed, poison hemlock, scotch and Canada thistle on rangeland pasture that lies south of Spangler Reservoir. Cooperators will complete this work early May with follow up being done throughout the year. The benefit of these projects is bringing all landowners/managers together to halt the weed spread. The consequences of not doing the projects is further loss of valuable rangeland and previously invested dollars. It creates camaraderie and makes controlling weeds much less daunting when it is a group effort.

Measurable Outcomes

- Total estimated acres to be treated with herbicide:** 1,394
- Total estimated acres to be treated with bio control agents:** 50
- Number of acres to be inventoried:** 5,786
- Total number of public contacts:** 116

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.

Total Cost: \$39,750	ISDA Request: \$5,450	Estimated Match: \$34,300
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Priority #3 Weiser River Corridor Purge the Spurge Project

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 Athona flea beetles and Oberea biological agents to help contain/control of spurge. Joey Milan and Lonnie Huter continue work to establish biological control throughout the river corridor with monitoring done annually by Joey’s bio-team. The insects have not increased in populations as we had hoped but releases will continue to be done. 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 26 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, Washington County Weed Control and the Department of Agriculture. April 1-November 30, 2015 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. This area is not a candidate for herbicide due to environmental conditions, extreme flooding, fluctuating high water marks, high water tables and herbicide treatment cost. All the tools are necessary to maintain spurge control on the Weiser River Corridor.

Measurable Outcomes

- Total estimated acres to be grazed:** 3,500
- Total estimated acres to be treated with herbicide:** 100
- Total estimated acres to be treated with biological agents:** 100
- Total estimated acres to be reseeded:** 30
- Total number of public contacts:** 25,000

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.

Total Cost: \$ 85,000	ISDA Request: \$40,000	Estimated Match: \$ 45,000
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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 and Dalmatian toadflax, all knapweed species, Johnsongrass, Mediterranean sage and yellow starthistle. A large yellow star infestation will be followed up on in the coming season by the CWMA as well as the private landowner. April 15-November 15, 2015 are dates treatments may occur. The 2013 fire areas on public land within our CWMA will continue to be inventoried and treated to prevent 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
- Number of acres to be inventoried:** 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

Total Cost: \$ 13,500	ISDA Request: \$-0-	Estimated Match: \$ 13,500
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Priority #5 Biological Control in the LWRCWMA

Infestations of spotted/diffuse knapweed continue to be found throughout the CWMA in sensitive and hard to treat areas. Cooperators will continue to release *Cyphocleonus acates* and *Larinus minutus* to contain/control larger infestations. Leafy spurge insects will continue to be distributed as they become available. We will cooperate with the Nez Perce Bio Center and coordinate efforts with Joe Milan, as well as visit and inspect previous release sites. *Eustenopus villosus*, will be released in numerous locations to control larger inaccessible sites of yellow star. Releases may occur May 1-September 30, 2015. The CWMA will continue work with Ann Kennedy, Washington State University using bacteria to treat jointed goatgrass throughout our CWMA, previous treatment sites will be visited for inventory purposes. Sites are carefully selected by CWMA board members.

Measurable Outcomes

Total estimated acres to be treated with bio control agents: 250

Number of acres to be inventoried: 250-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

Total Cost: \$ 10,000	ISDA Request: \$-0-	Estimated Match: \$ 10,000
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Priority #6 Education Projects

Education and awareness activities will include the 15th annual noxious weed tour, a teacher workshop that coincides with the tour, county fair booth, a new CWMA weed awareness pamphlet will be created and the poster contest with the winning art work featured in our 2016 noxious weed calendar. We will continue to work with our local newspapers to educate the residents of our CWMA in addition to publishing the Washington County Weed Warrior newsletter with the help of Idaho Power. The makeover of our CWMA website will continue to make it more informative for the public. Another CWMA roadside sign will be redone as the weather has taken a toll on the wood. A new CWMA sign is in the works to be erected near the Payette County line to inform travelers of our CWMA and raise noxious weed awareness. 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: 137,385

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

Total Cost: \$ 40,688	ISDA Request: \$-0-	Estimated Match: \$ 40,688
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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 Advent Gulch cooperators northwest of Cambridge near Cuddy Mountain. Private landowners, BLM, and the US Forest Service will work side by side to halt the spread of noxious weeds on their range. Weed species include leafy spurge, Canada and scotch thistle, hounds tongue, rush skeletonweed, spotted and diffuse knapweed and white top. The Middle Valley Waterways landowners will combat leafy spurge, jointed goatgrass, rush skeletonweed, scotch thistle and white top. Middle Valley Ditch shareholders will bear the financial responsibility of all herbicide applied as well as lunch for cooperators and volunteers. Micky Gulch lies in the hills on the northeast edge of the Washington/Adams County line. Their objective is to contain/control satellite infestations of rush skeletonweed and of leafy spurge. Windblown skeletonweed seed threaten our sage and bitterbrush communities that are vital to wildlife habitat. Lower Pine cooperators will continue their battle with thistles, white top, hounds tongue, leafy spurge and rush skeletonweed. The Dutch Flat area 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. Dalmatian toadflax has appeared on the forest and eradication efforts are taking place to eliminate that species. These projects are scheduled mid-May to late October. Biological control will continue for diffuse and spotted knapweed and leafy spurge in many of these drainages. Apthona flea beetles will continue to be released in the rocky, steep canyons that are impossible to access with spray equipment. Landowners are instrumental in getting the insects out in a timely fashion. 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: 4,249

Total estimated acres to be treated with biological: 100

Number of acres to be inventoried: 20,088

Number of acres to be seeded: 30

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

Total Number of Public Contacts: 327

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

Total Cost: \$ 53,091	ISDA Request: \$-0-	Estimated Match: \$ 53,091
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Total Cost of all Priorities: \$ 260,529
ISDA Request (VI. *Subtotal): \$ 50,950
Administrative Fee (VII.*): \$ 2,547.50 (5% of the ISDA Request)
Total (ISDA) Request (VIII.*): \$ 53,497.50
Estimated Match (IX): \$ 209,579