

**LOWER WEISER RIVER
COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA
2013 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 2013 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, Mann Creek Valley and Thousand Springs

The Salubria Neighborhood Project involves 8 different land ownerships with 16 people covering 2,300 acres. Farmers and ranchers will target white top, poison hemlock, scotch thistle, Canada thistle, leafy spurge and rush skeletonweed on this rangeland and pasture that lies on both sides of the Little Weiser River near Cambridge. The Midvale Weed Beaters have expanded to include 7 private landowners and 13 volunteers for the 2013 weed season. The above projects requested a spring and fall spray day. New projects requesting financial assistance for 2013 are Mann Creek Valley and Thousand Springs projects targeting the Mann Creek drainage in different locations. Each group has requested a day in May to treat white top, scotch and Canada thistle, poison hemlock and rush skeletonweed. Landowners will continue to use mechanical and cultural means to control select species as well. The benefit of neighborhood projects is landowners working together for the same common goal to clean up vast blocks of land. They learn weed identification, various control measures (not using Roundup on everything they spray) and how to best 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 the landowners.

Measurable Outcomes

Total estimated acres to be treated with herbicide: 622

Number of acres to be inventoried: 3,613

Total number of public contacts: 161

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: \$30,423	ISDA Request: \$7,750	Estimated Match: \$22,673
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Priority #2 Herbicide, Phase II Projects: Valley View, Advent Gulch, Dixie Creek and Mann Creek Cemetery

Seven private landowners have targeted 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 efforts to halt the spread of noxious weeds on their rangeland. Landowners will treat for two days (mid May/early October). 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 to be utilized 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 have begun and will continue throughout this project area. The benefit of these projects is bringing all landowner/managers together to stop these silent invaders. The consequences of not doing this project are further loss of valuable rangeland as well as infection of public forest land. The Mann Creek Cemetery Project brings 5 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. This has been a great benefit to the neighbors who have gotten acquainted and helped each other with their weed problems. We strive to educate landowners of the importance of herbicide selection, timing and usage rates. If these projects were not funded some lands would go untreated and weed spread would continue.

Measurable Outcomes

Total estimated acres to be treated with herbicide: 1,474

Number of acres to be inventoried: 9,157

Total number of public contacts: 195

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: \$35,201	ISDA Request: \$4,650	Estimated Match: \$30,551
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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 pristine Weiser River. 1,200 nannies with kids will graze approximately 65 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 to this remote area by using a recreational trail which is managed by Friends of the Weiser River Trail (FWRT). This project is a host to extensive biological releases of Aphona flea beetles. Joey Milan is working to establish biological control throughout the river corridor with

monitoring done annually by Joey's bio-team. His team and CWMA cooperators will continue to do large dumps of Athona flea beetles 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 35 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, 2013 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: 4,000

Total estimated acres to be treated with herbicide: 100

Total estimated acres to be treated with biological agents: 150

Total estimated acres to be reseeded: 50

Total number of public contacts: 20,000

Tools/Resources required for this priority: Grazing contractor, goats, goat 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: \$160,000	ISDA Request: \$80,000	Estimated Match: \$80,000
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Priority #4 New Invaders

Prevention of new invaders is a high priority for our CWMA. We feel that new invaders can be financed through our network of volunteers and landowner/managers. Species recognized as new invaders that are not widely established are bohemian knotweed, yellow toadflax, Dalmatian toadflax, all knapweed species, Johnsongrass, Mediterranean sage and yellow starthistle. A large yellow star infestation was found in 2012 that will be followed up on in the coming season by the CWMA as well as the private landowner. April 15-November 15, 2013 are dates the treatments may occur. 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: 500

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: \$7,500	ISDA Request: \$-0-	Estimated Match: \$7,500
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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. We have received numerous releases from other sources years past and will be soliciting more in the future. 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, 2013.

Measurable Outcomes

Total estimated acres to be treated with bio control agents: 150

Number of acres to be inventoried: 150-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: \$2,200	ISDA Request: \$-0-	Estimated Match: \$2,200
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Priority #6 Education Projects

Education and awareness activities will include the 13th annual noxious weed tour, a teacher workshop that coincides with the tour, a booth at the county fair, our annual poster contest with the winning art work featured in our 2014 noxious weed calendar. The calendars will be printed in the fall with 1,500 being 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 may be created and published and our CWMA website will receive a makeover. 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.

Measurable Outcomes

Total number of public contacts: 45,000

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: \$32,000	ISDA Request: \$-0-	Estimated Match: \$32,000
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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. Aphthona flea beetles will continue to be released in the rocky, steep canyons that are impossible to access with spray equipment. The Dutch Flat group includes 18 private landowners and numerous neighborhood volunteers battling rush skeletonweed southeast of Midvale. Landowners are committed to extensive pre/post project treatments, monitoring and rehabilitation of this area. They are rehabilitating with crested wheat and forbs to provide competition and much needed rangeland. 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. These 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. Micky Gulch lies in the vertical hills on the northeast edge of the Washington/Adams County line. The 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. 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.

Measurable Outcomes

Total Estimated acres to be treated with herbicide: 3,336

Number of acres to be inventoried: 21,282

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

Total Number of Public Contacts:

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

Total Cost: \$34,723	ISDA Request: \$-0-	Estimated Match: \$34,723
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Total Cost of all Priorities: \$302,047
ISDA Request (VI. *Subtotal): \$92,400
Administrative Fee (VII.*): \$4,620 (5% of the ISDA Request)
Total (ISDA) Request (VIII.*): \$97,020
Estimated Match (IX): \$209,647