



# Washington County Weed Warriors

Working Together to Fight the War on Noxious Weeds

Volume XIII: Issue III

November 18, 2014

## Noxious Weeds Impact You, Me and all of Idaho

By Roger Batt, Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign

Of all the problems plaguing Idaho's economy, one of the least fashionable is the annual and cumulative impacts of the 68 varieties of noxious weeds now found in the Gem state. The irony is that state noxious weed managers say noxious and invasive weeds carve a hole in Idaho's economy to the tune of at least \$300 million annually in total impacts. This number includes the costs of fighting fires resulting from invasive weeds such as cheatgrass taking over productive rangelands. The number doesn't include the \$40 million annual bill to farmers, ranchers and other private landowners who have to step up control and management efforts because their neighbor does not do their part to control their weed infestations.



How bad is the noxious weed problem? State officials estimate more than 8 million acres of Idaho lands, approximately 15 percent of the entire state, are now infested with noxious weeds. More worrisome: the number of acres continues to expand every year. It's a real problem that appears to get worse, never better. For example, in 1963, rush skeletonweed, a rangeland weed, occupied approximately less than 40 acres near Banks, Idaho. Today, weed experts say it is found across 4 million acres and continues to spread.

It is the initial seemingly innocuous appearance of noxious weeds that lies at the heart of the noxious weed problem in Idaho. Many small, initial infestations appear to be harmless wild flowers or vegetation. They can often appear to be useful ground cover in areas of disturbed soil, along waterways, roads and other public areas. Many are planted as ornamentals in private landscapes only to escape and proliferate into new areas.

With time it becomes painfully clear that in reality those noxious invasive plants are in the process of eliminating native vegetation, impacting our farms and ranches, reducing recreational use of lands and waterways, and serving as a barrier to productive uses of the land.



For example, a pasture infested with yellow starthistle cannot be used for horses. A field full of Canada thistle cannot maximize yields of crops. A pasture full of leafy spurge cannot be grazed by livestock. Additionally, noxious weeds can be poisonous, even deadly, for people, livestock, and wildlife, can rob game animals of their natural habitat or forage, destroy fish habitat, and reduce grazing opportunities for farm animals. (Continued on page 3)

**Inside This Issue:**  
Neighborhood Projects.....pages 4-11  
On-site Project Reviews.....page 12  
Purple Starthistle.....page 13

# Commissioner's Corner

*By Kirk Chandler, Washington County Commissioner*



This summer has come to an end and fall is coming on quick. I hope that everyone was able to manage the weather, lack of rain, lack of irrigation water and other things that came to you this summer. With the holiday season upon us I am grateful I live in this area where we, the residents, are good people. It is that way because we care about our neighbors and friends and those who live around us. That is a good thing.

The commissioners would like to wish all of you a "Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year." Thank-you for all the good things that you do.

Commissioner Kirk Chandler

Commissioner Tom Anderson

Commissioner Rick Michael



## 2015 Living on the Land: Stewardship for Small Acreages Courses to be offered in Weiser!

2015 marks the twelfth year that the "Living on the Land-Stewardship for Small Acreages" class series will be offered by the University of Idaho Extension. The class is aimed at current and future landowners of small acreage property from small urban or suburban lots to small farms. Topics to be covered include whole acreage management, zoning restrictions, managing soil, water quality, irrigation systems, weed and pest control, pasture and forage management, and caring for animals. Participants develop a plan for their property and share ideas with a team of expert instructors and other participants.

**Weiser Vendome- Wednesday Afternoons 4:00pm-7:00pm Jan. 14th- March 4th, 2015**

The cost for the eight-week class in Weiser is \$185 per unit, which includes two people sharing materials. Water, soil and forage testing, class materials, and field trips are included. For registration information call Washington County Extension at 208-414-0415.



*(Noxious Weeds Affect You, Me and all of Idaho, Continued from page 1)*

Noxious weed infestations are now showing up with ominous regularity in Idaho's pristine wilderness backcountry areas. The long term future economic and recreational threat that poses for Idaho's invaluable recreational values of tourism and outdoor activities, plus its danger to Idaho's big game species cannot be understated.

The aquatic noxious and prolific weed called Eurasian milfoil can bog down water craft, destroy fisheries, and even entangle and drown swimmers. It has infested numerous waterways and lakes across Idaho. Several of Idaho's most scenic lakes, including Payette, Pend Oreille, Hayden and Spirit, have already been invaded by Eurasian watermilfoil and weed control experts are doing their best to reduce populations of this aquatic invader.

For more than four decades now, Idaho has battled to hold back the growing tide of noxious and invasive weed invaders. Over the past two decades, Idaho has considerably stepped up these efforts. Just a decade ago, weed experts had identified 36 species of noxious weeds. Today there are 68. Each noxious weed is a threat to Idaho's economic wellbeing. But when combined into a cumulative economic assessment, it poses a challenge of immense proportion.

One of the challenges with noxious weeds is that the topic of "noxious weeds" itself is not flashy and inherently attention-getting to the public. It can be difficult to get citizens fired up about innocuous looking plants with names like Rush skeletonweed, Hoary cress, Yellow toadflax, or Houndstongue. But that changes quickly when they begin to grasp the distressing impact those and the sixty-four other species of noxious weeds are having every year on our State. The Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign was set up in 2001 to create public awareness, outreach, and education to help Idahoans understand the economic and environmental impacts of noxious and invasive weeds. Since that time, the Campaign has educated approximately 1 million Idahoans and reached out to Idaho's six bordering states to inform the public about the serious threats of noxious weeds and how to best control them and stop their spread.

### Learn how to become a Weed Warrior!



As public awareness has increased, so has public participation in the battle. More and more landowners are meeting their obligation under Idaho law to control or eradicate noxious weeds on those lands. More of our youth understand the noxious weed problem. More of our citizens are acquiring Idaho's noxious weed book to reference plants they have on the lands they own. More are going to the IWAC website ([www.idahoweedawareness.com](http://www.idahoweedawareness.com)) to learn more about Idaho's 68 noxious weeds and how to control and manage them. More than three dozen cooperative weed management areas have been established from public and private partnerships to jointly battle noxious weeds across County borders. Idaho also has 42 County Weed Superintendents that the public can go to for technical expertise.

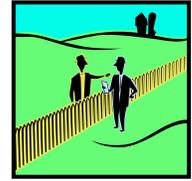
An aggressive public outreach and educational effort has illuminated the problem and helped foster innovative and novel approaches. These include herbicide treatments using newer chemistries, herds of goats that devour acres of noxious weeds, and the use of biological agents such as an insect, a fungus, or any other organism that can retard the weed's growth and/or reproduction.

How the battle will eventually turn out is yet to be known. But one thing is clear. The battle has been joined by many of Idaho's citizens and it continues to expand and because of that, Idaho has a great opportunity of winning the war against noxious weeds. And that seemingly benign flowering plant in the pasture, along a river or canal, or in the campground of your favorite recreation area will from now on be scrutinized just to make sure it does not represent the advance of a dangerous foreign invader.





# Neighborhood Project Updates



## Advent Gulch & Salubria

*By Justin Mink*

First of all, as a Project coordinator for two projects (the Advent Gulch Project and Salubria Project), I would like to thank the Lower Weiser River CWMA and the Washington County Weed Department for all of their support. We started the year off with the Salubria project and the forgotten donuts! The donuts did show up but a little late, thank goodness, because I thought we were going to have a riot on our hands. It turned out to be a great day and everyone participated which included the BLM, Alan Jones, Steve and Lawrence Johnson, Roy and Ruby Braun, Justin and Russell Mink, Nina Hawkins and her helper Robin Juica, Ron and Kris Jaeger, John, Cecilia and Robert Sachtjen. This project just finished its third year and I really believe you can see our progress when you drive up Salubria Road. Our main focus has been on leafy spurge, scotch and Canada thistle. Thank you lady for the best lunch! It is always nice to come back to roast, scalloped potatoes, home-made rolls, salads and dessert!



*John Sachjten (leaning on tractor) and son Robert (left) wait while their tractor tank is filled. Is John acting as the parking brake?*

The Advent Gulch project is always an interesting project when it comes to the weather but I believe we finally won one with the weather this fall. It was one of the best spray days that we have had in a long time. We added a new cooperator this year; Gerald and Cindy Oakes and family. It is always great to add new cooperators to your group so that they can also see the benefits of the project. Cooperating participants included the Forest Service, BLM, Charles Edward, Monte

Spiering, Ron Ford, Jim Moran, Roy, Russell and Justin Mink, Cindy Oaks, and Frank Schwartz. Special thanks to Linda Mink for providing lunch. This is the 6th year of the project. You can truly see the results from this project. We had made a difference with this project, a huge difference.

Special thanks to CWMA board member Jerry Lunsford for spending both spring and fall days on the Advent Gulch project. It's great to be able to share your success story with others.



*Justin Mink, Advent Gulch Project Coordinator discusses his project with the Project Review Committee members during the on-site visit August 14th.. Jace Mink (far left) is already preparing to for his future role as a project coordinator.*

# Up the Creek

By Victor Ward, Project Coordinator

In early June 2014, The Up the Creek Weed Project had a good turnout. We met at the staging area on the Ford Ranch for coffee and donuts provided by Bonnie Davis and her crew from the Washington County Weed Department. After coffee and donuts we proceeded to our spraying projects. Around noon we met for a great lunch that was provided by Jackie Edwards. After lunch we went back out to our spraying.

For the year 2015, the Up the Creek Weed Project will have 19 cooperators. The project consists of 8,110 acres and we will be treating 1,546 acres in Washington County. We have new neighbors that move into the area that are not aware of our weed projects. You might take the opportunity to meet your neighbor and explain our how our project works and how it benefits them.

We wouldn't have our projects without the support of the Washington County Weed Department, Thank you!



*Christy and Victor Ward share a moment together. They and their business, Weiser River Signature Beef, were recently awarded "Agribusiness of the Year" by the Weiser Chamber of Commerce. Weiser River Signature Beef is also an Idaho Preferred Company. Congratulations Christy and Victor!*

---

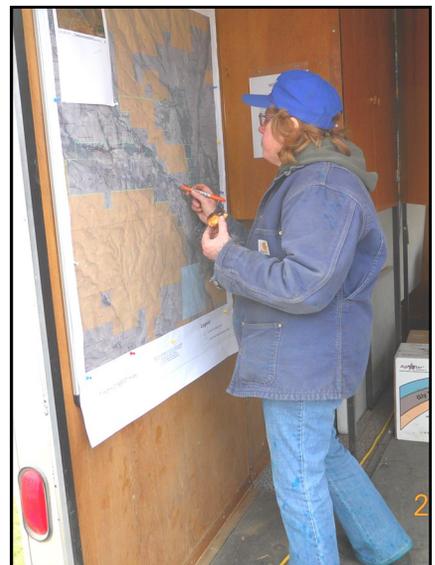
# Lower Pine Project

By Monty Spiering, Project Coordinator

The Lower Pine CWMA group continues to be a success, even after entering Phase 3 of the project. All participants are still committed to weed control and working together as a group. Adding the fall spray day was a unanimous decision. We look forward to keeping the project going long into the future.



*Kate Noah, cooperator, pulls in for a refill.*



*Debbie Wiebe marks treated areas on the project map.*

# Dixie Creek Project Fall Spray Day

By Harold Clure, Project Coordinator



*Malea Hansen prepares to serve a delicious spaghetti lunch as Martha Clure assists with the table setting. Doug Hansen has their plates ready-go Doug!*

*This was an extra special day as it was also Martha's birthday! Everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to her at lunch!*

and scotch thistle, at least on my place. In spite of our work it seems the rush skeleton weed continues to spread and a new weed arrives every year.

I am stepping down this year as coordinator for this group, but I am hopeful that Bonnie and the Board will convince one of the cooperators to step up and take over the job. Even though there is a bit a paperwork to be done, this is a very worthwhile program and should be continued!

As this year's weed treating season comes to a close, a small group met with Bonnie and Crew to try and second guess the weather. After dispensing with the coffee, doughnuts and paperwork Ron Jaeger, Adam Papineau, Steve Royer, Doug Hansen and Harold Clure decided to go ahead with spraying. The weather cooperated and at noon a hearty lunch was served by Malea Hansen, Kris Jaeger and Martha Clure.

The crew continued to go after rush skeleton weed, leafy spurge, scotch thistle, plus a little white top and hemlock. The afternoon was fine except for a 30 minute squall that sent Harold into the trailer to wait it out.

I have lost track of how many years we have been doing this but I think it is approaching 10. We have made real inroads in controlling leafy spurge



*Harold Clure (yellow coat), Steve Royer (middle) and Adam Papineau discuss if the spraying will occur. Mother Nature was threatening hard rain, but held off just long enough for the job to get done.*



*Kris Jaeger, private landowner, waits to be filled up on a less than perfect weather day!*



# Thousand Springs and Mann Creek Cemetery Projects

By Ralph Graham, Project Coordinator



*Lani Scott spot treats rush skeletonweed rosettes and puncturevine.*

Both groups of cooperators got together at the Graham's place for spray days on May 7, 2014 and September 25, 2014. Mann Creek has five cooperators including a new cooperator, Craig Hawkins, and Thousand Springs has three cooperators. The groups work together since the project areas adjoin one another. Ralph Graham took over as coordinator this year replacing Linda Gomez who moved out of the area.

The weather was good for both days, with a light breeze and plenty of sun. Bonnie, Jim and Damian arrived bright and early on the spray days with coffee and donuts and their mobile command post/warehouse. While the neighbors assembled around the coffee and donuts to sign in, Bonnie gave a brief orientation and we were ready to go. As the

sprayers were loaded, the cooperators hit the road and many were back for their last loads by lunch time.

A potluck lunch was held in the Graham's garage and then it was back to work. The main focus was on puncture vine, various thistles, poison hemlock, rush skeleton weed, pepper weed, jointed goat grass, white top and a new patch of purple loosestrife. We are making headway in our war on weeds and everyone involved is looking forward to next year. A couple of benefits of having spray day is it encourages us to set a day aside just for spraying and the financial help with the chemicals makes us work harder at it because no one can pass up a good deal.

Thanks to all who participated, especially Bonnie and Crew!



*Donna Hall treating puncturevine and rush skeleton weed.*



*Jim Rinehart and Frank Potter, cemetery employees, take a well-deserved break from backpack spraying.*

## Mann Creek Valley Project - Year 2

By Zane Davis, Project Coordinator

Another year has flown by, and as we all know, the weeds continue to flourish with the slightest drop of rain. However, the Mann Creek Valley Project landowners have completed their second year of project participation, and we are chipping away at a weed problem that once seemed like an insurmountable obstacle.

The Weed Advisory Board Sifting Committee graciously granted the participants of the Mann Creek Valley Project with not one, but two, project days in 2014. The first project was held on May 9, 2014. For a second year in a row, rain clouds lurked. However, the rain remained only a threat and the spray project commenced as scheduled. Seven properties were targeted by twelve landowners. Again, the Washington County Weed Control staff was on-site with their chemical, knowledge, enthusiasm and the all-important coffee and donuts. Loaded with chemical and rearing to go, the cooperators headed off to their respective properties and began to turn the valley blue...one tank at a time. The spraying of scotch thistle, houndstongue, puncturevine, poison hemlock, Canada this-



*Marshall Davis has a big job ahead of him hand spraying scotch thistle rosettes on this hillside.*

tle, rush skeletonweed and the occasional leafy spurge and white top lasted into the late afternoon. All of the participants commented that they were amazed at the difference one year of intensive control had made, and that they were able to target previously neglected areas this second year.

I reminded all of the cooperators late in the fall of our second spray day, and nearly everyone commented that they had been spraying throughout the summer, and felt that day #2 would probably be relatively short. Unfortunately, with busy schedules, fall ranch and farm work and school, only ten

participants from six properties were available for the October 9, 2014 spray day. The day was beautiful, and oh so productive. The approximate 6 mile stretch of the Mann Creek Valley Project area was once again dotted with a lovely blue hue. The scotch thistle rosettes and rush skeletonweed were treated with a vengeance. Although the participants were sure that they would be done spraying quickly, they were mistaken and again, the projected lasted into the late afternoon. Everyone involved made the comment that they were shocked at how many weeds were growing this time of year. They also mentioned that the progress made from the previous two spray days was amazing and they were now able to get areas treated that had been neglected for years.

From my own personal portion of earth, I can say that the Neighborhood Project Program has been an extremely valuable tool for me and my family. I see valuable changes on the property that has increased hay production and value as well as pasture quality and utilization. There are areas of the property that were so infested with noxious weeds that I never thought we would get ahead due to labor and financial constraints. The Mann Creek Valley project has enabled me and my fellow landowners to improve our respective parcels both in value and aesthetics. I feel confident that even when the project reaches Phase 3 status we will have the ability to maintain that forward motion in the weed fight that everyone strives for.

In a perfect world, there would be a "magic bullet" that would eradicate all pests; including weeds. However, until that landowner Utopia comes to fruition, the group of weed warriors on Mann Creek will continue to fight the fight, and to make progress.

## Midvale Weed Beaters are Increasing in Number!

By Sharon Widener, Project Coordinator

Another beautiful day in “downtown Midvale” for the second spray day in September. Midvale is a great community to come together for a cause and to make things happen. This project signed on new property owners that saw the positive effects of the CWMA project. Those signing on were: Dave Jordan, Fred and Tracy Bruce, Kenneth Whipple and Dave and Dixie Winther. Sharon Widener, Project Coordinator, wants to give a big “thank you” to Dale Bitner for his special talent—coordinating sprayers with areas to attack weeds—this allowed her to help with lunch.



Kevin Hooper driving and Dale Bitner spraying. They are seeking out those sneaky puncturevine plants around town.

Of course the spray day would not happen without Bonnie Davis and her crew, Jim Hickey and Damian Arnold, and of course the coffee and the sweet rolls. Everyone is on time for this part of the day!

After a morning of hard work everyone was ready to enjoy the lunch served at the Midvale Church of Christ and to relax and sign paperwork before starting the afternoon spraying. A thank you to Claudia Holmes and Jan Keithly for preparing lunch for the hungry crew.



2014.09

*The paperwork is an essential part of every project, as it helps to secure the all important funding needed each year. Lunchtime is a great opportunity to get it done!*

*Karen Ader is signing her applicator record, Damian is standing behind her, Claudia Holmes and Jan Keithly are cooking and serving, and Wendall Ader, Karen’s better half, is waiting for his lovely wife so they can get some well deserved food!*

Are there ever no breakdowns? Everyone thought it couldn’t happen again, but at the end of the day there was one. At least it was the end of the day, and everyone was ready to call it a day.

Those spraying on this fall day were Dale Bitner, Kevin Hooper, Travis Keithly, Dave Winther, Kenneth Whipple, Wendell and Karen Ader, Dennis Holmes, and Keith Morgan. Another very productive spray day. Everyone is on board for the 2015 spray dates to continuing an impact on weeds!

ue



## Dutch Flat

*By Denise Wolfe*

We had another productive year with the CWMA on the Dutch Flat project. The new project coordinator, Ivan Wolfe, assumed the role that Jerry McLay has filled since the beginning of the project. In the past the staging area has been based at Jerry’s where the community got together to make a united front on noxious weeds. Barbara and the ladies always provided a lovely meal. We all want to thank Jerry and Barbara for their faithful service in putting this together over the past few years.

This year the staging area was moved to Ivan Wolfe’s place. Bonnie Davis and her weed control crew showed up bright and early to get set up for everyone’s arrival. They came with the CWMA trailer loaded with spray and a water tank to quickly fill spray tanks, along with doughnuts and drinks to keep everyone going throughout the day.

The weather couldn’t have been nicer for the work we had to complete. Jerry and Barbara showed up with their four wheelers along with Bill Neckels, Marlen Wolfe, Michael Feyereisen, and Dan Lewman. Howard and Darren Sutton, Louis, Tom, and Dixie Ward, and Dan Sutton showed up with tractors, four wheelers, and extra help. Keith Morgan came prepared to work with his tractor too. Ivan and his son, Levi Wolfe, worked together with a four wheeler and Kubota RTV to get their place sprayed. We wouldn’t have had such a successful day without our doughnut “General” and volunteer Brent Claassen keeping everyone lined out at the doughnut table.

The day started out with a few words of wisdom from our fearless leader Ivan Wolfe, “You know what to do, go spray weeds.” With those few words, everyone headed out to spray. They did battle a little wind, but a lot was accomplished by everyone before lunch.

This year thanks to Jeanie Wolfe, Sheilla Neckelss, Pauli Lewman and Denise Wolfe, we had nice BBQ’d lamb sandwiches, baked potatoes, along with salads and desserts for lunch. These wonderful ladies had a lovely time getting the meal ready for everyone, and lots of laughs were heard as they swapped stories. Thank you to everyone who donated food to make our yummy meal!

Then it was back to spraying in the afternoon, and most everyone was able to work until it was time to head back home at 5pm. In the afternoon, Sarah Wolfe kept the weed control crew supplied with strawberries and tomatoes from her garden. She also could see how tired they were from the hard work they were doing and offered to give them back rubs and foot massages. She is such a sweetheart!



*Wade Sutton treats a rangeland pasture for rush skeletonweed.*



*The group slowly gathers early in the morning to prepare for orientation. Ivan Wolfe, project coordinator (on the left), is making sure people sign in as they arrive.*

Overall this year’s spray day was a great success and we hope that next year’s will be just as great with more cooperators being encouraged to come back to the program. We would like to thank Washington County Weed Control for making our spray days possible and creating an opportunity for friends and neighbors to work together for a common goal: to eradicate noxious weeds and have some fun doing it.

A big thank you goes to Howard Sutton who has promised to donate the meat for next year’s lunch!

## Valley View and Mickey Gulch Projects

By Debbie Warren, Project Coordinator

Years ago, a one-room school house stood beside Highway 95 north of Cambridge. It served as a meeting house for folks from the Valley View area. It helped create a sense of community where neighbors came together. The Valley View project also fosters that sense of community. Neighbors meet on a common day with a common goal—to control noxious weeds on their lands.



*Kent Bedke spot sprays rush skeletonweed on a beautiful Valley View sunny day.*

Spring Spray Day on May 21 began as a cold and frosty morning. But armed with warm coffee and doughnuts, the Weed Warriors began to wage war. Even this author learned how much work and coordination spraying weeds on a 4-wheeler really takes, after spraying everything in her path, including the 4-wheeler and her shoes!! Six landowners (Bill Copher, Bob Schwenkfelder, Royce Schwenkfelder, Isaac Ward, Dan Warren, and Rod Woodland) and the Schwenkfelder Ditch Company targeted leafy spurge, rush skeleton weed, jointed goat grass, Canada and scotch thistle, whitetop, and knapweed on approximately 330 acres.

The cooperators huddled in the Warrens' garage for warmth and lunch, and discussed their accomplishments.

September 22 was a beautiful day for weed extermination. The same landowners and several able assistants met at the Schwenkfelders' to fill tanks and discuss the morning plans once again over coffee and doughnuts!! After several hours of work, the group met outside at the Warren's for lunch. Then it was back to work.



*Issac Ward and his faithful spray partner wait for their tank to be mixed and filled at the Valley View staging area.*

The consensus among those landowners is that we are keeping several weed species from spreading, and in some areas, weed counts are down significantly. It has made all the landowners more mindful of the stewardship of their land, and in turn, being good neighbors.



*Eric Farrens tackles a steep hillside on the Mickey Gulch Project. Both Eric and Kent Bedke were part of "Team Schwenkfelder" at both projects.*

The Micky Gulch project seems to be the "weather-cursed" project of the year. This project includes landowners Bob Schwenkfelder, Royce Schwenkfelder, and Isaac Ward. The project includes

over 1,400 acres with 150 targeted acres for rush skeleton weed, scotch thistle, leafy spurge, and hounds

# On-Site Project Reviews

By Jerry Lunsford, Weed Advisory Board Member



*Dan Gluch and Harmon Horton enjoy the beautiful day while reviewing the project.*

August 14th was the day that the annual project reviews took place. On-site project reviews are done annually by a committee of board members and our weed superintendent. We reviewed Lower Pine, Advent Gulch, and C.W. with Monte Spiering, Justin Mink (coordinators) and Dan Gluch (substitute coordinator) being the spoke persons.

As usually happens, the reviews went very well. The number of cooperators and the amount of machinery listed on the application was very close to the actual count taken on the day of the project. The comments were very appreciative of the weed department and the weed boards support and involvement in these projects. Project Coordinators as well as cooperators have seen great value in these projects over the past few years.

It is a day that the neighbors get together and have a great time. They have a unified goal of killing as many weeds as possible on that day with no restrictions on fence lines as the boundary to stop spraying. We have discovered that weed seeds do not respect the fence lines of people who are diligently trying to control them and the ones who don't see the need to control them. It was a unanimous consensus that these projects are truly fun, have a great purpose, have had great results, and they bring neighbors together to share a wonderful meal .

Thanks to my fellow board members Ida Widener, Calvin Hickey, and Harmon Horton who assisted with this process. This is an educational day for us as we learn more about the project areas, get to see them first hand including before and after photos. We also ask for suggestions about how we can improve the process. We appreciate all those who participated and look forward to next year's reviews.



Just like being in school all over again! The project review committee takes notes as Monte Spiering (second from right) goes over project specifics.

## Be on the Lookout for Purple Starthistle

Purple starthistle (*Centaurea calcitrapa*) is an annual to perennial thistle with a mounding growth habit and heads of purple flowers. Each flower is surrounded by long, stout, sharp-pointed spines. Plants form rosettes the first year, and leaves are deeply pinnately lobed and gray-hairy with light-colored mid-ribs. Older rosettes have a circle of spines in the center. Mature plants are one to four feet high, densely and rigidly branched, and have numerous flower heads.

Purple starthistle is most troublesome in recently or repeatedly disturbed areas such as pastures and overgrazed rangelands and along roads, ditches, and fences. It is most prolific on fertile soils and seems to prefer heavier bottomland and clay soils. Found along the coast from San Diego to Humboldt County, in the northern and southern Coast Ranges, and across the Central Valley to the Cas-

cade and Sierra foothills, it is particularly abundant in the San Francisco Bay Area.



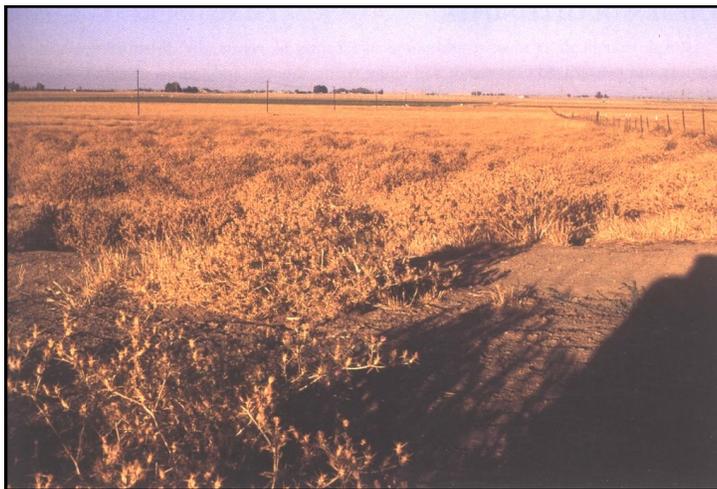
Purple starthistle is native to the Mediterranean region of southern Europe and northern Africa. It was first detected in California near Vacaville in 1886 and has recently become established as a rangeland and pasture pest as far north as Washington state. Purple starthistle reproduces only by seed. Seeds are likely dispersed long distances in hay and straw and on farm and ranch machinery. Some seeds may also be dispersed moderate distances like tumbleweeds, remaining in the flowerheads until after the

plants have died, broken off at the soil, and rolled before strong winds.

Purple starthistle's stiff, sharp spines and bitter taste discourage cattle, deer, and rodents from feeding on it. It replaces palatable species in some grazed areas, and dense stands of mature plants can make areas inaccessible to livestock and humans. Its spines are thicker and stronger than those of yellow starthistle and do not fall from the plants in autumn as yellow starthistle's do. Because of this, forage that may grow in infested areas during fall and winter after purple starthistle has matured may still be inaccessible to grazers.

Be on the lookout for this weed in Idaho!

*All information presented in this article is from the California Invasive Plants Council at [www.cal-ipc.org](http://www.cal-ipc.org).*



*A field of purple star thistle in California.*

**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)

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT #133  
WEISER, ID

Return Service Requested

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.

<b>Washington County Weed Advisory Board</b>	<b>Cooperators and Technical Advisors</b>
Harmon Horton, Chairman	Bureau of Land Management
Bruce Gochnour	Bureau of Reclamation
Calvin Hickey	ID Transportation Dept.
Jerry Lunsford	ID Dept. of Fish and Game
Isaac Ward	ID Dept. of Lands
Royce Schwenkfelder	ID Dept. of Agriculture
Ida Widener	Idaho Power
Tom Yankey	Nat. Resc. Conservation Service
Tom & Dixie Sutton	West Central Highlands RC&D
Ray Laan	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.

### December 2014:

Art work designs by our local youth are featured on the 2015 Noxious Weed Calendars which will be available at the Washington County Weed Department mid-December. Office hours: 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

### February 2015:

February 4-5, 2015, the Idaho Weed Conference, at the Boise Hotel and Conference Center, Boise, Idaho. For registration information visit the IWCA website at [www.idahoweedcontrol.org](http://www.idahoweedcontrol.org)

or call the IWCA office at (208) 888-0988.

Need recertification credits for your Idaho Pesticide Applicators license? The Lower Weiser River CWMA is hosting a recertification seminar Thursday, February 19, 2015, 6-9:15 p.m. at the Washington County Weed Department. This class will be worth 3-Idaho credits.

### March 2015:

Workshop for new landowners with smaller acreages to be held Thursday, March 19, 2015. The class will begin at 6 and end at 9:15 p.m. This is a great opportunity to learn about noxious weeds, why rodents are not welcome and methods of control, and what you should know about irrigation water. Watch your local newspaper for more details.

