

BLM Rawlins Field Office

FY2014 WLCI Area planned weed treatments, including WLCI projects

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Ferris Leafy Spurge WLCI (Since 2007)

Treatments for leafy spurge and Russian knapweed will continue. Leafy spurge has been mostly contained and thinned out to the point that aerial treatments are not feasible. Meaning, most patches are not large enough or thick enough to be seen from the air. Russian knapweed has been eradicated from one ranch. The other landowner has reservations about large-scale herbicide applications, but is open to alternative treatment methods. Some ideas have been brought up and will be discussed further with the landowner this winter. One known patch of Russian olive was treated, as well as two others that were found this year. Two more were reported, but have not been treated yet. Whitetop has been treated in some areas, but not consistently. It has been found to replace the leafy spurge and is at least palatable to livestock. In the treated areas, cheatgrass has been found to increase with no noticeable increase in native grass species yet. For these reasons, whitetop treatments have been halted, but mapping has continued. There are still some areas which need inventoried due to the ruggedness and size of the area. All treatments will be performed from the ground.

Sand Creek/Willow Creek Saltcedar WLCI (Since 2008)

Portions of Sand Creek and Willow Creek, including side tributaries and reservoirs have been inventoried and treated. In 2014, treatments will resume on Muddy Creek (after a two year hiatus) and inventory will resume on the remaining reservoirs, as well as maintenance treatments on Sand Creek and Willow Creek, including side tributaries. All known patches large enough for aerial treatment have been treated. Future treatments will be performed from the ground. The remaining seed sources along the Little Snake River will need a coordinated effort with multiple landowners and the Carbon County Weed & Pest District—this expansion is still being discussed with Weed & Pest personnel.

Hay Reservoir Russian knapweed WLCI (Since 2009)

This project is planned to continue into 2014 with maintenance treatments from the ground as needed. The private landowner is also planning on continuing treatments.

Pepperweed Partnership WLCI (Since 2009)

The treatments performed in 2013 will be monitored and maintenance treatments are currently planned for 2014. The Ranch did not allow access for most weed treatments in 2013, so very little inventory, monitoring and very few treatments were completed below Teton Reservoir. Treatments occurred from this reservoir upstream onto the neighboring ranch and on a large drainage to the north (totaling approx. 10 stream miles). The Ranch has budgeted funds for treatment in 2014.

Various other weed projects within the WLCI boundary:

JO Ranch WLCI—Treatments are planned for 2014 on perennial pepperweed and other invasive species (including a patch of matrimony vine aka goji berry) as determined by the wildlife staff. Monitoring of 2012 crested wheatgrass treatments and native plant inter-seeding will occur in 2014, along with monitoring of past invasive species' treatments. Additional treatments may occur, but have not been confirmed yet.

Grizzly Habitat Management Area—This project was initiated by the BLM to treat the spread of cheatgrass along BLM roads in this area before it started invading the native rangeland. Black henbane and Canada thistle were also added. The first treatments were conducted in September 2008 with monitoring and treatments completed in 2010-2013. No cheatgrass treatments were conducted since 2008 as there was a dramatic decrease in cheatgrass. Treatments have focused on manual removal of black henbane. Since some of the roads were re-constructed in 2010-11, there has been an increase in weedy species, including cheatgrass, in those borrow ditches. These are planned to be addressed in 2014.

Miscellaneous knapweed patches—There are several small Russian knapweed patches scattered throughout the area being treated as found--most have been eradicated. Spotted knapweed found in Bennett Peak campground and Seminoe/HiLine area will be treated. Diffuse knapweed at Seminoe/HiLine, Shirley Mountain, west of Saratoga, and new patches south of the Bennett Mountains and the east end of Ferris Mountain will be treated.

Houndstongue and henbane—The largest populations are found by Flat Top Mountain and Loco Creek. The Flat Top site has both species and the Companies have been treating them for many years. The patches continue to spread with lack of complete treatments and follow-up treatments. The Loco Creek site (Savery area) contains houndstongue intermixed with Canada and musk thistles and spotted knapweed. For this site, an integrated approach is being discussed to address the weeds. A small patch of houndstongue is manually treated by Pennock Mountain, and numerous sites are known of on private lands near BLM lands. Henbane is treated as found, and all but one known patch has been eradicated (see Grizzly area discussed above).

Upper North Platte River Valley—Leafy spurge, musk thistle, oxeye daisy and other species in this area will be treated by ground as funding allows, along with the ongoing inventory of the region. There are also projects addressing cheatgrass and juniper encroachment ongoing.

