COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

CWMA: What is Unique - Highlands

Presenters: Todd Transtrum **8:00A – 9:15 A**

The Highlands cooperative weed management area is located in Southeastern Idaho in the counties of Bear Lake, Bonneville and Caribou. It also includes parts of Lincoln County, WY and Rich County, UT. We have a total area of about 4.8 million acres. Some of the weed species we work on include; yellow toadflax, perennial pepperweed, dyer's woad, spotted knapweed, salt cedar and white top. We fund our efforts from state and federal grants as well as local sources. We have implemented an integrated management approach using herbicides, biological and mechanical control methods. Community outreach and mapping work is also a big part of our activities. In spite of many challenges and some set backs we have remained a tight knit group, advanced the cause of weed control in the area and have a long-term commitment to the fight against noxious weeds.

Henry's Lake Eurasian Water Milfoil Project

Presenters: Bryce Fowler **8:00A – 9:15A**

This presentation is going to be on the Henrys Lake Eurasian Watermilfoil Project, which was funded by the Idaho Department of Ag. It will address the players who were part of this project, the criteria that were followed, and how we came up with the ideas that helped build this project.

We will also cover the equipment that was used along with the outcomes and the mistakes that we had, and the trials as well as the huge success that we had with this project. Then we will also discuss the sampling we did on the lake and also what the boater surveys discovered that will help us for years to come.

Panel: Federal, State and County Programs – Contrasts and Similarities

Presenter: Jeffrey Pettingill, Matt Voile & Roger Rosentreter **8:00A – 9:15A**

Jeffrey Pettingill, Matt Voile and Roger Rosentreter will present on local, state and federal noxious weed efforts and the programs they are working with and implementing to help rid Idaho of noxious and invasive weeds.

CWMA: What is Unique – Blaine County

Presenters: Malia Leonard **9:15 A – 10:15A**

The Blaine County CWMA (BCCWMA) is as unique as the county's topography. It covers 1.7 million acres of multi-use lands and the major species of noxious weeds found in the area include Scotch thistle, Canada thistle, Diffuse and Spotted Knapweed, Dalmatian Toadflax, and Leafy Spurge.

One of the distinct aspects of this organization can be attributed to the diversity of its cooperators and participants. The BCCWMA services landowners from sheepherders to celebrities, who often have opposing views on how to reach common weed goals. Trying to satisfy the interests of such a mixed party while upholding Idaho State's Noxious Weed Law presents a unique and interesting challenge.

This presentation will cover the history of this organization from conception to present day, and will highlight Blaine County CWMA's largest and most successful projects.

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EDRR at the County Level

Presenter: Carl Crabtree and Pat Green **9:15 A – 10:15A**

A lot of people talk about eradication of weeds via early detection, rapid response, but often their results are as varied as their definitions of "eradicate". We will discuss Early Detection, Rapid Response at a scientific and practical level. What are the pitfalls of not implementing this strategy, as well as the pitfalls of implementing this strategy. Research has shown that the most cost effective means of controlling weed infestations is to treat them when they are small and few in numbers. Yet, we often wait until we have large populations before implement eradication efforts. Here is what you can do, and why!

Aquatics Updates and New Finds

Presenter: Tom Woolf **9:15 A – 10:15A**

Invasive aquatic plant treatments in 2008 have expanded to species beyond Eurasian watermilfoil. A number of invasive aquatic plant species have been found in the state and many have been aggressively treated. Improved aquatic invasive species education and cooperation has led to the identification of new populations of aquatic nasties.

Monitoring of Aquatics and Lessons for Aquatic Weed Managers

Presenter: Tom Woolf **10:45 A – 11:45 A**

The Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) program has completed the third year of aggressive treatment. Survey has found that EWM treated waterbodies have significant decreases in EWM distribution and frequency while native plant populations have remained stable or expanded. A number of waterbodies in the state have been found to be free of EWM a year following treatment. Eastern Idaho has been found to still be EWM free and increased awareness and surveying aims to keep it that way.

Alternative Ways of Getting the Work Done: Volunteers & Students

Presenter: Terri Bergmeier and Becca Schneiderhan **10:45 A – 11:45 A**

Bergmeier – volunteers: This session looks at a public/private/citizen volunteer system to combat invasive species. Federal, state and county weed managers gain useful information and resources to strategically implement volunteers into your weed control programs to get the on-the ground work done.

Schneiderhan - students: There is an incredibly large workforce among all area high school students. Learning to use this valuable resource is key. I'll walk you through the basic steps of setting up a student workforce and the elements each program needs to succeed. We have been successful in setting up programs throughout the state of Idaho and we have learned what does and doesn't work. By teaming up with local weed superintendants we can show you how to maximize your workforce without needing large budgets for salaries.

Panel: Federal, State and County Programs – Contrasts and Similarities

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Thursday – January 29, 2009

The Identification, Ecology and Management of Ventenata

Presenter: Pamela Scheinost **8:00 A – 9:15 A**

Ventenata (*Ventenata dubia* (Leers) Coss.) was first identified in the U.S. in Washington state in 1952. It originally occupied roadsides and other disturbed and marginal areas, and has more recently invaded healthy perennial vegetation. Ventenata is now considered problematic in hay, pasture, and CRP fields, as well as native range and transitional forest habitats. It has no known forage value for livestock or wildlife and complicates pasture and hay land management. It causes soil to be prone to erosion due to its shallow rooting depth, limits functions of waterways and degrades land values. Until recently, little was known about the biology, habitat, distribution and management of ventenata. A questionnaire was sent to NRCS and Forest Service offices and a distribution survey was conducted throughout the Inland Northwest in May and June 2008. Data collected from these endeavors revealed the elevation, precipitation zones and soil types where ventenata occurs. In addition, an inventory of successful and unsuccessful management practices was compiled. This information is being applied to determine effective control strategies to reduce ventenata's spread.

Landscape Weed Management

Presenter: Woodum Chung **8:00 A – 9:15 A**

Management of invasive weeds should consider the terrain in which the weed is found in order to select effective treatments. In addition, the costs of not treating should be accounted for through predicting the spread of the plant and its environmental and economic affects from the additional movement. Selecting potential treatments appropriate to site conditions, assessing the impact of the species and forecasting the costs into the next five years would allow a weed manager to select cost effective treatments that reduce costs and provide measurable benefits.

A decision tool that works at a landscape scale is in development that will assist land managers in creating management plans that consider a forecast of costs of treatments and costs of not treating. The tool will allow managers to select management techniques that address the plant's biology, the terrain and costs of treatment as well as market and non-market costs of not controlling the species.

Pesticide Spills

Presenter: Sherm Takatori **8:00 A – 9:15 A**

This presentation addresses pesticide product spills from the applicator and manager point of view. The presentation outline includes spill prevention, spill response, risk mitigation and the 3 C's and spill checklists.

The *Pesticide Spills* presentation is in MS PowerPoint format and is approximately 50 minutes in length. The target audience is pesticide applicators, dispatchers, facilities managers, and persons working in company compliance.

At the end of the presentation, the attendees should be able to:

1. Identify various pesticide spills
2. Know practical steps to prevent pesticide spills
3. Know what is an appropriate response to pesticide spills
4. Know what actions to take if a pesticide spill occurs
5. Identify common risks associated with pesticide spills
6. Know the importance of pesticide spill checklists and how to use them

This presentation does not address DOT requirements for hazardous material transport or any specific statute or ordinance that governs transportation of pesticide products on Idaho roads or highways.

The Complexity of Rush Skeletonweed and Invasive Hawkweeds: What It Means for Biological Control

Presenter: Mark Schwartzlaender and Marijka Haverhals **8:00 A – 9:15 A**

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In this seminar we will present information on the different biotypes of rush skeletonweed. We will provide information that shows that the different forms of skeletonweed are found in different areas of Idaho and adjacent states and how they differ in their growth and the way they can be managed using biocontrol agents or herbicides. We will discuss experiments planned for 2009 to test the efficacy of different herbicides and lastly we will talk realistically about present biocontrol impact, the implementation project for the skeletonweed root moth (for which we need field sites and local collaborators) and about future biocontrol agents.

Similarly we will provide information about the different exotic and native hawkweeds and provide realistic information about current and future biocontrol efforts as well as the new hawkweed consortium website.

Native Plant Domestication – A New University of Idaho Project

Presenter: Steve Love **9:15 A – 10:15 A**

In 2005, the University of Idaho, led by Dr. Stephen Love and Thomas Salaiz, initiated a research program designed to domesticate native plants for use in home landscapes and private property maintenance. This research may have wider implications in making material available for public property restoration and improvement. To date, over three hundred species of native plants, mostly shrubs and perennials, have been collected from various locations in Idaho or purchased from other collectors who specialize in Intermountain West natives. These accessions have been established in a three-acre research plot on the Aberdeen R & E Center where they are being evaluated for adaptation, ability to thrive under minimal irrigation conditions, timing and duration of bloom, and horticultural value. Species of plants being evaluated are categorized as native grasses, mints and hyssops, buckwheats, penstemons, columbines, asters and daisies, and assorted shrubs. Seed and propagules of superior plants will be made available to seed producers and nurserymen for increase and distribution to interested buyers.

Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission

Presenter: Gretchen Hyde & Jodie Mink **9:15 A – 10:15 A**

The Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission will conduct a session centered on what you can do to educate youth and adults in your area. By creating a partnership with the Washington County Weed Department and local CWMA groups in the Weiser area, the IRRC has helped to coordinate an annual teacher workshop in conjunction with the week tour. Come learn more about how to start a teacher workshop in your area. The IRRC started its educational programs 10 years ago from the ground up. By evaluating their audience, the IRRC has developed a variety of educational materials for youth and adults living in Idaho. Plan to attend this session to learn more about IRRC resources, how to evaluate resources to ensure they are a good fit for your target audience, and learn how IRRC has put together successful outreach and educational programs.

Early Control of Rush Skeletonweed in a Barrier Zone

Presenter: Kim Goodwin and Daniel Bertram **9:15 A – 10:15 A**

Rush skeletonweed (CHOJU) continues to spread to new sites in the western region. Fortunately, geographic areas and entire states still remain nearly CHOJU-free. Effective EDRR is fundamental to slowing spread and protecting areas from invasion, but is difficult to attain. Strategic barrier zones associated with a coordinated network of multi-level stakeholders may improve EDRR performance to restrict the spread of CHOJU and other new weed invaders and safeguard habitats from invasion. The Continental Divide Barrier Zone comprises over 13 million ac along the southwestern MT and northeastern ID border. The intent of the barrier zone is to interrupt movement and use intensive monitoring to eradicate new populations as they occur. A local-level committee was developed in 2007 to identify constraints and potential solutions to slow the north-eastward spread of CHOJU and protect northeastern ID from invasion. However, the dispersal ability of this plant presents challenges to its early control. Narrowing search areas is difficult because CHOJU is wind dispersed over long distances in complex spread patterns. Extensive surveys in wildland with difficult terrain are needed to locate new invasions. Tools to support these surveys may include (1) digital aerial sketch mapping to regularly survey landscapes for eradicable populations, (2) improvements to ground-based surveys with plant occurrence and dispersal models, and (3) passive monitoring by user groups to supplement formal surveys. Other EDRR challenges include the need for highly consistent treatments to offset herbicide tolerance resulting from poor soil conditions, which are common among sites, and plant characteristics such as lack of leaf area. Additional tools to increase detection rates for individual plants within infestations are also needed to prevent reproductive escape and increase the likelihood of successful eradication. Improved source management using biocontrol and grazing will support EDRR by reducing complex and ongoing dispersal. Marketing campaigns to influence public opinion and policy for lasting outcomes will support prevention approaches, which are optimal in the long term. (Dave Burch – additional contributor)

Idaho's BioControl Strategic Plan in Action

Presenter: Joey Milan **9:15 A – 10:15 A**

With the completion of Idaho's Strategic Plan for Biological Control of Noxious and Invasive Weeds, the major players involved in biological control throughout Idaho are on the same page. Moving forward, we have crafted a mission statement and several goals we anticipate meeting in the next 10 years. Also discussed during this presentation will be a number of recent accomplishments and successes in biological control, the statewide monitoring program, and several unique programs throughout the state. Private land owners, land managers and Cooperative Weed Management Area members interested in bolstering their Integrated Weed Management programs are encouraged to attend this presentation.

Adventures in Revegetation

Presenter: John Nelson **10:45 A – 11:45 A**

51,000 acres of Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area burned during the summer of 2007. After the fire was extinguished, restoration teams for the BLM, IDL, TNC, and IDF&G were formed to work on areas that each agency respectively manages and owns while cooperating on the joint restoration effort. Initial success and failures will be the topic of this presentation focusing on grassland restoration with the many techniques and varying chemical applications tried in the different areas of the WMA.

Practical Approaches to Evaluating the Effectiveness of Weed Management Strategies

Presenter: Kelly Crane **10:45 A – 11:45 A**

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Declining budgets and increasing public scrutiny of weed management programs in Idaho require an efficient monitoring strategy to evaluate and document the effectiveness of vegetation treatments. The objectives of this presentation is to provide participants with the necessary information to design and implement a monitoring strategy to objectively evaluate changes in plant community attributes which result from weed management treatments.

This presentation will provide participants with several practical and reliable approaches to evaluate the success of chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments to manage invasive plant species. Topics to be discussed include characterizing management and monitoring objectives; identifying appropriate plant community attributes for monitoring; selecting sampling strategies and methods; and techniques to summarize/analyze data. Practical examples of different monitoring approaches will be presented and discussed.

Where Are We With New Bugs for Whitetop, Dyers Woad, and Houndstongue?

Panelists: Mark Schwartzlaender **10:45 A – 11:45 A**

This seminar is about the current state of biocontrol efforts for new biocontrol agents for the three invasive western mustards, dyers woad, hoary cress, and perennial pepperweed and for houndstongue. While there are three new biocontrol agents in the pipeline that were slated for petitioning in 2009, a stem galling weevil for hoary cress, a root galling weevil for dyers woad, and a seed feeding weevil for houndstongue, the policy changes in the State of Idaho have had an effect on our efforts. Consequently, it has become difficult to stick to the original set deadlines. I will present to you what we try to do to get these biocontrol candidates petitioned for release in the U.S. I will also provide almost complete information on the expected impact and host range of these three desperately needed insects.

The last part of this seminar will be dedicated to all of you. I plan to present data on the statewide biocontrol monitoring program. Since many volunteers are working together to make this unique program possible, I want to use two years of Dalmatian toadflax data to demonstrate how this data can be analyzed to answer the question about biocontrol impact statewide. Simply put, a little work of many weed workers creates powerful data sets.

Test Plots with Russian Knapweed

Presenter: Vanelle Peterson **10:45 A – 11:45 A**

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The Challenges of Using Native Wetland Plants to Revegetate Contaminated Soils in the CDA River Floodplain

Presenters: Mike Schlepp **1:30 P – 2:45 P**

This presentation will focus on three primary points:

1) identifying plants adapted to contamination levels found in the CDA Basin.
2) how to enhance the survivability of plant populations using soil amendments (in situ treatments of heavy metals in the soil matrix)
3) steps we have taken to verify the effectiveness of treatments

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Animals Into A System

Presenter: Rachel Frost **9:15 A – 10:15 A**

Livestock grazing is a powerful ecological force capable of altering the structure and composition of vegetation at the landscape scale. The degree to which the timing, intensity, and frequency of grazing, in addition to the species of livestock is managed determines the ultimate outcome of grazing and the potential impact to the land. The rebirth of an intensive form of grazing management, known as "targeted grazing", attempts to harness the vegetation manipulation power of livestock as a tool to control weedy and invasive species. For maximum effectiveness grazing should occur at a time when the undesirable plants are most susceptible to grazing and the desirable plants are relatively unsusceptible to defoliation. This helps livestock achieve adequate use levels on undesirable plants while staying within acceptable use guidelines on desirable plants. Providing livestock with the correct experiences, role models and supplementation can increase their acceptance and consumption of unwanted plants. Livestock grazing as part of an integrated weed control plan is being practiced extensively throughout Montana on such weeds as leafy spurge, spotted knapweed and Dalmatian toadflax with encouraging results. On most sites, after 3 consecutive years of sheep grazing, the vegetation community has shifted from being dominated by noxious weeds to a plant community where noxious weeds are still present, but grasses dominate the site along with a recovering native forb component. Like any other weed control method, targeted grazing has inherent risks and costs associated with its use, however it offers a more "natural" alternative to herbicides and integrates well with other control methods. Continued research into the biology of invasive plants and the behavior of livestock is needed to increase the efficacy and acceptance of targeted grazing as a viable part of an integrated weed management plan.

Weed Education and Outreach to Idaho Classrooms and the General Public

Presenter: Roger Batt & Brad Elsberg **1:30 P – 2:45 P**

Roger Batt (IWAC Coordinator) and Brad Elsberg (Elsberg Productions) will present on current and newly emerging noxious and invasive plant educational opportunities for the Idaho classroom and the general public to increase knowledge and awareness about the severe threats of noxious and invasive plants.

Rehab Efforts in Murphy Complex: After the Flames

Presenter: Katie Dennis **3:15 P – 4:30 P**

The 2007 Murphy Complex fire burned approximately 1,000 square miles of native and non-native rangeland in southern Idaho and northern Nevada. Higher than average July temperatures, low relative humidity percentages and the remote location of the fire resulted in 653,000 acres of BLM, State, and Private land to burn. The resulting BLM Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation plan required a substantial amount of planning and coordination with cooperating agencies and contractors. Due to the massive size of the burned area, the Murphy Complex became the main priority for rehabilitation in 2007. An Executive Order issued by Idaho Governor Butch Otter created a Statewide Wildfire Rehabilitation Committee involving many agencies cooperating together in one of the largest fire rehabilitation projects in Idaho's history.

Making Decisions for Grassland Restoration

Presenter: Tim Prather **3:15 P – 4:30 P**

Restoration of grasslands helps to create weed-resistant plant communities. Barriers to successful restoration include competition from weeds that capture resources otherwise available to new plantings or to remnant perennials that would increase in size if resources were available. If a plant community is primarily perennial, does it need the same management as a plant community with few perennial plants? Likely, the two communities would benefit from different restoration strategies. In northern Idaho canyon grasslands a major barrier to restoration are annual grasses that compete with seedlings of perennial grasses. We studied the effects of the same treatments across plant communities in the Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, balsamroot series that were comprised mostly of: 1)perennial plant species, 2) less than half the are with perennial plant species, and 3) less than 25% perennial plant species. The annual grasses that dominated two sites were downy brome and ventenata. The herbicide Journey was applied as broadcast or spot-spray applications and plots areas were either seeded with mulch or not seeded. The three plant communities at each of two sites responded differently to the herbicide treatments. Perennial plant species seeded included Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, Sandberg bluegrass, yarrow and Clearwater penstemon. The effect of seeding varied across the there plant communities as well.

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Review of Current DuPont Vegetation Management Herbicides (for roadside, bare ground and invasive weed control)

Presenter: Ronnie Turner **3:15 P – 4:30 P**

DuPont™ has a long history of developing herbicides for use in the roadside selective, bare ground and invasive weed control markets. Many of these earlier products are still in use today, such as Karmex® (diuron) 1951, Hyvar® (bromacil) 1962, Velpar® (hexazinone) 1972, Krenite® (forsamine) 1974, Telar® (chlorsufloron) 1979, Oust® (sulfometuron) 1980, Escort® (metsulfuron) 1983. The latest DuPont™ products to be registered for these vegetation management markets include Matrix (rimsulfuron), as a short residual herbicide for the roadside and utility markets and the Lineage blend products contining the new, dry formulation of imazapyr.

Aminocyclopyrachlor, a new active ingredient herbicide from DuPont™, is currently under development for a number of non-crop markets including brush, bare ground, roadside selective and invasive weed management. Aminocyclopyrachlor is novel chemistry that will provide better efficacy and environmental safety in all non-crop markets when compared to key commercial standards. This highly potent herbicide provides broad-spectrum control of Asteraceae, Fabaceae, Chenopodiaceae, Convolvulaceae, Solanaceae and Euphorbiaceae, as well as many other broadleaf and woody weed species. Aminocyclopyrachlor also controls important ALS, PPO, triazine and glyphosate resistant weeds such as *Amaranthus sp.*, *Kochia scoparia*, *Conyza Canadensis*, *Ambrosis sp.*, and *Salsola iberica*. Aminocyclopyrachlor will be the new standard for weed control in the roadside selective, invasive weed management, bare ground and brush markets. Field efficacy results and proposed directions for use will be presented.