

# LEMHI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA 2012 ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN

## I. Priorities and Descriptions

### Priority 1 (Citizens against Weeds)

This priority is a combination of three projects with the same underlying concept and therefore grouped together, listed below are projects a,b and c. The goal of these projects are to encourage private landowners to become involved with noxious weed management, to help them get a handle on weed problems so that they can manage them and to provide assistance in any area that they may need.

#### a) Cost Share Program

The cost share program is run by reimbursing private landowners 50% of herbicide costs up to \$150 of the total purchase. All herbicide applications are required to be used on Idaho State noxious weed species and a completed record prior to reimbursement. All applications will be made on private land within the Lemhi CWMA during the growing season of 2012. This program is crucial in helping private landowners control any listed noxious weed thus reducing the spread and impact resulting in an estimate of 1000 chemical acres and 5000 inventoried acres. All cost share applications must be turned in to our office by the end of September, at which time any remaining funds would be reimbursed to applicants by an additional 25% for an application that spent more than \$500 with any remaining used to purchase herbicide.

#### b) Spray day Program

This is another project developed to help private landowners combat noxious weeds located on their land. During a spray day event, members from the Lemhi CWMA will stage in a specific location and disburse herbicide to private landowners free of charge. In addition to the landowners treating their own weeds, professional applicators are available to help landowners that are unable to treat their property or need guidance on correct application procedures. This project is very valuable not only from a control standpoint but also from an educational prospective as well, in addition to an estimated 500 chemical acres treated and an additional 2000 acres inventoried.

#### c) Equipment Loaner Program

This program is designed to give private landowners the tools needed for herbicide application or habitat improvement. People can borrow ATV sprayers, back pack sprayers and seeders. Due to the success of this program our loaner equipment has deteriorated to the point that we are in need of replacing the backpack sprayers. In order to ensure that this program is self sufficient in the future we will allow the equipment to be taken for two days free of charge after

which there will be a \$5.00 a day charge which will then be used for future replacement costs.

**Measurable Outcomes**

- **Number of acres to be inventoried: 7000**
- **Total estimated acres to be treated: 1500**
- **Total number of public contacts: 1000**

**Tools/Resources required for this priority:** Trucks, ATV's, back pack sprayers, seeders, gps units, herbicide, personal protective equipment, computer, printer and a digital camera.

**Tools/Resources to be purchased with grant funds for this priority:** Herbicide (\$7,000) Backpack sprayers Loaner program (\$3,000) and cost share reimbursement (\$5,000).

**Estimated Expenditures:**

Total Cost: \$55,000                      ISDA Request: \$15,000                      Estimated Match: \$40,000

**Priority 2 (Species of Concern Project)**

This project compliments the spray day events by allowing members from the Lemhi CWMA to treat noxious weeds of concern such as houndstongue that were not treated during the actual spray day event. By completing this project we are able to treat the entire infestation and preventing seed set to re-infest previously treated locations. Typically our crews will begin treatment on private land and follow the infestation onto the BLM and then to the Forest Service in a combined group effort. Primary weeds that will be target are Rush Skeletonweed, houndstongue, puncturevine, Whitetop and Scotch thistle. In addition to these species which are on our new invader list we would be constantly looking for additional weed species that could be moving into the county. We would also like to purchase two Garmin Rino's 655T units at \$600.00 each. These units allow the crews to have the safety of communication in the field and to be able to gps weed locations. In addition this unit has a built in camera which allows for more pictures taken while in the field.

**Measurable Outcomes**

- **Number of acres to be inventoried:6000**
- **Total estimated acres to be treated: 500**
- **Total number of public contacts: 1000**

**Tools/Resources required for this priority:** Trucks, ATV's, back pack sprayers, seeders, gps units, herbicide, personal protective equipment, computer, printer and a digital camera.

**Tools/Resources to be purchased with grant funds for this priority:** Herbicide (12,000) and Seasonal technician labor (10,000) Garmin Rino 655T (1,200)

**Estimated Expenditures:**

Total Cost: \$53,200                      ISDA Request: \$23,200                      Estimated Match: \$30,000

### **Priority 3 Bio-Control**

The Lemhi CWMA is once again striving to diversify the way that noxious weeds are controlled in Lemhi County. Currently we have large amounts of *Urophora* species well-distributed throughout the county, moderate numbers of *Larinus minutus* (which are spreading well on their own) and the occasional *Metzneria paucipunctella* working with us against spotted knapweed. Last field season 19,215 *Cyphocleonus Achates* were released in Lemhi County because of this project and an additional 3000 were sent to various parts of the State. We would like to continue this effort during the 2012 field season by collecting at local insectaries. Funds from the Lemhi CWMA will be used to purchase *Cyphocleonus* at a rate of .25 cents per insect that are collected by youth under the age of 16.

#### **Measurable Outcomes**

- **Total estimated number of *Cyphocleonus* collected : 2000**
- **Total number of public contacts: 300**

**Tools/Resources required for this priority:** Trucks, ATV's, collection containers, computer, gps, digital camera, sweep nets, building materials for the insectary.

**Tools/Resources to be purchased with grant funds for this priority:** 2000 *Cyphocleonus*

#### **Estimated Expenditures:**

Total Cost: \$2,500                      ISDA Request: \$500                      Estimated Match: \$2,000

### **Priority 4 (Equipment Wash Station)**

During the 2011 cost share grant application the Lemhi CWMA was fortunate enough to receive \$7,430.50 toward an undercarriage wash station. With this funding we were able to leverage an additional \$59,307.57 to purchase a preassembled unit from Stanton Tire Washes with a five year warranty. While this funding was much more than previously anticipated we felt that purchasing a unit that has been tried and tested would be more beneficial for us into the future. During the 2012 field season we will be installing the unit which will require electricity and plumbing to the site in addition to some minor construction. We anticipate this cost being \$25,000 which would in turn make the entire project cost \$91,738.07 of which the cost share would have funded if this request is approved a total of \$12,430.50 These figures do not include the additional in-kind value of the land that the wash station will be placed upon.

#### **Measurable Outcomes**

- **Prevention**
- **Total number of public contacts: 100**

**Tools/Resources required for this priority:** Heavy equipment, Plummer, concrete

**Tools/Resources to be purchased with grant funds for this priority:** Equipment and supplies for the wash station

**Estimated Expenditures:**

Total Cost: \$25,000                      ISDA Request: \$5,000                      Estimated Match: \$20,000

**Priority 5 (Rush Skeletonweed)**

The purpose of this project is to inventory and spray scattered, isolated infestations of rush skeletonweed cropping up in the Salmon River Canyon in the western part of Lemhi County. Lemhi CWMA would contract the services of a professional herbicide applicator to spray these known sites and extend the perimeter of existing inventory to detect other nearby satellite infestations to map and treat these as well. Although most of these infestations are only one-tenth of an acre in size, the potential area of infestation is enormous if this weed species establishes and spreads. Watershed function, soil stability, native plant communities, big game winter range, and fisheries habitat are all threatened.

**Measurable Outcomes**

- **Number of acres to be inventoried: 500**
- **Total estimated acres to be treated: 100**
- **Total number of public contacts: 10**

**Tools/Resources required for this priority:** Truck, GPS, Backpack sprayers, Helicopter, Horse and tack.

**Tools/Resources to be purchased with grant funds for this priority:** Commercial applicator \$5,000 and Inventory \$5,000

**Estimated Expenditures:**

Total Cost: \$20,000                      ISDA Request: \$10,000                      Estimated Match: \$10,000

**Priority 6 (Re-vegetation)**

The intended goal for our noxious weed treatments is to return the environmental conditions to the native or desirable ecosystem. Our goal when utilizing herbicide as a tool is to not impact the native vegetation; however there are situations where there is no longer any desirable species either due to the herbicide or because of noxious weeds out competing them. In this instance we need to establish desirable species in order to prevent the re-establishment of weeds. One area that we experience a large expansion of noxious weeds are on corner pivots or in areas that are no longer farmed. We would like to purchase a no till drill that can be pulled behind an ATV to seed these areas. After many painful attempts at broadcast seeding we have determined that our seeding attempts would greatly increased if incorporated into the soil bank.

**Measurable Outcomes**

- **Number of acres to be inventoried: 300**
- **Total estimated acres to be treated: 100**
- **Total number of public contacts: 10**

**Tools/Resources required for this priority:** Grass seed, ATV, hand and ATV seeders, truck, harrow

**Tools/Resources to be purchased with grant funds for this priority:** ATV no-till drill seeder

**Estimated Expenditures:**

Total Cost: \$12,000                      ISDA Request: \$7,000                      Estimated Match: \$5,000

**Priority 7 (Leafy Spurge Control)**

2011 was the 11<sup>th</sup> year for utilizing goat grazing as a weed management tool in controlling the spread of leafy spurge within an approximately 8,407-acre project area. This project is part of an integrated management strategy to control an estimated 600 acres of spurge on public and private lands within the Carmen Creek drainage of Lemhi County. The impacts from grazing have resulted in a major reduction of biomass and seed production. During 2011 we plan to graze primarily on private land for the third time of the project totaling 1,500 acres. Permanent monitoring transects have been placed in order to track the progress achieved. Currently our goal is to graze each pasture every five years, however this figure can and probably will be changed until the best management practice is determined.

**Measurable Outcomes**

- **Number of acres to be inventoried: 6000**
- **Total estimated acres to be treated: 300**
- **Total number of public contacts: 50**

**Tools/Resources required for this priority:** Goats, trucks, horses, night pens, water troughs, gps units, computer, printer, digital camera and monitoring equipment.

**Tools/Resources to be purchased with grant funds for this priority:** rental of goats.

**Estimated Expenditures:**

Total Cost: \$20,000                      ISDA Request: \$10,000                      Estimated Match: \$10,000

**Priority Totals**

<b>Total Cost of all priorities:.....</b>	<b>\$187,700</b>
<b>ISDA Request (VI):.....</b>	<b>\$70,700</b>
<b>Administrative Fee (VII):.....</b>	<b>\$3,535</b>
<b>Total (ISDA) Request (VIII):.....</b>	<b>\$74,235</b>
<b>Estimated Match (IX):.....</b>	<b>\$117,000</b>