

## **Chelan – Grade Creek Road**

**Description:** The Grade Creek Road (8200) parallels the shore of Lake Chelan for twenty-five miles from Anitlon Lake to the Safety Harbor Creek Trailhead and then joins the Cooper Ridge Road (8020) on the ridge between the Chelan and Methow Valley Ranger districts. Uplake of this road system is Roadless, Wilderness, and National Park Service Land. Cheatgrass infests the dry slopes above the lake and Dalmatian toadflax and spotted and diffuse knapweed infest the road systems, with a lower density at the higher elevations along the Cooper Ridge Road. Toadflax infests larger patches in the vicinity of Mitchell Creek. Knapweeds are found along the first 4 miles of the Safety Harbor Creek Trail. Much of the area was burned in the Deer Point Fire (2002).

**Infested acres:** 89 acres

**Total acres:** 29,985 acres

**5<sup>th</sup> Field watershed:** Lower Lake Chelan 1702000903

**Major Streams and Waterbodies:** Lake Chelan, Gold Creek, Poison Creek, Grade Creek, Little Grade Creek, Camas Creek, Coyote Creek.

**Elevation:** 1200 – 7800 ft.

**Vegetation Types:** shrub steppe/grassland, early successional dry ponderosa pine Douglas fir forest, lodgepole pine forest, mixed conifer forest, subalpine fir, montane shrub and parkland, riparian and deciduous shrub.

**Soils:** Sandy Loam

**Precipitation:** Low elev. – 14-16 inches/yr, Highest elev. – 60-70 inches/yr

**Special Management Areas:** None

**Recreation:** dispersed camping, hunting, hiking, motorcycle, horseback, and mountain bike riding.

**Grazing:** None

**TES, ISSSP plants:** None.

**Other land Ownerships:** Private

**Vectors of spread:** Vehicle traffic, recreational use, fire suppression lines, wildlife, rock slides.

**Ongoing Treatments:** The road system has been under a spot-spraying (picloram) treatment program for the past 6 years. Populations of the toadflax and the knapweeds have been reduced and the toadflax has not spread up the Safety Harbor Creek Trail or into the area burned by the Deer Point fire. Biocontrols have been released for toadflax at the Mitchell Creek site due to riparian and terrain constraints.

**Existing NEPA:** Wenatchee Forest-wide Noxious Weed EA

**IWM Strategy:** Prevent roadside infestations from spreading into burned areas and into the trail system and uplake areas. Dalmatian toadflax has not been found uplake of Safety Harbor Creek. Monitor for new invaders. Continue to spot spray Dalmatian toadflax and knapweeds along the travel routes. Monitor biocontrol releases for Dalmatian toadflax in Mitchell Creek, and augment if necessary. Continue herbicide spot spraying of knapweed plants until numbers are reduced to the level that hand pulling is feasible.

## **Existing Sites and Treatment Objectives**

Common Name	# of sites	site types	Infested acres	Objective
Cheatgrass	3	1,6	7.1	Contain
Diffuse knapweed	10	1,6	62.5	Control
Spotted knapweed	22	1,6	12.9	Control
Bull thistle	2	6	0.3	Control
Common St.John's wort	1	1	0.1	Eradicate
Dalmatian toadflax	11	1,5,6	5.3	Control/Supress
Bulbous bluegrass	2	1,6	0.4	Contain
Sulphur cinquefoil	1	1,6	0.01	Eradicate
Common mullein	2	1,6	0.3	Contain
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>		<b>89</b>	