

## Methow –Bear and Cougar

**Description:** This area is comprised of Bear and Cougar road systems. Invasive plant populations are relatively low. The area includes the shrub steppe habitat on the south facing slopes of the Bear Creek drainage which has some scattered patches of Dalmatian toadflax. A large population of Dalmatian toadflax including two smaller satellite sites is on the south WDF&W boundary just north of Campbell Lake. Diffuse knapweed is scattered in low densities along roadsides with a few dense patches. There are no new invader weed sites in the Cougar Creek drainage with the exception of one small Dalmatian toadflax site. A portion of the Tripod burned area is within the treatment area with spread potential into the burned area.

**Infested acres:** 7

**Total acres:** 8,002

**5<sup>th</sup> Field watershed:** MIDDLE METHOW RIVER, HUC 1702000806

**Major Streams and Waterbodies:** Bear Creek, Cougar Creek

**Elevation:** 2700 to 6600 feet

**Vegetation Type:** Lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, Ponderosa pine, Shrub steppe, Subalpine fir, Low elevation grassland.

**Soils:** developed mainly from glacial activity (continental and alpine) and from volcanic ash deposition on the surface; till left by the glaciers is generally coarse with soil textures mostly sandy loams and loamy sands with rock fragment content from 15 to 65 percent gravels, cobbles and stones.

**Precipitation:** 22-32 inches

**Special Management Areas:** Tripod Fire

**Recreation:** hunting and some dispersed camping

**Grazing:** The Bear Creek drainage is within the Ramsey Allotment and the Cougar drainage is within the Beaver allotment.

**TES, ISSSP Species:** None

**Other land Ownerships:** Private, State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

**Vectors of spread:** Vehicle traffic, fire suppression, recreational use, livestock, and wildlife

**Ongoing Treatments:** Much of the Dalmatian toadflax has been treated with herbicide since 2000 with populations greatly reduced, however new satellite populations continue to be found. The knapweed has been treated with herbicide with densities and spread potential reduced.

**Existing NEPA:** All of this treatment area is covered under the 2000 Okanogan National Forest Integrated Weed Management EA and 2 dalmation toadflax sites covered under the 1999 Okanogan National Forest Integrated Weed Management EA.

**IWM Strategy:** Use herbicides to control all new invader populations and to reduce the populations of diffuse knapweed where densities and spread potential are the highest. Continue to use biocontrol on diffuse knapweed populations outside of herbicide control areas. When effective, use manual control where new invader populations are small and where there are populations near water. Continue to monitor for new invaders. Continue to prevent and revegetate new soil disturbance.

### Existing Sites and Treatment Objectives

Species	Common name	Infested acres	# of sites	Site types	Objective
CED13	diffuse knapweed	3.5	5	1	Containment
LIDA	Dalmatian toadflax	3.4	11	1,6	Control/Suppression

PORE5	sulfur cinquefoil	0.1	2	1,6	Control
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