

Methow –Beaver Creek

Description: This area is comprised of the road systems within the Beaver Creek drainage which includes the roads in the Volstead and the Blue Buck drainages. The area includes the shrub steppe habitat in the southwest side and the more mesic mixed conifer in the north and east side. Dalmatian toadflax is well established in the area south of Blue Buck Mt. and in the Volstead Creek area in the bluebunch wheatgrass habitat. The only known population of Musk thistle is on the 4225-200 road. Diffuse knapweed is dense along roadsides on the lower road system between Volstead and Beaver Creek. Knapweed densities are scattered at low densities throughout the north and east side of the area. The newly discovered population of orange hawkweed is in upper Blue Buck Creek and the treatment area includes the adjacent mesic habitat areas and the Tripod Burned area where there is a potential for spread or where there may be undiscovered populations.

Infested acres: 26.5

Total acres: 40,008

5th Field watershed: MIDDLE METHOW RIVER, HUC 1702000806

Major Streams and Waterbodies: Beaver Creek, Lightening Creek, Bluebuck Creek.

Elevation: 2800 to 7300 inches

Vegetation Type: Lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, Subalpine fir, Low elevation grassland and Shrub steppe, Conifer mix, Montane Shrub and herbaceous openings.

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 Fires

Recreation: hunting and some dispersed camping

Grazing: The area is all within the Beaver Allotment

TES, ISSSP Species: Bull trout were present in Blue Buck Creek prior to the Tripod Fire and there is Steelhead in lower Beaver creek.

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

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

Ongoing Treatments: Much of the Dalmatian toadflax has been treated with herbicide since 1999 with populations greatly reduced, however new satellite populations continue to be found. The Blue Buck orange hawkweed sites were treated for the first time in late July of 2008. The knapweed has had some manual treatment to reduce the spread potential with no reduction in densities. The Musk thistle population has been manually treated and continues to be contained to the small localized site.

Existing NEPA: A small portion is covered under the 1999 Okanogan National Forest Integrated Weed Management EA, 2 dalmation toadflax sites covered under the 1999 Okanogan National Forest Integrated Weed Management EA, and the 2008 Blue Buck Hawkweed EA that covers 11 acres of orange hawkweed plus up to 25% more for any new detections in the project area.

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
CADR	whitetop	0.1	1	1	Eradication
CANU4	musk thistle	0.1	1	1,6	Eradication
CEDI3	diffuse knapweed	20.7	9	1,3	Containment
HIAU	orange hawkweed	3.7	4	1,5,6,	Eradication
LIDA	Dalmatian toadflax	1.9	6	1,5,6	Control/Suppression