Methow – Black Canyon

Description: The treatment area is within the Black Canyon subwatershed and includes the Alta Coulee area on the Chelan District. Dalmatian toadflax is scattered in small isolated patches throughout the south facing slopes in the shrub steppe habitat of Black Canyon and Alta Coulee with some larger infestations in the potholes in the bottom of Alta Coulee. The topography is often very steep with granite rock outcrops. Diffuse knapweed infestations are scattered and patchy on roadsides. There are two small infestations of Russian knapweed in Alta Coulee and kochia at the snow park at the bottom of Black Canyon. There is a concern that the toadflax will spread throughout much of the shrub steppe habitat.
Infested acres: 88.3
Total acres: 22,806
5th Field watershed: LOWER METHOW RIVER, HUC 1702000807
Major Streams and Waterbodies: Black Canyon Creek and a small lake at north end of Alta Coulee
Elevation: 1300 to 5800 feet
Vegetation Type: Douglas-fir, Shrub steppe and Low elevation grassland, Ponderosa pine, Lodgepole pine, Conifer mix.
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: 12-40 inches
Special Management Areas: Snow park
Recreation: hunting and some dispersed camping, winter sports
Grazing: Includes part of the Black Canyon pasture within the Hunter McFarland cattle allotment and all of the Alta Coulee C&H in Alta Coulee.
TES, ISSSP Species: None
Other land Ownerships: Private
Vectors of spread: Vehicle traffic, dispersed camping, hunting, livestock, and wildlife
Ongoing Treatments: Herbicide treatments in Black Canyon over the past 10 years have greatly reduced the population of dalmation toadflax and knapweed populations have been reduced levels. There are two Russian knapweed sites in Alta Coulee that have been controlled by herbicide. Bio control insects were released on the toadflax in Alta Coulee in 2004 with some herbicide spot application to contain the site. Populations on roads have been reduced.
Existing NEPA: Most is this treatment area is covered under the 2000 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 and Dalmatian toadflax 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
CEBI2	spotted knapweed	9.8	2	1,6	Control
CEDI3	diffuse knapweed	34.2	12	1,3,5,6	Containment

CERE6	russian knapweed	0.2	2	1,6	Eradication
KOSC	Kochia	1.0	1	1,5,6	Control
LIDA	Dalmatian toadflax	18.1	23	1,3,5,6	Control/Suppression