

Methow – Finley Canyon and Benson Creek

Description: This area is comprised of the road system within the Finley Canyon and Benson Creek drainages. Within the Finley Canyon area Most of the weed infestations are roadside. Diffuse knapweed is scattered and patchy along all of the roads with populations relatively high in the lower Finley Canyon bottom. There is a Sulfur cinquefoil site in the upper Finley Canyon Bottom and 2 whitetop sites and 1 Russian knapweed site along the 4100-300 road in lower Finley Canyon below the Wenner Pond. There is a small Dalmatian toadflax site on the open south facing slope of Finley Canyon. Within the Benson Creek area, virtually all of the weed infestations are roadside. Sulfur cinquefoil is well established on the road 4151-100 and 4150-280 on the south side of Mount Leacher and diffuse knapweed is scattered and patchy along all roads. The treatment area is typically dry ponderosa pine forest but the topography is conducive of some wetlands and ponds which are scattered throughout the area with suitable habitat for invasive plants that have a mesic moisture requirement.

Infested acres: 19.4

Total acres: 25,547

5th Field watershed: MIDDLE METHOW RIVER, HUC 1702000806

Major Streams and Waterbodies: Benson Creek is the only major stream and there are a series of wetlands in the headwaters of Finley Canyon drainage and a portion of Wenner Pond is within national Forest. Much of the Finley Canyon Creek main stream is subterranean in Finley Canyon.

Elevation: 2000 to 4900 feet

Vegetation Type: Douglas-fir, Ponderosa pine, Shrub steppe and Low elevation grassland, Lodgepole pine, Conifer mix.

Soils: Sandy Loam

Precipitation: 16-24 inches

Special Management Areas: None

Recreation: hunting and some dispersed camping

Grazing: All within the Finley cattle allotment

TES, ISSSP Species: None

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

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

Ongoing Treatments: The higher priority weeds continue to be spot treated with herbicide and population densities continue to be reduced.

Existing NEPA: Most 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
CADR	whitetop	0.3	2	1,6	Eradication
CEDI3	diffuse knapweed	12.8	15	1,3,5,6	Containment

CERE6	russian knapweed	0.4	1	1,6	Eradication
HYPE	St. Johnswort	0.1	1	1,6	Containment
LEVU	oxeye daisy	0.4	4	1,5,6	Control/Suppression
LIDA	Dalmatian toadflax	0.2	2	1,6	Control/Suppression
PORE5	sulfur cinquefoil	5.2	8	1,3,5,6	Control