

Methow – Libby Creek

Description: This area is comprised of the Libby Creek road system including the Libby Lake trail head. Diffuse knapweed densities are high in old landings and in past and present cattle loafing areas. Knapweed densities are the highest in patches within the bottom of Smith and Chicamun canyons. Sulfur cinquefoil is spreading in the lower Ben Canyon area. There are small populations of oxeye daisy in Chicamun Canyon and Hornet Draw and St. John's wort on the lower Ben Canyon road (4300-100). There are relatively large blocks of private land in lower Libby Creek with some high density diffuse knapweed sites.

Infested acres: 26.8

Total acres: 19,838

5th Field watershed: LOWER METHOW RIVER, HUC 1702000807

Major Streams and Waterbodies: North Fork Gold Creek, Crater Creek, Foggy Dew Creek, Gold Creek

Elevation: 1700 to 5700 feet

Vegetation Type: Douglas-fir, Ponderosa pine, Lodgepole pine, Shrub steppe and Low elevation grassland, Conifer mix. Much of the Smith Canyon and Chicamun Canyon area is shrub steppe habitat.

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: 16-52 inches

Special Management Areas: 1 trail head

Recreation: Developed and dispersed camping, hiking, outfitterguiding, hunting

Grazing: Lookout Mountain allotment

TES, ISSSP Species: Steelhead in lower Libby Creek

Other land Ownerships: Private

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

Ongoing Treatments: No herbicide EA. The diffuse knapweed on the main Libby Creek road (4300) and on the Chicamun Canyon road has been hand pulled by the county sheriff trustee crew most of the past 6 years. Biocontrol has been effective on diffuse knapweed with reductions in densities by 2005 but population densities continue to cycle back. Manual treatment on the small houndstongue site has been effective with no plants found in 2007. The sulfur cinquefoil and oxeye daisy have not been treated yet.

Existing NEPA: None

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. 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. Treatment at the campgrounds and trailheads will continue to be a priority to prevent the spread of weeds on roads by vehicles and on trails by hikers.

Existing Sites and Treatment Objectives

Species Code	Common name	Infested acres	# of sites	Site types	Objective
CADR	whitetop	2.5	2	1,5,6	Eradication
CEDI3	diffuse knapweed	23.7	14	1,3,5,6	Containment

CYOF	Houndstongue	0.1	1	1,6	Eradication/Control
HYPE	St. Johnswort	0.2	2	1	Containment
LEVU	oxeye daisy	0.2	2	1,5	Control/Suppression
PORE5	sulfur cinquefoil	0.1	1	1,5,6	Control