

Methow – Lower Chewuch River

Description: This area is comprised of the road systems on the east side of the lower Chewuch River drainage and within the Doe Mt road system. Diffuse knapweed densities are high along many of the lower roads in open dry pine habitat type otherwise light and scattered. The highest knapweed densities are on the lower portions of the roads just above the Chewuch and with the higher elevation roads virtually free of knapweed. Knapweed populations are high at Eightmile Ranch following high fire camp use for several large fires. There is a large sulfur cinquefoil site on the 5010-115 road and an extensive common tansy site along the east side of the lower Chewuch River. There are three developed campgrounds, one snow park, and two gravel pits. A portion of the Tripod burned area is within the treatment area with spread potential into the burned area.

Infested acres: 28.8

Total acres: 20,976

5th Field watershed: LOWER CHEWUCH RIVER, HUC 1702000804

Major Streams and Waterbodies: Chewuch River, lower Twentymile and lower Boulder Creek

Elevation: 2100 to 6600 feet

Vegetation Type: Douglas-fir, Ponderosa pine, Lodgepole pine, Shrub steppe, Conifer mix, 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: 18-32 inches

Special Management Areas: Eightmile Ranch, Tripod burned area, 1 snow park, 3 campgrounds, 1 trailhead, and recreation residences

Recreation: Developed and dispersed camping, swimming, biking, and hunting,

Grazing: The east side of the Chewuch drainage, south of Twentymile Creek, is within the East Chewuch cattle allotment.

TES, ISSSP Species: *Mimulus pulsiferae*, *Sanicula marilandica*

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

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

Ongoing Treatments: Diffuse and spotted knapweed on the West Chewuch road (5160) has been hand pulled by the county sheriff trustee crew for the past 8 years and weed population densities have been reduced with the competitive desirable vegetation increasing. Manual treatment of small new invader populations has been less effective. Eightmile Ranch has been under an integrated treatment plan since the 2006 Tripod fire camp using mowing, competitive planting, irrigation, hand pulling, and herbicides to control the weeds. Treatment of common tansy and sulfur cinquefoil has been effective in reducing populations.

Existing NEPA: The area east of the Chewuch River and South of Twenty Mile Creek is covered under the 1997 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. Treatment at the campgrounds and gravel pits will continue to be a priority to prevent the spread of weeds on roads by vehicles.

Continue to survey 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	0.5	5	1,3,5,6	Eradication
CEDI3	diffuse knapweed	17.8	19	1,3,5,6	Containment
CIAR4	Canada thistle	3.0	3	1,5,6	Tolerate/Suppression
HYPE	St. Johnswort	0.3	4	1,3,6	Containment
LIDA	Dalmatian toadflax	0.2	2	1,6	Control/Suppression
PORE5	sulfur cinquefoil	5.5	5	1,3,5,6	Control
TAVU	common tansy	1.6	5	1,3,5,6	Control