

Methow – Rattlesnake Creek

Description: This area is comprised of the 5400 road to Harts Pass including West Fork Methow River trailhead, the Robinson Creek trailhead, and Meadows, River Bend and Ballard Campgrounds. The area also includes the Robinson Creek and the Beauty Creek trails in the wilderness. There is an outfitterguide camp on the Robinson Creek trail and one on the Beauty Creek trail. Whitetop is present at the Robinson Creek Trailhead and there is a well established oxeye daisy population along the 5400 road near Cache Creek. There is a large high density diffuse knapweed population at the West Fork Methow River trailhead and the plants are scattered and patchy along the lower 2 miles of the trail and along the 5400 road in the dry pine sites. Dalmatian toadflax was found in the new gravels at the Meadows campground. This area has pockets of open moist alpine parkland (meadows) plant communities that are suitable habitat for invasive plants that have a mesic moisture requirement, i.e., oxeye daisy and orange hawkweed. There is a concern that weeds will spread along the trail system and into the open meadows.

Infested acres: 22.5

Total acres: 18,813

5th Field watershed: UPPER METHOW RIVER, HUC 1702000802

Major Streams and Waterbodies: Rattlesnake Creek, Robinson Creek

Elevation: 2400 to 8400 feet

Vegetation Type: Subalpine fir, High elevation herbaceous and shrub, Lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, Montane Shrub, Engelmann spruce, Pacific silver fir, Parkland.

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: 32-60 inches

Special Management Areas: Wilderness

Recreation: hiking, outfitter guiding, developed and dispersed camping, hunting, and winter sports

Grazing: The area is not within an active allotment.

TES, ISSSP Species: None

Other land Ownerships: N/A

Vectors of spread: Vehicle traffic, hiking, livestock, and wildlife

Ongoing Treatments: The large diffuse knapweed population at the West Fork Methow trailhead area has been hand pulled 5 of the last 6 years and the whitetop at the Robinson Creek trailhead has been treated with herbicide since the population was found in 2006. All campgrounds continue to be pulled as needed.

Existing NEPA: None

IWM Strategy: Use herbicides to control all new invader populations where manual treatment is not effective. When effective, use manual control where new invader populations are small and where there are populations near water. Continue to survey for new invaders. Outfitters will use only pelletized feed or certified weed-free feed and develop a weed ID and mapping program under Forest Service direction. 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/outfitters.

Existing Sites and Treatment Objectives

Species	Common name	Infested acres	# of sites	Site types	Objective
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CADR	whitetop	0.1	1	1,6	Eradication
CEDI3	diffuse knapweed	21.6	3	1,5,6	Containment
LEVU	oxeye daisy	0.7	1	1,	Control/Suppression
LIDA	Dalmatian toadflax	0.2	2	1,5,6	Control/Suppression