

Methow – Upper Chewuch River

Description: This area is comprised of the Chewuch River road 5160 and the Crystal Lake and Lake Creek trailhead roads. Much of the area is comprised of the Wilderness trail systems associated with Lake Creek, Andrews Creek, the Chewuch River, Four Point Creek, and Tungsten Creek. There are 4 trailheads and 9 wilderness outfitterguide camps. There are populations of oxeye daisy, whitetop, Russian knapweed, St. John's wort, spotted knapweed, and diffuse knapweed within the road system and at the trailheads. Dalmatian toadflax and oxeye daisy have been found along the trail between the trailheads and the wilderness boundary and there is a population of whitetop at Black Lake and Dalmatian toadflax on the trail to Black Lake within the wilderness. This area has hundreds of acres 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: 10

Total acres: 87,638

5th Field watershed: UPPER CHEWUCH RIVER, HUC 1702000803

Major Streams and Waterbodies: Rimmel Lake, Four Point Lake, Tungsten Lake, Lake Creek, Andrews Creek, Chewuch River, Horseshoe Creek

Elevation: 2700 to 8600 feet

Vegetation Type: Lodgepole pine, Subalpine fir, Parkland, High elevation herbaceous and shrub, Douglas-fir, Conifer mix with pinegrass in lower elevations

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: 24-44 inches

Special Management Areas: Wilderness

Recreation: hiking, outfitter guiding, 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, pack and saddle stock, hiking, wildlife

Ongoing Treatments: The Chewuch River road has been hand pulled by Sheriff trustee crew each year for the past 6 years and all the new invader sites at the trailheads continue to be treated with herbicide or hand pulled.

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 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
CADR	whitetop	0.1	1	1,2	Eradication

CEDI3	diffuse knapweed	8.2	4	1,3,5,6	Containment
CERE6	russian knapweed	0.3	2	1,2,3	Eradication
HYPE	St. Johnswort	1.2	2	1,2	Containment
LEVU	oxeye daisy	0.2	2	1,5	Control/Suppression
LIDA	Dalmatian toadflax	0.1	2	1,2	Control/Suppression