

Methow – Wolf Creek

Description: This area is comprised of the road system within the Looney Creek drainage on lower Sandy Butte, the urban interface on the west side of the Mazama area, the wolf Creek trailhead road 5005-220, and the road system within the Little Wolf and the Rader Creek drainage. The area includes the Methow Valley Sports Trail Association (MVSTA) Trail system with trails throughout the treatment area and the Wolf Creek trail system in the wilderness which includes 3 outfitter-guide camps, an old corral area, and Gardner meadows. There are two trailheads; the chickadee trailhead includes a MVSTA hut, and the Wolf creek trailhead includes an outfitter-guide corral. There is a livestock corral, and a gravel pit. Whitetop is the weed of greatest concern in the area with a large site in a mesic meadow at the interface with the Pine Forest development and whitetop is well established on some private land portions of the MVSTA trail system with spread potential on to Forest Land. Sulfur cinquefoil is scattered along MVSTA trails in the lower Rader Creek area. Diffuse knapweed is widely scattered and patchy on all roads.

Infested acres: 36.5

Total acres: 28,997

5th Field watershed: MIDDLE METHOW RIVER, HUC 1702000806

Major Streams and Waterbodies: Wolf Creek, Little Wolf Creek, Rader Creek

Elevation: 2000 to 8700 feet

Vegetation Type: Douglas-fir, Lodgepole pine, Ponderosa pine, Conifer mix, Shrub steppe and Low elevation grassland, Parkland/Subalpine fir/High elevation herbaceous opening and shrub.

Soils: Sandy Loam

Precipitation: 18-70 inches

Special Management Areas: 1 Research Natural Area, 2 trail heads

Recreation: summer and winter trail sports, hunting, dispersed camping

Grazing: The non-wilderness portion is all within the Wolf cattle allotment

TES, ISSSP Species: Bull trout in Wolf Creek

Other land Ownerships: Private

Vectors of spread: Vehicle traffic, sports trail activities, hiking, outfitter guiding, livestock, and wildlife

Ongoing Treatments: Most of the new invader weed sites have been treated consistently with herbicide since 1997 and the diffuse knapweed at the Chickadee trail head continues to be treated with manual or chemical methods.

Existing NEPA: A portion (Rader and Little Wolf 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. Revegetate the mesic meadow in headwaters of Cassel Creek. Continue to use bio control on diffuse knapweed populations outside of herbicide control areas. Handpull small new invader populations where manual treatment is effective. Hand pull weeds near water were effective. Continue to monitor for new invaders. Continue to revegetate soil disturbance.

Existing Sites and Treatment Objectives

Species Code	Common name	Infested acres	# of sites	Site types	Objective
CADR	whitetop	0.9	4		Eradication
CEDI3	diffuse knapweed	34.2	7		Containment

LEVU	oxeye daisy	0.2	2		Control/Suppression
PORE5	sulfur cinquefoil	1.1	1		Control