

Tonasket - Lower Nicholson and Marias Creek

Description: This area has been influenced primarily by timber harvest activity. Visitor use is moderate and is primarily used by the grazing permittee, hunters and Recreationists. Most noxious weed infestations occur along road corridors and harvest units. Populations of Canada thistle, common mullein and cheatgrass are known to occur but have not yet been mapped in all locations. The Marias Creek drainage is currently being influenced by mining activity including a heavy amount of vehicle traffic along the Marias Creek road. Vehicle traffic is flowing to and from facilities in Ferry County.

Infested acres: 932

Total acres: 11,525

5th Field watershed: Toroda Creek

Major Streams and Waterbodies: Nicholson, Marias, Coogan

Elevation: 2400 to 4800 feet

Vegetation Type: Douglas-fir, Conifer mix, Low elevation grassland/Shrub steppe, Ponderosa pine, Engelmann spruce, Riparian and Deciduous.

Soils: Soils within the watershed are derived from mixed origins of Cretaceous Intrusive Rock that is medium to coarse grained. Within the main drainages, thick deposits of glacial till, outwash, sands, gravels and small amounts of silts and clays. Valley floor and mantled uplands are filled with medium grained sands, coarse gravels and cobbles. Higher elevations tend to have shallow soils and exposed bedrock. Ash deposits can be found throughout.

Precipitation: 10-25 inches

Special Management Areas: None

Recreation: This watershed provides year-round recreation opportunities. Semi-primitive non-motorized, roaded natural and roaded modified. Dispersed camping, horseback riding, driving for pleasure, hunting, firewood gathering, and snowmobiling.

Grazing: The area is within the Cedar and Wheaton allotments.

TES, ISSSP Species: *Botrychium crenulatum*, *Platanthera obtusata*, *Scutellaria angustifolia*

Other land Ownerships: Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, private.

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

Ongoing Treatments: Herbicide applications of picloram and glyphosate and hand pulling have been occurring since 1994 on existing populations of noxious weeds. Population densities have been reduced. Musk thistle is commonly found throughout the area. Orange hawkweed and Hoary allysum are new invaders.

Existing NEPA: All of this treatment area is covered under the 1997 and 2000 Okanogan National Forest Integrated Weed Management EAs and 3 musk thistle sites covered under the 1999 Okanogan National Forest Integrated Weed Management EA.

IWM Strategy: Use herbicides to control or eradicate new invader populations. Hand pull small new invader populations where manual treatment is effective. Continue to inventory for new invaders. Continue to revegetate soil disturbance. Biological control agents exist on populations of St. Johnswort and Musk thistle.

Existing Sites and Treatment Objectives

Species Code	Common name	# of sites	Infested acres	Site types	Objective
BEIN2	hoary alyssum	3	1.6	1	Eradicate
CAAC	spiny plumeless thistle	1	0.1	1	Eradicate
CANU4	musk thistle	45	28.0	1,3,5,6	Eradicate
CEBI2	spotted knapweed	8	13.3	1,3,6	Eradicate
CEDI3	diffuse knapweed	16	75.6	1,3,6	Eradicate
CIAR4	Canada thistle	3	5.5	1,3	Control
CYOF	Houndstongue	6	727.0	1,3,5,6	Control
HIAU	orange hawkweed	1	0.1	6	Eradicate
HICA10	meadow hawkweed	6	2.7	1,6	Eradicate
HYPE	common St. Johnswort	13	67.4	1,3,5,6	Control
PORE5	sulfur cinquefoil	6	11.2	1,3,6	Eradicate
VETH	Common mullien	UNK	UNK	1,3,5,6	Tolerate
BRTE	Bromus tectorum	UNK	UNK	1,3,5,6	Tolerate