

Final Completion Summary

This project focused on roadsides and ag lands to reduce seed dispersal of “A” and “B” priority noxious weeds caused by human and animal movement. This project initially chemically treated 420 net acres, 14,450 gross acres, and 37,670 surveyed acres by a contracted chemical applicator and landowners. Treatments were applied in late spring and photo monitored through the summer and fall. Funding allowed for a second chemical treatment of 460 net acres, 32,088 gross acres, and 42,500 surveyed acres, also completed by a contracted sprayer. Species treated consisted of Russian knapweed, Spotted knapweed, Diffuse knapweed, Canada thistle, Scotch thistle, and Whitetop. In addition, a calibration clinic was hosted for local landowners to demonstrate the proper way to calibrate equipment including a backpack sprayer, boom sprayer, and tank sprayer. Another primary focus in this project was to grow partnerships with all agencies conducting surveys and treatments within Wheeler County.

Background

This project was located in central Wheeler County, Oregon, near the Twickenham and Richmond communities. The focus of this project was reducing noxious and invasive weeds within travel corridors and ag lands. Due to lack of snow pack and drought, landowners had been facing a loss of native vegetation, which was led to encroachment of noxious and invasive species. Additionally, human and animal movement has a high impact on the spread of these species. The first chemical application occurred in late spring 2022 when the plants were in the rosette stage and a second treatment occurred the late spring 2023 with additional acres also being included. Photo monitoring was conducted to document the effectiveness of the chemical treatment. This project was closely related to other projects that border this project with a goal of providing assistance to landowners across Wheeler County equally through a zone approach. Education and outreach was also a focus of this project. Landowners were contacted through mailers from Wheeler SWCD to attend a calibration clinic presented by HabCo Agricultural Services that explained the appropriate ways to calibrate a back pack sprayer, boom sprayer, and tank sprayer. Noxious weed identification and information about different herbicides were provided at the clinic and landowners had the opportunity to ask questions and share their efforts and concerns with weeds in Wheeler County.

Treatment

During the first treatment, 420 net acres of listed noxious weeds were treated between June 15th and July 21st 2022 using ATV/UTV booms with Milestone, Escort, and the surfactant Syl-Tac. The chemical for these acres was provided through grant funds, as well as the contracted labor. Between May 31st and June 16th 2023, 460 net acres of listed noxious weeds were treated, using ATV/UTV booms with High-Noon, Escort, and Syl-Tac. The species treated included: 45 net acres of Canada thistle, 85 net acres of Diffuse knapweed, 175 net acres of Russian knapweed, 57 net acres of Scotch thistle, and 33 acres of Whitetop in the first treatment. The species treated in the second treatment included: 60 acres of Canada thistle, 40 acres of Diffuse knapweed, 120 net acres of Russian knapweed, 50 acres of Scotch thistle, and 80 acres of Whitetop. The chemical for these acres was provided through a 50% cost share between

the landowners and grant funds, while the contracted labor was provided using grant funds.

Changes from Proposed

Due to remaining funds after initial treatment, a two month time extension was granted for a spring 2023 treatment. The time extension allowed original landowners, and two additional landowners to treat. The same contracted sprayer, Payes2Spray, chemically treated the areas in late Spring of 2023. High-Noon herbicide was used instead of Milestone, for the second treatment.

Lessons Learned

Wheeler SWCD again dealt with unforeseen staff changes requiring an employee in training to oversee the components of this project. Due to difficulty finding photo points, more detailed informational data began to be recorded on reports documenting geographical coordinates of photo points and weed locations. The herbicide Milestone was changed to High Noon to achieve a higher rate of efficacy with the species present. District staff was able to accompany Payes2Spray on treatment of 120 acres, allowing the newly certified staff experience. District staff had the opportunity of spending a day with Dan Son from ODA gaining knowledge of identification and surveying noxious weed species. Dan Son also provided education and examples of monitoring processes, spray reporting, calibration of equipment, and overall management of a weed program.

Recommendations

Recommendations for the next project would be to establish clearer photo points, document geographical coordinates of the photo points to ensure the same point is always found. Also, to find the most appropriate herbicide that will provide the best efficacy rate for the weed it is being used for, versus a blanket choice for all species.

Project Activities

Activity	Summary
Assessment/Management Plan Development	Through this grant and the GF grant, Wheeler SWCD has been working with ODA regional staff, BLM, USFS, Wheeler County, and neighboring agencies to collaborate on a coordinated effort plan. Although a coordination meeting has not occurred, Wheeler SWCD continues to seek a regularly scheduled meeting to be established prior to treatment seasons that will collaborate efforts in surveying, treating, and preventing noxious and invasive species in Wheeler County.
Education and Outreach	Wheeler SWCD planned and conducted a calibration clinic. The clinic consisted of a demonstration performed by HabCo Agricultural Services, educating local land owners on the appropriate way to calibrate herbicide application of a backpack sprayer, boom sprayer, and tank sprayer. Information on effective herbicides and noxious weed identification was provided as well.
Monitoring	Photo point monitoring was established before any treatments and repeat photos were taken after each treatment.
Prevention	<p>Brushing shoes off after walking through site of treatment. April/2022, March 2023</p> <p>Brushing back of side by side out after driving through site of treatment. April 2022, March 2023</p> <p>Brushing shoes off after walking through site of treatment for after photos. November 2022, June 2023</p> <p>Brushing back of side by side out after driving through site of treatment to obtain after photos. November 2022, June 2023</p>
Survey	<p>Wheeler SWCD continually surveys for new infestations across this project area, and the whole county while traveling and conducting site visits. In addition, collaboration was made with landowners, as well as BLM and USFS regarding any known and new infestations.</p> <p>First treatment consisted of 37,670 surveyed acres. October 2021</p> <p>Second treatment consisted of 42,500 surveyed acres. March 2023</p>

Funding Sources

Source	Identifier	Cash	InKind Type	Inkind
OWEB	2022-35-012c-20076	\$53,361.00		\$0.00
Private Landowners		\$0.00	Materials	\$5,004.00
Wheeler County Road Department		\$0.00	Labor	\$13,350.00
Wheeler SWCD		\$0.00	Materials	\$192.00

Totals

OWEB Amount	Non OWEB Cash	Inkind Total	Non OWEB Amount	OWEB Match	Total Project Cost
\$53,361.00	\$0.00	\$18,546.00	\$18,546.00	35.0%	\$71,907.00

Uploaded Files

Image Type	File Name	Description
Photo Point	P5230551.JPG	Russian knapweedbolting through out field along Rowe Creek Rd. Rock N A Ranch
Photo Point	After_2.JPG	Russian knapweed after chemical treatment along Rowe Creek Rd. Rock N A Ranch
Photo Point	P5230552.JPG	Scotch thistle and Russian knapweed along Rowe Creek. Rock N A Ranch
Photo Point	P8020847.JPG	Effective treatment of Scotch thistle and Russian knapweed along Rowe Creek. Rock N A Ranch
Photo Point	PB071063.JPG	Effective chemical treatment of Whitetop growing between ag field and Girds Creek Rd
Photo Point	Point 1 (3).JPG	Whitetop growing between AG field and Girds Creek Rd. Temple

Photo Point	Point 4.JPG	Russian knapweed and Whitetop in meadow off of road. Temple
Photo Point	PB071069.JPG	Chemical treatment of Russian knapweed and Whitetop in Meadow off of road. Temple
Photo Point	P5040404.JPG	Scotch thistle along the John Day River. Williams
Photo Point	P8020873.JPG	After chemical treatment of Scotch thistle along John Day River. Williams
Photo Point	P5040407.JPG	Scotch thistle between AG field and dike along the John Day River. Williams
Photo Point	P8020866.JPG	Effective chemical treatment of Scotch thistle along John Day River. Williams
Photo Point	P5020296.JPG	Scotch thistle in field. Misner
Photo Point	PB071068.JPG	Effective chemical treatment of scotch thistle in field. Misner
Photo Point	P5020305.JPG	Scotch thistle and Whitetop along road. Misner
Photo Point	PB071064.JPG	Effective treatment of Scotch thistle and Whitetop along road. Misner
Photo Point	P5020316.JPG	Scotch thistle and Russian knapweed off of ranch road. Contention
Photo Point	After2 (1).JPG	Effective chemical treatment of Scotch thistle and Russian knapweed along ranch road. Contention
Photo Point	P5020310.JPG	Scotch thistle with Russian knapweed in background. Contention
Photo Point	P8020844.JPG	Effective chemical treatment of Scotch thistle and Russian knapweed. Contention

Photo Point	P5170528.JPG	Scotch thistle everywhere. Corrals, field, yard. Charapata
Photo Point	P8020851.JPG	Effective chemical treatment of Scotch thistle in corrals, field and yard. Charapata
Photo Point	P5170533.JPG	Scotch thistle and Whitetop through out field along John Day River. Charapata
Photo Point	P8020859.JPG	Effective herbicide treatment on Scotch thistle and Whitetop. Charapata
Photo Point	P5100445.JPG	Scotch thistle rosettes throughout field. Stockmans Inv
Photo Point	PB071059.JPG	Effective chemical treatment of scotch thistle through out field. Stockmans
Photo Point	Point 3.JPG	Russian knapweed and Scotch thistle in field along Girds Creek. Anderson
Photo Point	PB071060.JPG	Effective chemical treatment of Scotch thistle and Russian knapweed in field along Girds Creek. Anderson
Photo Point	P5030326.JPG	Diffuse knapweed and Scotch thistle throughout Meadow. Hamel
Photo Point	P7111412.JPG	Effective chemical treatment of Scotch thistle and Diffuse knapweed through out meadow. Hamel
Photo Point	P5030331.JPG	Scotch thistle through drainage. Hamel
Photo Point	P7111410.JPG	Effective chemical treatment of Scotch thistle through out drainage. Hamel
Photo Point	P5230547.JPG	Diffuse knapweed in field along Hwy 207. Gillen

Photo Point	PB071056.JPG	Effective chemical treatment of Diffuse knapweed through out field along Hwy 207. Gillen
Photo Point	Point 6.JPG	Scotch thistle rosettes at old homestead site. Ryno
Photo Point	P7111400.JPG	Effective chemical treatment of Scotch thistle at old homestead site. Ryno
Photo Point	Point 5.JPG	Scotch thistle at sites where juniper was removed and burned. Ryno
Photo Point	PB071071.JPG	Effective chemical treatment on Scotch thistle where juniper was removed and burned. Ryno
Photo Point	P6021292.JPG	Whitetop and Scotch thistle through out meadow. Hamel
Photo Point	P7111406.JPG	Effective chemical treatment of Whitetop and Scotch thistle through out meadow. Hamel
List of Landowners	Central Wheeler LO List.pdf	Landowner list/Survey Data
Outreach Materials	Calibration Clinic Invitation.pdf	Invitaion to the calibration clinic.
Outreach Materials	Wheeler SWCD Calibration Clinic Report.pdf	Report of Calibration Clinic.
Map	CentralWheelerTreatmentArea(round2).pdf	Completed treatment areas
Survey Data	2022-35-012c-20076 Focus Area Map.pdf	Map of Project Survey Area
Final Payment Checklist	Final Payment Checklist 2022-35-012c.pdf	Final Payment Request Checklist