



A bimonthly publication from the Ada County Weed, Pest and Mosquito Abatement Department

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Rangeland Rehabilitation Experiment



This fall the Ada County Weed Control Team participated in a rangeland rehabilitation experiment on the Snake River Birds of Prey Refuge.

The area where the experiment was conducted is infested with *Bromus Tectorum* (cheatgrass) and *Salsola* spp. (Russian thistle) due to disturbed soils, previous applications of glyphosate (Round-Up), and wildfire damage. The native forbs and grass species have difficulty competing with heavy infestations of cheatgrass, and suffer a decline in population as a result. When dense monocultures of cheatgrass have established in rangeland, it causes the extirpation of native wildlife species due to a lack of forage, and a breakdown of the natural food chain.

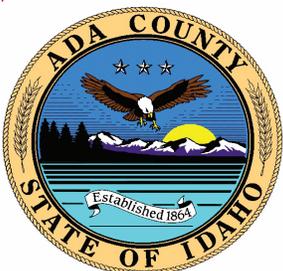
Ada County was contracted by the BLM and USGS to spray 32 test plots - each of which were 2.5 acres in area, with a pre-emergent cheatgrass control agent called Plateau.

The 64 test plots were arranged randomly, and various methods of control were employed:

- 12 plots were mowed only.
- 20 plots were treated with Plateau.
- 12 plots were mowed and treated with Plateau.
- 20 plots were used as a control.

The results of the experiment will be used to create a rehabilitation program for burned and otherwise damaged rangeland on public property in the future.

Article & photos by Adam Schroeder / Noxious Weed Compliance



Dates To Remember In 2013

February 4th	Gopher and Rock Chuck removal work orders will be accepted
March 4th	Gopher and Rock Chuck removal services will begin.
March 11th	Spring herbicide applications will be scheduled.
April 1st	Mosquito larviciding services will begin.
May 27th	Night time mosquito adulticiding (fogging) services will begin.
June 24th - 28th	National Mosquito Awareness Week
September 20th	Mosquito abatement services end for the season.
October 7th	Time to schedule fall residual applications to prevent weeds next spring.
November 15th	Gopher and Rock Chuck removal services end for the season.

** Dates are subject to change dependant on weather.*

Have You Seen This Noxious Weed?



Eurasian Watermilfoil

If you've ever spent any time boating, floating, fishing, swimming, or just walking by the river, streams, ponds or lakes in Ada County chances are you've come across Eurasian watermilfoil.

Eurasian watermilfoil is a very aggressive aquatic noxious weed that was first introduced as an aquarium plant. This destructive weed forms dense subsurface and surface mats that choke out other native aquatic plant and animal life.

Submerged stems can reach lengths of up to 22 feet deep that branch out near the water surface. Leaves are dark green to brown, finely dissected and featherlike. This plant produces erect flowering spikes up to 6 inches long which produces pinkish, inconspicuous male and female flowers in whorls around the stem.

Eurasian watermilfoil disperses by means of floating stem fragments and by hitching a ride on boat propellers, truck tires, bathing suites, fish hooks, dog collars and waterfowl. When recreating in Idaho waters it's very important to remove any aquatic plant life that may be stuck to you, your vehicle, or your boat before exiting the area. This will prevent the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil to other bodies of water.

Recently, Ada County Weed Control treated a pond in southeast Boise. If you have a pond or canal in your neighborhood with an outbreak of Eurasian watermilfoil, please notify our office at 208-577-4646 and we will send a compliance officer out to inspect that area. A treatment plan will be determined at that time.

Gopher and Rock Chuck Removal Services Have Ended For The Season.

Gopher and Rock Chuck removal services have ended for the year. We will begin accepting new work orders on February 4th, 2013 and pest control services will start back up again on March 4th, 2013. If you are interested in removing gophers on your own, classes will be given at our office in Meridian this winter to teach people what traps to use and how to use them. Call our office at 577-4646 to inquire about these classes.

Winter Sports & Noxious Weeds

Are You Unknowingly Spreading Noxious Weeds?



You would think that winter is the time of the year when we can head out and enjoy the great outdoors without having to worry about noxious weeds. When we can travel off the beaten path without concern, because the weed seeds are all safely buried under the snow. Or are they?

Fact is, even though most noxious weeds may be buried under several feet of snow throughout the winter months, that does not mean that they do not have viable seeds left on them. Seeds which inadvertently become caught up in the clothing and equipment of people out recreating in the snow. No matter whether you enjoy blasting your snowmobile down a well groomed trail, sledding with the kids, or perhaps just a peaceful cross country ski trip through some fresh powder, you still have the potential to pick up and redistribute noxious weed seeds to new areas.

Some simple things that you can do to reduce the risk of spreading weed seeds while recreating in the winter time include: staying on maintained/designated trails while skiing and snowmobiling, inspecting for and removing weed seeds and plant fragments from your equipment at the end of the day and before moving to new areas, and cleaning your equipment on a regular basis. We all need to do our part to stop the spread of noxious weeds throughout the entire year.