

Shoshone County Noxious Weed Control Advisory Committee (SCNWCAC) Meeting Agenda

Thursday, October 5, 2023; 9:00 am-11:00 am
US Forest Service Office
173 Commerce Drive, Smelterville, ID

Executive Summary

- Integrated weed management education session in conjunction with Kootenai County 10/5/2023 was a success.
- Agreements with USFS and other SCNWCAC partners are now complete and targeted community spray days can now be organized with USFS participation in 2024.
- USFS received a Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) grant to do work with conservation corps groups in 2024.
- Moon Gulch and Kellogg Golf Course knotweed projects are having positive impact; work will need to continue into 2024.
- Knotweed biocontrol efforts continue in county.
- Shoshone County spray contract with Panhandle Land Management went well in 2023 with over 630 lane miles of roadside and 40 acres of weed infestations treated with herbicide.
- Two Community Free Spray Days held in 2023- one in Osburn and the other in Pinehurst. SCNWCAC would like to expand to 4 spray days in 2024 adding one in Prichard/ Murray and another in Avery/ Calder.

Introductions

In Attendance: Bill Pittman, Carol Randall, Shelby Heiderman, Abby Carroll, Dyar Frank, Jeremy Kleinsmith, Vince Cracchiolo

Call to Order: 9:00 am

Review Meeting Minutes for 3-29-2023 Meeting

Motion to accept minutes as written by Shelby Heiderman, seconded by Dyar Frank, passed.

Old Business:

- Biocontrol Education Day
 - Held jointly with Kootenai County on October 5, 2023 at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) office in Post Falls, ID
 - Chris Adam at Kootenai County marketed in the Nickel's Worth as a Noxious Weed Workshop (Figure 1) and provided refreshments.
 - Carol spoke on weed biological control and integrated weed management for the first two hours, Joel Fields from Wilbur Ellis spoke on chemical control and understanding herbicide labels for two hours.
 - A total of 4 pesticide recertification credits were offered through the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA).

- Between 20 and 25 attendees, most appeared to be homeowners as opposed to agency applicators.
- Non- Funded Participatory Agreement
 - A big thank you to Dyar Frank for ensuring that both the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that enables partners to help with cooperative spray days on National Forest System land and the Non-Funded Participatory Agreement that enables US Forest Service employees to help with spray days off National Forest System Lands were completed.
 - We still have questions- such as do we need both a MOU and a non-funded participatory agreement- or can we just get by with a non-funded participatory agreement.
 - Carol will follow up with the US Forest Service Grants and Agreements specialist to get more information.
 - Both the MOU and non-funded participatory agreement are good for 5 years, the MOU will lapse a few months before the non-funded participatory agreement.
- Resource Advisory Committee Funding (RAC funding)
 - Created by the Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act-reauthorized by Public Law 115-141 Title II (often referred to as Title Two)
 - RAC funds may be used for projects that have broad-based support and with objectives that include:
 - road, trail, and infrastructure maintenance or obliteration
 - soil productivity improvement
 - forest ecosystem health improvements
 - watershed restoration and maintenance
 - wildlife and fish habitat restoration, maintenance, and improvement
 - noxious and exotic weeds control
 - native species re-establishment
 - Planning and implementing RAC projects should help improve cooperative relationships among the people that use and care for Federal land and the agencies that manage the Federal land.
 - Federal agencies, state and local governments, private entities, nonprofit entities, and landowners may apply for RAC funds.
 - Applicants should consult with the local District Ranger prior to proposal submission.
 - Projects must be reviewed and recommended by the local RAC and approved by the Designated Federal Officer for that committee.
 - Dyar Frank developed a RAC project proposal to fund three weeks of a Conservation Corps Crew to address invasive weed projects:
 - The St. Joe near Red Ives/ Heller Creek Campground
 - Central Zone Bells Bay Campground/ Moon Gulch
 - North Zone Boundary County (not in Shoshone County)
 - Dyar's project received \$56,000 of the \$80,000 requested so the project will be scaled back to reflect the amount funded.
 - Abby mentioned that the local RAC is recruiting new members.
 - Each local RAC has nine to 15 representatives of varied interests and areas of expertise. They work collaboratively to improve working relationships among community members and national forest employees.

- For background information here is a helpful website: [Advisory Committees | US Forest Service \(usda.gov\)](https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/secure-rural-schools/title-2) (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/secure-rural-schools/title-2>)
- Moon Gulch and Golf Course assessments
 - Moon Gulch- May 18, 2023, a group meet at Moon Gulch to assess the impact of 2022 treatments on the “mother plant” and a reduction in the size and vigor of the mother plant was visible.
 - In June 2023 a crew of ~12 people returned to Moon Gulch to treat the “mother plant” and additional satellite knotweed populations.
 - 2023 is either year 3 or 4 of treatment of the Moon Gulch knotweed “mother plant”
 - Mother plant shoots emerging from the water of sufficient diameter were injected with aquatically labeled glyphosate
 - Smaller stalks of knotweed adjacent to water were treated with a wicking application of Ecomazapyr (active ingredient imazapyr 27.8%)
 - In 2024 may need to focus on foliar applications for the mother plant and wiping stems.
 - Mapping data indicates 8.2 acres of knotweed on Moon Gulch- another 7.8 acres in adjacent drainage; current knotweed treatment is 4.5 acres.
 - Golf Course Assessment
 - There is more knotweed at the site than originally anticipated; we are seeing progress on the plants that were injected last fall.
 - While no longer possible to quickly eradicate knotweed in this area, additional treatments to kill knotweed plants in the open flat areas visible from the road are a good way to start.
 - Shelby was going to have contractor go and spray knotweed in flats soon- before first frost.
 - Carol took pictures 1 year post injection in this area prior to Shelby sending contractor out.
 - Shelby did find a Scotch broom plant along the road in this area, the Scotch broom plant will be treated with herbicide. Bill recommended a mixture of Garlon and web oil.
 - Carol mentioned this would be a good population to map with EDDMaps.
- Knotweed biocontrol release-
 - In 2021 Carol Randall received two releases of the newly APHIs approved and permitted approved knotweed psyllid, *Aphalara itadori*, Kyushu strain, which she released on LaTour Creek and Moon Gulch.
 - Carol continues to monitor the release sites, but has not yet determined if the psyllids survived.
 - These are tiny insects, and the knotweed populations at the release sites are large. It is not uncommon for it to take years before established populations of released biological control agents are detected.
 - There is a newer strain of the psyllid- the Murakami strain- is now available and Carol will try to procure additional releases.
 - Carol will continue monitoring the Moon Gulch and Latour Creek sites.
- 2023 County Spray Season
 - Shelby was able to employ a contractor- Panhandle Land Management (Micah)- from Tensed, ID, to apply herbicides for the county.
 - Shelby checked in with the Shoshone County Roads crew who said the contractor did a good job.

- The contractor focused on roadsides but did spray some special project areas. In total the contractor sprayed 633.24 Lane Miles, and 41 Acres.
- Contractor hours: 17.5 hours of Guardrails and bridges sprayed and 9.5 hours spraying numerous knotweed sites. Both are separate from the lane miles and acres. I would say the 17.5 is more like 13.5 and 9.5 more like 7.5, as he bills travel, one way, which is around 2 hours.
- Same contractor worked for Stimson, and Bill said the contractor did well. Bill was impressed with how well the contractor communicated- quickly returned messages.
- USFS would like to get copies of where the contractor sprayed and what herbicides were used- specifically which roadsides were sprayed- so the information can be entered into the USFS database.
- The group discussed finding opportunities to leverage the fact that the county and Stimson used the same contractor- coordinate what needs to be sprayed beforehand so the contractor can more efficiently plan the spray season.
- 2023 Free Spray Days
 - Osburn- approximately 50 people attended June 8, 2023
 - Pinehurst- approximately 20-30 people attended
 - The tent which was generously donated to SCNWCAC over the past few years suffered damage when a wind gust blew it over. Shelby has now procured one for spray day use moving forward.
 - Sign- Shelby also procured a sandwich board sign to mark where the spray day event is being held
 - Shelby provided Trimec herbicide at the first spray day and Foundation herbicide at the second.

New Business:

- Educational Basket
 - Polly did a fantastic job on the basket last year and is willing to pull together another basket this year.
 - Last year Polly did it all on her own, so this year SCNWCAC would like to have more folks help.
 - Bill indicated he would contribute a bottle of huckleberry vodka- Carol mentioned field guides that the Forest Service published- Abby and Dyer said they will check in with business in Avery. We would like all members to help find items to include in the basket.
 - Carol and Shelby will reach out to Polly and see about having a planning lunch somewhere convenient for Polly.
 - The Idaho Noxious Weed Conference is the week of January 8th; Carol may be driving down and could take the basket with her- or else Alan Martinson from Latah Co would be able to take it.
- Committee Members- Shoshone County Commissioners approved additional advisory committee members (see list below); additional members are welcome and anyone interested in the work of this group is welcome to attend.
- Events Calander for 2024
 - Free spray days- our tried and true events where the public comes to the event and receives pesticide safety information and instruction then can get free herbicide for home use.
 - Two conducted in 2023; proposal to expand in 2024
 - In addition to Osburn and Wallace, would like to add Prichard/ Murray and Avery/ Calder.

- Perhaps schedule all 4 within a 2-week window (Monday/ Thursday- maybe do a Saturday spray day when more folks would be available to participate)
- We will need to iron out details next spring- including which herbicide will be provided (Trimec was used in the past, had to use a different herbicide for second spray day in 2023)
- We will also need to develop outreach materials- press releases, etc.
- Targeted spray days- With agreements in place the SCNWCAC can organize spray days where folks come together and spray an area to address a particular weed population.
 - Blueweed and Knotweed spray days are the most needed
 - Possible 2024 community spray days- Moon Gulch knotweed, Kellogg golf course knotweed (August 2024)
 - Please contact Carol if you have additional areas you would like to be considered for a targeted spray day
- Weed booth at community events
 - In 2023 the group considered manning a weed information booth at community events
 - This is still an option for 2024; however, the group would need to identify personnel to staff a booth and information handouts to share.
 - Having an information table at community events is a good way to survey the public about their need-
 - If we participated in community events in Prichard/ Murray we may be able to have a sign-up sheet for members of the public that have populations of blueweed that need to be treated
 - Participation in community events also elevates the profile of SCNWCAC.

Other Business

- New Members Welcome
- It would be nice to invite representatives of other potential partner agencies to SCNWCAC meetings
- Invitees: Benewah Soil Water Conservation District, NRCS, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Transportation Department, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Basin Advisory Committee
- For the spring 2024 meeting Dyar will reach out to Jack Adder- the USFS special use permit specialist who could discuss recreation

Next Meeting- March 28, 2024 (see DRAFT calendar below)

Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 am by Shelby Heiderman; Seconded by Carol Randall - passed.

SCNWCAC Advisory Board Members

Bill Pittman, Chairman, Stimson Lumber; Carol Randall, Secretary, US Forest Service; Members: Rodney Cochrane, Idaho Department of Lands; Jeremy Kleinsmith, US Forest Service; Jenny Roman, Idaho State Department of Agriculture; Dyar Frank, US Forest Service

Respectfully Submitted by Carol Randall.

Approved: _____

Date: _____

Recap of Motions:

1. Approval of previous meeting minutes
2. Approval to adjourn meeting.

108, 208-690-1301

100 TO USE COUNTRY



30" SNOWBLOWER FOR Dr. mower machine. easy change-over, used three times, \$150 cash. 208-403-4339

Produce & Farmers Markets

BLACKBERRIES FOR sale, frozen, \$16 gallon. 208-773-0870



Noxious Weed Workshop

Control your weeds naturally using insects!



**9:00am - 1:15pm
Sept 29, 2023**

Free Event!

Located in Post Falls

Idaho Pesticide CEU Credits

**Call to RSVP
(208)446-1290 or
kcnoxiousweeds@kcgov.us**

Kootenai County and Shoshone County Noxious Weed Departments are partnering to host a free noxious weed workshop. It will focus on biological control (releasing insects to attack specific weeds) as well as chemical control. Topics will include how to decide if bio-control is right for your property, how specific bio-control agents affect their target weeds, understanding herbicide labels and calibrating spray equipment.



Figure 1: Kootenai/ Shoshone County Noxious Weed Workshop advertisement from the 9-8-2023 edition of the Nickel's Worth.

DRAFT 2024 Shoshone County Noxious Weed Control Calendar of Events

January 9-10- Idaho Noxious Weed Conference, Boise, ID

March 28- Shoshone County Noxious Weed Control Advisory Board Spring Meeting- USFS Smelterville Office, 173 Commerce Drive, Smelterville, ID

May 16th- Impact assessment day knotweed control efforts in 2023

June TBD- Community Free Spray Day, 1-4:00 PM Osburn Shop, 58834 Silver Valley Road, Osburn, ID

June TBD- Community Free Spray Day, 1-4:00 PM Avery/ Calder, ID

June TBD- Community Free Spray Day, 1-4PM Real Life Ministries- Sliver Valley, Pinehurst, ID

June TBD- Community Free Spray Day, 1-4PM Prichard/ Murray, ID

Late June/ July (TBD)- Knotweed spray day- Moon Gulch

July – August (TBD)- Knotweed Community Spray Day, Kellogg, ID-

September (TBD)- Blueweed Community Spray Day Prichard/ Murray
Blueweed

Integrated Weed Management Workshop- explore coordinating with Kootenai County as in 2023

October 3 (Thursday) 9- 11:30am- Shoshone County Noxious Weed Control Advisory Committee Fall Meeting- USFS Smelterville Office, 173 Commerce Drive, Smelterville, ID