

June 2014 to August 2017 - Time period Palmer Lake Noxious Weeds Team engaged in manual Eradication and release of appropriate Biocontrol

Grants from Colorado Department of Agriculture Noxious Weeds Program
2015 \$3,500, 2016 \$2,000 - Town of Palmer Lake provided matching funds

1,308 Volunteer hours benefitted the program, provided by Boy Scout Troop 17, School Dist. 38 Civics Classes, community members and Mile High Youth Corps

46 paid hours donated to the program by Co. Dept. of Ag. and El Paso County Environmental Dept.
Manual eradication assistance and educational assistance

18,500 pounds of noxious weed material removed and disposed of
- 8,500 pounds of Myrtle Spurge and Orange Hawkweed which have less ladder fuel impact
10,000 pounds (5 tons) ladder fuel removed (Biennial Thistles, Knapweed, Teasel, Common Mullein, Poison Hemlock, Downey Brome, Common Burdock)

50 to 75 estimated acres treated most of which was treated repeatedly, due to reseeding and existing seed bank viable for extensive years.

Bio-Control was released for Field Bindweed, Leafy Spurge, Musk Thistle, Diffuse and Spotted Knapweed
Bio-Control is species specific, reducing plant viability and seed production.
Standing dead plants and the second year of biennial growth must be removed in either spring or fall (when biocontrol is not active) for effective reduction of ladder fuel.

Knapweed flower head weevils and root weevils are the most effective Biocontrol used.
The standing dead plants were removed in fall for 2 consecutive years in the Reservoir Trail Head area. Resulting in a 95% reduction of knapweed in this area. Flower Head Weevils have migrated throughout town. Similar treatment of additional areas would be equally advantageous.

To: Cecily Mui Cecily.mui@state.co.us
Noxious Weed Program, Conservation Services Division
305 Interlocken Parkway, Broomfield, CO 80021
www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds

From: Rod Cook Rod.Cook@co.laplata.co.us

Date: Fri, Aug 15, 2014

Subject: Fire mitigation as rational for knapweed control

Just about all of the robust aggressive noxious weeds can contribute to a fire ladder effect, especially in an urban forest interface situation. There you have infrastructure disturbance, which allows noxious weed introductions. Any weed that grows tall then dries out can be a ladder fuel to ignite brush and trees and start a crown fire. The best examples of these are the biennial thistles and biennial common mullein. All of the second year dead adults are just fuel sticking up in the air. Of course the knapweeds can offer substantial ground fuel as well. I heard a story once where Gorse was responsible for burning down a town in Oregon. Hope this helps.

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