



Pest Management (595) – Scouting and Mapping on Grazing Lands

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

ID 595, JS-24

Natural Resources Conservation Service - Idaho

October 2009



What is Pest Management?

Pest management is defined as “utilizing environmentally sensitive prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression strategies, to manage weeds, insects, diseases, animals and other organisms that directly or indirectly cause damage or annoyance.” Effective pest management relies on the use of many tools or strategies to reduce the impacts of pests on crops in order to meet landowner objectives.

Purpose

Pest management is applied as part of a resource management system to support one or more of the following purposes:

- Enhance quantity and quality of crops and forages grown for food and fiber.
- Minimize negative impacts of pest control on soil resources, water resources, air resources, plant resources, animal resources, and/or humans.

Integrated Pest Management - IPM

The philosophy of IPM involves using ecological concepts and knowledge of pest biology to establish the natural checks and balances between range plants, pests, beneficial insects, and the physical environment, thus reducing the reliance on pesticides. Because these interactions are unique for each system, a site-specific strategy should be used.

An IPM strategy begins with pest scouting and inventory in order to understand the pest problem: what, when, where, and to what extent. Additional techniques include prevention, avoidance, and non-

chemical suppression strategies. The following document can assist in developing a site-specific IPM strategy:

http://www.id.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/guidance_ipm.html

Practice Specifications

This practice applies to grazing lands. Producers eligible for this practice have an identified noxious or invasive weed concern. Basic scouting and record keeping using the Idaho State Department of Agriculture minimum standards for mapping is required. These minimum standards include the following data elements for each identified infestation:

- Date the infestation was located
- Unique site identification label
- Common name of the species recorded
- Approximate size of the infestation
- Approximate density of the infestation
- X-Y (latitude and longitude) location

These data will be used to provide inputs to the state noxious weed database. The common name for weeds should be based on Idaho’s official noxious weed list:

<http://www.agri.state.id.us/Categories/PlantsInsects/NoxiousWeeds/watchlist.php>

Size of the infestation will be in acres, with 0.1 acre as the smallest size. The cover class, or density, of the infestation will be an estimate of the percent cover, by 10% increments. The X-Y location is the latitude and longitude, or the GPS point location that is needed to map the location (based on NAD83 datum).

All scouting must be performed by an individual with adequate experience or training to accurately identify the typical noxious and invasive species in the area to be evaluated. Scouting will be conducted at least twice each year, with the first scouting as early in the year as feasible.

The attached worksheet can be used to document scouting and mapping. The producer may use blank copies of the worksheet to keep annual records, or may use any format for record keeping that provides the required information. **Copies of mapping**

records will be provided to the ISDA for entry into the state noxious weed database.

The producer is required to meet with the local Weed Superintendent to obtain information on the CWMA and recommendations for integrated weed management. The producer is encouraged to work with the CWMA for noxious weed control efforts. The following are recommendations when weed suppression is required.

Weed Suppression Strategies

When weed suppression is needed, the producer is strongly encouraged to use chemicals that have the lowest environmental risk, but that are still effective. Any pesticides used will be evaluated. If any hazard rating for any chemical is “Intermediate” or greater, based on NRCS’s environmental risk analysis, then mitigating practices and/or management techniques are required.

Read the label and follow the label specifications for handling, storage, application, and disposal of the pesticide and pesticide containers. The label contains use restrictions to reduce environmental impact – these are very important and must be followed. Always follow pesticide precautionary statements and instructions that minimize negative impacts to humans, domestic animals, wildlife and aquatic organisms. **Restricted use pesticides (RUPs) can be applied by a certified pesticide applicator only.**

Spot spray immediately upon finding new infestations. Consider mechanical control (grubbing, hoeing, etc.) where feasible. Biological controls may be available for some pests. However, effectiveness

of many biological control agents is still uncertain, and they should be used as part of a long-term control strategy.

Idaho has numerous Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) to help in the control of noxious weeds. Most of the CWMAs have integrated weed management plans that you can use to help manage noxious weeds on your property. Some are also involved in monitoring for biological agent control effectiveness. A map of the CWMAs and contacts are available at:

<http://www.agri.state.id.us/Categories/PlantsInsects/NoxiousWeeds/cwmas.php>

Remember that, according to State law, **you are required to control noxious weeds on your lands.**



CLIENT’S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

The Client acknowledges that:

- a. Scouting must be performed at least twice each year by an individual with sufficient experience or training to accurately identify noxious and invasive species.
- b. The client must keep scouting reports, and provide maps of weed infestations. ISDA mapping protocols will be followed, and weed mapping data will be provided to the ISDA’s noxious weed database.
- c. The client must keep annual records of all weed suppression activities and pesticides used.
- d. The client has received a copy of this practice specification and understands the contents and requirements.

Accepted by: /s/ _____ Date: _____

Certification of Practice Completion

I hereby certify that this practice has been installed in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications.

Planner: _____

Date: _____

Producer _____

Date: _____

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SCOUTING REPORT

Producer _____ Date _____ Time _____ am/pm

Field ID _____ County _____ Scout _____

Date	Site ID ¹	Common Name of Weed ²	Approximate Size of Infestation (ac) ³	Approximate Cover Class (%) ⁴	X-Y Location ⁵	Weed Suppression Activity?
SOIL CONDITIONS		WEATHER			Sketch map, or attach.	
Wet Moist Dry		Cool Warm Hot				
Loose Light Crust Hard Crust		Sunny Partly Sunny Cloudy Rainy				
		Calm Light Wind Strong Wind				

¹ Unique set of numbers and/or characters distinguishing individual sites.

² Common name of weed as found on the Idaho Noxious Weed List.

³ Size in acres, smallest size 0.1 acre.

⁴ Estimate of percent cover, in 10% increments.

⁵ The X-Y coordinates, or latitude and longitude in decimal degrees, taken from the GPS unit. Single point in center of infestation.

(Example: 43.75561°, -121.59971°). Use datum NAD83.

