

Ecological Impact of Invasive Species After Fire

Weed Managers are interested in understanding the ecological relationship between disturbance and invasive species. Invasive weeds have become a major problem in Oregon's watersheds. As stated, after a disturbance event, such as fire, noxious weeds can invade and dominate an area. We are working with our cooperators to identify noxious weed infestations and develop management strategies, methods including inventory via ground surveys and digital aerial sketch mapping, compiling data and evaluation for planning and implementation.

Year One Accomplishments

- Inventoried 20,000 acres of fire activity areas.
- Established baseline vegetation layer from current vegetation survey (CVS).
- Produced map of 2000-2004 fire activity areas with overlap of known weeds sites and CVS.
- Entered all data into NRIS-Terra Invasive Plant Database.



Year Two Objectives

- Determine rehabilitation strategy for CVS Plant Association Types based on fire intensity, soil type, and associated environmental factors
- Record probability areas for weed infestation
- Determine areas of high ecologic value
- Develop recommendations to fire prevention guidelines.



Project Leader:
Leigh Dawson, (541) 426-5535
liddawson@fs.fed.us
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Cooperators:
Wallowa Resources, Tri-State Weed Board, Tri County Weed Board, Oregon Department of Agriculture, County Weed Boards & Private Landowners