INVASIVE SPECIES ACTION PLAN

Shoshone National Forest

Our Approach to
Maintaining and Restoring the Health of
National Forest
Through the Prevention and Management of Plant Invasive Species

FY 2007 - 2009

Rocky Mountain Region
USDA Forest Service

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Signed /s/ Rebecca Aus, June 12, 2007
Rebecca Aus, Forest Supervisor Shoshone National Forest

Abstract

The Shoshone National Forest Terrestrial Invasive Species Action Plan describes critical management actions and program development needed to responsibly address the invasion of exotic species on the Forest for the coming three-year period. This Plan is the Forest's response to the Forest Service Strategic Plan and the Chief's Four Threats. It follows the National and Regional Invasive Species Strategies and is designed as a strategic document quantifying program objectives, identifying annual priorities, workforce capabilities, funding needs, and accountability measures. This plan will be reviewed and adjusted annually, addressing the upcoming three-year window.

The Shoshone National Forest (NF) leadership is very committed to managing invasive species in an aggressive and proactive manner. Other major programs on the forest have made a commitment of funding and resource support to keep the invasive species program effective and efficient. Approximately half of the Forest weed budget is from funds other than NFVW and includes TRTR, NFWV, WFHF and NFRW funding.

The current program employs 3 PFT employee's for 150 days in invasive species work. In addition, cooperation and shared work programs with the adjacent counties and Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA) make up the bulk of the program and workforce addressing invasive species related to the Shoshone NF. The forest does not anticipate a future that includes new staff, temporary or permanent. The current workforce and cooperative programs are effective and will become even more so as forest funding and emphases broaden throughout all forest programs. Steady and consistent involvement and support from the forest is important to the partners (counties and CWMA) as they too continue to invest and increase their own capacity in order to address invasive species management throughout the region.

Currently the Shoshone NF is addressing less than 60% of their known priority invasive species populations. This action plan describes a program that through increased staff participation, additional funding sources and efficiencies, is intended to approach 90% treatment (monitoring, etc) of the known priority populations. To date, most terrestrial invasive species infestations are still found in the "front country". With nearly 80% of the Shoshone managed as roadless or wilderness, the spread of invasive species off the "road front" and into the backcountry would diminish the Forest's ability to manage invasive species as done today. The Forest's primary focus is on keeping invasive species in the front-country.

Shoshone Program Key Elements

1. Maintain partnerships with Counties
2. Stress active participation with Cooperative Weed Management Areas
3. Increase Forest employee awareness and participation
4. Contain existing large populations
5. Stress Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) on new, small populations.
6. Increase public awareness efforts
7. Become more involved in bio-control efforts
8. Strive to keep administration sites, wilderness, and wildlife winter ranges weed-free
9. Maintain management "Flexibility" to deal with new invaders and infestations

Regional Office Forest Invasive Plan Items Questions 1 - 8

The "Weed Plan" document is composed of a series of 8 questions that the Regional Office has requested each Forest address. Appendices add additional detail.

1. Priority Species and Populations on the Shoshone NF

Part 1. Rating of Species.

Regional criteria were used in the priority rating process. Table 1 assigns numeric values to criteria. Table 2 presents the priority rating of individual species found on or likely to occur on the Forest. Maps (GIS technology) of the priority rated species can be found in Appendix 1. The numeric values for each criteria were summed into an overall rating, where the higher the value, the higher the treatment or management priority. Canada thistle and cheatgrass are the exceptions. Their management priority on the Forest reflects the resource(s) being protected, spread potential unique to the specific location (soils, aspects, competing plants, precipitation) and available program funding levels.

Table 1. Criteria Value Codes.

Codes/values	**1**	**2**	**3**
Abundance	low	moderate	high
Difficulty of Control	easy	moderate	difficult
Ability to Establish dominance	low	moderate	high
Multiple habitat invader	Few specific habitats	Similar habitats	Many different habitats

Table 2. Forest Priority Species Matrix by Regional Criteria (higher scores the higher the priority).

Common Weed Name	Abundance on Forest	Control Difficulty	Establishes Dominance	Invades multiple habitat	Overall Rating Value
Wormwood	1	1	1	1	4
Black henbane	1	1	1	1	4
Blue lettuce	1	1	1	1	4
Scotch thistle	1	1	1	1	4
Wild carrot	1	1	1	1	4
Curly dock	2	1	1	2	6
Marsh sowthistle	3	1	1	2	7
Sulphur cinquefoil	1	2	2	2	7
Bull thistle	2	1	2	3	8
Common Mullein	3	1	2	2	8
Common tansy	1	3	2	2	8
Saltcedar	1	3	3	1	8
Wild licorice	2	2	2	2	8
Perennial pepperweed	1	3	3	2	9
Canada thistle	3	2	3	2	10
Diffuse knapweed	1	3	3	3	10
Field bindweed	2	3	3	2	10
Musk thistle	3	1	3	3	10
Russian knapweed	1	3	3	3	10
Whitetop	2	3	3	2	10
Yellow toadflax	1	3	3	3	10
Cheatgrass	3	3	3	2	11
Houndstongue	3	2	3	3	11
Leafy spurge	2	3	3	3	11
Oxeye daisy	3	2	3	3	11
Spotted knapweed	2	3	3	3	11
Dalmatian toadflax	3	3	3	3	12

Species that are on the Forest “Watch list” include Dyer’s woad, yellow star thistle, yellow toadflax, orange hawkweed, scentless chamomile, and rush skeleton weed. All of these species, if established would immediately be in the high priority category.

Part 2. Management area maps / Narratives for priority species

1. Appendix 1 Weed Location Maps - GIS Map. Species' priority maps (high, moderate, low) for each species by Popo Aggie, North Zone, and Dubois Crowheart CWMAs.

2. Appendix 2 WMA Subunit and Subunit Narratives, which includes:

- Treatment Emphasis and Annual Operations
- Weeds of Concern
- Special Problems Associated with Subunit
- Forest Management Activities
- Landowner Involvement
- Wilderness Activities

3. Appendix 3.0 – 3.4 Summary Spreadsheets of various CWMA statistics, including miles of roads (FS, county and state roads), total acreages of CWMAs and Forest Service trails (description, types - primitive, developed and developed improved, and locations).

4. Appendix 3.5 Cost Estimates. This appendix covers costs estimates for treatments, prevention and inventory for the North Zone of the Shoshone NF.

5. Appendix 3.4 Acres of Identified Weeds by CWMA Subunits. This appendix provides an estimate of acres of weeds by CWMA subunits. The numbers are considerably lower from the original Forest NEPA document of approximately 25,000 acres. Some species such as Dalmatian toadflax and Canada thistle are under estimated and are identified to be updated. Dalmatian toadflax mapping is scheduled to be updated in FY 2007. Canada thistle will be updated as an opportunity arises.

6. Annual Work Plan Activities. Documents staff work load, time allocated for specific program elements and additional comments.

2. Forest Priority Treatment Areas 2007-2009

The Shoshone Forest has 3 major large areas (large acreages) for treatment, Wiggins Fork on the South Zone, and South Fork of the Shoshone and Sinks Canyon on the North Zone. These projects are further described in the CWMA / Subunit narratives in Appendix 2. Most all other infestations on the Forest are less than 1 acre in size. Early detection, rapid response (EDRR) consistency and constancy is the key to eradication and containment, especially of these ever-appearing smaller infestations.

Forest Priority Treatments

Year	Location	Action
2007	Wiggins Fork- Oxeye Daisy Project (total acres infested ~1000) Dubois/Crowheart CWMA	400 acres
	South Fork Shoshone Dalmatian Toadflax Project (total acres infested ~1000) South Fork CWMA	400 acres
	Sinks Canyon Project –leafy spurge (30 bio-control sites)	170 acres
	North Zone EDRR (250 bio-control)	900 acres
	South Zone EDRR	130 acres
Total		**~2000 acres of treatment accomplishment**
2008	Follow-up treatment/monitor previous projects. Develop a forest-wide risk assessment	~2000 acres of treatment accomplishment
2009	Follow-up treatment/monitor previous projects.	~2000 acres of treatment accomplishment

3. Road and Trail Invasive Species Inventory Schedule

The Forest is actively involved with the counties and CWMA's in annual inventory and treatment along high-use roads. A schedule for roads and trail inventories are included in Appendix 1 (represented in map format). Appendix 3.1 and 3.3 lists miles and types of road (primitive, developed and developed improved) and trails by CWMA subunit. Currently, the Forest's capacity to apply forest-wide inventory is funding-limited. Weed inventories are tied mostly to "NEPA" projects associated with other program goals.

4. Adequacy of Existing Invasive Species Inventories & Databases

Park and Fremont County Weed and Pest Departments have had comprehensive weed mapping efforts for at least 10 years. The Forest has cooperated with these mapping efforts since FY 2000. Mapping standards from the Greater Yellowstone Mapping Guide and North American Weed Management Area mapping standards are used, which allows for integration of multi-jurisdictional information. These efforts across the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) have coalesced into a single map layer with over 190,000 site/species records from all regional administrative units. This regional data set is currently managed by Fremont County Weed and Pest through the Shoshone NF. The Forest's cooperation in these inventory and data management efforts is important as the data is most informative of current and new infestations and trends. The Forest will soon be required to migrate invasive species occurrence data into Terra and FACTS. Though these databases/data management processes are not fully defined, there is anticipation that they will have additional impact on forest resources as they reach implementation.

Data Management Roles

When	Data sets to evaluate / migrate	Action / Who
FY2007	Increase backcountry inventory and administrative sites.	Houston, Engler. Buzalsky, Wilderness rangers
	Annual data migration	Engler/ Buzalsky / Johnson (Fremont County) / Ostrom
FY2008	Increase backcountry inventory and administrative sites.	Houston, Engler. Buzalsky, Wilderness rangers
	Annual data migration	Engle/ Buzalsky / Johnson / Ostrom
FY2009	Increase backcountry inventory and administrative sites.	Houston, Engler. Buzalsky, Wilderness rangers
	Annual data migration	Engler /Buzalsky / Johnson / Ostrom

5. Plans for Increased Coordinated Weed Management Activity

For over a decade the Shoshone NF has been involved with Park, Fremont, and Hot Springs Counties with the development of Cooperative Weed Management Area's. Appendix 2 (CWMA subunit narratives) contain a short description of each existing CWMA. It is anticipated that the Forest will be a participant with a total of 9 CWMA's by FY2009, as a few of the larger CWMAs divide into smaller and more localized units. All CWMAs work under a Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) which allows for the exchange of resources and time to accomplish weed work. And each CWMA has a management plan that lays out their objectives and priorities. Grants received from The Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee, State and Private Forestry and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have been vital in establishment and development of the CWMAs which the Shoshone works with. Participation and collaboration with the local CWMAS is essential to the invasive species program on the Shoshone NF.

Park County, Wyoming has three active CWMA's: the South Fork Shoshone River (1991), North Fork Shoshone River (2005), and Upper Clarks Watershed (Sunlight/Crandall) CWMA (2003). Two additional CWMAs have been identified for the area within the Forest North Zone. These are "Greybull / Wood River CWMA" and the "Face of the Mountain CWMA" near Clark, Wyoming. *Hot Spring's County* established the "Grass Creek CWMA" in the spring of 2005. *Fremont County* established the Dubois Crowheart CWMA (2002) and the "Popo Aggie" CWMA was started in 2005 for the Lander area. During the spring and summer of 2006, initial meetings and weed tours were held. The Shoshone NF is also an active partner in the *Beartooth CWMA* located in Cooke City, MT, bordering the Forest to the northeast.

Forest CWMA workload:

The Forest Invasive Plant Coordinator is actively engaged on an annual basis with the CWMA's in the following activities and elements of the invasive species program:

- Writing MOU's
- Coordinating annual weed work plans
- Attending monthly meetings
- Organizing weed tours – public outreach

- Developing and distribution of education publications
- Coordinating weed mapping
- Educational and management event organization
- Helping at county fair weed booths
- Writing and researching for grants
- Organizing and attending the bi-annual GYE weed meetings
- Exploring new funding sources and partnerships

Forest Roles as Partners with CWMAs

Year	Partnership Activity	Who
2007	• Work to establish Greybull CWMA • Continue working with existing CWMA's in annual activities • Continue GYA Weed Group efforts	Houston – North Zone Buzalsky – Popo Agie Engler – Dubois Crowheart District Rangers
2008	• Continue working with existing CWMA's in annual activities • Work to establish Face of the Mountain CWMA • Continue GYA Weed Group efforts	Houston – North Zone Buzalsky – Popo Agie Engler – Dubois Crowheart District Rangers
2009	• Continue working with existing CWMA's in annual activities • Continue GYA Weed Group efforts	Houston – North zone Buzalsky – Popo Agie Engler – Dubois Crowheart District Rangers

6. Identify Efforts to Address Invasive Plants at Administrative Sites

Appendix 5 lists the Forest's 261 administrative sites by Cooperative Weed Management Areas and management subunits. This list does not include special use permitted summer homes. List data fields of "problem areas to address"; "inventory priority"; and "treatment priority" are identified. The management strategy of these sites is addressed in CWMA and subunit management plans. Fields in this database which contain "unknown" qualifier are indication of the need for additional inventory. This same information will be used in addressing invasive plants in the Forest's EMS process.

Administration Site Activities – Appendix 2 for details

Year	Location	Problem to Address
2007	Continue to treat high priority administrative sites. Begin inventory of Unknown sites (App.2).	Lack of inventory data on lodges, outfitter camps and summer homes High priority weeds on administration sites. Better work planning and awareness
2008 and 2009	Continue to treat high priority admin. sites. Begin inventory of Unknown sites (App.2). Begin writing individual administration site treatment plans on high priority sites.	Lack of inventory data on lodges, outfitter camps and summer homes High priority weeds on administration sites. Better work planning and awareness

7. Assessment and Development of Organizational Capacity:

The current forest terrestrial invasive species organization includes a GS 11 Supervisor's Office staff who is responsible for program management, forest coordination with partners, CWMA participation and cooperation, grants, agreements, training, treatment and monitoring of weeds, and most North Zone project coordination. This position is funded for 90 days. Two South Zone liaison personnel (GS 9) are responsible for weed mapping and serve as South Zone project coordinators, perform treatment and inventory of South Zone administration sites, and some CWMA participation and coordination. Each position is funded 30 days. Additional program activities are found in Appendix 6.

The Shoshone's program has been funded at $280-300,000 the past few years. Approximately $213,000 is paid to the counties through agreements for work performed on the forest, and another $70,000 supports forest staff personnel costs, travel, training, vehicles, equipment, materials (chemicals, biological controls).

The current forest organization does not have the capacity to perform all components of a comprehensive program alone. Program components such as EDRR, treatment/control, mapping, and prevention education are greatly supported through partnership and formal agreements with Park and Fremont Counties and local CWMAs.

Counties provide the current treatment workforce, which includes horse, road and ATV crew salaries, travel, and equipment. Horse pack spray activities in FY2006 approached $100,000. The funds provided to the county for treatment on the forest do not cover the county overhead costs, bio-control efforts, and their education programs.

Fiscal year	Park County approximately	Fremont CO. approximately	Total Yearly Cost
2007thru 2009	**$150,000**	**$63,000**	**$213,000**

In 2007, the Shoshone Forest Leadership Team looked at the invasive species organization and the potential to add additional staff. Given the uncertainty of the budget and the current success in addressing program needs through a combination of partnerships, contracts and the existing forest staff, the decision was made not to add additional personnel, seasonal or new permanent staff, to the program. The FLT supported the idea of a more consistent and multi-financed base program. The counties and forest partners performing work on surrounding private and forest lands also benefit from this consistent financial support and broader forest involvement, as they (partners) build their own capacity. The goal is to provide $130-145,000 from NFVW and $15-25,000 from NFWF, WFHF, NFTM, TRTR, NFRW annually, with CMRD and CWK2 funds in some years. These are approximations or goals, as each program has annual fluctuations and may not always be capable of these levels of funding.

Recommendations to Maintain the Forest Program:
To close the gap in the Forest's capability to conduct 90% treatment and implement the National and Region Invasive Species strategies, the following is proposed.

1. Maintain the Supervisor's Office program manager for invasive plants, botany, soils, and ecology. This person also manages North Zone activities and budgeting of the South Zone program. This allows for less duplication and reduces overhead costs. Weed science is basically applied ecology. The integration of invasive plants, botany, soils, and ecology is thought to be a saving in personnel costs and results in efficiencies such as integration of weed surveys during the time of soil and floristic survey inventories.

2. Maintain two South Zone liaison personnel to work with the local EDRR crew, Fremont County Weed and Pest, Popo Aggie and Dubois Crow-Heart CWMAs. These personnel would also assist in treatment, education, database, and other CWMA activities.

3. Maintain partnerships with CWMA's and county weed and pest agencies for most control and EDRR (prevention) activities. The EDRR staff (2) that currently perform this function for the Forest on the North Zone are funded entirely by grants received by the local CWMA. The cost of this 2-person EDRR is conservatively estimated at $75,000. This EDRR crew works on the Wapiti and Clark Fork portions of the North Zone. The counties, CWMAs and Forest will continue to work together on maintaining and expanding the EDRR program component across the entire forest and into the South Zone.

4. Update the Forests Invasive NEPA document (possibly an EIS). Funding for this project is not part of the program costs identified in this document and will involve additional Supervisor Office and District staff. Part of the Forest's NEPA analysis would include development of risk assessment maps for specific weed species. The "risk assessment" process would be most useful if started prior to the initiation of the NEPA analysis.

8. Identify Funding Sources for the Unit's Invasive Plant Program of Work, from Item #2. Incorporate into Program Budget Planning

Forest Funding Sources (in dollars)

FY YEAR	TRTR	WFHF	NFIM	NFRW	NFVW	NFWF	NFVW-TM	WFSU BAER)	KV	Total
2007	$40,000	$20,000	$5,000	$0	$164,000	$17,500	0	$12,500	0	$300,000
2008	$25,000	$25,000	$5,000	$25,000	$145,000	$25,000	$20,000	?	$10,000	$280,000
2009	$25,000	$25,000	$5,000	$25,000	$145,000	$25,000	$20,000	?	$10,000	$280,000

Carry Over: Poor weather conditions in FY2006 led to targets not being accomplished. Funds were extended in agreements into FY2007. These funds, CWK2, came in late May, 2006. Late funding tests the county's work force capacity to handle these funds.

TRTR: These funds are currently used on the Beartooth Highway. These funds could also be used along the North Fork Highway, Togwotee Pass, and Sinks Canyon Roads.

WFHF: These funds are being used in areas of future and past fuels reduction projects. This includes inventory, treatment, and monitoring for 3 years after project completion.

WFSU (BAER): Fire plan funding for monitoring and treatment of the Little Venus fire.

NFRW: Recreation program dollars can be used on trails, campgrounds, trail heads, works centers, and offices and backcountry sites.

NFVW- noxious weeds: These funds have gradually increased but are still short (by about 50%) of what is needed to fund a 2,000 acre target, without using other fund codes.

NFWF: Weed treatment can be used to meet wildlife habitat improvement needs. Invasive work partnerships funds are being used to meet wildlife "agreement" targets.

NFVW-TM: Funds used for fuels reduction projects - weed treatment, inventory, and monitoring. Future projects and monitoring of past projects for weeds is still needed.

KV: These funds cover areas within actual timber sale boundaries. It does not cover approaches to and adjacent areas needing treatment or monitoring. A majority of past units have Canada thistle which is not a high priority for treatment.

NFIM: The Forest planning group has been providing GIS support to the program. The majority of monitoring and inventory dollars come from NFVW and funded projects.

Summary: The Forest's "base" program funds needed to address noxious weeds is estimated at $300,000. This funding level corresponds with a ~ 2000 acre target at the Regional average cost of $150 / acre. In FY2006 grants and county funds contributed approximately $129,950 or services and materials to address invasive species on the Shoshone NF directly. An above base and even more comprehensive weed management program on the Shoshone NF is estimated at close to $400,000. Cost estimates for invasive species program work are presented in Appendix 3.5.

Forest Partnership Program

It cannot be overstated the importance of partnerships to the overall success and effectiveness of the Shoshone's invasive species program. Park, Hot Springs and Fremont, WY counties and the CWMAs are without comparison the most significant partners in this work of invasive species management. These groups represent day-to-day partners that provide funds, technical expertise, workforce, equipment, materials and public support. They also facilitate awareness and on-the-ground- results with some audiences that the Forest Service may not always work with directly such as private land owners. And in even a more functional role, the counties usually provide the 1:1 matches and provide the money for many grants received for invasive species work on the Forest.

In addition to the counties and CWMAs, the Forest had forged partnerships, generally centered around financial support with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee, Wyoming Heritage Trust, State and Private Forest Programs and Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, and Fish and Wildlife Service (Pulling Together Initiative).

Additional Grant – Partnership Funding Opportunities Identified

- **GYCC:** Invasive plants have been an emphasis of the GYCC for many years. The GYCC annual contribution of $5,000 has been directed towards the "GYE-wide mapping" project led by Fremont County, WY. In the past additional GYCC funds were received for the initiation and support of starter CWMAs. .
- **Wyoming Heritage:** Park County received a 3-year grant that includes the Shoshone Forest.
- **Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS):** Planning on applying for Funds in FY2008.
- **Federal Highway and State Highway funds:** Additional Federal and State highway funds are usually added to County budgets to cover increased treatment and monitoring costs.

This component of the program reaps significant benefit but also has costs, primarily time by the SO and district staff in writing, administering, and reporting grants received. And successful grant writing is often based on relationships that require years of consistent investment.

Forest Funding and Program Trends

Since 2002, the Forest's invasive species program has shown an increase in effort (acres treated) as National Forest System funding has increased and partnerships have further developed and been solidified. The core of the treatment effort has been centered on the 3 primary infestations (see page 5). On average, 100 new infestations are found annually, mostly along roadways where EDRR and inventory are focused. Between the mix of treated acres and EDRR, the Forest believes it can continue to contain/control a growing percentage of the more significant priority weed occurrences. The Forest will be adding additional focus on administrative sites in the coming years. And with additional forest personnel developing an "eye" and interest in invasive species, opportunities to identify new occurrences in the backcountry will also increase. Workload is not diminishing but continues to need consistent investment of time, resources and monitoring.

The Forest has reached its saturation point of target acres that can be accomplished with the current County (Park and Fremont) Weed and Pest workforce. At this time the Forest should maintain a treatment level consistent with ~2000 acres in order to keep up with the existing level of new infestations. Increases in funding needed for EDRR, bio-control, education, and other cooperative efforts are expected on the near horizon. Even as some infestations decrease due to successful treatment, overall costs are staying constant or increasing as knowledge of seed viability and long-term and repeated treatments grows. Actual treatment costs per acre do not reflect all program elements such as bio-control, education, grant writing/ administration, and EDRR programs. If these were added in as part of the FS funded programs it would increase the costs per acre to approximately $200.

The actual mix of funding (funding codes/program support) changes each year, including those funds made available directly from the Regional Office, such as CWK2. The Forest anticipates an eventual decrease in grant funds, particularly from State and Private Forestry. The Shoshone NF has been very proactive in receiving grants from sources that are now becoming more widely known. These funding sources may decrease as the number of competing grant proposals increases.

EDRR program. The key element in the fight against noxious weeds is Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR). This is especially crucial to the North Zone where species such as houndstongue and spotted knapweed have increased in the last three years by approximately 150 new locations. The EDRR crew has been responsible for the mapping and treatment of these new infestations. These locations vary from a few plants to half acre in size. Without this team's diligence, the Shoshone NF would have a much more extensive weed problem--- especially on crucial wildlife winter ranges.

Forest Bio-control efforts. This part of integrated weed management is funded by Park County and Fremont Counties. Major releases include insects for leafy spurge (Lander area), Dalmatian toadflax (South Fork Shoshone), and Canada thistle (Forest-wide). This is a program element that the Forest can take a more active role in the future.

Education efforts. For the most part education efforts are executed by the counties and CWMAs and are funded from grants. In 2007, the Forest will take a more active role internally in conveying the importance of invasive species management, and the need for all employees to be diligent and knowledgeable in this work. This effort will start with summer seasonal orientation training.

CWMA involvement. Due to the increasing number of CWMA's and subsequent events such as meetings, grant writing, weed tours, and spray days, the Forest is reaching it's capacity to remain an active participant. Active forest involvement in activities such as spray days is a must and a priority for investing in these cooperative partnerships

Wildlife Winter Range Improvement Targets. Currently, the Forest is not claiming weed treatment on wildlife winter ranges as a wildlife improvement target accomplishment. If this was done the Forest would be able to claim a 500 plus acre target for work on the South Fork Bighorn Sheep range, Sunlight Basin, or North Fork Shoshone winter range in the foreseeable future.

Fuels Reduction Projects. The Forest anticipates an increase of fuels treatment activities. The size and number of slash piles have been under estimated. As fuels reduction targets are increased, the potential for weed invasions also increases. The number of treated acres and the funding commitment for monitoring and treatment for 3 years after implementation has caused some difficulty with resource allocation.

Grants – The funds generated from grants directly ease the threat posed by noxious weeds to public lands. In the past, grant funds have exceeded funding provided by the Forest. This is particularly true for the South Fork CWMA. The grant funding table does not include the usual 1:1 match provided by the county. Without the match, CWMA's, counties and the Forest would not be able to compete in the grant funding process.

Counties - Counties are reaching a saturation point of work capability related to the amount of work they can accomplish for the Forest. This is due to personnel limitations, increasing private land issues, and increasing roadside issues. This emphasizes the need for the Forest to create capacity internally or provide consistent work and financial support such that the counties would be willing to build their current capacity.