

Citizens Against Weeds

National Fire Plan Grant enables
Private Landowners to Take Action



**USDA
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*Forest
Health
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*Cooperative
Noxious
Weeds
Program*

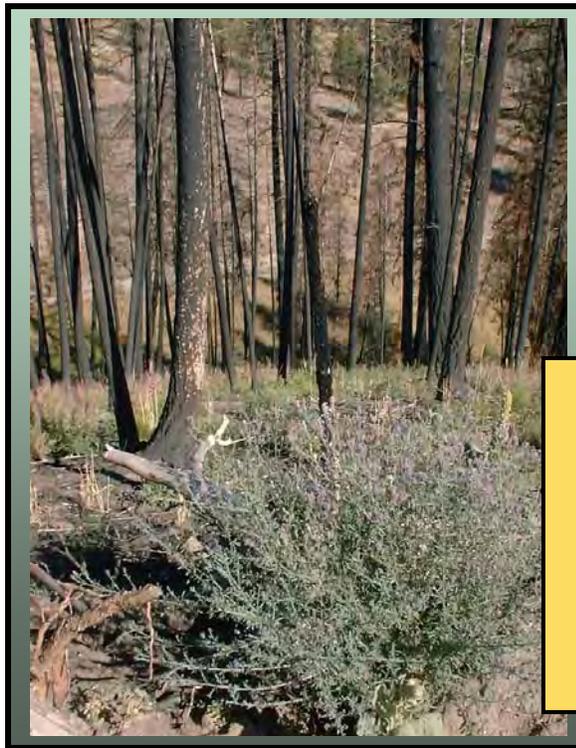
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In Lemhi County, Idaho, the National Fire Plan funded Citizens Against Weeds – a project to help private landowners fight noxious weeds. Sixty residents took advantage of the opportunity; they controlled weeds on over 1,200 acres and inventoried nearly 5,600 acres more.

Participants appreciated the program's flexibility – backpack and ATV sprayers were made available at no cost, and many residents matched the grant money with "sweat equity" instead of cash. Best of all, the program inspired neighbors to work together on a problem that knows no boundaries; an extra 10% cost share incentive was available for those who joined forces with adjacent landowners.



"It has been a huge help to our state. Otherwise, much of the land that burned never would have gotten attention... and noxious weeds are one of the most devastating things to our ecosystem." Brenda Waters, former Noxious Weed Program Coordinator, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, December 2001

- 400,000 acres of burned lands had increased exposure to noxious weeds following the 2000 fire season.
- Future values such as wildlife habitat, livestock, grazing, watershed stability and water quality become significantly compromised when weeds out-compete native vegetation in burned or disturbed areas.
- Noxious weeds are estimated to have a direct cost to all Idaho lands of \$300 million annually.
- The Idaho Department of Agriculture worked with the Forest Service grants to establish a community-based approach to manage the spread of weeds across multiple land ownerships.