



## Noxious Weed Treatment & Inventory – *Recovery Act Projects*– Dolores, Hinsdale, Mineral, Montezuma, La Plata & Archuleta Counties

The San Juan National Forest is partnering with local counties and the San Juan Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) to inventory and treat noxious weeds on public lands where fuels-reduction projects have taken place. One of the consequences of fuels reduction is that mowing, thinning and burning can create the opportunity for the invasion of weeds. Invasive species threaten wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and plant and animal diversity. For successful results, noxious weed management must go hand in hand with fuels mitigation.



Over the next three years, 52,000 acres within 76 fuel-mitigation areas on the San Juan will be inventoried for infestations. It is estimated that about 5,000 acres of noxious species will be treated.



Recovery Act funding will allow counties to enhance long-term cooperative weed management programs with the purchase of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Global Positioning Systems (GPS), and weed-treatment equipment. The RC&D is being funded to provide GPS and GIS training, field support and project oversight to improve technical skills with the goal of ensuring consistent, quality data. Skills acquired by county staff will help them to meet national data-collection standards.

Through participating agreements, Recovery Act funding has been transferred to the following entities:

- Upper San Juan Weed District
- Dove Creek Mandatory Weed Control District
- La Plata County Weed Office
- Montezuma Weed Program
- San Juan Resource Conservation and Development Council