

FY 2013 Invasive Species Earmark Project Submission Form

PROJECT TITLE: Wasatch Watershed Legacy Project Mill Creek Canyon

EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE: August 15, 2013

TYPE OF PROJECT: EDRR and Treatment

FOREST PROJECT LEAD: Mike Duncan, Botanist, SO, 801-999-2168, mduncan@fs.fed.us

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:

The purpose of this project is to control the spread of Myrtle Spurge and reduce the main infestation. The project is located in Mill Creek Canyon on the Salt Lake Ranger District of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest (UWCNF). This project is a partnership with several agencies and groups and approximately 230 acres will be treated.

JUSTIFICATION and URGENCY

- The UWCNF has a Integrated Weed Management Strategy for Invasive Plants. This document acts as our 5-year plan for identifying and setting priorities for infestations to be treated. After completing an area and risk assessment for this project the Forest identified this area as a priority because of the high priority infestations, the high value resources at risk, the partnership potential, and the reasonable expectation of success. This is a high priority area on the Forest because it is a high priority for our partners and will prevent spread of weeds into nearby wilderness areas. An early detection plan was implemented in that small infestations of high priority weeds are being targeted for eradication.
- Mill Creek pipeline trail has documented numerous infestations of Myrtle spurge, a new invader recently declared noxious by Salt Lake County (which Mill Creek lies in) as well as many moderately prioritized weeds along a highly recreated trail. Recent inventories indicate that while the infestations along the pipeline trail are increasing in density and size they have not yet, or are only starting to spread up the trails that lead off of the pipeline and potentially into designated wilderness. Myrtle spurge exudes a latex substance which is toxic and has been reported to travel through the soil and effect organisms down stream. The infestations span the length of the canyon. Cottonwood Canyons Foundation have funded treatment that has concentrated along the pipeline trail. Infestations have been drastically reduced to levels where potential eradication may occur. A partnership project with Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, Salt Lake City corporation, Salt Lake County and the FS was developed to concentrate efforts along the pipeline trail and connecting trails in the canyon and potentially get the infestations under control or eradicated.

PARTNERSHIPS AND STAKEHOLDERS (PROJECT LEVERAGING):

As previously discussed - the partnerships developed with this project and others within the Salt Lake Watershed have become a valuable asset. Partners work well together to maximize funding and perform efficient and effective treatment of weeds for watershed protection. Partners in the Wasatch Watershed Legacy Partnership include Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, Salt Lake City Corporation, Salt Lake County and Save Our Canyons.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS (Expected outcomes and benefits):

- Treatment of 230 acres of Myrtle Spurge and other weeds.
- Continued success in partnership with parties listed above.

- Continued reduction in density over previous years and/or 80- 100% mortality in weeds treated, 2 weeks post treatment.

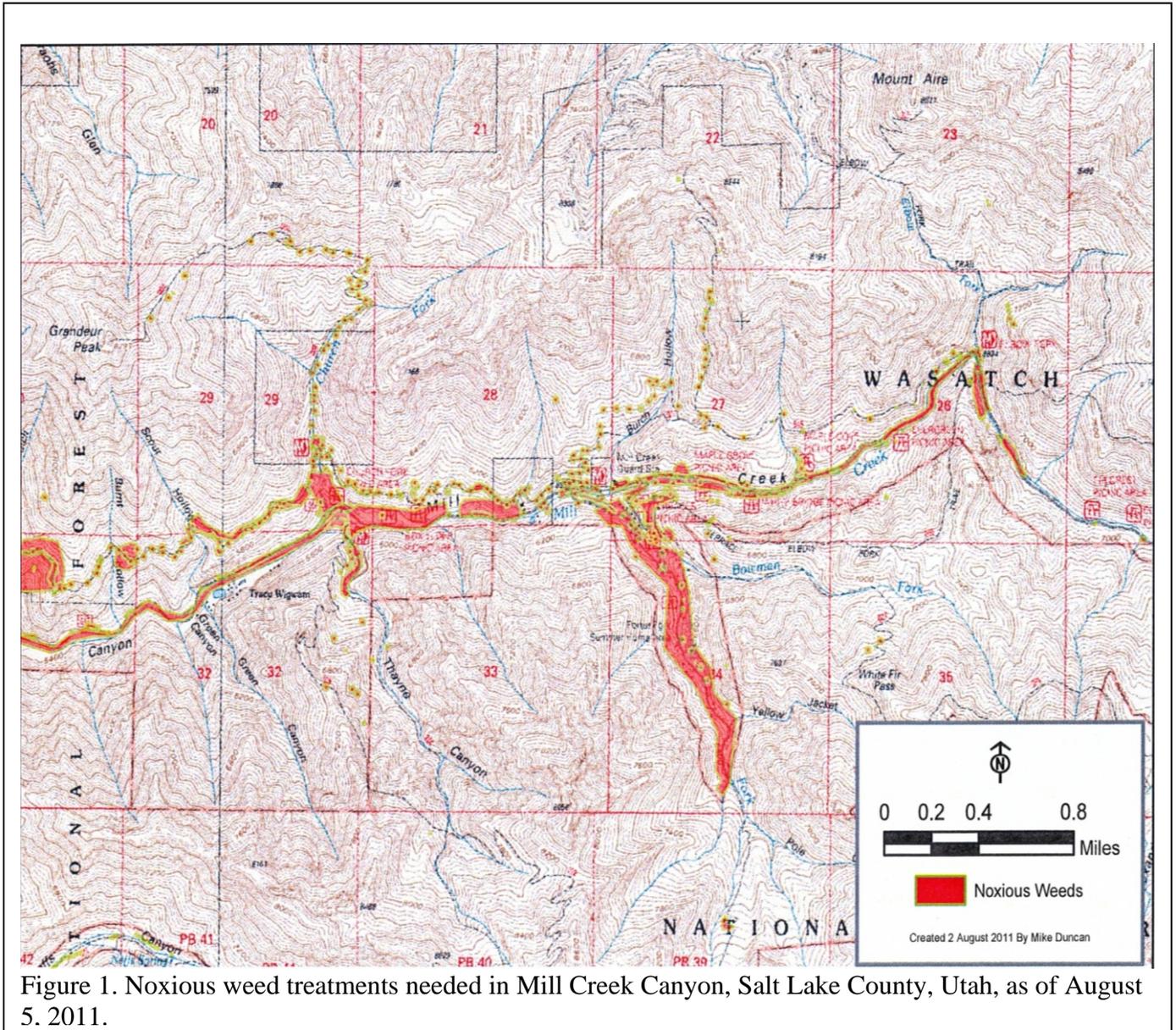


Figure 1. Noxious weed treatments needed in Mill Creek Canyon, Salt Lake County, Utah, as of August 5, 2011.