



LOWER DESCHUTES
COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA

Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District
District Manager
Shilah Olson

February 27, 2023

During the 2022 season the Lower Deschutes Cooperative Weed Management Area crew treated **122.3 net acres** while traversing more than **2235 gross acres** within the project area.

*2022 Acres covered within the Lower Deschutes CWMA –
Herbicide Treatments Only*

<u>Land Manager</u>	<u>Sherman Riparian</u>	<u>Wasco Riparian</u>	<u>Sherman Upland</u>	<u>Wasco Upland</u>	<u>Totals</u>
BLM	206 Gross 30.7 Net	340 Gross 14.8 Net	353 Gross 3.0 Net	0 acres	899 Gross 48.5 Net
ODFW	258 Gross 11.3 Net	447 Gross 6.5 Net	285 Gross 23.9 Net	20 Gross 0.7 Net	1010 Gross 42.4 Net
OPRD	11 Gross 0.7 Net acres	0 acres	94 Gross 27.2 Net	0 acres	105 Gross 27.9 Net
Private	11 Gross 0.8 acres	0 acres	210 Gross 2.7 Net	0 acres	221 Gross 3.5 Net
Total Riparian	486 Gross 43.5 Net	787 Gross 21.3 Net			1273 Gross 64.8 Net
Total Upland			942 Gross 56.8 Net	20 Gross 0.7 Net	962 Gross 57.5 Net
				2022 Gross Acres Covered	2235 Gross
				2022 Net Acres Treated	122.3 Net

*Gross acres = acres traversed while performing treatments.
Net acres = acres treated with herbicide.*

In addition to the above treatments the CWMA also spent 6 days hand pulling Yellow Starthistle, one day pulling Diffuse Knapweed and 23 days pulling Puncturevine.

In 2022, the CWMA relied heavily on contract work with Heart of Oregon Corp. Heart of Oregon is based in Bend and hires crew members between the ages of 18 and 24. Typically we hire a crew of 5 to camp on the river for a 4-day work week. We hoped to have them out for 6-8 weeks last year but unfortunately, they were only able to make it for 4 weeks of camping. We also had planned a weeklong camping trip with ODFW, but it turned into a 2-day trip due to rain.

During one of these trips in April, the CWMA identified four Leafy Spurge plants at river mile 20, on the Wasco side of the river. This weed has never before been identified on the lower Deschutes. It is known to exist on the John Day River and much further up the Deschutes, but never in our project area. These plants are very toxic to both humans and animals and are relatively difficult to kill. The CWMA will attempt to eradicate this small population over the next several years and conduct surveys to find any additional plants.

Our biggest setbacks last year were a cold and wet spring and difficulties hiring seasonal employees. We had snow on the ground in April and one of the wettest springs on record. This not only limited our number of spray days but also allowed weeds to proliferate much more than normal due to the extra moisture. In addition, we were unable to find seasonal help until mid-June. Because of these setbacks, we struggled to meet our goals for spring work, which is usually the busiest time of the year for us.

Our goals for 2023 include:

- More treatments on the Wasco side of the river, especially upland.
- More collaboration with private landowners, especially in Wasco County.
- Extensive preemergent treatments for Puncturevine to limit the amount of time spent hand pulling.
- More work with biological control agents.
- More Trips with Heart of Oregon than last year.

As always, we want to thank you for your support on this project and we look forward to working with you this year.

Sincerely,
Tyler Holeman
Program Coordinator
Lower Deschutes CWMA