

23. Weeds: Noxious and Invasive Plants					
ISSUE 23.1	There is a lack of information on invasive weed distribution in GrSG range in Colorado.				
OBJECTIVE 23.1.1	Gather and share information regarding the distribution of noxious and invasive weeds in GrSG range.				
Reference Number	Conservation Strategy	Responsible Parties	Timeline	Implementation	Effectiveness
23.1.1.1	Continue to cooperatively identify, map, and monitor undesirable noxious and invasive weed invasions that occur within GrSG habitat.	BLM, CPW, County Governments, LWGs, NPS, NRCS, SCDs, SLB, USFS	Ongoing	<p><b>SLB:</b> Funds treatment of noxious weeds through the Enhancement Fund (for improvements on trust lands enrolled in CPW's public access program) and the Noxious Weed Fund. Since 2004, SLB has spent over \$582K on lands in the NW counties.</p> <p><b>CPW: General</b> - CPW controls weeds on State Wildlife Areas and participates in weed management activities in other areas also. CPW provides significant funding for weed management efforts in several GrSG areas through the Habitat Partnership Program.</p> <p><b>MP</b> - CPW staff monitor weeds on SWA and CPW easement properties and encourage weed control. Ongoing efforts have occurred on the Kemp-Breeze SWA for years and the owner of the Wolf-Taussig easement hired a private weed spray contractor to help with weed control along ditches and roads on the ranch. The local county sprays weeds along the road side.</p> <p><b>NP</b> - At this point, invasive weeds are not a problem in NP.</p> <p><b>NESR</b> - The BLM and USFS manage weeds within GrSG habitat.</p> <p><b>PPR</b> - CPW agreements with energy companies in WMPs contain standards for weed management that are monitored on an annual basis.</p> <p><b>Jackson County:</b> Actively monitors and controls invasive weeds in the NP area.</p>	
23.1.1.2	Inform local work groups of identified invasive weed problems in GrSG range.	BLM, CPW, County Governments, NPS, NRCS, SCDs, SLB, USFS	Ongoing	<b>MP LWG</b> - LWG and CPW discuss weed control with landowners. Weeds in MP are limited mostly to ditches and roadsides (houndstongue and thistle), no wide spread problems with cheatgrass in MP.	
<b>ISSUE 23.2</b> Within GrSG habitat, noxious and invasive weeds may adversely impact GrSG habitat.					
<b>OBJECTIVE 23.2.1</b> Minimize the impacts of noxious and invasive weeds on GrSG habitat.					
Reference Number	Conservation Strategy	Responsible Parties	Timeline	Implementation	Effectiveness
23.2.1.1	Prevent new damaging invasions of noxious and invasive weeds in GrSG habitat. This refers to both new infestations of known weedy species and future infestations of as-yet-unknown weed species. Coordinate efforts across property boundary lines.	BLM, CPW, County Governments, LWGs, NPS, NRCS, SCDs, SLB, USFS, USFWS	Ongoing	<p><b>Grand:</b> 1) Middle Park Habitat Partnership Program provides landowners in production ag up to \$500 year to be used for purchase of herbicides. 2) Includes weed control conditions to Special Use Permits related to ground disturbance in sage grouse habitat. Penalties for non-compliance include a hearing before the BCC, which may result in revocation of permit.</p> <p><b>CPW:</b> General - CPW BMPs for oil and gas development recommend construction equipment be cleaned to remove weed seeds prior to moving to new sites. Similar requirements are included in the COGCC Rules. CPW regularly makes recommendations that weed free mulch be used for reclamation and that weed free hay be required for backcountry stock feeding.</p>	<b>Grand:</b> seeing substantial decrease in houndstongue, thistle and black henbane on private lands in GHG habitat.
23.2.1.2	Conduct local workshops emphasizing the prevention of new weed infestations. Include topics on cleaning equipment and vehicles including recreational equipment, minimizing ground disturbance, and spread of seeds.	County Governments	2008	<p><b>Moffat:</b> See 3.2.1.10-3.2.2.7.</p> <p><b>Grand:</b> Works actively with landowners. Policy to fill an approved container each week up to 4 gallons of pre-mixed herbicide free of charge (Free Friday Herbicide Program).</p>	<b>Grand:</b> substantial decline in noxious weeds throughout the county.

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23.2.1.3	Treat all new and existing noxious weed infestations. Treatments may include biological controls, cultural controls such as grazing (see "Grazing" strategy, pg. 342), chemical controls and any other method considered safe and effective. Coordinate efforts across boundary lines. See "Habitat Enhancement" strategy, pg. 349.	BLM, CPW, County Governments, LWGs, NPS, NRCS, SCDs, SLB, USFS, USFWS	Ongoing	<b>Grand County:</b> contracts with BLM to treat weed infestation on BLM grazing allotments in GSG habitat. <b>CPW:</b> General - CPW actively manages weeds on State Wildlife Areas. CPW provides significant funding for weed control activities on other lands through the Habitat Partnership Program, particularly in the <b>NWCO and MWR</b> populations. <b>MP</b> - Effort is made to treat known weed infestations on SWA and conservation easements in MP. <b>PPR</b> - WMPs include weed management standards that are reviewed annually with energy companies. <b>NP</b> - At this point, invasive weeds are not a problem in NP. <b>NESR</b> - Cooperative efforts are made to control weed infestations in GrSG habitat.	<b>Grand:</b> Noxious weeds in GSG habitat in Grand County treated now since 2001. Obvious substantial reduction in % cover. Native vegetation including sage brush is naturally reestablishing.
23.2.1.4	Monitor the effectiveness of treatments of noxious and invasive weeds in GrSG habitat.	BLM, CPW, County Governments, LWGs, NPS, NRCS, SCDs, SLB, USFS, USFWS	Ongoing	<b>CPW: General</b> - CPW monitors weed control efforts on SWA and conservation easements. <b>PPR</b> - Weed management requirements are built into WMPs. CPW and WMP energy companies meet annually to review weed management progress.	
23.2.1.5	Keep land managers informed of the latest technology in habitat restoration techniques for weed-infested areas in GrSG habitat by providing periodic technology transfer workshops. [See also Information, Communication, and Education Strategies 12.2.1.3 and 12.3.1.1]	BLM, CPW, County Governments, LWGs, NRCS, USFS	Every 5 years starting in 2008	<b>CPW: General</b> - CPW Researcher D. Johnston is conducting research on weed infestations (particularly cheatgrass) on disturbed lands. Research results are disseminated widely, including in semi-annual research up-date conferences for industry and other stakeholders. Research reports are available on CPW's public website.	
<b>ISSUE 23.3</b> Within GrSG habitat, there is a need for information sharing and coordination among weed managers.					
<b>OBJECTIVE 23.3.1</b> Improve communication and coordination among those involved with weed and pest management within GrSG range.					
Reference Number	Conservation Strategy	Responsible Parties	Timeline	Implementation	Effectiveness
23.3.1.1	The local weed program manager or other entities will keep a database of all lands with developed weed management plans, within occupied GrSG habitat.	BLM, CPW, County Governments, LWGs, NPS, NRCS, SCDs, SLB, USFS	Ongoing	<b>CPW: General</b> - CPW maintains records of weed infestations and treatment efforts on State Wildlife Areas.	
23.3.1.2	Inform local weed program managers of all pest management plans developed within GrSG range.	BLM, CPW, County Governments, LWGs, NPS, NRCS, SCDs, SLB, USFS	Ongoing		
23.3.1.3	Organize and participate in annual workshops with all land managers to identify the most threatening weed problems in GrSG habitat, and to prioritize efforts for control. [See also Information, Communication, and Education Strategies 12.2.1.3 and 12.3.1.1]	BLM, CPW, County Governments, Industry, LWGs, NRCS	Ongoing	<b>Grand County, Summit County,</b> and "Friends of the Lower Blue" working together to educate landowners on importance of noxious weed control. Kickoff meeting will be spring 2013.	

Reference Number	Conservation Strategy	Responsible Parties	Timeline	Implementation	Effectiveness
<b>ISSUE 23.4</b>	There is a lack of funding for developing integrated weed management plans, and for application of weed control treatments.				
<b>OBJECTIVE 23.4.1</b>	Identify and provide funding for land managers to scout, map, develop management plans for, and apply treatments to address invasive and noxious weeds.				
Reference Number	Conservation Strategy	Responsible Parties	Timeline	Implementation	Effectiveness
23.4.1.1	Encourage land management agencies and industry to fund integrated weed management programs in GrSG range.	BLM, CPW, County Governments, Industry, LWGs, NRCS, SLB, USFS	Ongoing	<b>CPW: General</b> - CPW provides significant funding for weed control efforts to improve habitat conditions through the Habitat Partnership Program. <b>NWCO</b> - CPW has been an active participant in integrated weed management efforts (generally in partnership with BLM and Moffat County) in several GrSG areas within the NWCO population (e.g., Axial Basin, Hiawatha).	
23.4.1.2	Develop a list of funding opportunities for invasive and noxious weed management.	NRCS	2008		