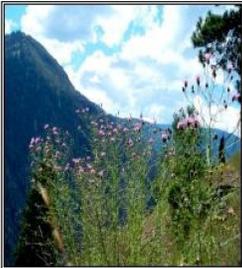


# NOXIOUS WEEDS

## IN THE

# FRANK CHURCH - RIVER OF NO RETURN WILDERNESS

### What is a "Noxious Weed" and why should you be concerned?



- Noxious weeds are plants that are designated as "noxious" by the state or federal government because of their ability to adversely affect the economy, the environment, or both.
- Primarily they are plants from another area, often another country, that are successfully out-competing the native or desirable plants for resources.
- Noxious weeds may affect ecosystems within the Wilderness by displacing native plant species throughout large areas. They reduce plant and wildlife diversity and reduce wildlife forage components. Noxious weeds increase erosion rates and disrupt nutrient cycling. Wilderness characteristics and recreational opportunities are also diminished by the spread of noxious weeds.
- Infestations of noxious weeds typically become much worse if left unmanaged. Vast areas within the wilderness are vulnerable to future weed invasion.



### What is being done to combat noxious weeds in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness?

- An Integrated Weed Management program is being implemented throughout the Wilderness. This strategy combines the use of hand pulling, herbicides and biological control (the release of the weeds' natural predatory insects), with public education, weed prevention, detection and monitoring.
- A Cooperative Weed Management Area has been formed, creating a partnership among interested parties.
- The Cooperative Weed Management Area participants strive for ways to help each other control invasive weeds in the Wilderness.
- Partnerships have been forged with private individuals and groups who contribute their personal time and resources in the fight against noxious weeds in the Wilderness.
- Only certified weed seed free hay and straw is permitted within National Forest lands in Idaho, including the FC-R-NRW.



### Steps you can take to help prevent the spread of noxious weeds in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness

**Learn** to identify noxious weeds in your area -- around your home and work and in areas where you and your family recreate. **Learn** how you can do more to help control weeds in the Wilderness by contacting the local Forest Service office.

**Don't** unintentionally bring weeds or weed seed into the area or transport them to un-infested areas.

**Avoid** camping or traveling through in weed-infested areas.

**Clean** seeds, "stickers" or other plant material from camp gear, pets, livestock and clothing before and after visiting an area.

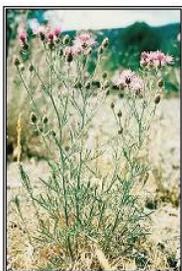
**Report** noxious weed infestations to the appropriate Forest Service office in your area.

**Know** about the noxious weeds that are threatening the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness. Noxious weeds of concern include leafy spurge, yellow starthistle, dalmatian toadflax, purple loosestrife, orange and meadow hawkweed, sulfur cinquefoil, Scotch thistle and Canada thistle.

### Noxious Weeds threatening the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness

#### Spotted Knapweed

*Centaurea biebersteinii*



- Perennial, up to 4 ft tall
- Purple flowers with spots on the bracts below petals
- Looks like "bachelor buttons"
- Basal rosettes when young
- Blooms mid summer to fall
- Each plant can produce 1,000 seeds each year
- Seeds "hitch hike" in the fur of animals and in people's clothing
- Tap root, plant can be effectively hand pulled

#### Rush skeletonweed

*Chondrilla juncea*



- Perennial, up to 4 ft tall
- Appears leafless
- Small yellow flowers
- Blooms mid to late summer
- Stem and leaves produce milky latex juice
- Base of stems have coarse, downward-pointing hairs
- Seeds disperse by wind
- Basal rosettes when young look like dandelion leaves
- Aggressive re-sprouter, pulling is not effective control