

Devastating Wildfires ↓ Helping Communities Recover

USDA Forest Service ↓ State and Private Forestry ↓ National Fire Plan

2002

Forest Service helps prevent the spread of weeds after wildfire

- 3 · 400,000 acres of land had increased exposure to noxious weeds following the 2000 fire season.
- 3 · Future values such as wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, watershed stability and water quality may become significantly compromised if weeds outcompete native vegetation in burned or disturbed areas.
- 3 · Noxious weeds are estimated to have a direct cost to all Idaho lands of \$300 million annually.
- 3 · We established a community-based, coordinated approach to manage the spread of weeds across multiple land ownerships.
- 3 · Forest Service overhead costs were under 3%.
- 3 · Distributed \$3.5 million through the states of Idaho and Montana to local weed boards in 2001.



In Lemhi County, Idaho, the National Fire Plan funded Citizens Against Weeds – a project to help private



landowners fight noxious weeds. Sixty residents took advantage of the opportunity; they controlled weeds on over 1,200 acres and inventoried almost 5,600 acres. People appreciated the program's flexibility – backpack and ATV sprayers were made available at no cost,

and many residents matched grant money with “sweat equity” instead of cash. Best of all, the program inspired neighbors to work together on a problem that knows no boundaries: an extra 10% cost share incentive was available for those that joined forces.

“It has been a huge help to our state! Otherwise, much of the land that burned never would have gotten attention...and noxious weeds are one of the most devastating things to our ecosystem.” ~ Brenda

Waters, former Noxious Weed Program Coordinator, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, 12/03/01