



File Code: 2320, 2600

Date: January 30, 2008

Dear Virginia Kelly, Executive Coordinator, Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee:

The following report summarizes the 2007 weed control efforts in the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness. The work was accomplished by the Gardiner Ranger District backcountry crew and was financed by the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. In addition, student interns donated considerable time and several outfitters provided logistical assistance.

Twelve areas of weed plants involving about 2 acres (consolidated expression to a solid coverage) were treated by hand-pulling and grubbing at remote sites in the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness. Following manual treatment, seed heads were packed out. For plant species that are spread when the root system is disturbed, treatment included only harvesting and burning seed heads. Many more acres were actually involved than just the treated acres because the plants were scattered in a larger matrix of unaffected habitat. Consequently, it would be fair to claim several hundred acres of habitat enhancement as a target. Targeted species included dalmation toadflax, hounds tongue, ox-eye daisy, common tansy, tall buttercup, and spotted knapweed. The general locations were as follows:

- Dalmation Toadflax in Hellroaring drainage near Grizzly Creek cutoff
- Dalmation Taodflax in Horse Creek
- Common Tansy near Palmer Mountain trailhead
- Oxe-eye Daisy and tall buttercup at Wolverine Creek trailhead
- Hounds tongue in Hellroaring drainage. Brundage Creek (treated twice)
- Hounds tongue at Lost Creek Divide near the Duck Pond
- Spotted knapweed in Slough Creek drainage, Frenchy's Meadow
- Hounds tongue in Bassett Creek
- Tall buttercup in upper Buffalo Fork
- Tall buttercup in upper Slough Creek
- Hounds tongue in Tucker Creek

Eight areas of weed plants involving about 3.5 acres were treated chemically using 2,4-D and Tordon. This herbicide was applied to 5 different invasive species using a backpack sprayer. The species included Dalmation toadflax, hounds tongue, ox-eye daisy, leafy spurge, and tall buttercup. Again, many more acres were actually involved than just the treated acres because the plants were scattered in a larger matrix of unaffected habitat. A target of several hundred acres could be claimed. Several scheduled efforts to treat weeds in backcountry areas on other districts were confounded by fire closures, which significantly reduced the intended target area. General locations where chemical treatment was used included:



- Leafy spurge in Hellroaring drainage, Bull Moose Meadows
- Ox-eye daisy in Stillwater basin at the Wolverine trailhead
- Tall buttercup in Stillwater Basin at the wolverine trailhead
- Hounds tongue on Rock Creek
- Dalmation toadflax on Rock Creek
- Hounds tongue on Lost Creek divide near the duck pond
- Tall buttercup on Woody Creek trail
- Dalmation toad flax on Passage Creek (Livingston RD)

UTM coordinates and maps for weed infestations in the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness are available, along with each treated location.

Dan Tyers
Wildlife, wilderness, and trails program manager