

Upper Stillwater River Co-op Project Background & 2007 Season Summary

Project involves a multi-year/multi-agency effort to treat, monitor and map noxious weeds in the upper Stillwater River corridor.

- Project location is from the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness boundary to the confluence of the West Fork of the Stillwater River; ¼ mile on both sides of the river.
- Agencies/private landholders include the following: Stillwater Mining Company, USDA - NRCS, Stillwater County, Montana FWP, USDA - Forest Service, Montana Conservation Corps, Cathedral Mountain Homes (subdivision association), Mouat Estates (manager of patented mining claims), AEI and Weed Warriors (contract pesticide applicators), Key-O Ranch and approximately 90 smaller landholders along the Stillwater River corridor.

The project was initiated in 2005 and continued through 2006 and 2007 with assistance from GYCC grants (\$5,000 in fy 2006 and \$5,000 in fy 2007). In 2005 the Upper Stillwater Weed Management Area was formed (an offshoot of the Beartooth Weed Management Area) and a GLCI grant (Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative) was applied for from NRCS. The WMA was successful in obtaining this grant for a 3 year period for weed control and education in the amount of \$122,000. Implementation of the requirements of this grant began in late 2006. The Stillwater County Weed District is responsible for administration of this grant.

Accomplishments of Forest Service Weed Crew (& MCC)

2005

- Field Days - 12
- Treatment Days - 10
- 34.14 Acres Treated

2006

- Field Days - 12
- Treatment Days - 9
- 240 hours Monitor/Map
- 76.25 hours Herbicide Application
- 22 Acres Treated (predominantly knapweed)
- #135 Trash Bags of Knapweed (MCC)

2007

- Field/Treatment Days - 12
- 340 Hours-Treat/Map/Monitoring
- 18.4 Acres treated (predominantly knapweed)
- 40 Hours Planning/Meeting
- Cost to Forest Service - \$6,860 Labor - \$5,100 Equipment/Supplies
- FY 07 Total Cost: \$11,960