



HAWKWEED NEWS

February 1996



University of Idaho

Volume 2 Issue 1

HACI UPDATE (Hawkweed Action Committee, Inc.)

Ben Marsh, Chairman HACI

With the New Year comes the opportunity to reflect on our efforts. With pleasure we count our many accomplishments.

Most recently we successfully completed an eighteen month gauntlet of paperwork and bureaucracy as the IRS accepted our application for tax exempt status. Our thanks to Senator Larry Craig and his Coeur d'Alene staff for their efforts on our behalf.

Foresight in providing our European partners seed stock from our local invaders, and the fortune of having been included in IIBC's pilosella study has resulted in our plants being exposed to existing insect screening.

A second, local field study season added considerably to our knowledge base. Here's to the dedicated efforts of Linda Wilson and Dr. Joe McCaffrey. They are the spine of knowledge that has given direction to our dreams.

You are invited to join the Hawkweed Action Committee

And, while we're toasting, here's to Harry Eder! He's the dynamic machine that drives us to excel. To know him is to love him.

Our project has caught the interest of scientists and practitioners in related fields. Our education efforts have been warmly received. Governmental agencies and professional vegetation managers are becoming aware of this menace and several outbreaks throughout the Northwest are being addressed at the early stage.

H

AWKWEED MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Hawkweed Action Committee (HACI) will be held

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1996
10:00am

FOR MORE
INFORMATION CALL
BEN at 245-4334 or
HARRY at 45-2221

As we develop our project in this new year, let us resolve to expand our membership. In seeking major sources of funding, an obvious advantage is to represent a significant and broad-based population with a common interest. Be a partner in this focused, grass-root, innovative, serious, logical effort and encourage the same of others. Our annual meeting is held in St. Maries on the last Friday of February. Join us in our cause, in person or by mail.

Regards and stay ahead of the curve.

HACI Merges onto the Information Superhighway!!

HACI now has an e-mail address:

HACI@rand.nidlink.com

HACI also has a web site home page (edited by Harry Eder). The address is:

<http://www.nidlink.com/~haci>

FROM THE EDITORS

Linda Wilson and Joe McCaffrey

We were very happy with the response we received from the first issue of HAWKWEED NEWS. Since then, many people have responded to our call for articles; we will print them all!

As HAWKWEED NEWS evolves, we will continue to make format changes when appropriate. Look for these new additions:

✓ The column "*News From the Front*" will be a regular feature of the newsletter. In it we will highlight a county or organization that has taken on a hawkweed project.

HAWKWEED NEWS TO BE AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET

Joe McCaffrey is developing a HAWKWEED Home Page on the World Wide Web. The site will contain this newsletter in addition to up to date information on hawkweed activities in the region. Look for more information on the web site in the next issue of the newsletter. Regular mailings of the newsletter will continue. The address is:

<http://www.uidaho/~josephp/>

❖ News from the Front ❖

HAWKWEED ON THE MOVE IN FERRY CO., WASHINGTON

Dan Fagerlie, Extension Agent

Four years ago the Ferry County Weed Coordinator, Jim Davidson, and Ferry County/WSU Extension Agent, Dan Fagerlie, found the first few plants of orange hawkweed in the county. They were euthanized. Each year since, new and increasing numbers of infestations have been found and likewise treated. In 1995, Dan found orange hawkweed in a Senior's yard. She had gotten her plants at a "Golden Age" plant exchange. This meant it has probably been started in many people's yards. Dan and Jim, with a little detective work and analysis, back-tracked infestations to a farmer who was doing share cropping. A large infestation (scattered over about 1 sq. mile) in this area overlapped into **Okanogan County**. A thorough search was conducted and approximately 20 landowners were involved in control activities carried out in both counties.

Our most challenging problem is the large number of infestations found scattered along USFS roads over the last 2 years. Attempts were tried at manual control and limited herbicide.

Ferry County Extension organized an educational workshop last December to educate landowners and managers on the identification, potential spread and control of hawkweeds. **Ben Marsh**, of the Hawkweed Action Committee located in St. Maries, ID, was the featured speaker. He did an excellent slide show on orange and meadow hawkweed. Other educational efforts included featuring orange hawkweed on the front page of Extension's January Ag newsletter.

Ferry County Weed Board's control strategy for hawkweed will be to continue to treat all new

infestations on private, county, or state owned lands. Close monitoring will continue in all previously treated areas. Experimental plots will be carried out in 1996 on one infestation in a recent conifer tree planted area. Work will continue with the USFS to hopefully enable a

Meadow and orange hawkweed are on the State Noxious Weed Lists of Washington and Idaho, but not on the lists of Montana

more rapid response to new infestations.

BONNER COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Tory Grussling

Bonner County Weed Dept.

Unlike most of the newly invasive weeds in Bonner County, which begin as small, localized patches, hawkweed seems to have started everywhere at once. It is difficult to find an acre in Bonner County without it. In certain areas, hawkweed is out-competing spotted knapweed. Just a few years ago, certain fields would be solid purple in color from blooming knapweed. Now they are meadow and orange from blooming hawkweed! Though some knapweed persists, hawkweed is the dominant species. The first hawkweed to appear in Bonner County was orange hawkweed, shortly followed by meadow hawkweed. We still have a tremendous amount of orange, but the meadow is beginning to dominate most of the infestations.

When you have a weed as aggressive as hawkweed, a different approach to its control is often needed. Though herbicides kill hawkweed, they are not practical for an infestation of this scale. It's like

trying to fight a forest fire with a garden hose. Our only hope for long-term control may be through biological means.

HAWKWEED ABOUNDS IN BOUNDARY COUNTY, ID

Rich DelCarlo, Boundary County Weed Superintendent

Although there are no records to show how long meadow and orange hawkweed have been in Boundary Co., they were first noticed in the mid 1980s. Initial patches were small and isolated, and became the immediate target of control and education efforts. By the late 80's to early 90s, it appeared the battle had already been lost as meadow hawkweed had become widespread and populous throughout the county.

Control efforts continue along roadsides and on some private and public lands, but there are vast areas where meadow hawkweed marches unchecked across the landscape. Current infested acreage is estimated at **25,000 acres** for meadow hawkweed and **8,000 acres** for orange hawkweed. For the past several years the **Bonnors Ferry Ranger District** has been controlling hawkweed along roadsides and in grazing allotments. Last year they treated 350 acres. The Idaho Department of Lands, Crown Pacific, and Louisiana Pacific are becoming more aware of the problem, but action has been slow in coming.

Meadow and orange hawkweed occur together in Boundary Co., though meadow hawkweed is more common and appears to be more aggressive and invasive. Both are capable of forming solid rosette mats and are able to outcompete native grasses and forbs. However, once control efforts with either Picloram (Tordon) or Clopyralid (Curtail or Transline) are started the grass returns quickly. The hawkweeds infest a wide variety of habitats from valley hay fields and wet meadows to high altitude meadows, clear cuts, skid trails, roadsides, creek bottoms and forest openings. A few plants have been found in sandy soil dominated by Ponderosa Pine, but

A closer look at hawkweed spread

During the past 40 years, hawkweed has spread in the Inland Northwest from just a few acres in northern Idaho to tens of thousands.

Highly susceptible habitats appear to be similar to those that are invaded by weeds such as oxeye daisy, spotted knapweed, goatweed and sulfur cinquefoil. Meadows and old cultivated areas in the mountains are likely candidates for hawkweed invasion.

25 counties from Washington to Montana are reporting new or increasing infestations of orange and/or meadow hawkweed.

Many of these areas are public land.

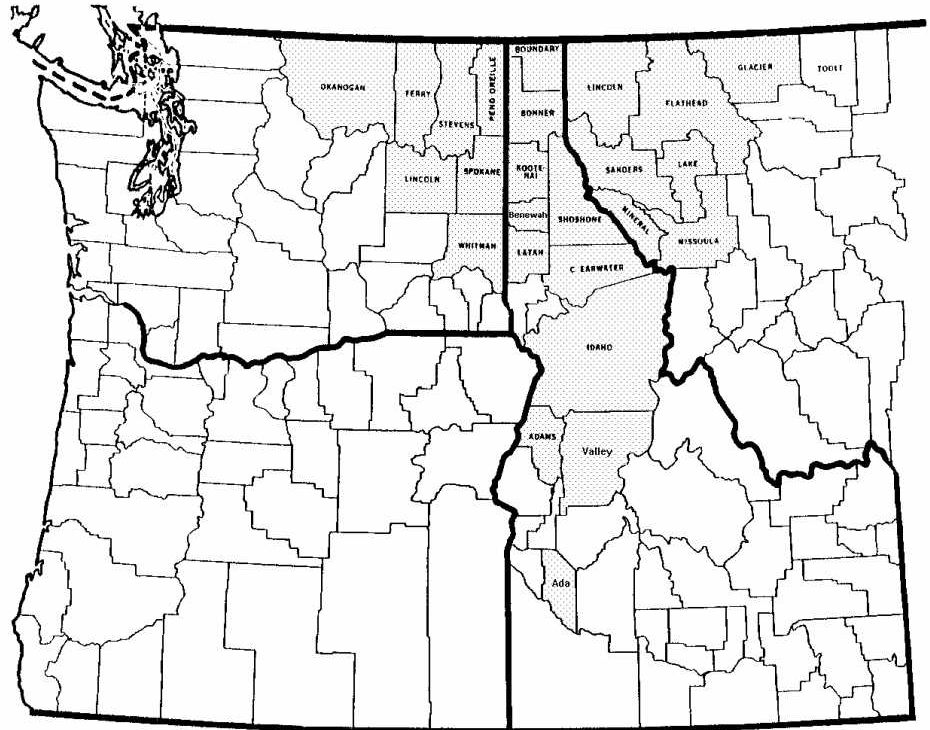
British Columbia is also combating the spread of meadow hawkweed. Found primarily in the Kootenai region in the southeast, hawkweed is reported as far north as Quesnel.

According to the Oregon Department of Agriculture, orange and meadow hawkweed are not problematic in Oregon, though they are reported in the state, particularly

Biological Control Update

We completed our survey of the insects found on the native species of hawkweed in northern Idaho. Two species of flies and one moth damage the flower heads. A gall wasp causes galls on the flowering stems and leaves. Two of these species also attack meadow hawkweed, but none were found in orange hawkweed.

Further field and lab studies will provide biological information on the insects and quantify the damage they cause the plant. This information will be important in developing an effective biological control program.



DowElanco STUDIES HERBICIDES FOR HAWKWEED

Hawkweed control with Transline™, Garlon 3A™, and Curtail™.

Dean Gaiser, DowElanco, Spokane.

Herbicide plots were established during the summer of 1995 near Lone, WA, with the following objectives:

1. Supplement existing data on the control of hawkweeds with Transline herbicide, especially at lower rates.
2. Investigate the benefits of Transline tank mixtures with 2,4-D, Garlon 3A, and silicone-based adjuvants.
3. Evaluate non-target plants for injury.
4. Evaluate hawkweed control at least 2 years after treatment.

Thanks to Sharon Sorby, Pend

Oreille County Weed Coordinator, we were able to find a site with a relatively uniform, mixed population of both meadow and orange hawkweed, as well as sulfur cinquefoil and diffuse knapweed. Transline offers good control of the hawkweeds with excellent safety to non-target plants. The addition of Garlon or 2,4-D can broaden the control spectrum to specifically target other noxious weeds. At the end of the 1995 season, our evaluation showed that all treatments were providing excellent control of the hawkweeds (95% or better). What is important is how well the control will hold over the next couple of years. It will be interesting to see what comes back in 1996.

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We continue to work cooperatively with the USDA-ARS and with IIBC in Delémont, Switzerland. IIBC is currently screening several insect species for biocontrol of mouse-ear hawkweed in New Zealand. They have included test plant material from Idaho in their tests, and we hope to expand the testing to native, North American hawkweeds.

HAWKWEED TASK FORCE FORMED IN MONTANA

At the 1995 spring meeting of Montana County Weed District Supervisors, a program was initiated to form several Noxious Weed Task Force Action Committees. Each committee was assigned an invasive weed species that was new or threatening to invade Montana. Most of the weeds targeted are ones that have not yet been included on the State's Noxious Weed List.

With the discovery of several scattered orange hawkweed plants in 1990, Jed Fisher, the Flathead County Weed District Supervisor from Kalispell, volunteered to be chairman of the hawkweed committee in 1994.

Other members of the task force include Jim Ghekiere, County Weed District Supervisor for Liberty County in Chester, MT., and in March 1996, Robin Cox of the National Park Service will join the

committee. Robin has considerable experience dealing with hawkweeds and will be a valuable member when he begins his employment in Glacier Park this year.

The committee's responsibilities include determining the size of the infestation in the state and monitoring the spread of the weeds. They must also work to develop an integrated weed management plan that will help reduce the size of the current infestation and will minimize the spread of the weed. The committees report their progress twice yearly at state supervisor

training meetings. These findings can then be used to increase the awareness as to which counties need to be on alert for these weeds. A determination can also be made whether the weed needs to be recommended for inclusion on the State's Noxious Weed List.

At this point, a draft management plan is being written. The management plan will outline a specific statewide agenda to combat this new invader. Education for county weed districts as well as for the general public will be a high priority in containing this weed. The

Forest Service to prepare EA for Hawkweed Management

The St. Joe Forest District in Avery, ID, is in the process of developing an Environmental Assessment that will hopefully permit field staff to spray herbicides on threatening hawkweed infestations. Several weed supervisors from elsewhere have reported working closely with their local Forest Service staff, as well as with other public land managers, to prepare the EAs required for noxious weed control on National Forest and other public lands.

HAWKWEED NEWS
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