

10/21/97  
1998

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION  
PROJECT PLAN

Project Title: Middle Fork of the Salmon River Noxious Weed Initiative

Location: The Ecosystem comprised of the sub-watersheds which collectively make up the Middle Fork of the Salmon River Watershed, within the boundaries of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness (please refer to the attached map), in the Salmon and Challis National Forest, Middle Fork Ranger District.

Submitted By: Glenn A. Seaberg Agency: USDA - Forest Service  
Address: P.O. Box 750 Phone: (208) 879-4101  
Challis, ID 83226

Acres of Lands Affected by this project:

	Acres	%
Private Land	1255 acres-	> 1%
National Forest System Lands	1,724,089 acres-	98%
Bureau of Land Management Land	0 acres	
State Land	3810 acres-	> 1%
Tribal Land	0 acres	
Other Federal Land, please list:	0 acres	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,729,154 acres-</b>	<b>100%</b>

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

A noxious weed management plan will be developed (winter 97-98) for the Middle Fork of the Salmon River (project area within the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness) will be developed. This plan will outline those strategies which will be employed to control, eradicate and prevent the spread of noxious weeds within the project area. This plan will be tiered to the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Management Plan, and State and County regulations dealing with the management of noxious weeds.

Specific objectives of the project:

1. Eradicate spotted knapweed (including Russian and diffuse knapweeds), and rush skeleton weed from State, Private and Federal lands within the project area by the end of 2004.
2. Develop a watershed-wide plan to prevent the reproduction and spread of noxious weeds on all lands within the project area by May 1, 1998.

3. Continually maintain an integrated GIS compatible database of inventoried weeds, new infestations and areas treated.

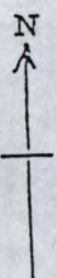
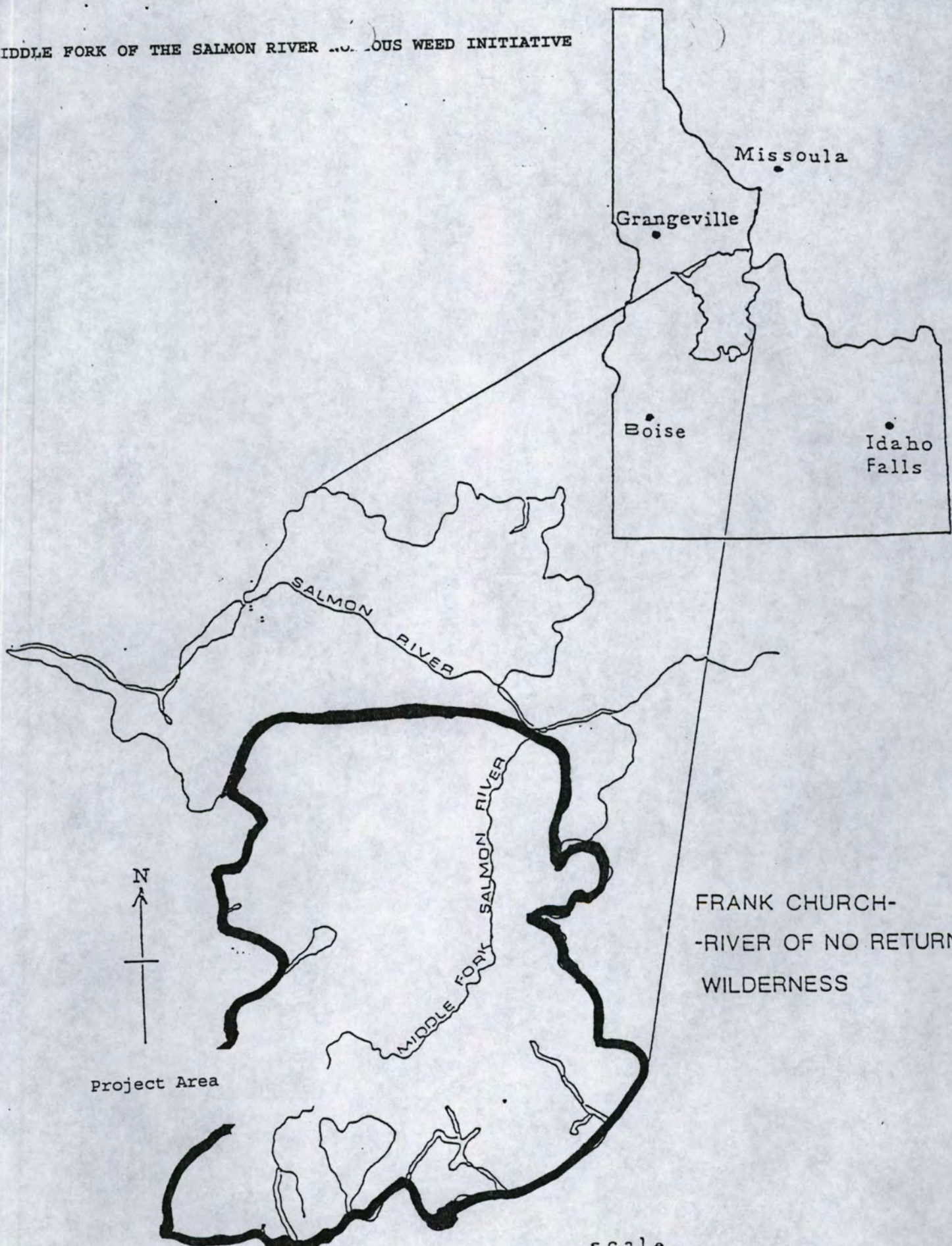
4. Develop a public education plan to aid in prevention of new introductions and spread of new or existing infestations for the project area by June 15, 1998.

PROJECT STRATEGIES:

This project is designed to detect, confine, contain, control, eradicate and prevent noxious plants on all lands within the Middle Fork Watershed of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. Project goals are to: (1) form a partnership with all land owners within the watershed to apply a coordinated program of invasive and noxious weed management; (2) protect, maintain and enhance fish, wildlife habitat and native plant diversity in an area of land where the earth and it's community of life is untrammled by man.

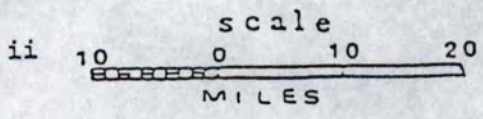
An ecosystem approach to weed management will be developed in the Middle Fork of the Salmon River watershed within the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. A collaborative effort by private landowners, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Lands, Salmon and Challis National Forest, and the University of Idaho would apply integrated weed management strategies across all land ownerships.

MIDDLE FORK OF THE SALMON RIVER WILDERNESS WEED INITIATIVE



Project Area

FRANK CHURCH-  
-RIVER OF NO RETURN  
WILDERNESS



PARTNERS:

The following is a detailed breakdown of secured partners for the Middle Fork of the Salmon River Noxious Weed Initiative for the 1998 season:

Project type Partners	Treatment area size-schedule	Total Cost	RMEF Funds	Matching funds
<b>WEED ERADICATION and INVENTORY</b>				
Idaho Department of Fish and Game	25 acres (state) July 1998	4000	2000	2000
Lemhi County Youth Group	12 acres (USFS) July 1998	8000	7000	1000
Backcountry Horseman	labor/horse and equipment	1600	600	1000
University of Idaho	Taylor Ranch Big Creek	2000	1000	1000
Salmon & Challis National Forest	13 acres (USFS) July/August 1998	10000	5000	5000
Idaho Outfitter & Guide Association	no activity 1997			
Pistol Cr. Ranch	Herbicide/manual Treatment (pvt)	1000	500	500
Middle Fork Lodge	Herbicide/manual Treatment (pvt)	1600	800	800
Diamond D Ranch	Herbicide/manual Treatment (pvt)	600	300	300
Sulphur Cr. Ranch	Herbicide/manual Treatment (pvt)	400	200	200
Flying Resort Ranches	Herbicide/manual Treatment (pvt)	2000	1000	1000
<b>Totals</b>		<b>31600</b>	<b>18800</b>	<b>12800</b>

Total amount requested from RMEF is \$18,800.00. This amount is for on-the-ground work and does not include planning or overhead costs.

In addition to the formation of the Middle Fork Weed Advisory Committee, including the development of a specific plan, it has been determined that the implementation stage of the project would utilize the Lemhi Youth Group and the Backcountry Horseman. They would be concentrating their efforts in manual treatment of weeds on National Forest lands. The State and private land would utilize all treatments available.

DESCRIPTION : 1998 plan of work. The following points are proposed:

1. Location. The proposed location for the 1998 work project would center near Indian Creek and nearby private and state lands. Some followup work may occur on the 1997 project sites as monitoring will provide additional information.
2. Work. All parties agreed that the work would consist of hand manipulation of noxious weeds on Forest lands, and the use of herbicides on state and private lands. All work on Forest lands would be supervised by Forest Service personnel. All work on state lands would be supervised by a state employee, and all work on private lands would be directed by private landowner or his representative. Any herbicide work would occur under the direct supervision of a certified pesticide applicator. Work will be performed during the period of June 1, 1998 through August 31, 1998.
3. Transportation. Crew transportation will consist of vehicle travel to trail heads and either walking or riding into the project site.
4. Manpower. Will be provided by a Lemhi Youth Group Crew consisting of 8 people and a working supervisor. Forest Service and Fish and Game will provide an orientation for the Lemhi Youth Group workers, which will cover project objectives, weed identification and treatment methods. Forest Service will provide training for crews on USFS lands.
5. Equipment. The Forest Service will provide a "muleback" spray rig for use on state and private lands. The state will provide two backpack spray units for use on state and private lands. Weeds that are pulled will be transported out of the wilderness by either aircraft or by floating (weeds will be bagged and place in location the they can be picked up by the USFS Boat Crew).
6. Camping. Camping will follow the priority work areas, with the Indian Creek area as the first location.
7. Funding. Funding will be distributed as listed, unless a partner is unable to follow through with the 1998 commitment.

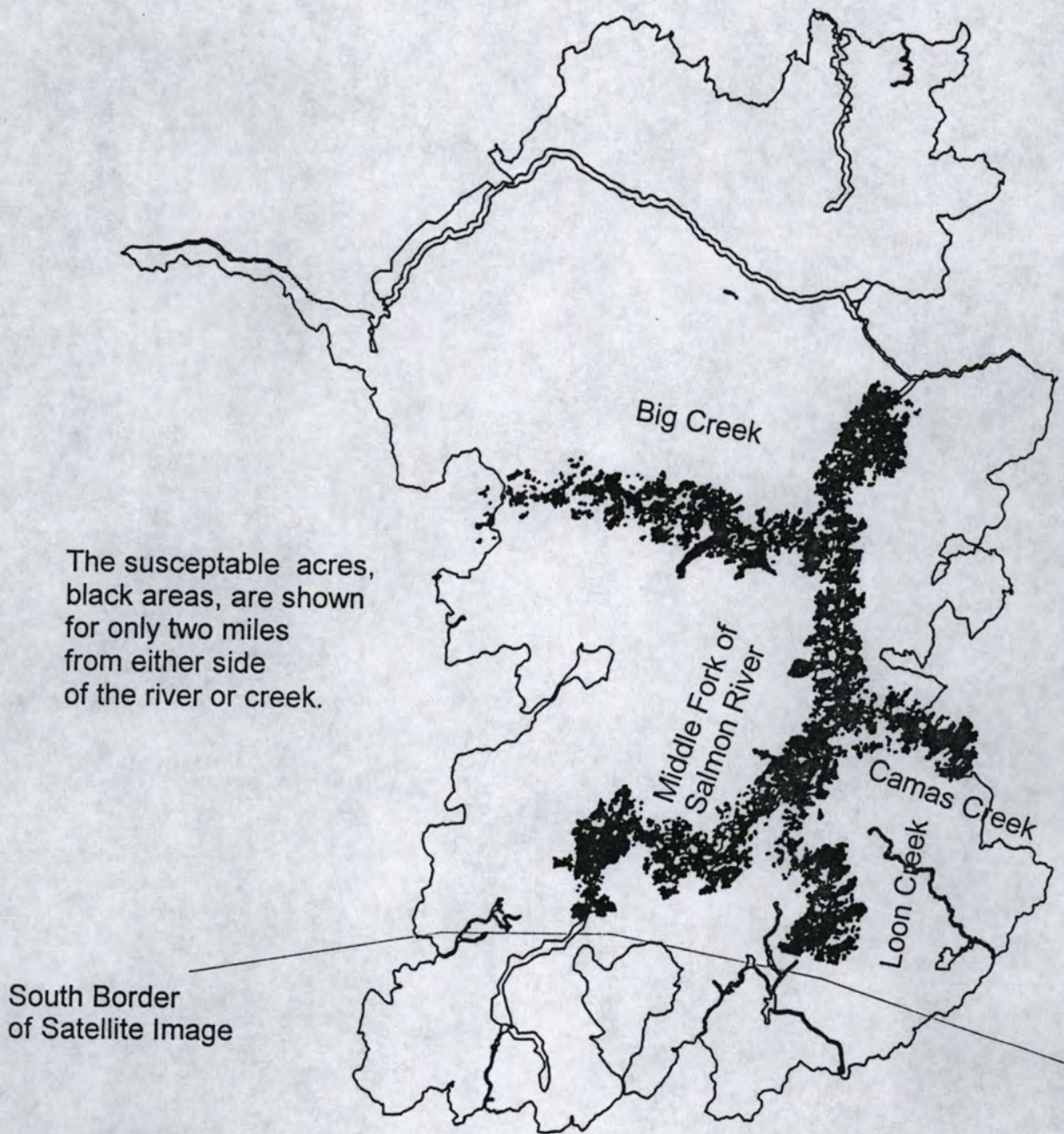
MONITORING:

Monitoring will consist of reinventory of treated infestations, utilizing established site survey methods (line intercept, dot grid etc.). Evaluation of these results will be compared to standards developed and adopted in the Middle Fork Weed Plan. Generally, if 90 percent or more of a population (infestation) of plants are killed or removed, the treatment would be considered successful. Subsequent treatments may be necessary, based on the results of monitoring. Success can only be measured in the long term, due the persistence of the weeds in seed cast, vegetative sprouting, importation of new seed and establishment of new species.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE: To be determined.

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>TIMEFRAME</u>
1. Coordination Meeting	All Partners	
2. Selection of Committee	All Partners	
3. Development of Middle Fork Weed Plan	Committee	
4. Adoption of Plan	All Partners	
5. Implementation of Plan	All Partners	
6. Develop Public Education Plan	Committee	
7. Annual Evaluation and Coordination	All Partners	winter/spring annually thur 2004

# Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness



40,162 Acres of Land Along the Middle Fork and Its Principle Tributaries That Could Be Invaded by Weeds Is Shown in Black

CURRENT INVENTORY INDICATES LESS THAN 400 ACRES INFESTED (1996)

MIDDLE FORK OF THE SALMON RIVER NOXIOUS WEED INITIATIVE