

TAYLOR RANCH KNAPWEED PROJECT
STUDENT INTERNS 1999

Objectives

- Students will learn to set up and conduct sampling methods to monitor status of vegetation and the effects of vegetation manipulation.
- Students will gain hands-on experience in field techniques: assessing vegetation density and distribution and conducting manual control of weeds.
- Taylor Ranch will establish a cooperative relationship with the Payette National Forest to accomplish a mutual resource management goal.

Knapweed Project Activities

- Map location and extent of knapweed infestations on lower Big Creek.
- Set up a sampling design for annual monitoring of the extent and density of knapweed at 2-3 sites.
- Control knapweed at 1 site by hand pulling, with assistance from a Forest Service crew. Knapweed control will be done 2-3 times during summer. Knapweed will be removed from the edges of the infestation to control rate of spread, but eradication will not be done.
- Set up a sampling design for annual monitoring of the effects of knapweed control.

Funding will be provided for student intern participation from the Payette National Forest. Funds will go toward student internship stipends (\$2,300 total).



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Payette
National
Forest

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P.O. Box 1026
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File Code: 6140

Date: March 27, 2000

JIM & HOLLY AKENSON
TAYLOR RANCH
HC
CASCADE ID 83611

Dear Jim & Holly:

To avoid any confusion I wanted to inform you that we simply couldn't commit to a cooperative training session this year. At this level of the organization we still do not have a definitive level of program funding. It appears that the ultimate allocation will be low, therefore may not be a good season to be directing effort toward training.

This is discouraging and disappointing for us, since we feel that last year's program was such a success. It was a solid base to build from, which we hope will not be lost. We want to preserve the vision of the Forest Service and the University of Idaho working together to provide quality Wilderness training opportunities from the Taylor Ranch base.

With regard to retaining a cooperative tie for weed management, prospects may be somewhat brighter. Ken Wotring mentioned your contact with him seeking funding continuation for your monitoring efforts in lower Big Creek. We are very interested in continuing the weed management connection between the Forest Service and Taylor Ranch, and have likewise asked for funding to continue the association we initiated last year with the Memorandum of Understanding.

There are opportunities with regard to weed management that hopefully will clarify themselves relatively soon, that will allow us to continue working together in lower Big Creek to manage undesirable plant species in the wilderness setting. We will keep in touch with regard to these opportunities

Sincerely,

CLEM POPE
Resource Specialist

Cc:
Ken Wotring, S-C NF

