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Bleak Taylor Intern 2012

Research: "A Study of the Range and Density of Spotted Knapweed and Rush Skeletonweed Along Lower Big Creek"

Hi, my name is Eliza Campbell and I am one of the Taylor Ranch interns. I am going to be a junior at University of Idaho and am currently between majors. This summer I am studying rush skeleton weed and spotted knapweed and comparing this data to a previous intern's data. I feel I should mention that this previous intern happens to be my twin sister Mikaela Campbell. Mikaela was an intern last summer and did extensive research on spotted knapweed.



Mikaela and Eliza Campbell



Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work out here. It has been a summer of a lifetime.

Eliza Campbell

Following is a summary of my research... ..

A STUDY OF THE RANGE AND DENSITY OF SPOTTED KNAPEEED AND RUSH SKELETONWEED ALONG LOWER BIG CREEK

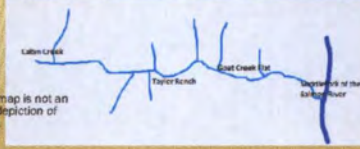
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ABOUT MY RESEARCH

My project has two distinct parts.

Part 1: Survey the entire goat creek flat primarily for Spotted Knapweed.

Part 2: Survey for Spotted Knapweed and Rush Skeleton Weed along trails between Cabin Creek and the confluence of Big creek and the Middle Fork and up to the Ridge across from Taylor Ranch.



GOAT CREEK FLAT



Picture from Goat Creek Basin Trail, overlooking Goat Creek Flat. The flags were used to mark the 6m transects.

Aided by Jenna McCullough, We surveyed goat creek flat in 6 meter(m) transects and along those transects every 3ms. At each 3m point we would place a daubenmire plot and see what plants fell into the plot.

FINDINGS

This is the East side of Goat Creek Flat this summer 2012. The pink are plots in which Spotted Knapweed is present.



Amie-June Brumble created this Excel format.

CONTINUED . . .



This is an image of West Goat Creek, again the pink indicates where Spotted Knapweed is present.

PART 2

Part 2 was more extensive. I used Taylor Ranch as a center point. We hiked up to the benches and to the ridge across from Taylor. We hiked to Cabin Creek and down to the Middle Fork Big Creek Confluence.



EAST OF TAYLOR RANCH

There are no noxious weeds of either variety below the Gorge along Big Creek but just west of the gorge the Knapweed becomes more prolific. Between The Gorge and the Sheep-Eater house pits there were 20 Knapweed Plots 5 Skeleton Weed plots.



- Plot: one or more plants within close proximity (aprx 3m) and with a continuous density throughout the plot.

WEST OF TAYLOR RANCH

Between Cabin Creek and Taylor Ranch there are 3 Knapweed plots and 13 Skeleton weed plants. In the photo Jenna and I are measuring Knapweed.



NORTH OF TAYLOR RANCH (UP THE BENCHES)

Only Skeleton Weed was found up on the benches and the entire second bench is covered by the Skeleton weed.



SOUTH OF TAYLOR RANCH (UP PIONEER CREEK)

Up Pioneer Creek I only found one Skeleton Weed plant.



WHY?

As you have seen there is Spotted Knapweed and Rush Skeleton Weed up and down Big Creek and along its tributaries. With the data we collected we hope to aid the forest service in the management and control of these noxious weeds.



Left to Right:
Rush Skeleton Weed and Spotted Knapweed.

WHEN NOT HARD AT WORK:



HIKING



CORE SAMPLING A TREE



FLOATING BACK FROM CABIN CREEK



SPEAR FISHING (WE USED A NALGENE)



AWESOME NEW FRIENDS

