

Wallowa County Weed Board

Agency and Partner Updates
2022-2023



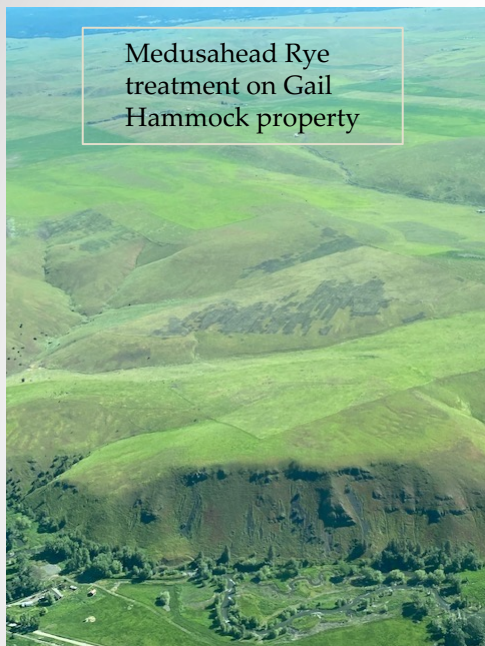
Current Membership

- **Chair-** Teresa Smergut (Private) 2023
- **Vice Chair-** Kelly Birkmaier (Private, Range Consultant) 2023
- **Secretary-** Marci Schreder(Wallowa Resources) 2023
- **Member-** Mike Beachy (The Nature Conservancy) 2023
- **Member-** Beckijo Smergut (USFS- Wallowa Whitman) 2023
- **Member-** Ingrid Cook (Private) 2023
- **Member-** Mike Hale (Private) 2024
- **Member-** Chris Cunningham (Private) 2024
- **Member-** Shanda Zettle (Tri County CWMA) 2023
- **Member-** Joe Sims (Wallowa Resources) 2024
- **Member-** Janet Hohmann (Private) 2023

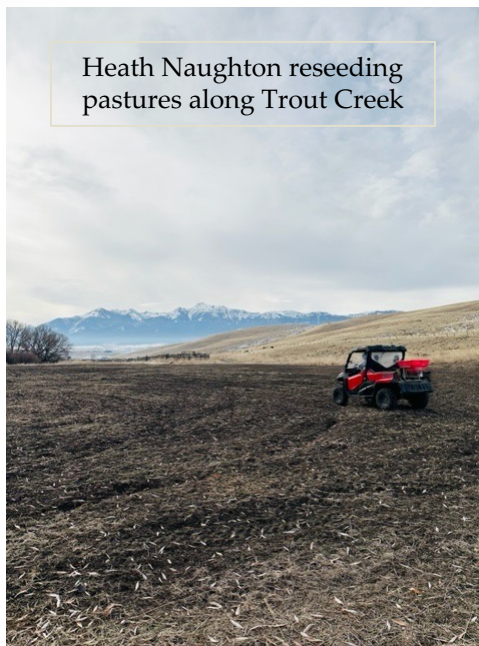


Wallowa County Vegetation Dept.

Medusahead Rye
treatment on Gail
Hammock property



Heath Naughton reseeded
pastures along Trout Creek



2022 Accomplishments

- 9,820 acres surveyed for Plumeless Thistle and IAG
 - 320 acres of IAG's treated with Rejuvra
 - 1,837 net acres of A and T listed weeds treated
 - 1,758 net acres of B listed weeds treated
- 270 acres of County Road ROW and Gravel Pits treated (Bareground and Broadleaf)
 - 220 acres of WURRA ROW treated (Bareground and Broadleaf)
- Reestablished County Noxious Weed Tour with Partners
 - Reestablished Noxious Weed booth at County Fair
- \$28,528 County Cost-Share to Landowners Jan '22-Jan '23
- Certified 30 ton of hay for Hay Station and Grain Growers
 - 18 acres of reseeded along Trout Creek

Tristan Berg, Tim Butler, and Mark Porter
with ODA, tour 2022 OSWB Grant Projects.



Participants at County IAG Tour



Wallowa County Vegetation Dept.

Plumeless Thistle East of
HWY 3 YR 1



Plumeless Thistle East of
HWY 3 YR 3

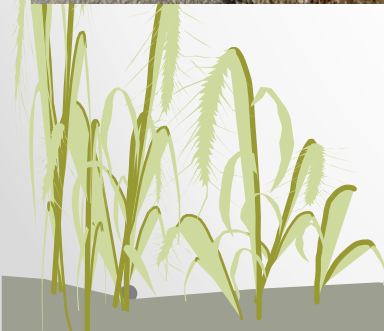


2023 Plans and Projects

- Increase Education and Outreach with partners at local events
- Survey and Treatment of Wallowa River from Lake to Enterprise
- Survey and Treatment of ditches in Upper Valley for Yellow Flag Iris
 - Expand outreach and engagement with IAG Working Group
 - Reestablish landowner calibration and training event
 - Increase certified hay amount from 30 to 50 ton
- Assist Weed Board to help PASS WEED LEVY MAY 2023

Projects:

- Little Sheep Corridor SCT, CBL, RSW, YST
- Lower Wallowa River MHW, CBL, LSP, SKW
 - Lostine River MHW, LSP, CBL, SKW
 - Mid-Valley Musk Thistle
 - Bear Creek MHW, LSP, SKW
- Mid-Valley Invasive Annual Grass Survey and Treatment
 - East Moraine MHW, SKW, CBL, SCT



2022

- **25,000 Dollars** TNC spent for contracted weed treatments.
- **450 Hours** treating weeds (TNC staff, contractors, volunteers).
- **79 Net acres** treated on Zumwalt Prairie Preserve.
- **11 Miles** of road ROW's treated with Rejuvra and Plateau herbicides for IAG's and Puncturevine.

2023

- Concentrate on WC "Target" listed weeds of greatest concern including M. Rye, R. Skeletonweed, C. Bugloss, M. hawkweed and Whitetop.
- **2023 priorities:**
 - Treatment of all known infestations of Medusahead Rye and Rush Skeletonweed along with continued surveys for new locations. Plan to add \$5,000 for increased RSW treatments in 2023.
 - Continue survey for Medusahead Rye in Zumwalt Prairie Preserve's key areas within the Wallowa County Invasive Annual Grass core area.
 - Continued partnership with other WC landowners and stakeholders on IAG strategic plan implementation.
 - Two TNC staff serve on WC weed board.



The Nature
Conservancy 
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™



Wallowa Resources

Accomplishments in 2022

- Private Landowners Served: 45
- Local Contractors Hired: 6
 - Acres Treated: 3,500+
- Rehabilitation Acres: 1,000
- Workshops Presented: 1
- IAG Survey Conducted: 100
 - IAG SAP Completed
 - Secured New Funding
- Collaborated With Federal And Private Land Owners To Treat The Joseph Canyon And Elbow Creek Fire Zones.

Moving Forward – 2023 plans

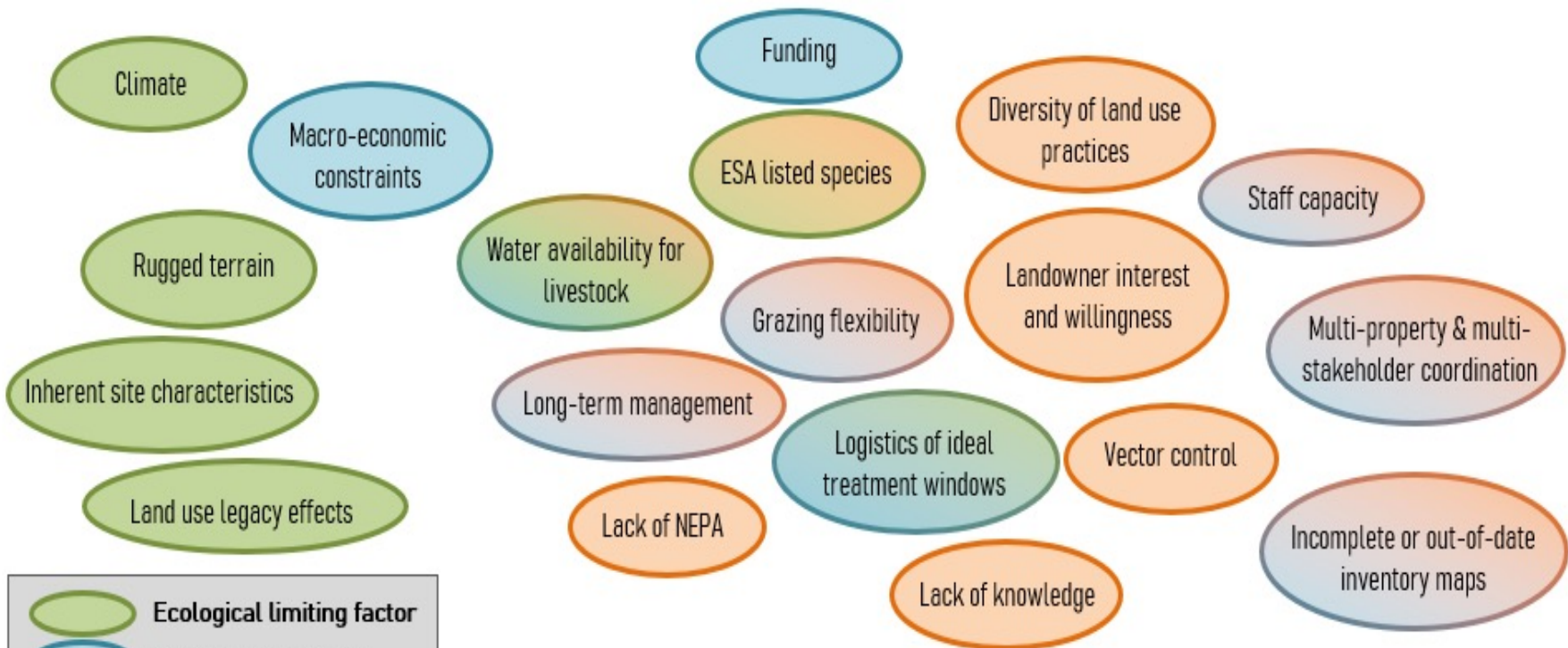
- Continue OSWB/OWEB grant projects
- Work with Federal agencies to protect funding viability
- Addressing data gaps through monitoring and case studies is essential to continued learning and improving our treatment practices
- Leveraging funding resources to meet range resilience goals
- Adaptive management is the name of the game
- Engagement of landowners is key to successful treatments across fence lines.



Assess Rangeland Stressors

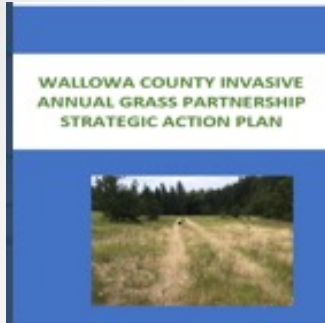
Less surmountable

More surmountable



Prioritize Management to Defend the Core

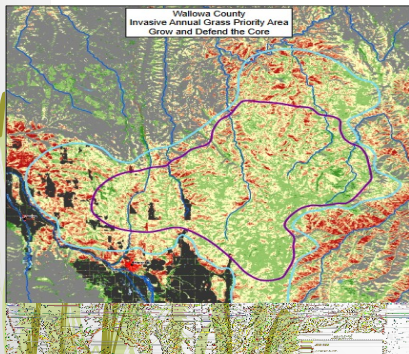
Focus on Desirable versus Undesirable Vegetation



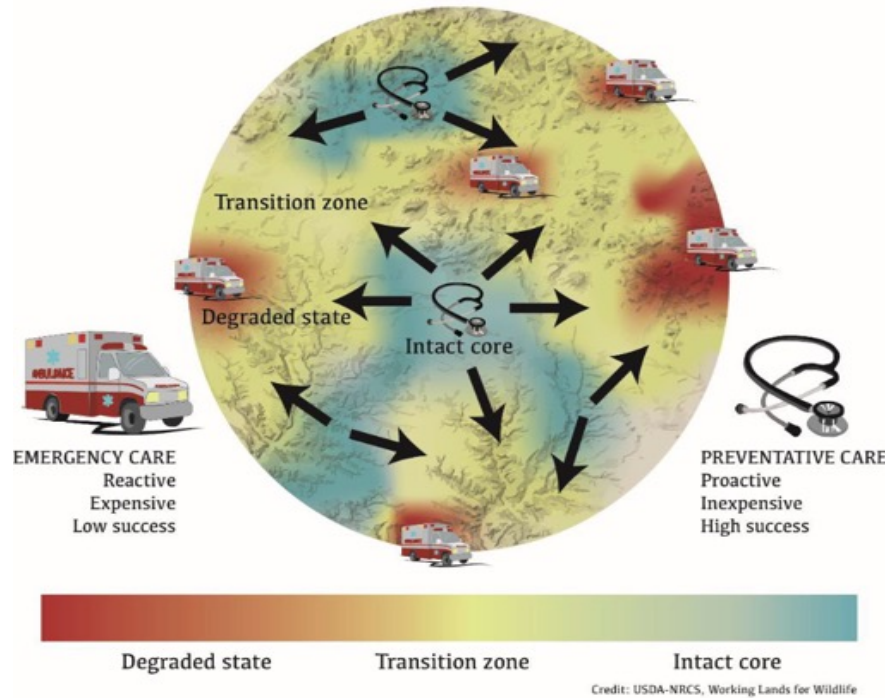
BASIC RANGELAND MANAGEMENT PLAN



RDJ Ranch



“Defend the Core”



Execute Implementation Plan

- OWEB IAG Stakeholder Engagement Grant
- OWEB Defend & Grow the Core Grant
- NRCS IRA Funding & EQUIP

Intersect:
Range MGNT
Forest Fuels
MGNT
Weed MGNT

**Whole Ranch
Management
Planning
Multiple
Rangeland
Stressors**

**Prioritize
Management to
Defend Core**

Tri-County CWMA

2022 Accomplishments

Project Name	Staff Hours
USFS Cache Creek	80
USFS Turkish Thistle	65
USFS Reds Horse Ranch	40
USFS Pittsburgh (S&F)	114.5
USFS Hells Canyon Dam	23
Wallowa Resources Minam River Float	60
ODFW Minam/Big Canyon	\$17,910 Contracting
ODFW Lostine Restoration	74



2022 USFS Pittsburgh



2022 ODFW Lostine



2022 USFS Cache Creek



2022 USFS Pittsburgh

Wallowa-Whitman N.F.

2022 Accomplishments

- ✓ 72 Net Acres (HB applied) = ~1300 Treated Acres
 - ✓ Partnership Acres = ~ 334 Acres
 - ✓ USFS Acres = ~ 454 Acres
 - ✓ Contract Acres = ~522 Acres
- ✓ New team member- Allyssa (permanent tech)
- ✓ All backcountry airstrips treated
- ✓ All known Turkish thistle sites treated along Snake River

Grants/Contracts:

- \$7,000 BAER funding for Dry Creek
- \$15,000 ID RAC (Turkish thistle)
- \$38,000 for HCNRA Airstrips (2022-2024)

Agreements:

- \$10,000 ODA
- \$15,000 Tri-County
- \$20,000 Wallowa Resources

Priority Species:

- Turkish Thistle
- Common Bugloss
- Orange/Meadow Hawkweed



Fall 2022 HC Dam Trip

Rush Skeletonweed- 408 Ac



Photo Credits:
ODA Noxious
Weed Profiles.

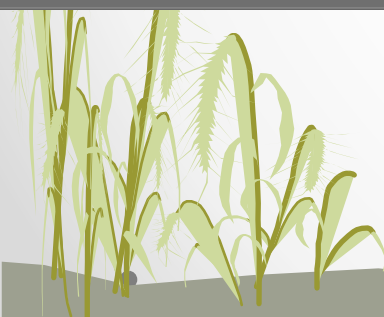
Scotch Thistle- 240 Ac



Puncturevine- 150 Ac



Meadow Hawkweed- 150 Ac



Wallowa-Whitman N.F. -Looking Forward-

2023 Priority Projects

- ✓ Turkish thistle in Oregon/Idaho
- ✓ Double Creek post fire weed treatments
- ✓ Snake River
 - ✓ Turkish, Puncturevine, Rose Campion, Blackberry, Spotted knapweed
- ✓ Biocontrols: Canada thistle/Knotweed
- ✓ Monitoring for bio-control (Skeletonweed, crupina, whitetop)
- ✓ Back country airstrip treatments



Contracts:

- \$50,000 All Backcountry Airstrips (2023-2025)
- \$50,000 BAER for Double Creek
- PENDING BAR for Double, Nebo, Sturgil fires

Agreements:

- \$20,000 ODA
- \$30,000 Tri-County (UMA/WAW)
- \$30,000 Wallowa Resources (UMA/WAW)
- \$80,000 Wallowa Resources (Title II-UMA)
- \$48,000 Wallowa Resources (Title II-WAW)
- \$30,000 Wallowa Resources (Turkish thistle-WAW)
- HCRC Idaho Title II
- Joseph Plains MOU



A group of eight hikers is standing in a field of tall, dry grass. They are wearing various hiking gear, including backpacks and hats. In the background, there are large, rugged mountains with steep slopes and some sparse vegetation. The sky is overcast and grey.

Thank You!

Questions?