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Fact Sheet: 99-80

Nevada's War on Weeds Steps to Success Step 6 – Plan Projects for Success

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The weed management team cannot afford all the time it would take to plan every project in detail together. People would frustrate themselves by spending too much time meeting vs. doing weed management and quit before any actual work takes place. However, the people doing on-the-ground weed management need a written record of their planned actions and assumptions. This is project planning.

Planning occurs at several levels (state, county, or local) for a variety of objectives. The War on Weeds Step 2 – Build Coalition Through Collaborative Planning and Management (Fact Sheet 99-76) discusses the level of planning needed to build coalitions, uniting people behind a common goal based on a vision. That process must provide enough specifics to be achievable and it often needs to prioritize a long list of individual projects.

Often the weed management team develops action plans for sub-areas within the overall weed management area. In coordinated planning or as project planning begins the weed management area can be broken into smaller units of a size that is effective for project planning. Each area (pasture, range, drainage, lot, soil type etc.) that will need a different treatment project team, billing method, application timing, or other project variation should be referred to as a "unit". Even a right-of-way could be classified as a "unit". Use as many units as needed. They can be of any size as long as the combined unit descriptions adequately cover the total area that you will be working on. A unit may even describe entire ranches, sections or townships. The key is to **link unit size and area characteristics to the project planning needs**.

The weed management team will find a detailed and user-friendly map very useful (See War on Weeds, Step 3-Map Important Weeds for a Living Inventory, Fact Sheet 99-77). If the information needed for mapping and analysis is not available for the whole area, the inventory-type information collected in the form at the end of this fact sheet can help establish priorities.

The team needs to involve people who know the country and who will be working on the project in delineating units. As people look at maps and aerial photographs of a unit, they may remember or learn of small, isolated infestations others may not know about. Or, they may discuss particular features or management issues that could be addressed better by rearranging unit boundaries. In doing so, the group creates a unit map for the whole weed management area. This map is part of the essential record of what was planned and implemented.

After unit mapping, project plans are built from an assessment or inventory and analysis of the situation in the unit. To make project planning easier and more complete, a form is provided that includes spaces for inventory, analysis, treatment alternatives considered, and decisions made. Complete a form for each unit in the management area. Feel free to make multiple copies of the blank forms and as many copies of the completed forms as you will need to keep workers informed about the specifics of their project tasks.

Although all the inventory information is useful, some is more useful than others, or more useful in certain situations. This information could be used to prioritize among units. A point system could help rate units on the basis of importance or urgency (See War on Weeds Step 4. – Prioritizing Weed Management, Fact Sheet 99-78). With or without a point system, the form provides some information for objectively comparing units and alternative treatments.

As the project is implemented, the Unit Project Plan_____ (or Record of Action_____) form can be used as the permanent record.

REFERENCES:

Alley, H.., L. Andreson, R. Baumberger, B. Benjamin, D. Bergland, P.K. Fay, F. Henderson, G. Hittle, J. Johnson, R. Lorenz, H. McNeel, P. Nicholson, B. Otten, W. Pearson, D. Phillips, A. Steffenson. *Noxious Weed Management Planning Guidelines Workbook*. Dow Chemical Co., 9002 Purdue Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268

Anonymous. *Blueprint For Success, Weed Management Training Materials*. DowElanco, 9002 Purdue Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268

Unit Analysis Worksheet

Unit Name:_____Unit Number:_____
Unit Description (back 40 acres, John and Mary Doe Farm, Duck Cr. Watershed) _____
_____
Legal description (Township_____ Range_____ Section _____, etc.):_____
_____
Owner: _____Manager:_____
Address:_____Town:_____
State:_____Zip Code:_____Phone:_____
Date Unit Mapped:_____

Inventory

Total acres within this unit: _____
Cropland acres:_____ %-infested with weed species:_____
Density of infestation: _____Thick or heavy _____Medium_____Thin or light
Range/pasture acres:_____%-infested with weed species: _____
Density of infestation: _____Thick or heavy _____Medium____Thin or light
Trees/brush acres:_____%-infested with weed species:_____
Density of infestation: _____Thick or heavy _____Medium____Thin or light
Wetlands/riparian acres:_____%-infested with weed species:_____
Density of infestation: _____Thick or heavy _____Medium____Thin or light
Waterway length:_____%-infested with weed species:_____
Density of infestation: _____Thick or heavy _____Medium____Thin or light
Is this unit on the outer edge of a major invasive weed infestation? _____

Are adjacent or nearby sources of invasive weeds being treated? _____

If the infestation source is not currently being treated, can a cooperative, planned treatment program control it? _____
If yes, who are the key people with whom to plan this?
_____
_____
Unit's value if invasive weeds are left untreated (Value may be expressed as carrying capacity, re-sale value, forage production/acre, etc.):_____
_____
Unit's potential value if invasive weeds are eliminated:_____
Estimated economic losses from spread from this unit to other areas if the unit is left untreated:_____
_____
_____

1. Predominate surface soil types in this unit , (underline one, and/or circle one or more)
   Clay, Clay loam, Silt loam, Silty, Sandy loam, or Sandy
2. Predominant terrain in this unit (mark % of each that applies)
   _____% Flat to gently rolling (0% to 5% slopes)
   _____% Rolling (5% to 15% slopes)
   _____% Steep (greater than 15% slopes)
3. Accessibility of this unit for ground application (mark % of each that applies)
   _____% very difficult _____% easy
   _____% both (some easy, some difficult
4. Are there sensitive crops or other plants such as alfalfa or other crops, home gardens, endangered plant species, desirable range plants, etc. adjacent to invasive weed infested acres? Describe:
   _____

_____

_____

5. Describe the aquatic characteristics of the weedy areas in this unit

_____Boggy/sub-irrigated/marshy	_____Springs	_____Drainage
_____Creak/stream/river	_____Irrigation ditches	
_____Lake/pond/reservoir	_____none	

6. What percentage of the infestation is adjacent to surface water?_____
7. Identify the treatment methods that could be used on this unit:

_____Herbicide hand sprayer	_____Cultivation
_____Herbicide wick application	_____Hand pulling
_____Herbicide boom sprayer	_____Tillage and seeding competition
_____Herbicide aerial application	_____Biological agents
_____Livestock grazing	_____Mowing
_____Use of mulch	_____Shading weeds
_____Altering moisture status of the site	

For each of the treatment methods worthy of further consideration estimate or calculate answers to the following questions before choosing the preferred treatment method:

A. Is the _____ treatment method applicable to all or only a part of the unit? _____ (If only a part, consider dividing the unit)
What chemicals or special equipment is needed? _____
What is the cost for obtaining or using the special equipment? _____
What is the cost of treatment per acre _____ Number of acres? _____
Total cost _____
What is the likely level of control from this method? _____
What is the likely level of control on the rate of spread after using this method? _____
_____
Will any special permits or permission be required and if so what kind? _____
_____
Will follow up treatment be required and if so what kind? _____
_____

What is follow-up cost per acre? _____ Number of acres? _____
Total cost _____

B. Is the _____ treatment method applicable to all or only a part of the unit?_____ and
What chemicals or special equipment is needed? _____
What is the cost for getting or using the special equipment? _____
What is the cost per acre _____ Number of acres? _____
Total cost _____
What is the likely level of control from this method? _____
What is the likely level of control on the rate of spread after using this method? _____

Will any special permits or permission be required and if so what kind?
_____
Will follow up treatment be required and if so what kind? _____

What is follow-up cost per acre _____ Number of acres? _____
Total cost _____

C. Is the _____ treatment method applicable to all or only a part of the unit?_____ and

What chemicals or special equipment is needed? _____
What is the cost for getting or using the special equipment? _____
What is the cost per acre _____ Number of acres? _____
Total cost _____
What is the likely level of control from this method? _____
What is the likely level of control on the rate of spread after using this method? _____
_____
Will any special permits or permission be required and if so what kind? _____
_____
Will follow up treatment be required and if so what kind? _____
_____

What is follow-up cost per acre _____ Number of acres? _____
Total cost _____
For treatment of this unit, which method is preferred? A ____ B ____ C ____
None is OK _____
DONE! Please complete an analysis form for each of your units.

Unit Project Plan_____ (*or Record of Action_____)*
Unit Name:_____Unit Number:_____
Area to be treated (*or actually treated*): Show this with a sketch (on the back of this sheet), refer to or attach a map, or describe the acres or the spot(s) receiving the treatment described below with a verbal description:

Description of the treatment:
Who will do *(did)* the project? _____

When will *(did)* they do the project? _____
What is *(was)* the stage of growth of the target species? _____

What will *(did)* they do? _____

What equipment or special tools such as sprayers, species of livestock etc. will *(did)* they use? _____

What chemicals, seeds, or other materials will *(did)* they use?

This treatment should be *(was)* applied under what environmental conditions?_____

Temperature _____ Soil Moisture _____Wind speed _____
Vegetation conditions (dry, leafy, frosted, etc.)

What special precautions were needed? _____

What will be *(was)* done as a follow-up procedure? _____

Who will do*(did)* the follow-up project? _____

When will *(did)* they do the follow-up project? _____

What about the project or the follow-up will be *(was)* monitored?_____

How will it be*(was it)* monitored? _____

Who will do *(did)* the monitoring? _____

When will *(did)* they do the monitoring? _____

What was the result obtained after the first year treatment:_____

Were the control efforts successful?_____
% Control:_____
Should the same control be repeated or is a change in strategy needed?_____
What amount of control was obtained in subsequent years:_____

Revegetation percentage in subsequent years:_____