



*Strategic control, education, and communication
fighting saltcedar on Montana waterways.*

RECAP of the Montana Saltcedar Team Meeting February 9, 2015 Garfield County Public Library, Jordan, MT

Attendees: Steve Smith, Mary Hendrix, Rachel Frost, Carie Hess, Tara Ostler, Pam Barnett, Gary Olson, Sue Fitzgerald, Dean Rogge, Steve Wanderaas, Scott Aye, Jocce Hedrick, Ken Nelson, Muriel Beck, Eric Miller, Steve Becker, Lindy Garner, Laura Nowlin, Matthew Schmidt, Casey Coulter, Patricia Gilbert

After welcome and Introductions, Rachel introduced Matthew Schmidt, Big Sky Watershed Corps Member, to the full team and introduced the Steering Committee Members to Matthew.

Discussion Highlights:

Mapping

- Map format will be based on having a layer for each survey year with notes in metadata.
Examples:
 1. 2010 | Surveyed | Present | Age class 5 | Density 6
 2. 2011 | Surveyed | Absent
 3. 2012 | Treated | Eradicated OR Resprouts"
- An online dropbox will be established for map data for MST, Freeware applications are available so that others can use this data without ARCGIS. Mass emails will be sent out after major updates to the online data.
- We set a soft deadline for submission of current data. New data can always come in, but we're hoping to obtain the bulk of it by March 11th. Afterwards smaller pieces of data can filter in as necessary. Send to saltcedar@macdnet.org
- We will utilize Montana State Library – NRIS System to obtain maps for cross referencing i.e. watershed boundaries, political boundaries, rivers, cities etc.
- There was a lengthy discussion on the scale(s) of the map that would be both useful and still respect privacy.
 - We talked about a new protocol to guide how data is gathered and how it is released. We can create a release form for private producers to be able to release their data with check boxes on level of release:
 1. For planning
 2. For state knowledge

Some publically available maps could have intentionally lowered resolution i.e. shown infestation areas are larger than in reality so as not to pin point landowners (quarter quad scale could be the most practical scale for this). There would also be separate MST personnel only database for more sensitive information. This protocol should help with landowner buy-in.

Treatment

- The coordinated effort to clean up the 7 Blackfoot drainage of salt cedar was the main topic.
- A possible pre-treatment tour of the area was discussed – July 27th or August 3^d
- 7 Blackfoot aerial treatments will take place around the 1st week of August , maybe August 10th – by Mid May will have set date
- Terrain issues with helicopter for Corps and USFWS land vehicles were discussed
- Army Corps will not treat infestations below 2250ft because of reinvasion. Treatments will be from shore-line up.
- Planned treatments for 2015
 - Valley CD = several reservoirs in Valley County slated for treatment in 2015
 - Ft. Benton to Fort Kipp treatment sponsored by Friends of Monument, Kenny Keever. Arrow Creek is first priority here
 - 7 Blackfoot drainage in Fort Peck Reservoir treatment sponsored by Army Corps, FWS and BLM
 - Crooked Creek upstream to Fort Kip = cut stump treatment
 - Army Corps contracted with MSU for pre-treatment monitoring and every other year up to 5 years. Have treatment \$ just monitoring \$ that are needed. Grant applications pending.
 - FWS – Lindy – Montana Strike Team – Strike team fund is different than the refuge fund. Full pool is CMR issue below full pool Corps issue. Can use Linday as a liason to get ahold of refuge personnel.
 - Petroleum – working with commercial applicator
 - McCone – want to keep it out of Red Water, and from coming up out of the lake.
 - Garfield – same as McCone. Except they have 12 spray units that landowners can use. They will help with chemical purchase
 - MWC – Arial survey for saltcedar
 - BLM MCFO – 14 Counties – 8 contracts were due yesterday, not sure of budget yet. Has MCC crews for leafy spurge
 - Jordan Field Office (NRCS) – working with private landowner on 7 Blackfoot and with producer on Musselshell River.