



MONTANA
BIOLOGICAL WEED CONTROL
COORDINATION PROJECT

2014 Accomplishments



Mission: To provide the leadership, coordination, and education necessary to enable land managers across Montana to successfully incorporate biological weed control into their noxious weed management programs.

The 2013 Biological Weed Control Survey, in which 167 respondents spanning 42 counties participated in, was summarized in late 2013 and has since guided the direction of the Project. Educational workshops, insect distribution, and monitoring training were identified as high priority by survey respondents. Therefore in the summer of 2014, with funding assistance provided by the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund, we focused on coordinating or participating in a variety of workshops located throughout MT:

Big Timber
Jordan
Grass Range
Lame Deer
Thompson Falls

Clinton
Crow Agency
Broadus
Livingston

Ekalaka
Florence
Poplar
Dixon

Havre
Glasgow
Choteau
Corvallis

Workshop content focused on the high priority topics but varied from location to location based on the interests of the land managers in that given area. The importance of monitoring was at a minimum emphasized at a majority of the workshops. We anticipated being a part of around 7 workshops a year but were asked and took part in 19 workshops at 17 locations!



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If a collectable insectary was in the area, the workshops included a collection component. If not, insects were collected and brought to the workshops or shipped at a later date. The Project also utilized volunteers and youth crews to assist in insect collections to fill requests not associated with workshops. In addition to the collections associated with workshops, agent collections were held for yellow and Dalmatian toadflax, leafy spurge, and spotted knapweed. Approximately 500,000 agents were distributed as a result of the collection activities participated in or coordinated by the project. This total includes 5 agents (*Mecinus janthiniformis*, *Mecinus janthinus*, *Aphthona spp*, *Oberea erythrocephala*, and *Cyphocleonus achates*) for 4 weed species (yellow and Dalmatian toadflax, leafy spurge, and spotted knapweed).



Grant writing to help fund the Project has also been a focus. In addition to the Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant that was awarded for conducting workshops, the Project received a HB 223 Grant through the Missoula Conservation District. Fundraising and grant writing are an ongoing and necessary component of the Project.

Thanks for your contribution to a great 1st year. Let's make next year even better!