

# IMPACT



Lemhi County, 201 Broadway, Salmon, ID 83467; 208-756-2824; Fax: 208-756-2349

## Lemhi Cooperative Weed Management Area Noxious Weed Short Course

### *The Situation*

Webster defines a weed as “any undesired, uncultivated plant, especially one crowding out desired plants.” A noxious weed is one known to crowd out desirable forages, spreads rapidly and is difficult to control.

Noxious weeds are a threat to the land and have an impact on every person. Lemhi County is losing hundreds of acres of productive ground to noxious weeds each year. As noxious weeds establish in an area, they begin to crowd out desirable vegetation for wildlife and livestock. This has a direct impact on recreationist whom want to view wildlife and ranchers whom make a living from the land.

The Lemhi Cooperative Weed Management Area (LCWMA) recognizes that education is the key to winning this war on noxious weeds. People must be able to recognize and identify noxious weeds so they may accurately report and control them. Weed management plans must be efficient, effective and not cost prohibitive.

### *Our Response*

The Education Committee of the LCWMA chose to host a “Noxious Weed Short Course” to educate people on plant identification and biology, herbicide formulation, calibration of spray equipment and development of weed management plans. Partners in the course included financial support from Salmon/Cobalt National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, Salmon District, and Idaho

Department of Agriculture. The Idaho Department of Agriculture also supported the program with six re-certification credits for licensed applicators.

When live plants are used, plant identification is easily learned. Celestine Duncan of Weed Management Services is a speaker that uses live plants to teach identification and biology. Celestine brought 12 different live noxious weed specimens.



Many herbicide formulations are available on the market today. The formulation affects the type of equipment utilized, mixing procedures and additives needed. Celestine used a hands on-lab to teach this concept.

Proper application of herbicide is important to obtain control of noxious weeds. Knowing how much herbicide the application equipment is applying is necessary for an effective rate and economic costs. If too little is applied the herbicide does not kill the plant and time and resources have not been utilized wisely. When too much herbicide is applied, it is expensive and affects non-target vegetation. Will Reed of Chemilical Weed Management worked with Mike Overacker and Bob Petry of the Lemhi County Weed Department to present a section on sprayer calibration.

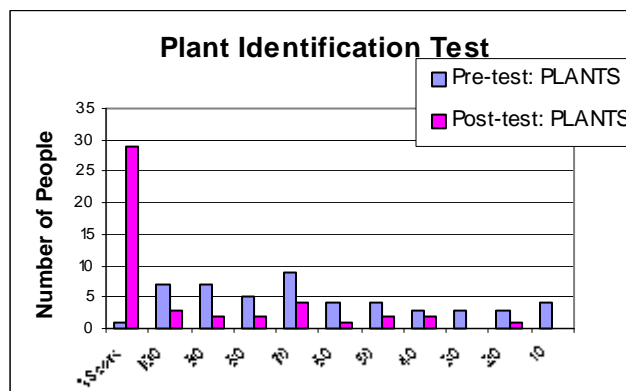
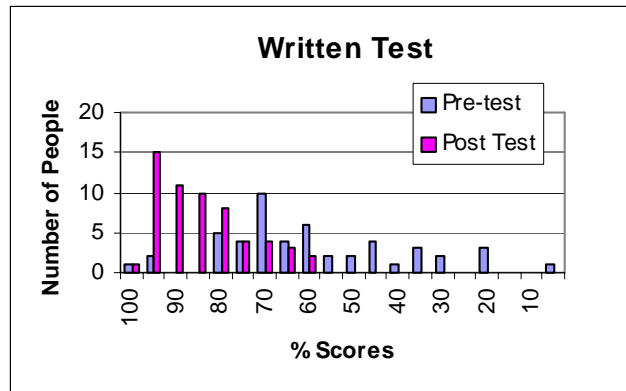
When battling noxious weeds, plans must insure efficient use of time and resources. Weed management plans are unique to each situation. Shannon Williams, Lemhi County Extension Educator, developed a power point and hands-on lab to assist participants with the concepts. Participants were grouped into teams to analyze one of six situations. Each situation included a map of noxious weed locations, budget and additional information. Each team developed a weed management plan and reported to the class what the plan was and why.

During the development of the short course, a goal was set to have 40 participants. Advertising included flyers, local newspaper articles, a radio spot, and a local email list serving LCWMA members and county extension offices. Members of LCWMA then forwarded the advertisement to other interested people. When registration closed 80 people were registered and approximately 20 people turned away. Participants were from two states, Montana and Idaho, and had traveled over 250 miles to attend the course! Participants ranged from people who had been working with noxious weeds for 25+ years, to those who did not know what a noxious weed was.

## Program Outcomes

A pre and post-test were used to determine the change in knowledge and learning. Participants took a plant identification test on ten plants as they registered and the post test during lunch break. A written pre-test and post-test covered all other materials. Plant identification improved from 29 people passing with 60% and above to 40 people passing. On the written test, scores improved from 32 people passing to 58 people passing.

Comments regarding the course included “program excellent—great education tool”; “good class and good instructors”; “I’m glad someone else has to develop the weed plan and I just have to carry it out”; and “awesome course.”



**Future Plans:** Due to the success of the course, the LCWMA has plans to offer another course in 2004 and is currently applying for funding to cover the cost of the course. Changes to the format will allow for more participants.

## For More Information

Shannon Williams, Extension Educator  
 Lemhi County Extension  
 201 Broadway  
 Salmon, Idaho 83467  
 208-756-2824  
 Fax: 208-756-2349  
 Email: [shannonw@uidaho.edu](mailto:shannonw@uidaho.edu)