

# SAVING UTAH'S LANDSCAPE SANPITCH CWMA



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS

## Squarrose knapweed



## Musk thistle



## Russian knapweed



The Sanpitch Cooperative Weed Management Area is adept at involving community members in weed control projects. They approach most efforts with the attitude that private landowners and organizations need to be educated and participate in order to make a difference in the landscape.

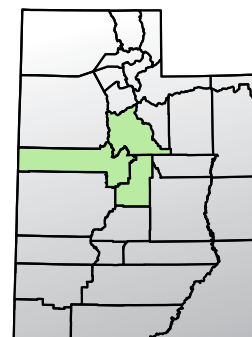
Recognizing that vast Russian knapweed infestations existed in a local mountain subdivision, the CWMA began meeting with the homeowners association a year before undertaking a treatment day. The CWMA explained the impact of noxious weeds and enlisted the help of the association in a work day to treat the infestation. The CWMA later provided backpack sprayers to the group. Since then the homeowners association has continued treatment and monitoring efforts to help prevent the spread of Russian knapweed.

At an annual weed tour, the CWMA discovered a Russian knapweed infestation in fields near Axtell, Utah. It appeared to be spread over long distances by irrigation water. The group immediately began meeting with farmers and irrigation companies to explain the situation. They treated 1,305 acres at a work day in the area and distributed 55 gallons of chemical to farmers to use in their fields and along ditch banks. This is an ongoing project that provides farmers with the chemicals and information they need to control the knapweed that threatens to destroy their crops.

North Canyon in Juab County is the site of a squarrose knapweed infestation that threatens wildlife habitat and grazing areas. For years Juab County and the Sanpitch CWMA have included Dedicated Hunters and ranchers in control efforts there. Using several volunteers with ATV sprayers, they have successfully prevented the spread of squarrose knapweed into a nearby wilderness area in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Involving youth in musk thistle control may be the CWMA's crowning achievement. For the past two years, the CWMA and Sanpete County have joined funds to pay 4-H clubs a bounty for bags of thistle heads. The musk thistle invasion in Sanpete County is so large, that the clubs have collected over 8,000 pounds of thistle heads over the past two years. Monitoring is now needed to determine if the effort is reducing the musk thistle population. There is, however, evidence that the project is a great educational tool for young people who now recognize the weed and how it threatens crops and range.

Funds for the projects came from the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, USDA Forest Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Sanpete County and the Utah Habitat Council.



# SANPITCH CWMA



Russian knapweed along a ditch bank in southern Sanpete County (above). CWMA members (left) worked with ranchers and irrigation companies to treat the weed being carried by irrigation water. CWMA members take their weed message to the county fair.

## Steps to Success:

- Recognize that weed control requires community involvement.
- Be committed to annual projects that involve stakeholders.
- Make public education personal with a "work" component.
- Maintain close ties to county weed boards and county commissions.
- Implement strong administrative practices.
- Assure that no single agency dominates the CWMA.



CWMA members prepare to treat Russian knapweed, dyer's woad, musk and scotch thistle on Thistle Creek.

## Partners

- USDA Forest Service, Manti-La Sal National Forest
- Uinta National Forest
- Fishlake National Forest
  - Juab County
  - Utah County
  - Sanpete County
- Bureau of Land Management (Fillmore, Richfield and Salt Lake Field Offices)
  - Natural Resources
  - Conservation Service
- Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration
  - Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
  - Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands
- Panoramaland Resource Conservation and Development Council
  - Juab Conservation District
  - Sanpete Conservation District