



MOOSE CREEK CAMPGROUND

Gallatin Valley What's In Your World? Pilot Resource Improvement Project 2008-2009

Carla Hoopes, Project Coordinator, choopes@montana.edu
Statewide Noxious Weed Awareness and Education Campaign



Youth volunteers and outdoor science students remove common mullein.

Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) and Montana Outdoor Science School (MOSS) integrated curricula from the statewide "What's In Your World?" Youth Naturalist - Weed Scientist education program into their existing outdoor science education and leader development programs.



Pull ten of a taprooted noxious weed and remember what it looks like!

Who did the leader training?

- Technical Assistants** - Montana University System
Will Harmon - University of Montana Missoula
Elliott Kennerson, Mike Kippenhan, and Rick Verploegen - Montana State University Bozeman
- Resource Managers**
John Ansley - Galatin County Weed District
John Councilman - Bozeman Ranger District (BRD)
Brian Oueverman - Gallatin GIS
- Regional Educators**
Todd Breitenfeldt - Whitehall Schools
Carla Hoopes - Montana State University Bozeman

Montana Outdoor Science School STUDENTS LEADERS

- Emily Alergia
- Thomas Astrom
- Owen Burroughs
- Bonnie Dana
- Amelia Fountain
- Anika Haigh
- Adam Hubley
- Ben Hubley
- Ryan Hudson
- Erich Junghans
- Nick McFeters
- Ellie Messerli
- Charlie Nicholson
- Kingston Perry
- Brooks Peters
- Frances Taylor
- Chloe Watson

Montana Conservation Corps LEADERS AND YOUTH CREW

- Matt Preston
- Ruth Guthrie
- Devin Cox
- Bob Waller
- Clarissa Pollack
- Valarie Kutsch
- Sean McCormack
- MacKenzie Walsh



Weeds treated

- spotted knapweed
- houndstongue
- common tansy
- oxeye daisy
- Canada thistle
- common mullein

Plant survey and weed removal

While Montana Outdoor Science School and Montana Conservation Corps program leaders inventoried and pulled weeds with students, Bozeman Ranger District Resource Manager John Councilman taught Camp Hosts how to survey and treat noxious weeds.



Naturalist observation and application

Students learned how to recognize taprooted noxious weeds. They each pulled and bagged at least ten of the targeted spotted knapweed and common mullein plants.

Where am I on this earth (GPS) and where are the weeds?

Students used global positioning system (GPS) equipment to find coordinates where they are on this planet. The same process applies to finding coordinates for each noxious weed they recognize. Students surveyed six species of weeds; and Camp Hosts will continue to monitor Bozeman Ranger District campgrounds.



Benefits to Forest and community stakeholders

Moose Creek Campground is within the Gallatin-Big Sky Weed Management Area (WMA) managed by local citizens. The Forest Service is a critical partner in the WMA Campground and weed control is important because of the potential for visitors to spread weeds. Control not only benefits all riparian areas downstream but also adjacent wilderness, a large wildlife management area, two large ski areas, private homes, habitat for threatened and endangered species, and important habitat along the river corridor just to name a few.

Resources improved along the Gallatin River Corridor

The eight-acre campground was surveyed, weeds were inventoried then the area was treated for six species of noxious weeds. Moose Creek is not only used by campers but also picnickers and is a main launch-in site for commercial whitewater tours.

Maintaining control of weeds in this campground reduces the chances of visitors transporting weeds to other areas; especially further down the river corridor.

Copyright 2008. Statewide Noxious Weed Awareness and Education Campaign. MSU Bozeman, MT USA

