

Jackson Hole Weed Management Association Representatives Attend National Invasive Weed Awareness Week VIII in Washington D.C.

For Immediate Release: March 5, 2007
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Jackson, WY - In response to the overwhelming success of the **Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee's (GYCC) Noxious Weed Subcommittee**, the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW) presented members of the subcommittee with the 2006 Special Achievement Award on February 28th in Washington D.C.

The Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) is comprised of 14 million acres of public lands and 10 million acres of private lands. The GYCC Noxious Weed Subcommittee is made up of 3 states, 21 counties and 7 federal agencies. This group strives to address noxious weed management at a landscape scale, identify management priorities for the GYA, coordinate management efforts between federal, state, local, and private entities, minimize duplication efforts, and learn and benefit from each others efforts and expertise.

Representatives from Teton County and the Greater Yellowstone area traveled to Washington, D.C. to make a presentation on programs and successes of the GYCC Noxious Weed Subcommittee during briefings with the Department of Interior. They also attended meetings with other Federal agencies to promote invasive species programs, and request additional support for private landowners and government agencies striving to control noxious weeds in Teton County, the GYA, and the State of Wyoming.

Teton County was well represented at the eighth annual National Invasive Weed Awareness Week (NIWAW) the week of February 25 through March 2, 2007. Three representatives from Teton County joined ten additional Wyoming representatives. One Grand Teton National Park Staff Member, Kelly McCloskey along with Teton County Weed and Pest District Staff Members, Erika Edmiston and Aaron Foster attended this ongoing event to help educate and inform Legislators and Government Agencies of the threat of spread of invasive weeds on our public lands.

The 13-person delegation from Wyoming met with Senators Craig Thomas and Mike Enzi and Representative Barbara Cubin to ask for their support on several specific weed related issues including support for Natural Resource Protection Cooperative Agreement Act and the Saltcedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act.

“We were honored to be recognized for our efforts to protect the natural resources in the Greater Yellowstone Area from the negative impact of invasive species.” said Edmiston. “This is a wonderful group of hard working individuals who have a tremendous amount of support from the Park Superintendents, Forest Supervisors, and Refuge Managers in our area. We appreciate the opportunity to carry this message along to our Congressional Representatives in Washington D.C.”

For more information on invasive species in Teton County, the public can contact Teton County Weed and Pest at (307) 733-8419, or visit the Jackson Hole Weed Management Association's website www.jhwma.org.