

## **Jackson Hole Weed Management Association**

P.O. Box 1852  
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# **JHWMA News**

## **“Whose Problem is it Anyway?”**

For Immediate Release: April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008      Contact: Amy Jerup (307) 733-8419

April 22<sup>nd</sup>, aka “Earth Day” was the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual JHWMA Wildlife Expo, held for Teton County 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Approximately, 180 students from around the valley arrived at the Fair Building to learn problem solving techniques used by various JHWMA member agencies.

Students rotated through four-18 minute stations. The National Elk Refuge led an activity to help kids learn how to deal with bison overpopulation. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department posed the question, “To Feed or Not to Feed?” and discussed the pros and cons of elk feedgrounds. Bridger Teton National Forest guided students through a lesson on “Which plant and animal species need wildfire to survive?” The Teton County Weed & Pest District taught students the importance of using Certified Weed Free Forage and asked the question, “How do we stop uncertified hay from entering Teton County and the National Forest?”

After the stations, students gathered in 4 groups where they were given the task of creating a “super weed” and figuring out how to eradicate it from Teton County. The drawings of these weeds were very creative and had names like, “Bill the Villain”, “Noxious Bob”, and “Super Bad”. JHWMA member agencies assisted each group and helped plan how to get rid of this “Super Weed” that is infesting Teton County. Several of the students plans included: a super bug that would eat it, creating a black tent that would block all light and cook it, and using water to flood it.

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Students learned how the JHWMA works together with all agencies and land managers to control noxious weeds infesting the valley. To top off the event, prizes were given out through a drawing. Students won water bottles, hats, cloth bags donated by the Teton Conservation District, and JHWMA 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary tee shirts donated by the Jackson Hole Weed Management Association.

