Conservation of Native Plants in North Idaho

(part Two)

Greatest Threats to Native Plants in North Idaho

Climate Change

Weed invasion

Urban Sprawl (rural home building)

Weed Realities

It's our Fault

Weeds are Survivors

Weeds are Very, Very Competitive.

What's good For Weeds is Bad For Native Plants

Weeds are Competitive Because Some Have:

Large crops of Mobile Seeds
Huge Spreading Roots and Stems
Long Seed Viability
Noxious compounds that make them inedible
Mechanisms that let them benefit from fire
Many combine several of the above

What's Good For Weeds

(And Bad for Native Plants)

Bare Ground

Human Travel

Animal Movement

Severe Weather

Severe Fires

Species Extinction of both Plants and Animals

Caused by Human Activity

Loss of Habitat is most common

Usually Species with Narrow Habitat Requirements

Idaho Plants Listed Under the ESA

Spalding's Catchfly and Slickspot Peppergrass

In Sagebrush country, threatened by fire, cows and cheatgrass

Water Howellia

In ephemeral ponds near evergreen forests that often also have **Reed Canarygrass**. Kootenai and Spokane counties

MacFarlane's Four-o'clock

Grassy hillsides in lower Snake and Salmon River canyons. Cheatgrass

Ute Ladies' Tresses

Wet meadows in South Eastern Idaho. Threatened by urban sprawl and **Purple Loosestrife** and other noxious weeds

Activities that Spread Weeds in North Idaho

Forest Management

Roads and Trails

Off Highway Vehicles

Forest Management and Weeds

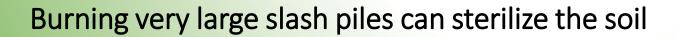
Foresters tend to focus on trees in their planning Bare ground is unavoidable during Timber harvest

Methods of Reducing Surface disturbance

Winter operations on snow and frozen ground
Helicopter logging
Equipment with rubber tires or tracks
Horse logging

Slash Treatment and Weeds







Slash Treatments Lighter on the Land

Broadcast Burns
Create small Habitat piles
Burn slash in smaller piles
Allow wood cutters to remove firewood

Native Plant Advocacy Opportunities Forest Management

Be a Part of Project Planning

Weed/Plant Inventory Before Timber Management (Work Around Rare Plants)

Public Purchase of Select Lands

Education

Support Wilderness Designation

Roads and Trails Are Efficient Weed Vectors

Logging Roads introduce Weeds into New country And move weeds long after logging is over

Trails move weeds into the back country

Native Plant Advocacy Roads and Trails

Identification of Sensitive Roadsides

Relocation of Trail sections

Education

Support Rehabilitation of Roads

Adopt a Trail

Urban Sprawl

Development in Rathdrum Prairie not really affecting native plants

Large lot subdivisions common Bonner and Boundary Counties

Homes built on very large acreages are having the most impact on native plants

Native Plant Advocacy For Sprawl

Conservation Easements

Public Land Purchase of Select Lands

County/State/Federal Land Use Planning

Education

Off Road Vehicles

Create Weed Habitat
Spread Weeds
Kill Native Plants
Damage Soils
Damage Watersheds
Pollute Water
Stress and Kill Wildlife







Native Plant Advocacy Off-Road Vehicles

Conservation Easements

County/State/Federal Land Use Planning

Public Purchase of Selected Lands

Education, Education...

Support Wilderness Designation