

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



Burning very large slash piles can sterilize the soil

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

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Education, Education, Education...

Support Wilderness Designation