

Colorado State Conservation Board 2008 Matching Grants Project: Prowers and Northeast Prowers Conservation Districts: Weed Co-Operative

What natural resource problem(s) did the project address?

In June of 2007 a series of meetings to identify weeds of concern in Prowers County resulted in the formation of a **local weed cooperative**. The cooperative included Prowers County, East Prowers Weed Control District, Southeast Colorado Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D), the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Prowers Conservation District and Northeast Prowers Conservation District. **Ten key weeds of concern were identified** - four listed on the Colorado noxious weed list and the others not - but all identified as having serious economic and/or ecological implications for the county. The co-operative partners saw a **need both for education and awareness in the community about these problem weeds and assistance to encourage people to treat them**. The Districts used Matching Grants funds both to print and distribute educational materials and cost-share treatment of Colorado listed noxious weeds that were also on the Weeds of Concern list.

What was achieved?

- **3,000 "Weeds of Concern" brochures** printed for Prowers County detailing identification and control strategies for 9 major local weeds. Brochures direct mailed to local landowners and distributed in local District offices.
- **Newspaper articles and radio slots** used to further raise awareness of the weed issues
- **1,700 acres of farmland and 13 miles of ditches were treated** for Colorado listed noxious weed infestations.
- **Landowners provided 2:1 matching funds** for chemical costs of weed treatment.



Field bindweed (left top) and jointed goatgrass (left bottom) are two particular weed species of concern in Prowers County. They are on the State Noxious Weed List as List C species. As such, education about identification and control of these species is one of the goals for these species. List B species goals are based on preventing spread of those species, and List A species are designated for eradication.

Photos: Colorado Department of Agriculture