

Colorado State Conservation Board 2008 Matching Grants Project:
Yuma County Conservation District: Knapweed Control in South Yuma County

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

A defined area of diffuse knapweed (a Colorado B-listed noxious weed) was identified in the upper reaches of the Arikaree and South Fork of the Republican River near the Kirk/Joes area of south Yuma County. Control began in 2007 and, because of the contained area, eradication is the goal. Noxious weeds spread very quickly and are difficult to control. They out-compete other useful or native vegetation so that land is seriously degraded both ecologically and economically. Once an infestation reaches a certain size, eradication is not possible and so aggressive action to eradicate newly discovered infestation can prevent the need for permanent control efforts merely to prevent spread. **The Yuma County Conservation District took the lead to eradicate the Kirk/Joes infestation of knapweed by holding meetings to develop the partnership (public and private) necessary to effect eradication. They used CSCB Matching Grant funds to offer cost-share for treatment of the knapweed in 2007 and 2008.**

What was achieved?

- All landowners participating in previous years treatment efforts, and adjacent landowners, contacted for 2008 scouting and treatment as necessary
- 3,061 acres scouted for knapweed infestation
- Spray treatment applied in spring/summer and again in fall for remaining viable plants - about 1,000 acres treated.
- Previous year treatments were so successful that 2008 acreage of infestation was less than anticipated.
- District undertook education efforts and landowners understand need for continued monitoring and treatment. \$10,000 from Republican River Habitat Partnership Program available for 2009 treatments.
- Committed partnership to enable eradication includes private landowners, the Yuma County Conservation District, County Pest Control District, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, County Commissioners, Colorado State University Extension Service, County Road and Bridge Department, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Republican River Habitat Partnership Program, The Nature Conservancy, NE Colorado Resource, Conservation and Development Council.



In an unusual success story for localized diffuse knapweed eradication, the Yuma County Conservation District and their partners are seeing real progress in their eradication efforts in the Kirk/Joes region of Yuma County.