

# DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS

## Leafy Spurge



## Perennial Pepperweed



## Russian Olive



## Tamarisk



At Dinosaur National Monument, an aggressive, well-planned weed management program is assisted by a host of volunteers. Last year the monument's Weed Warrior Program 482 volunteers contributed 2,107 hours of weed removal. Over the program's 11-year history, 5,340 volunteers have contributed 20,824 hours.

During the 2007 season, the Weed Warriors completed tamarisk removal from targeted river camps and began projects on riverside beaches in Whirlpool and Split Mountain Canyons. Jones Hole Creek is now tamarisk free and the group is working on a large project at Rainbow Park. How do you get so many volunteers to assist with weed control? "People have a passion for their national parks," explains Tamara Naumann, who directs the weed program. "They like to help us."

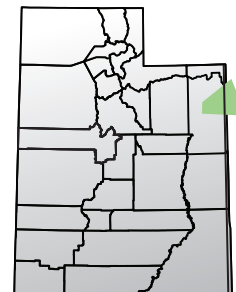
The weed management program at the monument has focused on Russian olive, tamarisk, leafy spurge, and perennial pepperweed, all high priority invasive species. Using a logical decision matrix, Naumann and her crew determine high priority invasive plants and set goals for eradication, containment or suppression. This approach has been successful in removing Russian olive from the banks of the Green and Yampa rivers, where they pass through the park.

Over 60,000 tamarisk beetles have been released within the monument in the past two years. River camps are cleared before defoliation begins, in order to minimize visual impacts and fire hazards in areas used by people. The public has been warned that large areas of defoliation is likely to occur in 2008 and may change their visual experience. Naumann said visitors understand that beautiful campsites, wildlife habitat, and views of the river are improved by the eradication of weeds. Over 14,000 recreational boaters use the Yampa and Green River each year.

Dinosaur National Monument has completed a comprehensive weed control plan and environmental assessment. Because biocontrol of tamarisk was included in the assessment, the national monument is one of few federal agencies in Utah with environmental clearances necessary to use leaf beetles to defoliate tamarisk.

## What You Can Do:

- Volunteer to assist with weed management efforts.
- Be aware of how your activities can spread noxious weeds and help prevent the spread.
- Report noxious weed infestations to your county weed supervisor or local federal land manager.





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## Steps to Success:

- Engage volunteers in projects to control invasive plants.
- Participate with adjacent landowners and other agencies in weed control efforts.
- Educate the public regarding the impact of invasive weeds and the effect of treatments.
- Use a logical decision matrix to prioritize weed treatments and determine the best method of control for the particular weed.
- Use integrated pest management to guide weed control efforts.

## Looking to the Future:

- Prevent new infestations by employing prevention and early detection techniques.
- Educate visitors and staff about invasive plants management.
- Inventory invasive plants.
- Monitor effectiveness of control efforts.
- Track invasive plant management efforts.
- Prioritize both invasive plant species and locations to be controlled.
- Work with adjacent landowners, local, state and federal agencies, local interest groups, with cooperative networks, and others.
- Identify control techniques most appropriate for each species.
- Create annual work plans to guide management activities.
- Restoration of impacted areas.



Applying herbicide to a cut tamarisk stump in the Jones Hole Creek watershed (above). Weed Warrior volunteers remove tamarisk from a river camp on the Yampa River (left).  
-Photos by Peter Williams

## Partners

Outward Bound Wilderness,  
National Outdoor Leadership  
School

Sierra Club Service Outings  
Program

National Park Service Golden  
Gate Habitat Restoration Team

Student Conservation  
Association interns

Commercial river guides  
Friends of the Yampa  
Wasatch Mountain Club  
Grand Canyon Youth

Prescott College

Vernal students

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps

Utah Conservation Corps

Leafy spurge is removed from a cobble bar in the Yampa River.