

Weed Management Exercise

Why an Exercise?

Comments from past NPRRWs and similar conferences and workshops indicate desire for “*hands-on learning*”, “*networking opportunities*”, and an “*improvement in skills and knowledge*”.

Why this Particular Exercise?

Weeds are a constant and continual problem in land management. Learning what the common suite of weeds are will help us to recognize that a problem exists at an earlier stage. Knowing management options and resources will help us to act fast.

Many think they don't know their weeds, or control is too expensive, or they don't know if it will work, and they give up. Don't give up!

Weed Management Exercise

How Will This Work?

1. See the coloured letter on your nametag B, C, or D. Go to that room after lunch.
2. Each table should identify a least one 'expert' who has some experience managing weeds in revegetation projects (shuffle around between tables if needed).
3. Each table should identify a recorder who reports back to moderator.

Then we will begin.

Thanks to our case study sponsor,



Weed Management Exercise

What Steps Do We Follow?

1. Use the handout to identify your Sector, Project Site, End Land Use. Look at the photos from your site visit (one set per table).
2. Use plant identification books and other resources to identify what weeds you are working with, their life history characteristics. Evaluate how big a problem they are.
3. Use other resources (on-line, paper books, people) to define the efficacy and cost of treatments
 - End Land Use Objective
 - Effectiveness of treatment method
 - Ease of treatment method
 - Cost of treatment (one time or multiple?)

Weed Evaluation

Consideration 1: Annual or Perennial

Annual: PLUS = plant only grows for one season, thus if you kill it the plant is gone. MINUS = may produce copious quantities of seed; seed bank may be well-developed with seeds just waiting for a little disturbance or rain to allow germination.

Perennial: PLUS = may produce less seed
MINUS = need multiple treatments to ensure that you have removed all of the plants otherwise they rebound quickly.

Consideration 2: Noxious or Prohibited?

- Designations under the provincial weeds act, indicating aggressiveness and successful invasion habits
- Involves a greater measure of responsibility under the Weeds Act

Weed Management Options

Consideration 3: Broadleaf or Grass?

Grasses: Often perennial; Tillage and broad-spectrum herbicide are generally used, often together.

Broadleaf (forbs; wildflowers): Either perennial or annual; Broadleaf-specific herbicide and tillage are the conventional options; Mowing to prevent seed set can be quite effective for annuals/biennials

Consideration 4: Viability of treatment methods

In some locations:

- : contractors are more difficult to find
- : herbicides are not a popular treatment choice
- : tillage can make the soil blow/erode quickly

Weed Treatment Methods and Timing

Three general categories of weed treatments:

- 1. Chemical (herbicides; broadleaf or broad-spectrum; some specialty focus chemicals)**
- 2. Mechanical (cultivation, discing, hand-pulling, mowing, rototilling)**
- 3. Biocontrol (often insects, some viruses/bacteria)**

These methods are often more effective when used together.

Timing: very important. Cannot overstate this.

Weed Management Exercise

<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
1:20-1:50	Group work at your table to identify weeds, prioritize, and define possible treatment methods
1:50-2:20	Each group gets 5 minutes to orally present results, discuss (moderator records/combines responses, clarifies)
2:20-2:50	Group work at your table to plan out weed control methods and timing
2:50-3:15	Moderated discussion of common challenges and solutions discovered. Collate final option for your sector. (agriculture/wildlife, industry, residential)

Evening – Chet and Kerry will evaluate and comment on weed management plans

Tomorrow – maps, work from today, and evaluations will be posted in poster session.

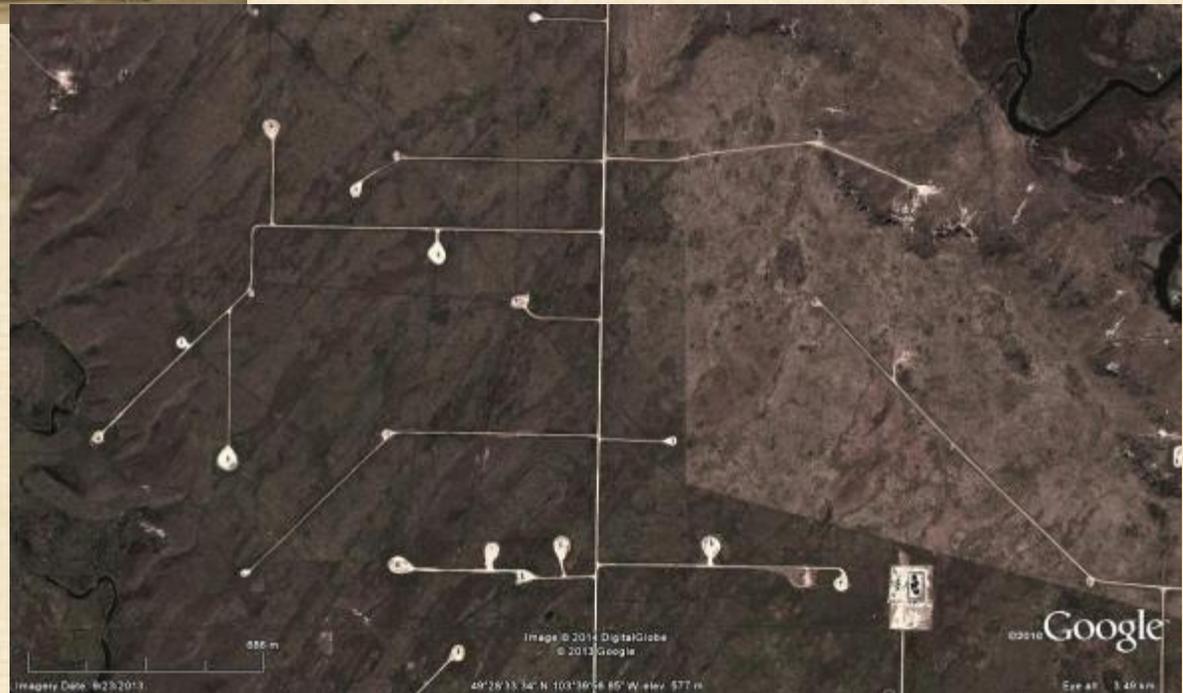
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Weed Management Scenario



Weed Management Scenario



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