



What's the GYCC & GYA?

The Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) is comprised of 15 million acres of public land and 10 million acres of private land. The Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC) was formed in 1964 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Park Service and Forest Service. The GYCC Terrestrial Invasive Species subcommittee is made up of three states, 21 counties and seven federal agencies. This group strives to address invasive plant management at a landscape scale, identify management priorities for the GYA, coordinate management efforts between federal, state, local, and private entities, minimize duplication of effort, and learn and benefit from each other's efforts and expertise.



Yellowstone Celebrates Successful Cooperative Invasive Plant Event

Around 65 invasive vegetation specialists from the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) including Yellowstone National Park, Northern Rocky Mountain Exotic Plant Management Team and Gallatin National Forest staff joined together to treat invasive plants in the latest annual cooperative treatment event sponsored by the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC) on August 5, 6, and 7, 2014. Participants came from a three-state area, representing county and federal government agencies, a non-profit group and a private landowner. These highly skilled employees treated noxious plants in the Mammoth Hot Springs area of Yellowstone on the first day and neighboring travertine quarries with heavy knapweed and mullein infestations within the Gallatin National Forest the next day.

In Yellowstone, an area covering almost 500 acres was treated for spotted knapweed, houndstongue, bull and musk thistle, and Dalmatian toadflax, species considered high priority noxious plants in the GYA. This event afforded a coordinated and intensive effort to treat these patches in a single event, allowing Yellowstone staff to redirect invasive plant control efforts into more remote areas. An estimated thirteen days of work was completed during the one-day event in Yellowstone.

Events such as this increase cooperation and enhance the effectiveness of treatments, a goal of managers striving to treat invasive vegetation in a comprehensive manner. Other best practices employed in Yellowstone include non-native plant prevention, survey, and follow-up monitoring. As a part of vegetation management, managers across jurisdictional boundaries work together to prevent and stop the threat of invasive plants across the Yellowstone landscape. This event is just one example where land managers worked collaboratively to control the spread of noxious invasive plants in the Greater Yellowstone Area.



For more information: <http://www.nps.gov/yell/parkmgmt/ycrvegetation.htm>