



Wallowa County Weed Watch

Rush Skeletonweed

Originally from Asia and the Mediterranean, Rush Skeletonweed now infests 6.2 million acres in the west. This noxious weed is invading Wallowa County!

The Problem

Because of its effective wind dispersal, Rush Skeletonweed is spreading fast in Wallowa County! It invades rangeland, forest, and croplands and does well in wet or dry areas up to 10,000 feet in elevation. It invades disturbed areas and can out-compete grain. It displaces native and beneficial forage.

Currently Rush Skeletonweed can be found scattered within the Grande Ronde, Snake and Joseph Creek Watersheds. Rush Skeletonweed is a top priority for state and local weed managers and requires aggressive treatment measures.

Identification

Rush Skeletonweed is a perennial plant with a taproot reaching seven feet deep. The plant over-winters as a basal rosette that looks like dandelion leaves. The mature plant consists of spindly, branched stems with a few, very small leaves. The plant can reach 1 - 4 feet in height.

Bright yellow flowers have 7 to 15 petals with distinct teeth at the ends. Flowers are less than 1 inch in diameter and can be found attached to the branches singly or in small clusters. Coarse reddish hairs are found near the stem's base. The rest of the stem is smooth. All plant parts have a milky sap when cut or broken.

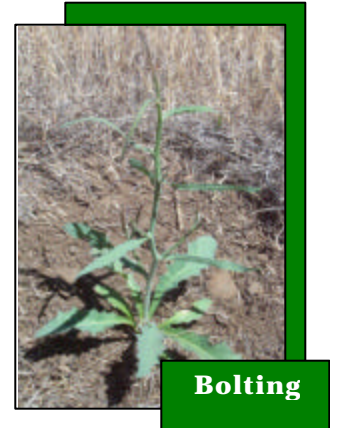
Mature seeds are dark brown to green in color. Each seed has a pappus (like the parachute on a dandelion seed), allowing it to be very effectively wind-dispersed. Seeds germinate within a year or two. Wind and vehicles are the main dispersers of the seeds.

Treatment

DO NOT pull Rush Skeletonweed! Cut it if you can't spray it and call an expert. Grazing only works if seed production is prevented, otherwise it increases the weed. Rush Skeletonweed is resistant to herbicides. Herbicides work best on younger plants. The most effective include Tordon and Transline. With Rush Skeletonweed it is important to do everything right. **Contact your local weed manager for rates and timing!**



Rosette



Bolting



Read and follow all label instructions when applying herbicides. Trade names have been used to simplify instructions and no endorsement or warranty is expressed or implied by the Wallowa County Weed Board or this brochure.

For more information or to report weed sites call:

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