



Squaw Butte Back Country Horsemen

PRESIDENT'S CORNER AUGUST 2015

Invasive Species

Not to be confused with an invasion of in-laws at Thanksgiving dinner, invasive species are classified as plants, animals, or pathogens that are non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause harm.

Maybe we are talking in-laws at Thanksgiving?

Not all non-native (or alien) species do harm to the environment. Some are very beautiful and can add enjoyment, and income, to the area, such as the Chinese Ring-neck Pheasant.

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Ring-necked_Pheasant/lifehistory

Some can be beautiful to a few, but at the same time create a great bit of harm to the environment, and to other species, such as the Starling. Thus making these "Invasive"

<http://www.sialis.org/starlingbio.htm>

In Idaho, as across the nation, there are several species that have made the hit-list as invasive and take steps to confine and control the spread of these invaders.

<http://www.agri.idaho.gov/Categories/Environment/InvasiveSpeciesCouncil/InvSppList.php>

What we as Backcountry Horsemen are most closely aware of, and deal with are the invasive, noxious weeds. We have all had our little battles with Puncture-vine (Goat heads) at home or somewhere about. As difficult as this may be we do what we can to prevent it's spread, and also the other noxious weeds.

As now, in the search of weed-free hay, we do what we can to prevent the spread of noxious weeds. Sometimes it's like beating our heads against the wall. It's important and necessary so that's what we do.

The reason for my writing this is because of a species, until lately, I knew nothing about, Giant Hogweed.

<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=Giant+Hogweed+Locations+in+Us&FORM=RESTAB&ajf=70>

This plant reads like a script of a bad SciFi movie. Not only is it invasive to the environment, but causes great harm to whatever comes in contact with it, namely us. There are other things to fear in the woods besides lions, and tigers, and bears.

Though Giant Hogweed is not reported in Idaho, supposedly, as yet, it is in Washington and Oregon. Close enough neighbors for concern.

So I for one am glad we do what we do to slow and hopefully stop the spread.

Feel good for what we do.

Be safe and have fun.
Bill Holt-President-SBBCH