

Northeast Montana Wetland Management District

Anderson, Dog Leg, Gjesdal East, Goose Lake, North Root, Rabenberg and State Line Waterfowl Production Areas

Benton Lake ISST

Accomplishments

| Site Surveyed for Baby's Breath | Total Survey Acres ¹ | Survey Acres Infested ² | Acres Treated ³ |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Anderson WPA | 54.82 | 0.16 | 0.16 |
| Dog Leg WPA | 32.24 | 0.02 | 0.02 |
| Gjesdal East WPA | 3.90 | 0.005 | 0.005 |
| Goose Lake WPA | 272.22 | 1.32 | 1.32 |
| North Root WPA | 20.42 | 0.05 | 0.05 |
| Rabenberg WPA | 290.14 | 3.50 | 3.50 |
| State Line WPA | 64.72 | 0.68 | 0.68 |
| District Totals | 738.46 | 5.74 | 5.74 |

¹ Area covered during the course of weed management activities regardless of presence or absence of target weed species as measured by perimeter in GIS.
² Area occupied by weed species within the survey area that does not contain the space between individuals or populations (i.e. net infestation size) as measured by GPS feature for monitoring and treatment combined, but areas in common not additive.
³ The area or subset of infested area that has received some form of treatment as measured by GPS feature.

Highlights

Schedule

| Dates | Project Type | Target Species | Size of Crew | Project Notes |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|---|
| 19-June-2012 | EDRR | Baby's breath | 2 | Survey and treat baby's breath on Anderson and Dog Leg Waterfowl Production Areas and begin work on Rabenberg Waterfowl Production Area. |
| 19-June-2012 | | | 1 | Survey and treat baby's breath on Gjesdal East and State Line Waterfowl Production Areas and begin work on Rabenberg Waterfowl Production Area. |
| 20-June-2012 | EDRR | Baby's breath | 2 | Survey and treat baby's breath on Rabenberg and North Root Waterfowl Production Areas. |
| 21-June-2012 | EDRR | Baby's breath | 2 | Survey and treat baby's breath on Goose Lake WPA. |

Coordination and Cooperation

- Coordinated with refuge staff, Damon Taylor, for treatment priorities and site logistics.

- Treatment priorities were: (1) cover both portions of Goose Lake that had been grazed on a rotational basis. (2) cover all accessible areas of Rabenberg, and (3) complete all other sites as time permits covering areas based on historical survey and treatment data.
- On Goose Lake WPA, rotational weed treatments of grazing and herbicide application were started in 2010. During that year, the ISST sprayed in the northern portion of the WPA while cows were grazed in the southern region. In 2011, when ISST arrived cows were being grazed in the northern region of the site, so the crew worked only the south east corner and along the access roadway. This year ISST covered both areas because cattle were not going to be in these areas.
- Rabenberg and Goose Lake WPAs were originally going to be managed first, but poor weather on the first day shifted work to Anderson, Dog Leg, State Line, and Gjesdal East WPAs. It made more sense to conduct mechanical management at the sites with smaller infestations first.



State Line WPA. Photo by Eric Lassance.

Prevention and Education

- On all sites, surveys were conducted along roadways which are commonly known vectors for the spread of noxious weeds.
- Focused surveys for treatment of baby's breath were also conducted within areas of previously known populations in an effort to prevent the spread of this weed to adjacent properties.
- Baby's breath typically blooms in late July or August and can be treated with chemical or mechanical treatments.
 - This plant has sparse foliage and a deep root system making chemical control more difficult. Appropriate timing, chemical makeup and concentration of the application are all important factors when using this method.
 - Manual removal of the plant prior to seeding can be highly effective for control. Because of the deep roots, one must sever the root below the crown (6-10 inches below the soil) to kill the plant.
- Work was slowed after noticing birds flushing from tall grass to minimize disturbance.

Early Detection and Rapid Response

- Many of the WPAs have small infestations that can still be eradicated with consistent treatment, while a few have fairly large infestations that are more of a containment objective.
- These projects were initiated as early detection and rapid response. Systematically surveying the entire management area (as opposed to going point-to-point) allows the ISST to detect new populations when they are most susceptible to management (EDRR). In addition, having consistent survey areas allows the ISST to track populations over time to determine effectiveness and inform adaptive management strategies.

Inventory and Monitoring

- ISST searched 738.46 acres (546.82 acres in 2011) within the WPAs with an emphasis on roadsides, historical baby's breath infestations and areas that had been surveyed in previous years.
- Within all WPAs, baby's breath presence decreased with distance from roads and accompanying disturbed areas.
- At all WPAs, Baby's breath was not as common in areas with thick tall grass. Favorable conditions were disturbed soil and drier hillsides.
- The only other weed species noted by crew members at all WPAs, but not targeted was Canada thistle.

Management

- ISST treated 5.74 acres of baby's breath in the WPAs.

- Treatments were shifted to late June in 2012 compared to September in 2011. Plants were actively growing in June whereas in 2011 most plants had already senesced by the time treatments were made.
- 5.74 acres is most likely an accurate reflection of the current amount of infested acreage within the survey area compared to 2011 numbers (0.31 acres).



Chase Burns digging up baby's breath at Rabenber WPA. Photo by Eric Lassance.

Northeast Montana Wetland Management District

Anderson WPA

Benton Lake ISST

Accomplishments

| Weed Species | Total Survey Acres ¹ | Survey Acres Infested ² | Acres Treated ³ |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Baby's breath | 54.82 | 0.16 | 0.16 |
| Project Site Totals | 54.82 | 0.16 | 0.16 |

¹ Area covered during the course of weed management activities regardless of presence or absence of target weed species as measured by perimeter in GIS.
² Area occupied by weed species within the survey area that does not contain the space between individuals or populations (i.e. net infestation size) as measured by GPS feature for monitoring and treatment combined, but areas in common not additive.
³ The area or subset of infested area that has received some form of treatment as measured by GPS feature.

Highlights

Schedule

| Dates | Project Type | Target Species | Size of Crew | Project Notes |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|---|
| 19-June-2012 | EDRR | Baby's breath | 2 | Point to point survey and treatment of historic populations within the WPA and mechanical and chemical treatment of infestations. |

Coordination and Cooperation

- Coordinated with refuge staff member Damon Taylor for treatment priorities and site logistics.

Prevention and Education

- Focused surveys for treatment of baby's breath were conducted along access roads and around all previously known locations in an effort to prevent its spread to adjacent properties.
- Baby's breath typically blooms in late July and can be treated with chemical or mechanical treatments.
 - This plant has sparse foliage and a deep root system making chemical control more difficult. Appropriate timing, chemical makeup and concentration of the application are all important factors when using this method.
 - Manual removal of the plant prior to seeding can be highly effective for control. Because of the deep roots, one must sever the root below the crown (6-10 inches below the soil) to kill the plant.

Early Detection and Rapid Response

- This project was initiated as early detection and rapid response in 2006, when one population of baby's breath was inventoried along the southern access road and then treated in 2008. Some progress has been made yet the refuge should consider full surveys in 2013 or 2014 since this year was only point-to-point and there hasn't been a recent comprehensive survey. Systematically surveying the entire management area (as opposed to going point-to-point) allows the ISST to

detect new populations when they are most susceptible to management (EDRR). In addition, having consistent survey areas allows the ISST to track populations over time to determine effectiveness and inform adaptive management strategies.

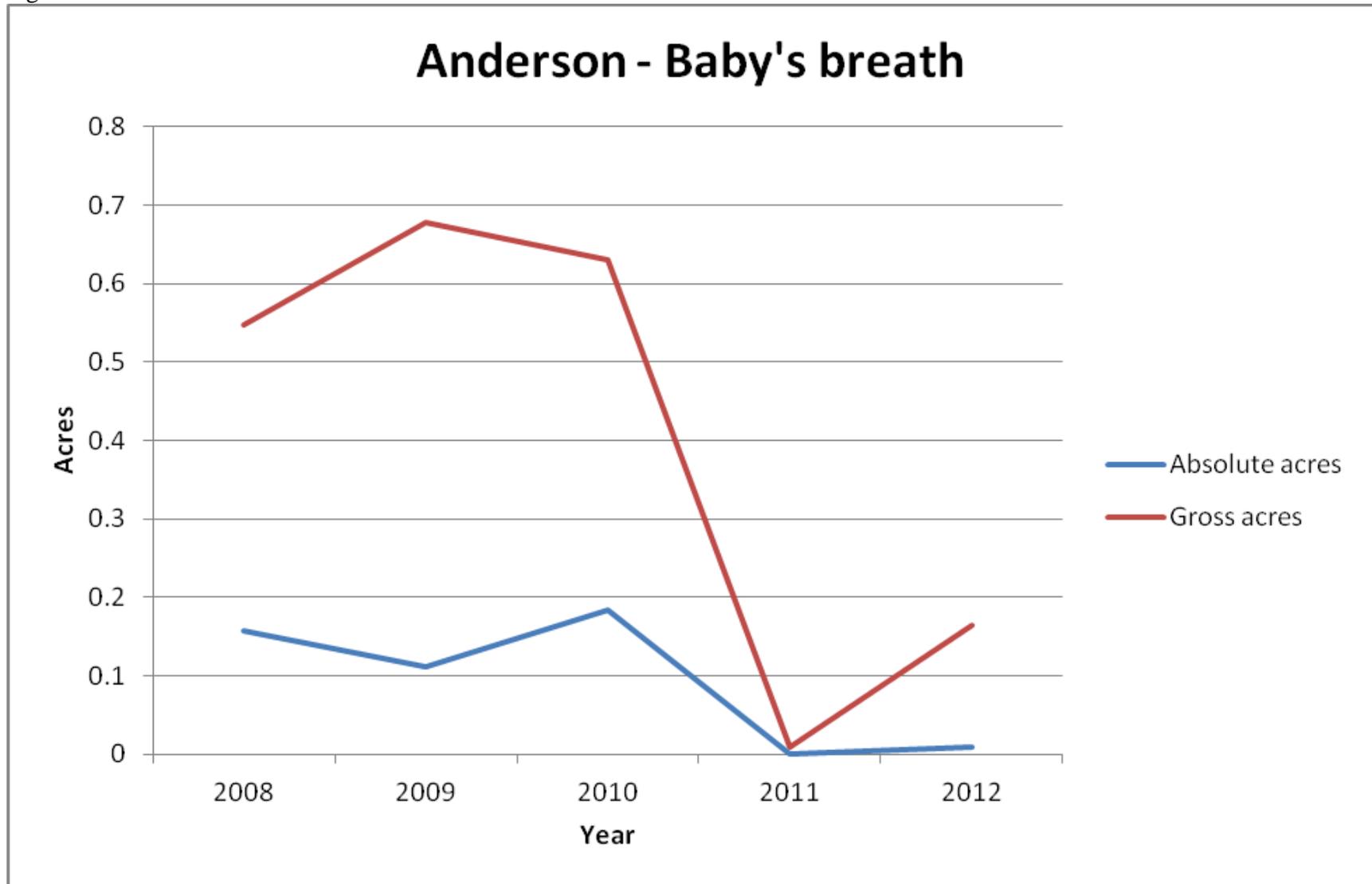
Inventory and Monitoring

- ISST searched 54.82 acres (33.26 acres in 2011) within Anderson WPA with an emphasis on historical baby's breath infestations and areas that had been surveyed in previous years.
 - Plants found were mostly in the same areas baby's breath has been found since 2009.
 - Some historical populations no longer had infestations, especially north of the road.
- The only weed species noted by crew members, but not targeted was Canada thistle.

Management

- ISST treated 0.16 acres of baby's breath over the course of a 2 hour visit.
 - Treated infestations were primarily along the access road running along the southern most boundary.
 - ISST members chemically treated baby's breath for one hour before it started to rain.
 - The rain event may have affected effectiveness of chemical.
 - Remaining infestations were dug up with a shovel.
 - Treatments were shifted to late June in 2012 compared to September in 2011. Plants were actively growing in June whereas in 2011 most plants had already senesced by the time treatments were made.
 - 0.16 acres is most likely an accurate reflection of the current amount of infested acreage within the survey area compared to 2011 numbers (0.01 acres).
 - Over a similar survey area in 2010, ISST treated 0.63 acres. Compared to 2012 June treatments this is an overall reduction of 74.6% (Figure 1.)

Figure 1.



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AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES DIVISION
PO BOX 200201
HELENA, MT 59620-0201
Phone 406-444-3730

| | |
|--|---|
| BUSINESS U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | LICENSE# 103749-15 |
| NAME Benton Lake NWR Invasive Species Strike Team | ADDRESS (Refuge or WPA) Anderson WPA |
| CITY, STATE, ZIP Great Falls, MT 59404 | PHONE 406-727-7400 Ext. 213 |

| | APPLICATION #1 | APPLICATION #2 |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Applicator/Operator Name (s) | Levi Morgan | Chase Burns |
| Date | 6-19-12 | 6-19-12 |
| County | Sheridan | Sheridan |
| Time Start/Stop | 0900 - 1015 | 0900 - 1015 |
| Temperature | | |
| Relative Humidity | | |
| Wind Speed/Direction (from) | | |
| Pesticide Manufacturer | | |
| Trade Name | | |
| EPA Reg # or Formulation | | |
| Rate: Product/Diluent Per Acre | | |
| Amount of Chemical Applied | | |
| Equipment Used (atv,backpack,truck,saw) | shovel | shovel |
| Bio-Control (genus species) | | |
| # released / acre | | |
| Mechanical (mow,hand-pull) | Dig, handpull | Dig, handpull |
| Plant Phenology & Stage | Baby's breath | Baby's breath |
| Dominant Pest(s) | Leaf-on | Leaf-on |
| Equipment Used | | |
| Acres/Area Treated or # of plants | Spot treatment, gps mapped | Spot treatment, gps mapped |
| GPS Filename | | |

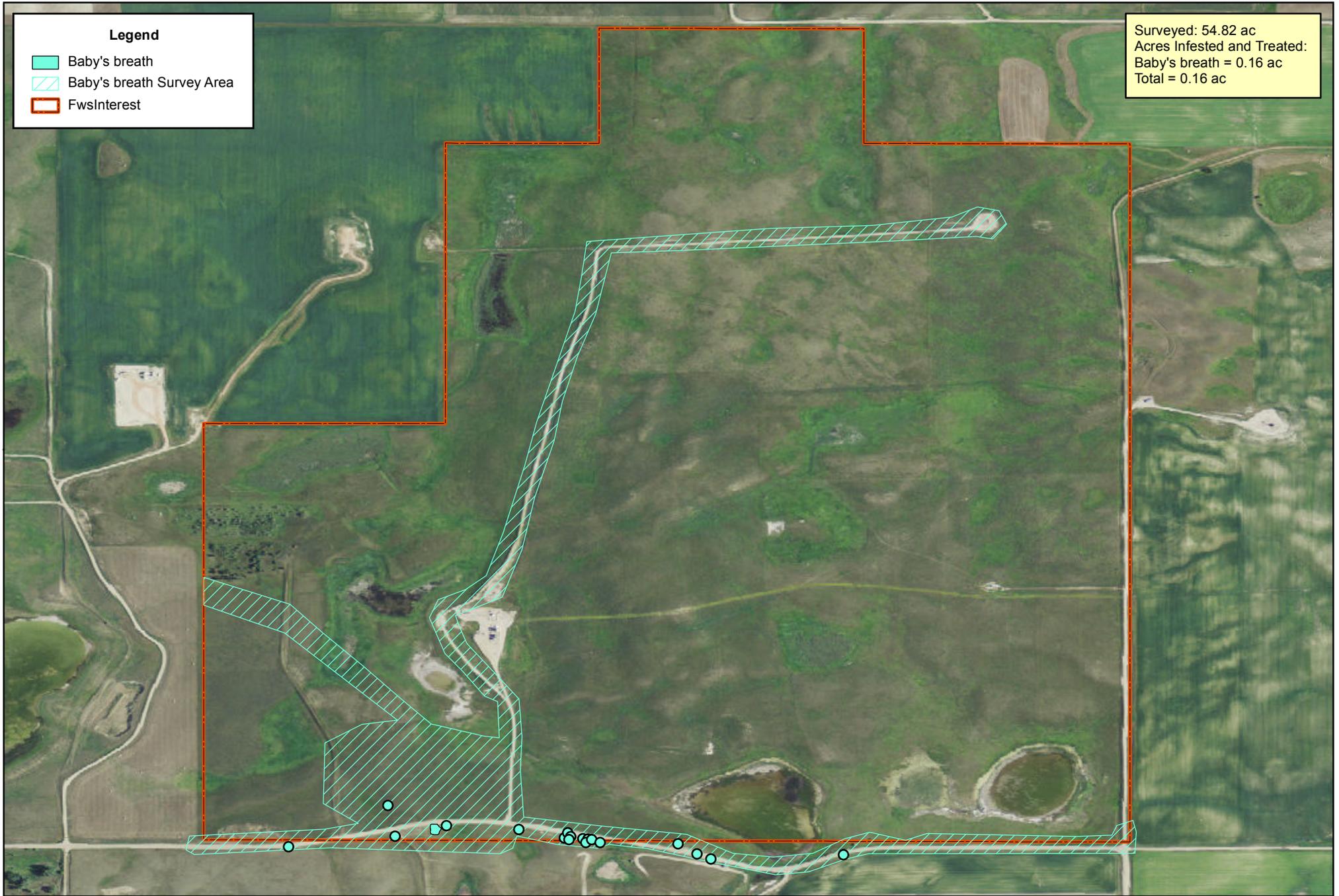
| | |
|---|---|
| Location #1 (Site specific description) -While raining looked for plants to dig along road to oil well and near areas we had just sprayed. Did not find much -Completed historical baby's breath areas at Anderson WPA Location #2 (Site specific description) Same | COMMENTS/MAP: (any surfactant or dye used, PUP number, concerns with weather prior or post treatment, DETAILS, etc....) -Rain at 9:15 am, may have affected what was sprayed |
|---|---|



Legend

-  Baby's breath
-  Baby's breath Survey Area
-  FwsInterest

Surveyed: 54.82 ac
 Acres Infested and Treated:
 Baby's breath = 0.16 ac
 Total = 0.16 ac



Reference image from 2009 Montana NAIP Imagery

Northeast Montana Wetland Management District

Dog Leg WPA

Benton Lake ISST

Accomplishments

| Weed Species | Total Survey Acres ¹ | Survey Acres Infested ² | Acres Treated ³ |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Baby's breath | 32.24 | 0.02 | 0.02 |
| Project Site Totals | 32.24 | 0.02 | 0.02 |

¹ Area covered during the course of weed management activities regardless of presence or absence of target weed species as measured by perimeter in GIS.
² Area occupied by weed species within the survey area that does not contain the space between individuals or populations (i.e. net infestation size) as measured by GPS feature for monitoring and treatment combined, but areas in common not additive.
³ The area or subset of infested area that has received some form of treatment as measured by GPS feature.

Highlights

Schedule

| Dates | Project Type | Target Species | Size of Crew | Project Notes |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--|
| 19-June-2012 | EDRR | Baby's breath | 2 | Point to point survey and treatment of historic populations within the WPA and mechanical treatment of infestations. |

Coordination and Cooperation

- Coordinated with refuge biological technician, Damon Taylor, for treatment priorities and site logistics.

Prevention and Education

- Baby's breath was treated at previously known locations and a surrounding buffer area in an effort to prevent its spread to adjacent properties.
- Baby's breath typically blooms in late July and can be treated with chemical or mechanical treatments.
 - This plant has sparse foliage and a deep root system making chemical control more difficult. Appropriate timing, chemical makeup and concentration of the application are all important factors when using this method.
 - Manual removal of the plant prior to seeding can be highly effective for control. Because of the deep roots, one must sever the root below the crown (6-10 inches below the soil) to kill the plant.

Early Detection and Rapid Response

- This project was initiated as early detection and rapid response in 2008, when several small populations of baby's breath were treated within the WPA. Some progress has been made yet the refuge should consider full surveys in 2013 or 2014 since this year was only point-to-point and the last comprehensive survey was in 2009. Systematically surveying the entire management area (as opposed to going point-to-point) allows the ISST to detect new populations when they are most

susceptible to management (EDRR). In addition, having consistent survey areas allows the ISST to track populations over time to determine effectiveness and inform adaptive management strategies.

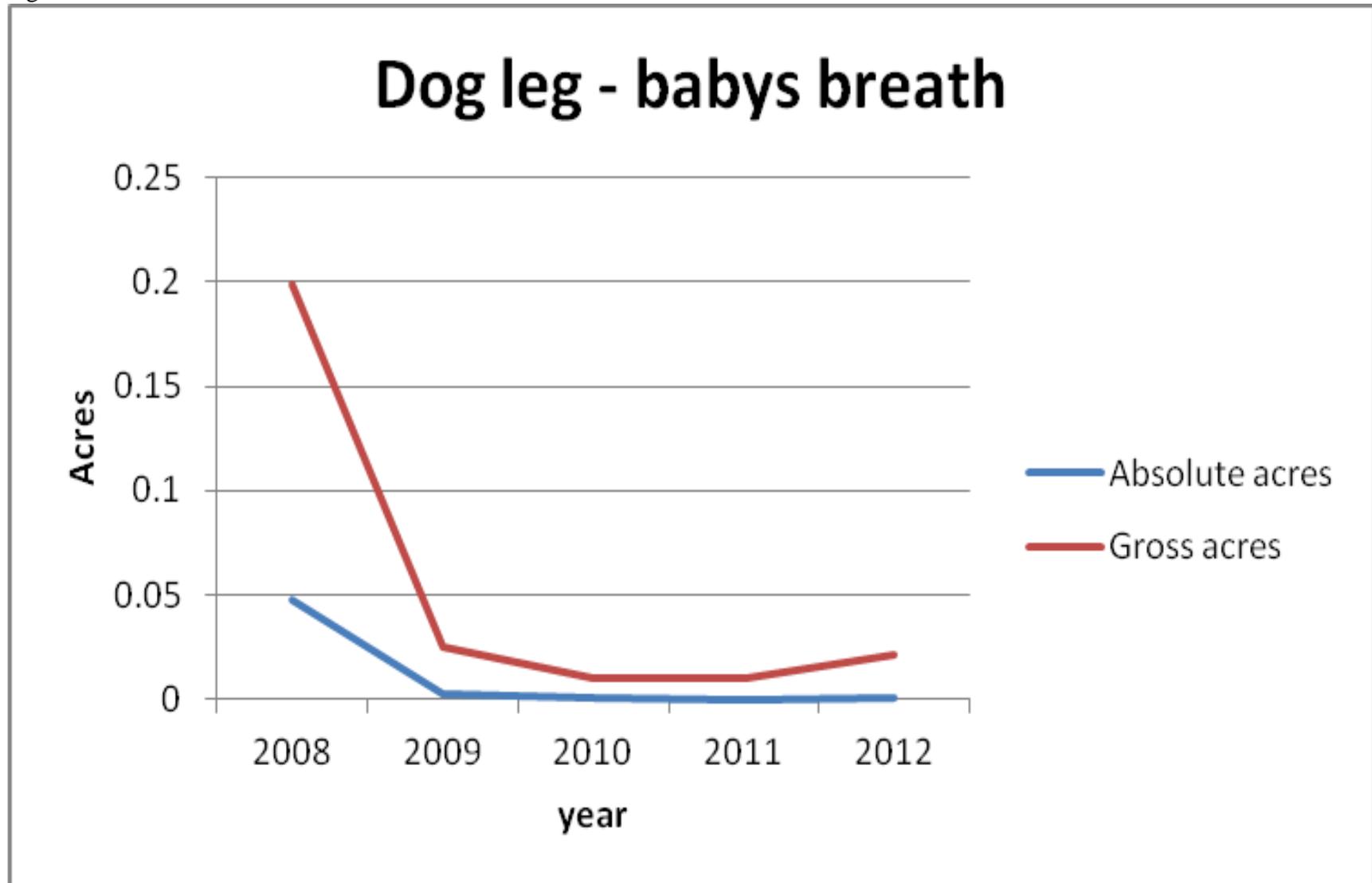
Inventory and Monitoring

- ISST searched 32.24 acres (34.26 acres in 2011) within Dog Leg WPA with an emphasis on historical baby's breath infestations and areas that had been surveyed in previous years.
 - Plants have been found in the same area along the lake since 2009.
 - Some historical populations along the lake no longer existed, particularly the northern most populations.
 - Three new populations were found west of previously treated infestations within the WPA.
- The only weed species noted by crew members, but not targeted was Canada thistle.

Management

- ISST treated 0.02 acres of baby's breath over the course of a 2 hour visit.
 - Infestations were sparse within the WPA.
 - ISST members conducted surveys on foot because the site was very wet and there were a lot of nesting birds in the area.
 - Infestations were dug up with a shovel.
 - Treatments were shifted to late June in 2012 compared to September in 2011. Plants were actively growing in June whereas in 2011 most plants had already senesced by the time treatments were made.
 - Over a similar survey area in 2010, ISST treated 0.01 acres compared to 2012 June treatments. This slight increase most likely due to limited treatment in 2011 (Figure 1.)

Figure 1.





Legend

-  Baby's breath
-  Baby's breath Survey Area
-  FwsInterest



Surveyed: 32.24 ac
Acres Infested and Treated:
Baby's breath = 0.02 ac
Total = 0.02 ac



Northeast Montana Wetland Management District

Gjesdal East WPA

Benton Lake ISST

Accomplishments

| Weed Species | Total Survey Acres ¹ | Survey Acres Infested ² | Acres Treated ³ |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Baby's breath | 3.90 | 0.005 | 0.005 |
| Project Site Totals | 3.90 | 0.005 | 0.005 |

¹ Area covered during the course of weed management activities regardless of presence or absence of target weed species as measured by perimeter in GIS.

² Area occupied by weed species within the survey area that does not contain the space between individuals or populations (i.e. net infestation size) as measured by GPS feature for monitoring and treatment combined, but areas in common not additive.

³ The area or subset of infested area that has received some form of treatment as measured by GPS feature.

Highlights

Schedule

| Dates | Project Type | Target Species | Size of Crew | Project Notes |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--|
| 19-June-2012 | EDRR | Baby's breath | 1 | Point to point survey and treatment of historic populations within the WPA and chemical treatment of infestations. |

Coordination and Cooperation

- Coordinated with refuge biological technician Damon Taylor for treatment priorities and site logistics.

Prevention and Education

- Baby's breath was treated along the access road on the southern boundary of the WPA.
- Baby's breath typically blooms in late July and can be treated with chemical or mechanical treatments.
 - This plant has sparse foliage and a deep root system making chemical control more difficult. Appropriate timing, chemical makeup and concentration of the application are all important factors when using this method.
 - Manual removal of the plant prior to seeding can be highly effective for control. Because of the deep roots, one must sever the root below the crown (6-10 inches below the soil) to kill the plant.



Gjesdal East WPA. Photo by Eric Lassance.

Early Detection and Rapid Response

- This project was initiated as early detection and rapid response in 2009, when a single population of baby's breath was treated outside the WPA along an access road. Some progress has been made yet the refuge should consider full surveys in 2013 or 2014 since this year was only point-to-point and the last comprehensive survey was in 2009. Systematically surveying the entire management

area (as opposed to going point-to-point) allows the ISST to detect new populations when they are most susceptible to management (EDRR). In addition, having consistent survey areas allows the ISST to track populations over time to determine effectiveness and inform adaptive management strategies.

Inventory and Monitoring

- ISST searched 3.90 acres (9.38 acres in 2011) of historical baby's breath areas near Gjesdal East WPA.
 - Only one plant was found.
 - Two historical populations no longer had plants.
- The only weed species noted by crew members, but not targeted was Canada thistle.

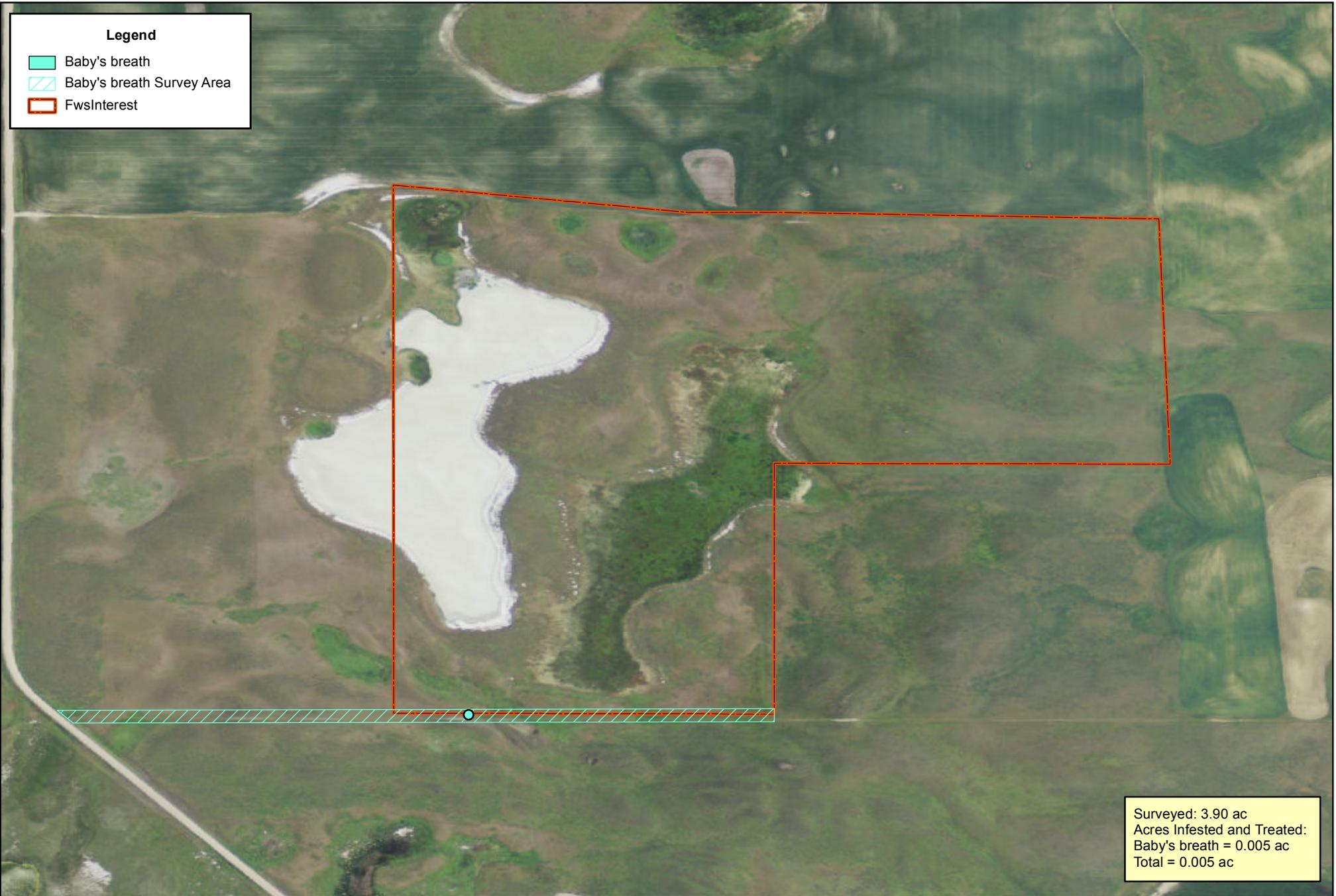
Management

- ISST treated 0.005 acres of baby's breath over the course of a half hour visit.
 - Treated infestation was along the access road running along the southern most boundary.
 - Treatments were shifted to late June in 2012 compared to September in 2011. Plants were actively growing in June whereas in 2011 most plants had already senesced by the time treatments were made.
 - 0.005 acres is most likely an accurate reflection of the current infested acreage within the survey area compared to 2011 numbers (0.00 acres) since the site visit was later and may have missed plants.
 - Over a similar survey area in 2010, ISST treated 0.01 acres compared to 2012 July treatments, suggesting an overall reduction of 50%.



Legend

-  Baby's breath
-  Baby's breath Survey Area
-  FwsInterest



Surveyed: 3.90 ac
Acres Infested and Treated:
Baby's breath = 0.005 ac
Total = 0.005 ac



Northeast Montana Wetland Management District

Goose Lake WPA

Benton Lake ISST

Accomplishments

| Weed Species | Total Survey Acres ¹ | Survey Acres Infested ² | Acres Treated ³ |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Baby's breath | 272.22 | 1.32 | 1.32 |
| Project Site Totals | 272.22 | 1.32 | 1.32 |

¹ Area covered during the course of weed management activities regardless of presence or absence of target weed species as measured by perimeter in GIS.
² Area occupied by weed species within the survey area that does not contain the space between individuals or populations (i.e. net infestation size) as measured by GPS feature for monitoring and treatment combined, but areas in common not additive.
³ The area or subset of infested area that has received some form of treatment as measured by GPS feature.

Highlights

Schedule

| Dates | Project Type | Target Species | Size of Crew | Project Notes |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--|
| 21-June-2012 | EDRR | Baby's breath | 3 | Point to point survey and treatment of historic populations within the WPA and chemical treatment of infestations. |

Coordination and Cooperation

- Coordinated with refuge biological technician, Damon Taylor, for treatment priorities and site logistics.
 - In 2010, rotational weed treatments of grazing and herbicide application were started. During that year, the ISST sprayed in the northern portion of the WPA while cows were grazed in the southern region.
 - In 2011, when ISST arrived cows were being grazed in the northern region of the site, so the crew worked only the south east corner and along the access roadway. The crew covered new areas not previously surveyed by ISST, moving northward to the south edge of the grazing fence line.
 - In 2012, no grazing was occurring at either site; therefore ISST treated both portions that had been grazed in 2010 and 2011.



Goose Lake WPA. Photo by Eric Lassance.

Prevention and Education

- Baby's breath were treated along access roads and all previously known locations in an effort to prevent its spread to adjacent properties.

- Baby's breath typically blooms in late July and can be treated with chemical or mechanical treatments.
 - This plant has sparse foliage and a deep root system making chemical control more difficult. Appropriate timing, chemical makeup and concentration of the application are all important factors when using this method.
 - Manual removal of the plant prior to seeding can be highly effective for control. Because of the deep roots, one must sever the root below the crown (6-10 inches below the soil) to kill the plant.
- Work was slowed after noticing birds flushing from tall grass to minimize disturbance.
- Baby's breath size and phenology differed along the roadsides versus within the WPA. Plants along the road were taller, robust, and almost flowering. For the most part, plants within the WPA were small and in the leaf-on growth stage

Early Detection and Rapid Response

- This project was initiated as early detection and rapid response in 2006, when populations of baby's breath were inventoried at the northeast corner of the WPA. Some progress has been made yet the refuge should consider full surveys in 2013 or 2014 since this year was only point-to-point and there hasn't been a recent comprehensive survey. Systematically surveying the entire management area (as opposed to going point-to-point) allows the ISST to detect new populations when they are most susceptible to management (EDRR). In addition, having consistent survey areas allows the ISST to track populations over time to determine effectiveness and inform adaptive management strategies.

Inventory and Monitoring

- ISST searched 272.22 acres (80.21 acres in 2011) within Goose Lake WPA primarily visiting historical baby's breath infestations and areas that had been surveyed in previous years.
- Baby's breath presence decreased with distance from the road and accompanying disturbed areas.
- Baby's breath had previously been documented in 2010 along a lakeshore and in a spot between the lake and the infested road. These sites were searched thoroughly and no plants were found in 2012.
- A tremendous amount of the 2009 and 2010 historically infested sites did not have any plants.
- Baby's breath appeared to be less common in areas with thick tall grass.
- The only additional weed species noted by crew members, but not targeted was Canada thistle.

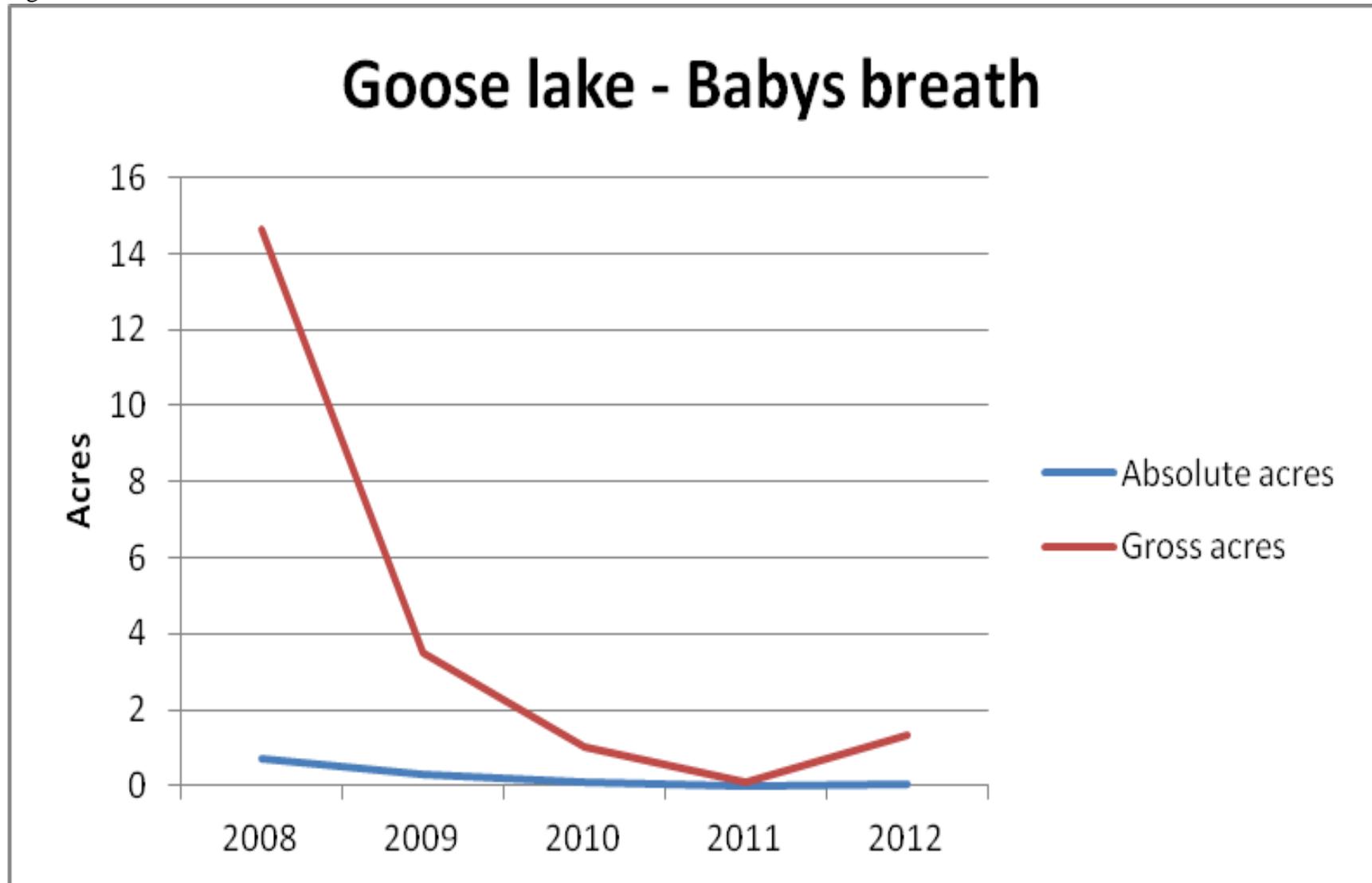
Management

- ISST treated 1.32 acres of baby's breath over the course of a full day.
 - Baby's breath was mainly treated near the road bordering the eastside of the WPA.
 - Treatments were shifted to late June in 2012 compared to September 2011. Plants were actively growing in June whereas in 2011 most plants had already senesced by the time treatments were made.
 - 1.32 acres is most likely an accurate reflection of the current infested acreage within the survey area compared to 2011 numbers (0.09 acres).
 - Over a similar survey area in 2009, ISST treated 3.45 acres compared to 2012. This is an overall reduction of 61.74% (Figure 1.)



Chemically treated baby's breath at Goose Lake WPA.
Photo by Eric Lassance.

Figure 1.

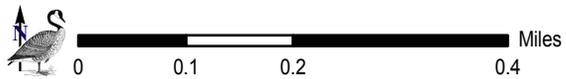
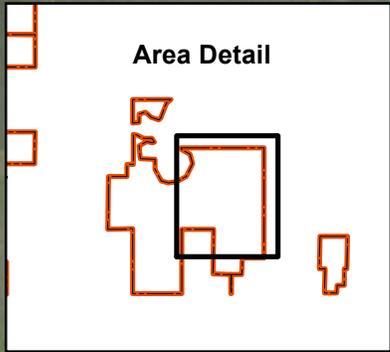
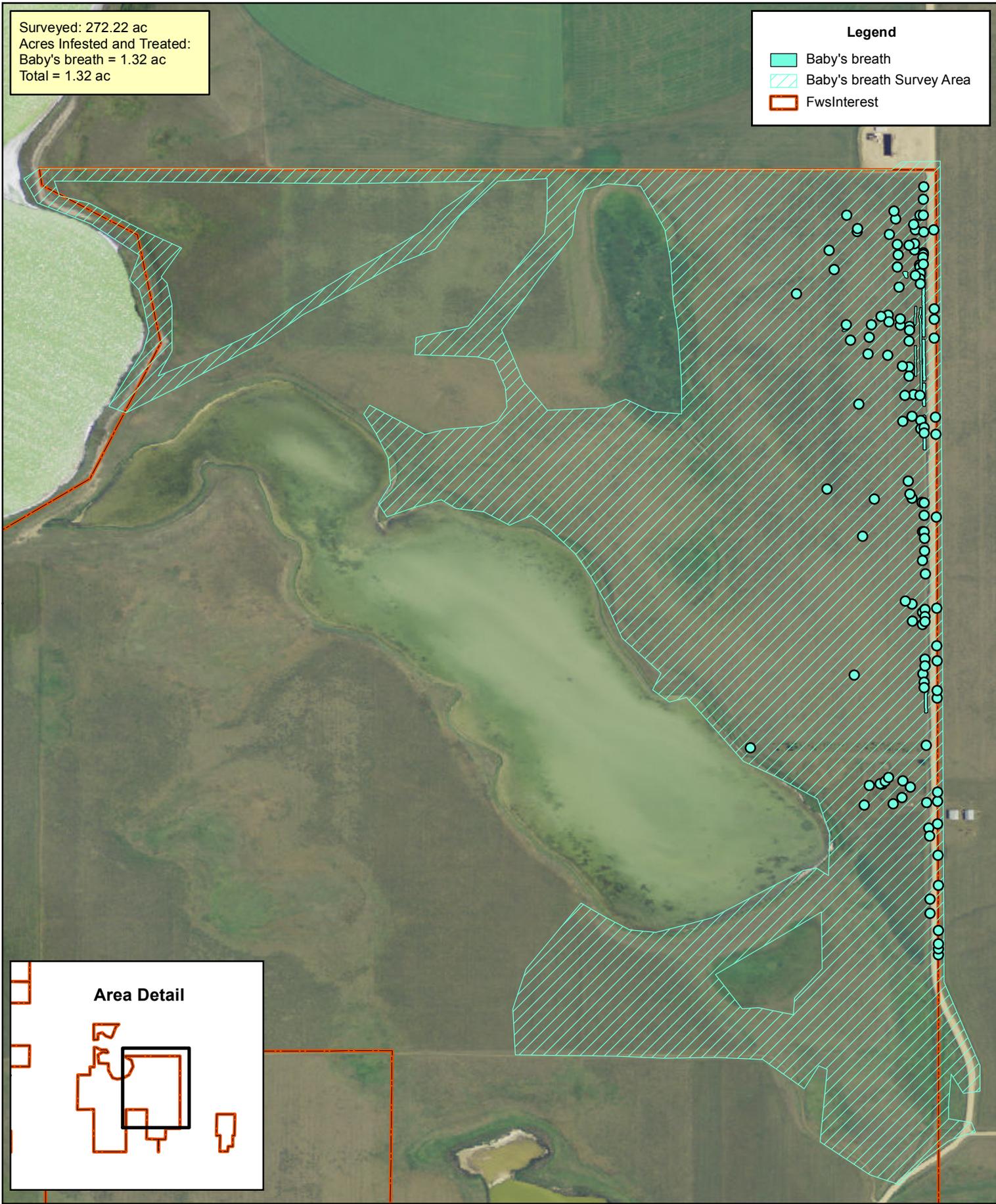




Surveyed: 272.22 ac
Acres Infested and Treated:
Baby's breath = 1.32 ac
Total = 1.32 ac

Legend

- Baby's breath
- Baby's breath Survey Area
- FwsInterest



Reference image from 2009 Montana NAIP Imagery

Northeast Montana Wetland Management District

North Root WPA

Benton Lake ISST

Accomplishments

| Weed Species | Total Survey Acres ¹ | Survey Acres Infested ² | Acres Treated ³ |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Baby's breath | 20.42 | 0.05 | 0.05 |
| Project Site Totals | 20.42 | 0.05 | 0.05 |

¹ Area covered during the course of weed management activities regardless of presence or absence of target weed species as measured by perimeter in GIS.
² Area occupied by weed species within the survey area that does not contain the space between individuals or populations (i.e. net infestation size) as measured by GPS feature for monitoring and treatment combined, but areas in common not additive.
³ The area or subset of infested area that has received some form of treatment as measured by GPS feature.

Highlights

Schedule

| Dates | Project Type | Target Species | Size of Crew | Project Notes |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--|
| 20-June-2012 | EDRR | Baby's breath | 1 | Point to point survey and treatment of historic populations within the WPA and chemical treatment of infestations. |

Coordination and Cooperation

- Coordinated with refuge biological technician, Damon Taylor, for treatment priorities and site logistics.

Prevention and Education

- Baby's breath was treated along the access roads on the north, east, and west side of the WPA and all previously known locations in an effort to prevent its spread to adjacent properties.
- Baby's breath typically blooms in late July and can be treated with chemical or mechanical treatments.
 - This plant has sparse foliage and a deep root system making chemical control more difficult. Appropriate timing, chemical makeup and concentration of the application are all important factors when using this method.
 - Manual removal of the plant prior to seeding can be highly effective for control. Because of the deep roots, one must sever the root below the crown (6-10 inches below the soil) to kill the plant.

Early Detection and Rapid Response

This project was initiated as early detection and rapid response in 2008, when baby's breath was first treated along access road on the northern boundary of the WPA. Some progress has been made yet the refuge should consider full surveys in 2013 or 2014 since this year was only point-to-point and there hasn't been a recent comprehensive survey. Systematically surveying the entire management area (as opposed to going point-to-point) allows the ISST to detect new populations

when they are most susceptible to management (EDRR). In addition, having consistent survey areas allows the ISST to track populations over time to determine effectiveness and inform adaptive management strategies.

Inventory and Monitoring

- ISST searched 20.42 acres (18.20 acres in 2011) within North Root WPA with an emphasis on historical Baby's breath infestations and areas that had been surveyed in the past.
 - Plants found were mostly in the same area baby's breath was found since 2009.
- The only other weed species noted by crew members, but not targeted was Canada thistle.

Management

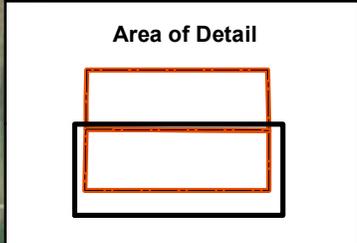
- ISST treated 0.05 acres of Baby's breath.
 - Treated infestations were only along the road on the north boundary.
 - Treatments were shifted to late June in 2012 compared to September in 2011. Plants were actively growing in June whereas in 2011 most plants had already senesced by the time treatments were made.
 - 0.05 acres is most likely an accurate reflection of the current amount of infested acreage within the survey area compared to 2011 numbers (0.005 acres) suggesting a small increase probably a result of existing seed bed and possibly treating too late last year.

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PO BOX 200201
HELENA, MT 59620-0201
Phone 406-444-3730

| | |
|--|--|
| BUSINESS U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | LICENSE# 103749-15 |
| NAME Benton Lake NWR Invasive Species Strike Team | ADDRESS (Refuge or WPA) Rabenberg WPA |
| CITY, STATE, ZIP Great Falls, MT 59404 | PHONE 406-727-7400 Ext. 213 |

| | APPLICATION #1 | APPLICATION #2 |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Applicator/Operator Name (s) | Eric Lassance | Chase Burns |
| Date | 6/20/12 | 6/20/12 |
| County | Sheridan | Sheridan |
| Time Start/Stop | 0645 – 1700 | 0645 – 1700 |
| Temperature | 65°F/67°F | 65°F/67°F |
| Relative Humidity | 50%/37% | 50%/ 37% |
| Wind Speed/Direction (from) | 7 mph NW/ 2 mph NW | 7 mph NW/ 2 mph NW |
| Pesticide Manufacturer | Dupont | Dupont |
| Trade Name | Escort XP | Escort XP |
| EPA Reg # or Formulation | 352-439 | 352-439 |
| Rate: Product/Diluent Per Acre | 1 oz/acre | 1 oz/acre |
| Amount of Chemical Applied | .125 oz | .160 oz |
| Equipment Used (atv,backpack,truck,saw) | ATV #8 (80 GPA) | ATV #10 (64 GPA)/Shovel |
| Bio-Control (genus species) | | |
| # released / acre | | |
| Mechanical (mow,hand-pull) | | Dig,handpull |
| Plant Phenology & Stage | Leaf-on, pre-flower | Pre-flower |
| Dominant Pest(s) | Baby's breath | Baby's breath |
| Equipment Used | Handgun | ATV/dig |
| Acres/Area Treated or # of plants | Spot treatment, gps mapped | Spot treatment, gps mapped |
| GPS Filename | | |

| <p>Location #1 (Site specific description)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -NW section of Rabenberg is disturbed oil and gas area. -Entire southern section of WPA. -Western roadside. -Completed treatment of baby's breath historical areas <p>Location #2 (Site specific description)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Transected north side of WPA with some digging in addition to spraying -Assisted Eric in SE section of Rabenberg -Completed treatment of baby's breath historical areas | <p>COMMENTS/MAP: (any surfactant or dye used, PUP number, concerns with weather prior or post treatment, DETAILS, etc....)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Brief periods of rain sprinkles during the day. Dug up plants during this time. <p>Shield IVM @ 2 oz / 10 gal Syl Tak @ 1.28 oz / 10 gal</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Start</th> <th>End</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EL #8</td> <td>10 gal</td> <td>0 gal</td> <td>10 gal</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chase #10</td> <td>9 gal</td> <td>0 gal</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>10 gal</td> <td>9 gal</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>10 gal</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | Start | End | Total | EL #8 | 10 gal | 0 gal | 10 gal | | | | | Chase #10 | 9 gal | 0 gal | | | 10 gal | 9 gal | | | | | 10 gal | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|-------|--------|-----|-------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--|--|--|--|-----------|-------|-------|--|--|--------|-------|--|--|--|--|--------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Start | End | Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| EL #8 | 10 gal | 0 gal | 10 gal | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Chase #10 | 9 gal | 0 gal | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 10 gal | 9 gal | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 10 gal | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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Legend

-  Baby's breath
-  Baby's breath Survey Area
-  FwsInterest

Surveyed: 20.42 ac
 Acres Infested and Treated:
 Baby's breath = 0.05 ac
 Total = 0.05 ac



Northeast Montana Wetland Management District

Rabenberg WPA

Benton Lake ISST

Accomplishments

| Weed Species | Total Survey Acres ¹ | Survey Acres Infested ² | Acres Treated ³ |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Baby's breath | 290.14 | 3.50 | 3.50 |
| Project Site Total | 290.14 | 3.50 | 3.50 |

¹ Area covered during the course of weed management activities regardless of presence or absence of target weed species as measured by perimeter in GIS.
² Area occupied by weed species within the survey area that does not contain the space between individuals or populations (i.e. net infestation size) as measured by GPS feature for monitoring and treatment combined, but areas in common not additive.
³ The area or subset of infested area that has received some form of treatment as measured by GPS feature.

Highlights

Schedule

| Dates | Project Type | Target Species | Size of Crew | Project Notes |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--|
| 19 & 20-June-2011 | EDRR | Baby's breath | 3 | Systematic survey and chemical/mechanical treatment of historic populations within the WPA |

Coordination and Cooperation

- Coordinated with refuge biological technician, Damon Taylor, for treatment priorities and site logistics.

Prevention and Education

- Treated baby's breath within the entire WPA in an effort to prevent its spread to adjacent properties.
- Baby's breath typically blooms in late July and can be treated with chemical or mechanical treatments.
 - This plant has sparse foliage and a deep root system making chemical control more difficult. Appropriate timing, chemical makeup and concentration of the application are all important factors when using this method.
 - Manual removal of the plant prior to seeding can be highly effective for control. Because of the deep roots, one must sever the root below the crown (6-10 inches below the soil) to kill the plant.
- Work was slowed after noticing birds flushing from tall grass to minimize disturbance.

Early Detection and Rapid Response

- This project was initiated as early detection and rapid response in 2006, when populations of baby's breath were first inventoried and then treated in 2008. Systematically surveying the entire management area each year (as opposed to going point-to-point) has allowed the ISST to detect new populations when they are most susceptible to management (EDRR). In addition, having

consistent survey areas allows the ISST to track populations over time to determine effectiveness and inform adaptive management strategies.

Inventory and Monitoring

- ISST searched 290.14 acres (296.72 acres in 2011) within Rabenberg WPA with an emphasis on historical baby's breath infestations and areas that had been surveyed in the past.
 - Since 2009 most baby's breath has been found along roadsides
 - A tremendous amount of 2009 and 2010 historically infested area within the interior of the WPA no longer had any baby's breath.
 - Baby's breath appeared to not occur in areas with thick tall grass which occurred frequently within the interior of the WPA.
 - Most infestations were found in the following disturbed locations. Infestations within the locations listed below have grown in size since previous treatments.
 1. All roadsides, but mainly the one bordering the WPA in the west.
 2. Disturbed area around a gravel pit in the northwest corner of the WPA.
 3. Disturbed site in the northeast corner of the WPA near an oil and gas structure.
- Canada thistle was the only other noxious weed noticed by crew members but was not targeted for treatment.

Management

- ISST treated 3.50 acres of baby's breath.
 - ISST members began working at Rabenberg WPA late in the day on June 19th. Chemical treatments were started briefly until it began raining. ISST dug up infestations with a shovel for the remainder of the day.
 - Chemical treatments were briefly interrupted by rain on June 20th and some infestations also had to be dug up while raining and waiting for plants to dry.
 - The two rain events may have affected effectiveness of chemical in some areas.
 - Treatments were shifted to late June in 2012 compared to September in 2011. Plants were actively growing in June whereas in 2011 most plants had already senesced by the time treatments were made.
 - 3.50 acres is most likely an accurate reflection of the current amount of infested acreage within the survey area compared to 2011 numbers (0.17 acres).
 - Over a similar survey area in 2009 ISST treated 1.77 acres and in 2010 treated 1.76 acres. 2012 treatments compared to 2009 treatments shows an overall increase of 98%. This is due to the fact that infestations within the roadsides and disturbed sites have grown since 2009.



Eric Lassance spraying baby's breath at Rabenberg WPA.
Photo by Eric Lassance.



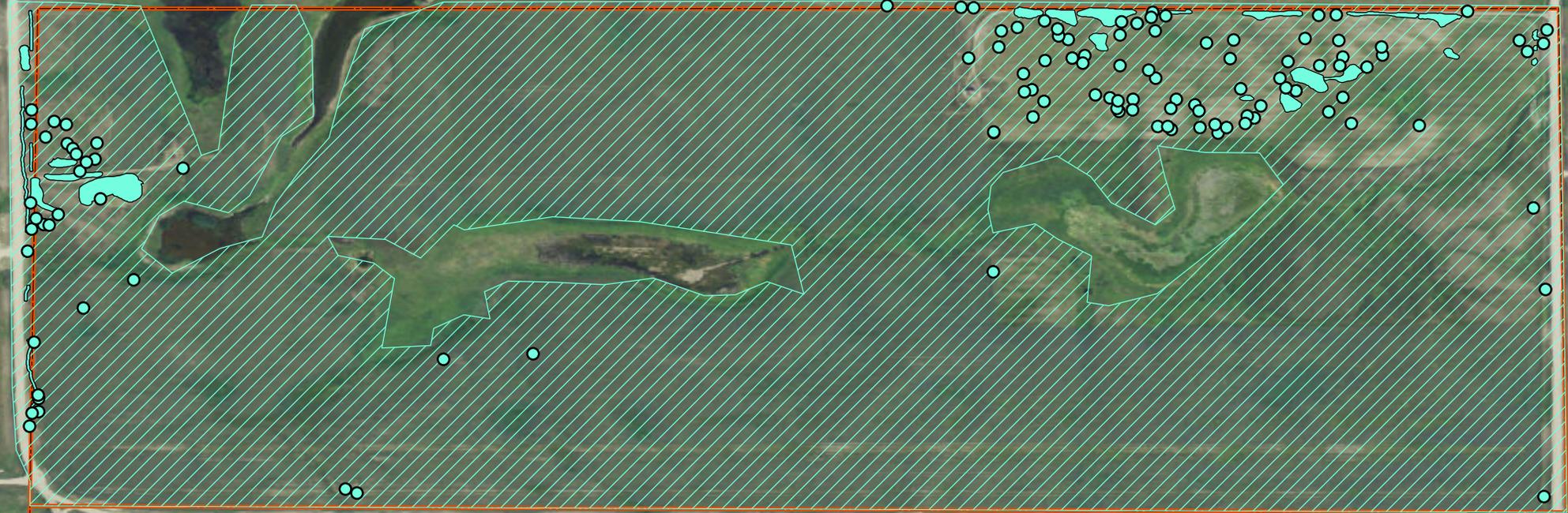
Baby's breath at Rabenberg WPA. Photo by Eric Lassance.



Legend

-  Baby's breath
-  Baby's breath Survey Area
-  FwsInterest

Area of Detail

Surveyed: 290.14 ac
 Acres Infested and Treated:
 Baby's breath = 3.50 ac
 Total = 3.50 ac



Northeast Montana Wetland Management District

State Line WPA

Benton Lake ISST

Accomplishments

| Weed Species | Total Survey Acres ¹ | Survey Acres Infested ² | Acres Treated ³ |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Baby's breath | 64.72 | 0.68 | 0.68 |
| Project Site Total | 64.72 | 0.68 | 0.68 |

¹ Area covered during the course of weed management activities regardless of presence or absence of target weed species as measured by perimeter in GIS.
² Area occupied by weed species within the survey area that does not contain the space between individuals or populations (i.e. net infestation size) as measured by GPS feature for monitoring and treatment combined, but areas in common not additive.
³ The area or subset of infested area that has received some form of treatment as measured by GPS feature.

Highlights

Schedule

| Dates | Project Type | Target Species | Size of Crew | Project Notes |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--|
| 19-June-2012 | EDRR | Baby's breath | 1 | Point to point chemical/mechanical treatment and survey of historic populations within the WPA |

Coordination and Cooperation

- Coordinated with refuge biological technical, Damon Taylor, for treatment priorities and site logistics.

Prevention and Education

- Treated baby's breath along access roads and previously known locations in an effort to prevent its spread to adjacent properties.
- Baby's breath typically blooms in late July and can be treated with chemical or mechanical treatments.
 - This plant has sparse foliage and a deep root system making chemical control more difficult. Appropriate timing, chemical makeup and concentration of the application are all important factors when using this method.
 - Manual removal of the plant prior to seeding can be highly effective for control. Because of the deep roots, one must sever the root below the crown (6-10 inches below the soil) to kill the plant.

Early Detection and Rapid Response

- This project was initiated as early detection and rapid response in 2006, when populations of baby's breath were inventoried along the southeastern access road and then treated in 2008. Some progress has been made yet the refuge should consider full surveys in 2013 or 2014 since this year was only point-to-point and there hasn't been a recent comprehensive survey. Systematically

surveying the entire management area (as opposed to going point-to-point) allows the ISST to detect new populations when they are most susceptible to management (EDRR). In addition, having consistent survey areas allows the ISST to track populations over time to determine effectiveness and inform adaptive management strategies.

Inventory and Monitoring

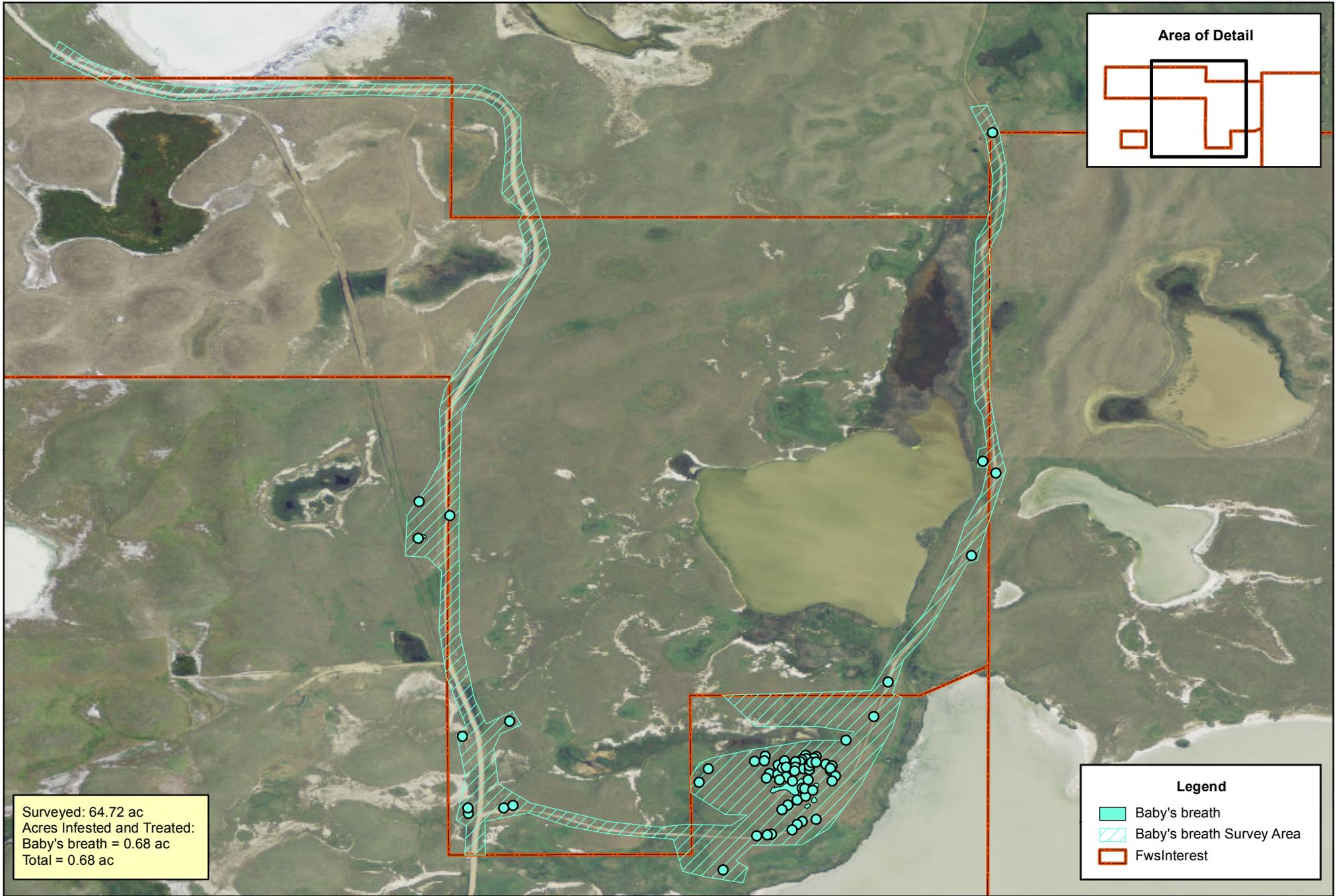
- ISST searched 64.72 acres (74.80 acres in 2011) within State Line WPA with an emphasis on historical baby's breath infestations and areas that had been surveyed in the past.
 - Plants found were mostly in the same areas baby's breath was found since 2009 (along roadsides).
 - A tremendous amount of area infested in 2009 near the road no longer had any baby's breath.
- The only weed species noted by crew members, but not targeted was Canada thistle.

Management

- ISST treated 0.68 acres of baby's breath.
 - Treated Infestations were primarily along the access roads within the WPA.
 - ISST chemical treatments were interrupted twice by rain events.
 - The rain event may have affected effectiveness of chemical.
 - ISST dug up infestations with a shovel while raining and waiting for plants to dry to resume spraying.
 - Treatments were shifted to late June in 2012 compared to September in 2011. Plants were actively growing in June whereas in 2011 most plants had already senesced by the time treatments were made.
 - 0.68 acres is most likely an accurate reflection of the current amount of infested acreage within the survey area compared to 2011 numbers (0.03 acres).
 - Over a similar survey area, ISST treated 1.77 acres in 2009 and 0.73 acres in 2010 suggesting treatment was effective.



Baby's breath along a road at State Line WPA. Photo by Eric Lassance.



Surveyed: 64.72 ac
 Acres Infested and Treated:
 Baby's breath = 0.68 ac
 Total = 0.68 ac

Legend

-  Baby's breath Survey Area
-  Baby's breath
-  FwsInterest



Reference image from 2009 Montana NAIP Imagery