



Forest
Service

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File Code: 3410

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Route To:

Subject: Biological Control Agent Monitoring at Craters of the Moon National Monument and Sawtooth National Recreation Area: BFO-TR-2018-05

To: Area Ranger, Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Superintendent, Craters of the Moon (Wade Vagias, wvagias@nps.gov)

Enclosed is Forest Health Protection (FHP) trip report, BFO-TR-2018-05, summarizing observations and recommendations by Carl Jorgensen, FHP Entomologist, for biological control agents of rush skeletonweed at Craters of the Moon National Monument (CRMO) and spotted knapweed at Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA). Gilbert Moreno, Range Technician for CRMO and SNRA, requested assistance in monitoring for the biological control agents at these sites.

Highlights from the report:

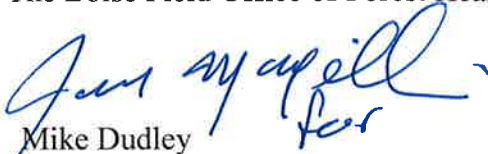
- Rush skeletonweed biological controls at CRMO
 - The mite, midge and rust biological control agents on rush skeletonweed are established across the landscape.
 - There is currently no evidence of the root feeding moth, *Bradyrrhoa gilveolella*, being established at CRMO. Future releases of this moth should occur at the South Paddelford Site.
 - The crown feeding moth, *Oporopsamma wetheimsteini*, may soon be approved for release within the United States. This moth should be released at or near the Paddelford Site when approval occurs and monitored for establishment.
- Spotted knapweed biological controls at SNRA
 - The sulfur knapweed moth, *Agapeta zoegana*, that was released at Boulder Flat in 2016 likely did not establish. Future releases should occur here again or nearby.
 - Seed head feeding weevils, *Larinus spp.* and *Bangesterna spp.*, are well established across the landscape.
 - Knapweed root feeding weevil, *Cyphocleonus achates*, is established along the highway between Boulder Flat and the SNRA headquarters.
 - Knapweed bronzed root borer, *Sphenoptera jugoslavica*, was an unexpected find in spotted knapweed roots 1.5 miles from the SNRA headquarters.
 - Monitoring for spotted knapweed biological control agents is being planned in 2018.



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The Boise Field Office of Forest Health Protection is available for future assistance.



Mike Dudley
Director, State and Private Forestry

Enclosure

cc: Carl L Jorgensen, Laura L Lowrey, Angel Saavedra, Joel McMillin, Mike Dudley, Gilbert Moreno, Andrea Cox, Debra Taylor, Myra Black, Carol Randall, Justin Runyon, Joey Milan (jmilan@blm.gov), Jeff Littlefield (jeffrey1@montana.edu), Paul Brusven (pbrusven@nezperce.org)