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Interagency participation in biological control of leafy spurge: APHIS assistance

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Abstract:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Biological Control Facility was established in 1986. The goal of this facility is to implement, on a national level, biological control of diffuse and spotted knapweeds and leafy spurge. Biological control of leafy spurge has become a sought-after option for state, federal, and private land stewards. APHIS has augmented existing biological control programs where existing projects were underway and through collection and redistribution of approved agents from Europe and Canada has provided the opportunity for several states to begin biological control efforts on leafy spurge. In the 1989 field season, APHIS provided biological agents, which were released in MT, NE, ND, SD, OR, WA, ID, MN, CO, and WY. Six species of approved biological agents were released. These releases were accomplished to provide the initial steps for the establishment of field insectary sites, which may provide populations of the agents for future collection and redistribution. Cooperating agencies that received agents supplied by APHIS were USDA, Agriculture Research Service (MT); USDA, Forest Service (MT(3)) (ND); USDA, Soil Conservation Service (NE); USDI, Bureau of Land Management (ID) (CO); USDI, National Fish and Wildlife Service (ND) (MN); USDI, National Park Service (ND); State Department of Agriculture (SD) (OR) (CO) (WY); Montana State University (MT); North Dakota State University (ND); Private Land Owners in cooperation with Weed District Supervisors (CO) (WA) (MT); MT Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MT); and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (ND).