

The ENEMY: Common Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum* L.)

STRATEGY: Better known as Fullers teasel, this biennial plant grows up to 6 feet tall. This invader is classified as a B Listed Noxious Weed in Baker County. It is a tap-rooted plant which produces stout branched stems. This stem is striate-angled with several rows of downward turned prickles. The plant produces purple flowers in dense cones shaped seed heads. Each flower is covered by spine-like bractlets. The plant desires moist areas and can become a monoculture. The seeds are not spread by wind, but are a desirable food source for birds which aid the spread of the plant.

Attack: This plant is wide spread throughout North America after it was introduced from Europe as an ornamental. As it likes moist areas such as ponds, irrigation canals, and disturbed sites it spreads very rapidly. In the fall the stems and fruiting heads are commonly silvered or gilded for winter bouquets. Once established the plants become quite thick and leave behind a woody growth and is not foragable by animals.

DEFENSE: As with many other plants do not transport this plant for the sake of its beauty. Also with most biennials digging up small patches can be effective. Once established the use of Telar XP (1oz/ac), Escort XP (1oz/ac), or Opensight (3.3oz/ac) are most effective. Bear in mind that none of these products can be used over the top of water. The only biological available is native grasshoppers, but they will only strip the plant of its leaves, but by the time this occurs the plant has already produced next years seeds. Mechanical control is effective if one finds just a plant or so.