

The purpose of the proposed action is to exclude livestock from small portions of Evan's Bend Bottom to study the impact of grazing on the establishment of biological control agents released to control Russian knapweed. Both biological control agents, *Aulacidea Acroptilonica* and *Jaapiella ivannikovi*, live and overwinter in the stems of Russian knapweed. Anecdotal evidence points to grazing as a possible hindrance to agent establishment due to consumption of infested stems by wildlife and cattle. These small exclosures are proposed to provide protection from livestock grazing that may allow the agents to recolonize the area annually and build population numbers to a point that the exclosures are no longer needed.