Impact Assessment Record

Scientific Name: *Onopordum nervosum* Boiss. Common name: cotton thistle

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	No information about the extent of infestations of this plant was found.	**M**	**L**
2. Reduce tourism?	Flowers purplish-pink on thorny plants (ENG, 2002) up to 2.7 m (Tutin, 1980) are likely to be very obvious to the average visitor and have a moderate visual effect. The density of infestations is not known so more serious impacts may be possible, but are not known.	**M**	**L**
3. Injurious to people?	The stems are spinose-winged, …and the involucral bracts spine-tipped (Tutin, 1980; ENG, 2002). Spines on the infloresence stems may cause some damage at most times of the year.	**MH**	**MH**
4. Damage to cultural sites?	Flowers purplish-pink on thorny plants (ENG, 2002) up to 2.7 m (Tutin, 1980) are likely to be very obvious to the average visitor and have a moderate visual effect.	**ML**	**ML**
Abiotic			
5. Impact flow?	Most species grow in rocky or stony ground, roadsides, waste places and similar dry, open habitats (Tutin, 1980). Terrrestrial species.	**L**	**MH**
6. Impact water quality?	Most species grow in rocky or stony ground, roadsides, waste places and similar dry, open habitats (Tutin, 1980). Terrrestrial species.	**L**	**MH**
7. Increase soil erosion?	Biennial species (Tutin, 1980) that may leave large bare patches after it dies off, however the extent of infestations is unknown.	**M**	**L**
8. Reduce biomass?	Invades rocky or stony ground, roadsides, waste places and similar dry, open habitats (Tutin, 1980). In this type of vegetation, the plant is likely to replace other herbaceous species.	**ML**	**H**
9. Change fire regime?	Post senescence "stems can persist into the next season with spiny phyllaries and receptacles attached" (Healy, Enroe & DiTomaso, 2005). In dry, open habitats, where this plant invades (Tutin, 1980) this dried vegetation adds to the fuel load, most likely causing a moderate increase in the intensity of fires.	**MH**	**MH**
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC=Plains grassland (BCS = E) CMA=Mallee; Bioreg=Lowan Mallee; CLIMATE potential=VH. Species has potential to occur in high value EVC although impact on composition unknown. Score medium.	**M**	**L**
(b) medium value EVC	EVC=Chenopod grassland (BCS = D) CMA=Mallee; Bioreg=Lowan Mallee; CLIMATE potential=VH. Species has potential to occur in medium value EVC although impact on composition unknown. Score medium.	**M**	**L**
(c) low value EVC	EVC=Dunefield heathland (BCS = C) CMA=Mallee; Bioreg=Lowan Mallee; CLIMATE potential=VH. Species has potential to occur in low value EVC although impact on composition unknown. Score medium.	**M**	**L**
11. Impact on structure?	No information was found about the density of infestations.	**M**	**L**

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QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
12. Effect on threatened flora?	No information found.	**MH**	**L**
Fauna			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?	No information found.	**MH**	**L**
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	No information found.	**MH**	**L**
15. Benefits fauna?	The structure of this spiny plant (as seen in BBG, 2006) is unlikely to provide harbour or food to desireable fauna species.	**H**	**ML**
16. Injurious to fauna?	The stems are spinose-winged…and the involucral bracts spine-tipped (Tutin, 1980). Spines on the infloresence and stems may cause some damage at most times of the year.	**MH**	**MH**
Pest Animal			
17. Food source to pests?	The stems are spinose-winged…and the involucral bracts spine-tipped (Tutin, 1980). Spines on the infloresence and stems would deter herbivory by vertebrate species.	**L**	**MH**
18. Provides harbor?	The structure of this spiny plant (as seen in BBG, 2006) is unlikely to provide harbour to pest animals.	**L**	**ML**
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	No information about the invasiveness of this plant was found.	**M**	**L**
20. Impact quality?	No information about the invasiveness of this plant was found.	**M**	**L**
21. Affect land value?	No information about the invasiveness of this plant was found.	**M**	**L**
22. Change land use?	No information about the invasiveness of this plant was found.	**M**	**L**
23. Increase harvest costs?	No information about the invasiveness of this plant was found.	**M**	**L**
24. Disease host/vector?	No information about disease host/vector of this plant was found, however there was very little information available about this species.	**M**	**L**

References cited:

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Revisions

Date	Revised by	Revision