

MEANS AND METHODS OF GROWING NATIVE VEGETATION IN A
WEEDY RIPARIAN ENVIRONMENT TO MITIGATE ELEVATED AMBIENT STREAM
TEMPERATURES

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While tributaries to the lower Boise River have been designated for beneficial uses that include cold-water biota, few support salmonids and other cold-water species because of elevated water temperatures due, in part, to the loss of their riparian over stories. The repair and restoration of riparian environments in the Intermountain West is complicated by the ubiquitous presence of weedy and noxious plant species. However, techniques not yet prescribed in the literature or thought to be impractical have yet to be explored. The repair and restoration of a 1.2 kilometer (0.75 mile) reach of Indian Creek in southwest Idaho applied unique treatments of soil, sub-soil, and biotic surface to promote the establishment and growth of native riparian grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees. This paper describes the means and methods, and looks forward to the results of monitoring to demonstrate repair and restoration of marginal environments remains possible.