



Humboldt Watershed Cooperative Weed Management Area

Inside this issue:

<i>EDDMapS</i>	2
<i>Understanding Herbicide</i>	2
<i>Weeds to Watch</i>	3
<i>Planting Natives</i>	3
<i>HWCWMA History</i>	4
<i>Annual Workday</i>	4

Message from Newly Elected President, Chris Jasmine

I have been involved with the Humboldt Watershed CWMA (CWMA) since October of 2008. At that time I was assisting the CWMA with funding to spray weeds through the USFWS's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program. Back then I was encouraged by the enthusiasm of the CWMA and the hard work of many of the private landowners participating in their weed spraying programs. Much of the success of the CWMA was driven by a group of Directors that went above and beyond to promote the mission and goals of the CWMA.

Rhonda Heguy has truly been a leader in getting things done within the watershed. Her shoes will be impossible to fill and all I can do is continue the momentum she has made

happen. Rhonda has agreed to stay involved as our Administrator and that is truly a great thing for this organization.

I am currently working in the environmental consulting industry for JBR Environmental Consultants Inc., and although I have not been recently involved with the CWMA, I have been keeping up on all the exciting progress being made. I am excited to be involved once again with this group and I hope I can bring some added value to the CWMA. It is often hard for a board made up of volunteers to dedicate the needed time to non-profits like the CWMA and because of this these groups often struggle to get much done. When non-profits lack the funding to hire staff, things often fall

through the cracks. This CWMA is lucky to have received funding in the past to help hire staff, and is even luckier to have capable and dedicated staff like Andi Porreca. As our Coordinator Andi has done a great job keeping the past success of our Directors moving full steam ahead.

The leadership of our past Chairman and our current Coordinator has made this CWMA a success. Programs, projects and funding are all in place and even bigger success is just around the corner. But we cannot do it without the buy in and involvement of everyone within our CWMA. So it is now all of our turns to step up and help, in any way we can, to ensure the leadership of our past Directors will turn into success for the future.

Projects in the Works...

The HWCWMA is very excited to be taking on new partners for treatment and support projects in 2014! By combining forces we will be working more effectively to control these destructive weeds. The threat is, if ignored, these noxious weeds have the potential to "move in and take over". The opportunity is now - if we work together there is a strong chance that we can keep them at acceptable population levels, minimizing the economic and environmental losses. HWCWMA's goal is to control and contain the populations, even if we can't completely eradicate them.

West Idaho Street / I-80 Frontage Road Right-of-Way
One such project on tap is coordinating with the City of Elko, Union Pacific Railroad and the Nevada Department of Transportation with a right of way treatment project along the I-80 frontage road from exit 298 eastward to the Mountain City Highway intersection. This stretch of road is highly infested with perennial pepperweed, hoary cress and a number of other invasive weed species. This treatment project will take at least two years of herbicide applications, followed by several years of monitoring to avoid a re-infestation.

New Cost Share Program

Another new project is a 50/50 cost share program that will enable stakeholders with smaller projects to apply herbicide treatments at substantially lower costs. With minimal paperwork requirements, watershed landowners/managers will purchase and apply their needed herbicide; then notify HWCWMA staff to arrange a site visit; we will collect copies of your receipts, gather some site and application method information from you, and map your project. You will then be reimbursed up to \$250 towards your treatment costs. Treatment costs can also include your time spent on the project.

Watch for an announcement of the details on our website soon.

Union Pacific Railroad

The Union Pacific Railroad corridors are a project that HWCWMA has been striving toward initiating for several years, we have been building cognizance of noxious weed issues with UP staff. In the near future,, with UP's assistance, the HWCWMA will be using GPS mapping to create an inventory of noxious weeds along the UP right-of-ways from Wells to Lovelock. Once this information is compiled, we have a better chance of drafting an effective management plan for the treatment of the weeds along UP's corridors, ultimately reducing the spread within our watershed.



The Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS) is a Web-based mapping system for documenting invasive species distribution. The majority of invasive species reporting in the United States occurs through or in cooperation with EDDMapS.

Launched in 2005 by the Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health at the University of Georgia, the system was designed as a tool for state exotic pest plant councils to use to develop more complete data of distribution of invasives.

The goal is that use of ED-

DMapS will maximize the effectiveness and accessibility of the immense number of invasive species observations recorded each year.

EDDMapS participants use a simple, interactive Web interface to submit their observations or view results through interactive queries of the EDDMapS database. EDDMapS provides Internet tools that participants can use to maintain

their personal records and to visualize data with interactive maps.

Participants complete the online data-entry form by entering specific information about their observations of an infestation and uploading images. Information participants provide on the online form immediately loads to the Web site, allowing for real-time tracking of species. Being able to see the current

data for a species as the species moves into a new area helps people involved in Early Detection and Rapid Response programs.

Thanks to tremendous interest throughout the West, and support from the Nevada Department of Agriculture, the system quickly expanded to include many western states including Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington in 2011.

Visit the website, www.eddmaps.org, to learn more about this app and how you might use it to make a difference in our watershed.

Understanding Herbicides

Over the years, we have heard Dr. George Beck, Professor of Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management at Colorado State University, refer to weed control as both a science and an art. The art of choosing an appropriate surfactant to maximize the performance of an herbicide. Listed below are the major factors that affect the performance of an herbicide:

- Herbicide mode of action
- Type of plant (annual, biennial, or perennial)
- Soil (pH, composition)
- Water (pH)
- The application (timing, applicator error)
- Temperature
- Surfactants
- Sunlight

An understanding of how herbicides kill weeds (herbicide mode of action) is useful in selecting and applying the proper herbicide for a given weed control problem and for management of weed resistance to herbicides. Herbicide mode of action information also is useful in diagnoses of injury from herbicides.

Although a large number of herbicides are available in the market-

place, they can be divided into groups with similar chemical and phytotoxic properties. Herbicides with a common chemistry have been conveniently organized into "families." In addition, two or more herbicide families may have the same mode of phytotoxic action and ultimately express the same injury symptoms.

The following characteristics of widely used herbicide families grouped by mode of action are:

- growth regulation
- amino acid synthesis inhibition
- lipid synthesis inhibition
- seedling growth inhibition
- photosynthesis inhibition
- cell membrane disruption
- pigment inhibition

Your experience and instinct may tempt you to "flick a wrist" towards a pesky weed using any of these herbicides, but remember

what they are designed to eliminate. Herbicides only perform. They do not think.

The majority of herbicides used in rangeland pest control are selective in nature, formulated to eliminate broadleaf weeds, but not harmful to beneficial grasses. That doesn't mean they can't do major harm, or cause death to desirable vegetation such as trees and shrubs. On the contrary, if drip lines of trees and shrubs are not recognized, and respected, these herbicides have no conscience whatsoever. The same thing applies to many herbicides used in industrial and right-of-way site locations, particularly bareground sites. Within labeled rates, the expectation from most of the herbicides used is for no vegetation to be present for an entire growing season. Herbicides have no conscience, by design, so be careful!

"In the United States, pesticide sales were approximately \$12.5 billion at the user level, which accounted for 32% of the nearly \$40 billion world market in 2007."

Source: www.epa.gov

A Shout Out to Our Corporate Partners

We appreciate Newmont and Barrick for their diligence in creating plans that include provisions for re-establishing habitat throughout disturbed areas within the Humboldt River Watershed. Their mitigation plans include minimizing their footprint by mitigating impacts and leaving behind land that will support productive uses for future generations. Both Newmont and Barrick manage and improve habitats on or near their operations by enhancing vegetation along streambanks, minimizing introduced pest species, enhancing bird habitat and engaging in stream and wetland remediation. Not only are these corporations taking steps to mitigate surface damage that naturally occurs with mining, they are also financial supporters of HWCWMA's efforts! Only with the support and cooperation of the many diverse interests involved, will we ever be able to stop the spread of invasive weeds in our watershed.

Weeds to Watch: Mayweed Chamomile

The Nevada Department of Agriculture announced that it will not act on a regulation that sought to reduce restrictions in Nevada on Mayweed chamomile, a noxious weed.

Nevada was approached by the Pacific Northwest Seed Growers Association to remove Mayweed chamomile from Nevada's prohibited seed list. The Department held a workshop in May to hear the pros and cons of the issue.

Seed growers from the Northwest were in support of removing the weed from Nevada's prohibited seed list, but land managers in the state expressed opposition.

Mayweed Chamomile is native to the Mediterranean, but now

is widespread throughout the Pacific northwest, California and Nevada, especially where irrigated agriculture has occurred.

Herbarium records indicate that Mayweed Chamomile is found in several counties in the State; specifically in Carson City, Lyon, Storey, Douglas and Humboldt Counties.

Leaves: Alternate, finely dissected, approximately 3/4 to 1 1/2 inches long and 1 inch wide. Leaves emit an unpleasant odor and may have some short hairs.

Stems: Erect, branching, usually without hairs.

Roots: Taproot and fibrous root system.

Flowers: Occur in solitary heads at the ends of branch-

es. Flowers are approximately 2/3 to 1 1/3 inches in diameter and are white (ray flowers) with yellow centers (disk flowers). White ray flowers have 3 distinct teeth.

Contact with mayweed chamomile can cause skin rashes to humans. Livestock that graze mayweed chamomile can develop blistered noses and mouths, and irritated mucous membranes. It also imparts a strong off-flavor to the milk of dairy animals if they graze it or eat it in hay. Mayweed chamomile is competitive, allelopathic (slows or stops growth of other plants), requires control in cropping systems, and may contaminate seed crops, requiring costly seed cleaning. It is a particular problem in cereal crops and grasses grown for seed.



Planting Native Species

This year, know what you sow. When choosing plants, look beyond their appealing colors and suitable light requirements to determine if they are also native to your home region. Not only does this help curb the spread of invasive species, but it saves big money on your water bill.

Plants native to Nevada are, naturally, at home with the temperature patterns and precipita-

tion in our climate. Therefore, they are quite hardy and don't require extra watering and care like non-native species. Which also means that you can avoid excessive mowing and use of fertilizers.

Regardless of the size of your land, you might also consider creating or maintaining a prairie—in addition to planting a native flower bed. Did you know that native prairie grasses

help minimize the effects of drought damage to your area? They retain considerable amounts of water, and even store more carbon per acre than other types of ecosystems.

Below is a brief list of native plants to consider cultivating on your land. For more details and illustrations, visit the National Resources Conservation Service "Nevada Native Plant Guide" at www.nrcs.usda.gov.

- * **Indian ricegrass**
Achnatherum hymenoides
- * **Silverleaf lupine**
Lupinus argenteus
- * **Siberian wheatgrass**
Agropyron fragile ssp. *sibericum*
- * **Sandberg bluegrass**
Poa secunda
- * **Four-wing saltbrush**
Artriplex canescens

To help curb the spread of noxious weeds:

- ◆ Find out what the most troublesome invasive species are in your local area, avoid spreading them, and try to control them if you have them on your property.
- ◆ The seeds of invasive plants can easily get transported in mud and dirt. Always remember to clean the dirt out of your hiking boots or off of your vehicle before you leave an area.
- ◆ Try to avoid disturbing natural areas whenever possible. Disturbing natural areas can increase their susceptibility to invasion by exotic species.
- ◆ Spread the word to friends, neighbors, and local nurseries about the value of native plants.



HWCWMA History and Mission: The Humboldt Watershed CWMA was formed to address the invasive weed problem and subsequent decline in water quality within the Humboldt Watershed. The primary function of HWCWMA has been to provide land managers, owners and weed control groups assistance in the areas of funding, education, equipment sharing, technical expertise, technology transfer, mapping, agency coordination and cooperation. Funding for noxious weeds eradication projects enables HWCWMA to carry on the many activities that have been making such a positive impact throughout the watershed.

What You Can Do to Help! If you do have known noxious weeds on your property that you'd like assistance with, please visit our website, www.humboldtweedfree.org, for information on weeds in the Humboldt Watershed. Our website has links to state listed noxious weeds in Nevada, our Board of Director's information, funding partner's links, and many more features including a downloadable project proposal packet that you can complete and email to us or print, complete and mail to us at your convenience. We would like to expand our project area to include more of the tributaries to the Humboldt River and always welcome new funding opportunities and partnerships.

As always, please notify the HWCWMA if you see noxious weeds growing within the Humboldt River watershed. Our staff can provide the property owner or appropriate public agency with site-specific advice on how best to remove it. We have an opportunity to stop it from spreading if we act quickly. Mapping all known locations of regulated noxious weeds helps us and others locate new infestations in time to control them.

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The Annual Elko County Weed Extravaganza will be held at the California Trail Center on April 29, 30 and May 1, 2014. Please contact Kent McAdoo, UNR Cooperative Extension at 775-738-7291, email: mcadook@unce.unr.edu or visit our website, www.humboldtweedfree.org, for more details.

Volunteer Work-Day

The Humboldt Watershed CWMA has teamed up with Nevada Department of Wildlife to sponsor a volunteer work day at the Anchor-S Ranch, 5 miles east of Elko. This work day will target invasive species that occur along the streambanks of the Humboldt River. The workday will be held this Spring on Saturday, June 7th at 8:00 am. The planned workday will include planting willows in an attempt to establish root mass that will be essential to securing critical points along

the river banks to compete with noxious weeds, improve water quality by reducing erosion, and to protect diversion structures from washing out in high flow events. Controlling perennial pepperweed and other invasive species, the very root of the erosion problem, will be key to continued recovery at the project site. If you are interested in getting involved or participating on this workday, please contact HWCWMA or NDOW at 775-777-2300.



Our projects would not be possible without funding from our amazing partners:

