

## HWCWMA HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER 2021

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Humboldt Watershed Weed Warriors,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Humboldt Watershed Cooperative Weed Management Area, the area of Nevada we call home, thank you for another year of accomplishments and it is all because of the partnerships that make our 501(c)3 non-profit corporation successful. This Winter newsletter is going to highlight the partnerships we have with you, whether you are a landowner or employed by a city, county, State or Federal entity. We ultimately are all working towards the same result, which is the management of weeds, particularly newly discovered weed infestations and species. It is always exciting setting up demonstration plots using the latest herbicides and continuing our inventories, getting the weeds verified and mapped. None of this happens without a feedback loop and partnerships are vital in the process - we encourage you all to continue to coordinate with our enthusiastic group.

This past year has been quite rewarding for me, the Humboldt Watershed CWMA Chairman. It is always thrilling to see our accomplishments, to review the corporation's financials, and to be part of the on-going field work that is mentioned within this newsletter.

Sometime between January and March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, we will be holding our annual meeting by either telephone or videoconference. Although we will most likely not be meeting in person, I am hoping that we get a good turnout because this is the meeting where we nominate new board members to fill vacant positions.

I would also like to express my gratitude by thanking our dedicated staff for being able to keep projects moving forward through all of the hardships that were presented to most of us over the last two years. We were able to treat a huge amount of weeds this year through our assistance agreements, and thousands of residents and landowners were reached from our public education efforts.

As always, if you have anything that you would like to discuss, give me a call at (775) 461-6569. I feel we need to educate our legislators on state needs for funding long-term weed control projects. I foresee future federal and state dollars funding watershed scale projects where weed treatments will be a critical component for preventing soil erosion and promoting water conservation. Legislative funding for rehabilitation projects for organizations such as ours will be important for restoring wildlife and riparian habitat within the Watershed.

As head of the HWCWMA, I sincerely thank all of you for your interest in our productive organization. Until our paths cross in the new year, I'm hoping that you stay healthy - we will be out in the field treating noxious weeds before we know it.

Best wishes,

Gerry Miller

# 2021 Accomplishments

This year has certainly been another year to remember. Despite the numerous setbacks, the HWCWMA was able to move forward with projects and put funding on the ground through our on-going partnerships with the BLM, NDOW, NDF, NDA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Gold Mines, Spring Creek Association, the South Fork Band as well as many landowner agreements.



Through our 2021 partnerships, the HWCWMA was able to accomplish:

- On-going assistance agreements with: BLM, NDOW, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Spring Creek Association and Nevada Gold Mines
- Aerial and Broadcast Treatments: 3,500 acres
- Monitoring and Inventory: 1,500 acres of medusahead and ventenata
- Gravel Pit Inspection: 5 locations within the Elko BLM District
- Education Outreach Events:
  - noxious weeds flyers for Spring Creek Association and South Fork Tribe residents
  - medusahead, Dyer's woad and yellow starthistle digital and vinyl billboards displayed at four locations within the Elko BLM District
- Data collection and tracking in a GIS-based system
- Weed data verified and collected by staff as well as project contractors
- IFA Herbicide cost-share program for landowners through a partnership with NGM



*A huge thank you to all of our supporters - we wouldn't be able to do the work that we do without your help!*

# Weeds to Watch: Jointed Goatgrass

Jointed goatgrass (*Aegilops cylindrica*) has shown itself to be highly invasive and is a State listed noxious weed in Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, California, New Mexico, Washington, Idaho and Oregon. Although it is not yet widely distributed across our State, it has the potential to spread quickly and with a vengeance. This plant competes with crops for water and nutrients, thus reducing the quality and yield of wheat and other crops. It is difficult to control in wheat because jointed goatgrass and wheat are genetically related; the two species have similar growth habits and are known to cross-pollinate with each other. It is difficult to distinguish from wheat until spikes appear.

Jointed goatgrass is a native of southern Europe and western Asia. It grows best in cultivated fields, but it apparently can also invade grasslands. This grass is considered a nuisance in landscapes, gardens and fields. It can outcompete more desirable species reducing native plant diversity and important wildlife and pollinator habitat. Jointed goatgrass is a winter annual grass, vegetatively similar to wheat in the seed stage. The flower spike is cylindrical and distinct from wheat. The spikelets are jointed in appearance and each joint contains one to three seeds. The glumes on the top spikelet have long awns. The seed of jointed goatgrass ripens before winter wheat and shatters easily, they can also remain viable for up to five years. Mature plants are generally 15-30 inches tall with one to many tillers.

## Control and Management

**Mowing.** Mow between the flowering and seed formation stages. If done too early, new tillers will form and produce viable seeds. Rough ground and the presence of prostrate jointed goatgrass plants may limit mowing effectiveness.

**Biological.** Although selective biological control of annual bromes and jointed goatgrass has looked promising in the laboratory, little success has been observed in the field.

**Chemical.** Apply glyphosate post-emergence in late winter or early spring before flowering to actively growing plants; apply imazapic, sulfometuron or sulfometuron+chlorsulfuron pre-emergence in the fall or post-emergence in early spring to young plants after soil thaws.

As always, please notify the HWCWMA if you see jointed goatgrass growing within the Humboldt River Watershed. We have an opportunity to stop invasive species from spreading if we act quickly and our staff can provide the property owner or appropriate public agency with site-specific treatment options for these plants. The HWCWMA also maps and monitors heavily infested sites in the watershed which allows the HWCWMA the ability to provide educational and financial assistance to land owners and groups in their management efforts, ultimately improving all of the qualities of the land and water in our watershed.



# Humboldt Watershed CWMA's Mission

The HWCWMA was developed to address the invasive weed problem and subsequent decline in water quality within the entire 16,843 square mile watershed, which covers most of Northern Nevada. The primary function of HWCWMA has been to provide land managers, owners and weed control groups assistance in the areas of funding, agency and weed group coordination and cooperation.

We have an opportunity to stop potentially invasive species from spreading if we act quickly and our staff can provide the property owner or appropriate public agency with site-specific treatment options for these plants. The HWCWMA also maps and monitors heavily infested sites in the watershed which allows the HWCWMA the ability to provide educational and financial assistance to land owners and groups in their management efforts, ultimately improving all of the qualities of the land and water in our watershed.

The HWCWMA has also developed a website to serve as a clearinghouse for information on invasive weeds in the Humboldt Watershed. Our website ([humboldtweedfree.org](http://humboldtweedfree.org)) contains fact sheets for state listed noxious weeds in Nevada, Board of Director's information, funding partner's links, and many more features including a detailed project proposal packet that you can print, fill out and mail back to us at your convenience. We are looking to expand our project area outside of the Humboldt River and always welcome new funding opportunities.

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