



Humboldt Watershed Cooperative Weed Management Area

Providing land managers, owners and local weed control groups assistance through funding, agency and weed group coordination, communication and cooperation.

HWCWMA | Issue 1

January 2013

CALL FOR PROJECTS!

Want to partner with the HWCWMA in 2013? Let us know!

The Humboldt Watershed CWMA hosts events and projects throughout the year to promote invasive species awareness and management. Our activities include presentations in local schools, and hands on control work with

receives more and more requests to assist with local projects, which suggests that more people are concerned about invasive species. That's great news!



community volunteers.

HWCWMA typically provides technical expertise, tools equipment, refreshments, and/or educational materials, while our partners provide additional resources such as volunteers. Each year, the HWCWMA

However, with so much interest, we need to prioritize and plan ahead to ensure we have enough resources when they are needed, and that they are put to use where they will have the most impact.

Our Project Proposal form can be downloaded from our website or obtained from a member of the HWCWMA.

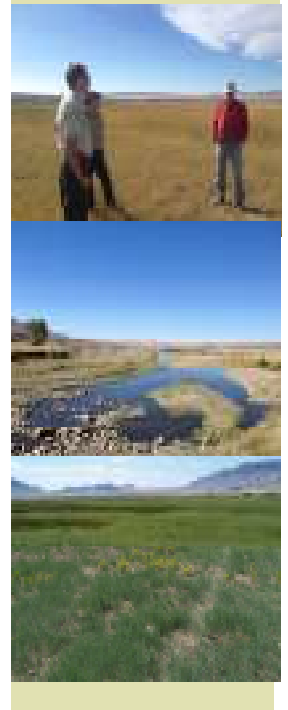
The form is user-friendly (only two pages with basic questions) and gives us the information we need to plan ahead. It also helps us document the growing interest in invasive species, which we can use to obtain future funding.

Project proposals will be reviewed at monthly HWCWMA meetings. Please be sure to submit a form as soon as possible so we can include your project or event in our schedule.

For more information, email aporreca@humboldtweedfree.org. Thank you in advance for your time and interest; we look forward to another year of great events we look forward to another great year with our partners!

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Humboldt Watershed

Letter from President Rhonda Heguy



Welcome Friends and Neighbors! My message for the first HWCWMA newsletter is “For weed control efforts to be most effective, everyone must get involved!” That’s not to say that your best management efforts will not improve your situation even if your neighbor is not managing his weeds. But if everyone was working diligently on the noxious weed problem – our efforts would be rewarded many times over. I challenge everyone to

convince just one other stakeholder of the importance of noxious weed management. And help us spread the work that HWCWMA is here to help!

Nevada Revised Statutes places the responsibility for noxious weed control on the property owner or occupier, meaning we are all responsible for controlling the spread of these damaging weeds! Everyone – landowners, city, county, state, and

federal agencies that own or manage land - has a stake in the future of our landscape. Let’s all work together to insure that future generations inherit land that has retained the values that we have all enjoyed, from agriculture production and abundant wildlife habitat, to healthy water quality. We can join forces to prevent these noxious weed infestations from spreading any further.

EFFECTS OF NOXIOUS WEEDS INCLUDE LAND EROSION, HIGH RISK OF WILD FIRES, REDUCE OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND DESTROY NATIVE PLANT AND ANIMAL HABITAT.

Elko Frisbee Golf Course

After several months of planning and designing three different courses, the Elko City Council approved an 18-hole course at Humboldt Area River Park.

The narrow corridor, sandwiched between the Humboldt River and the HARP Trail used by walkers, bikers and runners, is an ideal spot for the game. It’s remote enough that Frisbee throwers won’t have to compete for space. They have a water

hazard to one side, and they also have plenty of trees providing natural obstacles.

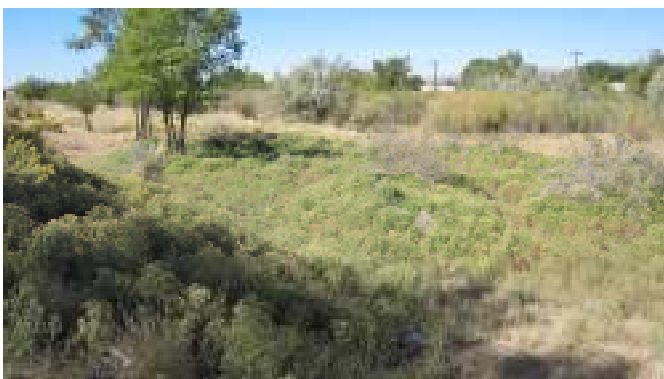
Some of these trees and natural obstacles include some invasive weed species. Noxious weeds are often highly destructive and extremely competitive with native flora, making them very difficult to control. The impact of noxious weeds can be quite extensive. Noxious weeds can out grow and dominate the desired flora, poison pets, and decrease the value of land. Other effects of noxious weeds include land erosion, high risk of wild fires, reduce outdoor recreational activities (e.g. hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain biking), and destroy native plant and animal habitat.

The HWCWMA is partnering with the City of Elko to assist with the removal of several noxious weeds species along the Humboldt River and within the River Park corridor.

Some of these weedy species include perennial pepperweed, Russian knapweed, hoary cress, musk thistle and Scotch thistle.

In the Spring of 2013, Nevada Division of Forestry crews will cut and spray tamarisk as well as mow perennial pepperweed and Russian knapweed thatch. Once all old noxious weed growth is removed, City of Elko employees will come in and apply herbicide to new growth of noxious weed species. If needed, herbicides will be applied again in the Fall. Following herbicide application, the previously cleared areas will be revegetated with a mixture of native grass species that will out compete noxious weeds and bring the area back to a normal and healthy functioning ecosystem.

These processes will most likely need to be repeated as well as monitored over the next couple of years, but it will be worth it to frisbee golfers to not have to wade through a sea of noxious weeds. Instead, they will be able to maneuver through a new, more appealing habitat of grasses and native plant species.



Monoculture of Russian knapweed along the Humboldt River.

Invasive Species to Tackle in the Spring

Perennial pepperweed and Russian knapweed are invasive species that can form dense growths, out-competing native plants. Both are easy to identify in the spring and it is a great time to focus your control efforts on these species.

Perennial Pepperweed

Perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*), often called tall whitetop is one of the most troublesome noxious weeds in Nevada. It grows in all 17 counties, and despite efforts to control it, populations continue to expand.

A native of southeastern Europe and Southwestern Asia, it may have come into the United States as a contaminant in sugar beet seeds in 1900.

A member of the mustard family (Brassicaceae), perennial pepperweed commonly grows 2 to 4 feet tall, but may reach 8 feet in wet or shady areas. Roots are large, coarse and brittle. These creeping underground roots grow 3 to 10 or more feet long, and send up shoots to form new plants. Stems are somewhat woody, waxy and smooth. Multiple stems can grow from the root crown. Leaves are alternate, lance-

shaped to ovate, green to grayish green, smooth and waxy. The leaf margins can be smooth or toothed, and the edges are sometimes curled. The leaves at the base of the plant are 4 to 11 inches long and have stalks. Leaves decrease in size toward the top of the plant. Flowers are small, white and have four petals and six stamens. The flowers are arranged in 6 to 8 tight ball-like clusters at the ends of the stems in racemes. Seeds are produced in small hairy pods. The seeds are tiny and reddish-brown in color. Perennial pepperweed is a prolific seed-producer.

Perennial pepperweed first infests moist or wet sites along streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands. It grows in riparian areas throughout the western United States and in several midwestern and eastern states. Perennial pepperweed tolerates salty soil and adapts well to many sites under adverse conditions.



Perennial pepperweed in flower stage.

“IN DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEVADA THE COST OF TREATING 75 ACRES OF TALL WHITETOP WAS \$12,647 IN THE YEAR IT WAS DETECTED. TEN YEARS LATER TREATMENT COSTS HAD RISEN TO \$174,350.”



Russian knapweed flower.

Russian Knapweed

Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*) is a creeping perennial weed native to Eurasia. This species has properties making it a difficult weed to control: it spreads by underground roots that may go to a depth of 8 feet or more and it puts out a chemical that inhibits other species from growing near it (allelopathy). It grows in pastures, rangeland, roadsides, waste areas, and on neglected agricultural land. Russian knapweed is toxic to some animals and must be handled carefully.

Russian knapweed shoots are erect, branched and are typically 1 to 3 feet tall when mature. Leaves on the lower portion of the stem are 2 to 4 inches long and deeply lobed, while upper leaves are smaller and less lobed with smooth margins. Dense grey hairs cover the surface of both

shoots and leaves. Flower heads occur on shoot tips, and are urn-shaped, generally 1/4 to 1/2 inch in diameter with smooth papery bracts. Flower color can range from pink to lavender or white. Russian knapweed roots grow vertically and horizontally in the soil and have a brown to black scaly appearance, especially near the soil surface. These black roots can be used to distinguish Russian knapweed from other closely related highly invasive knapweeds.

Russian knapweed can take several years to control because of its extensive underground root system. Keys to controlling RKW include stressing the plant to deplete the stored energy in the roots, preventing new seed production, controlling plant spread via root pieces or root bud growth, and establishing and maintaining competing vegetation. No single control method works. An assortment of strategies must be used.



Dense infestation of the noxious weed.



Humboldt Watershed CWMA

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HWCWMA Mission Statement:

The Humboldt Watershed Cooperative Weed Management Area is dedicated to the management and control of noxious and invasive weeds within the Humboldt Watershed.

The primary function of the HWCWMA is to provide land managers, owners and local weed control groups with assistance in the areas of funding, agency and weed group coordination and general cooperation and communication.

We're on the web!

www.humboldtweedfree.org



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Partner Perspective

Managing invasive species is one part in a large movement to conserve native ecosystems. Which is why this CWMA is made up of diverse partners that offer insight into a number of environmental factors.

CWMAs allow partners to cross boundaries; invasive plant management can be carried out along ecological, rather than political, boundaries. They allow partners to share and leverage limited resources (volunteers, tools, herbicides, mailing and printing costs, media contacts, etc.) to the benefit of all. They are highly visible, building community awareness and participation as well as focusing attention and presenting a united effort to state and federal legislators. They can also reduce the risk of control efforts to water, crops,

threatened and endangered (T&E) species, and other resources by assuring that all partners are using best management practices. CWMAs can provide an early detection and rapid response network by ensuring that all the partners are aware of and are able to identify new invaders and have a response mechanism. Finally, CWMAs help partners secure funding.

Thanks to our funding partners, the HWCWMA has been able to assist local land-owners control and monitor noxious weeds on their properties. With assistance from our partners, the HWCWMA has been allowed to make significant strides in preventing plant invasions and protecting native plant biodiversity on a scale that no individual organization could achieve alone. Our wonderful sponsors include:

Nevada Department of Environmental Protection



U.S. Forest Service



Nevada Division of Wildlife



Nevada Department of Agriculture



Barrick Gold Corporation

