Hello from the Humboldt Watershed CWMA! 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.

This month we would like to introduce you to one of Nevada’s state listed noxious weeds, rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*). A native to Eurasia, rush skeletonweed currently infests several millions of acres of rangeland, cropland, rights of way and waste areas in the United States. Competing for water and nitrogen, it can severely reduce crop yield and forage for livestock and wildlife, and its wiry branches interfere with harvest.

Rush skeletonweed is a perennial with many branched, wiry stems that range from 1 to 4 feet tall. The rosette leaves resemble common dandelion and are hairless with deep, irregular teeth that point back toward the leaf base; they wither by flowering time. The plant has milky juice; coarse, reddish downward-pointing hairs at the base of the single flowering stem; and small yellow flowers and plumed seeds that ride the wind. It thrives in well-drained sandy or gravelly soils and has invaded extensive areas of shallow silt loam soils in other areas as well. In addition to deep (8+ feet) taproots, it has lateral roots that produce daughter rosettes. Plants also grow from buds on root fragments cut by cultivation or other equipment

As always, please notify the HWCWMA if you see rush skeletonweed growing within the Humboldt River Watershed - it is not currently established in this region. We have an opportunity to stop this highly invasive species from spreading if we act quickly. Our [staff](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/program-information/who-we-are.aspx) 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 (http://www.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.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Andi Porreca, HWCWMA Coordinator at (775) 762-2636 or email her at [aporreca@humboldtweedfree.org](mailto:aporreca@humboldtweedfree.org). You may also speak with Rhonda Heguy, HWCWMA Administrator at (775) 738-3085, email: [hwcwma@gmail.com](mailto:hwcwma@gmail.com).