

President's Message

SEASON'S GREETINGS!

This has been a year for taking chances and stepping out of my comfort zone. Fortunately, I've had the opportunity to be involved in some old tried and true herbicide treatments for controlling annual grasses and also with trying some new chemicals which I hope will be effective long term. Our efforts have demonstrated that on-going weed control has nearly eliminated Scotch thistle and various other broadleaved biennials, such as tall white-top and poison hemlock. However, one of the difficulties of weed control is in maintaining the near eradication of weeds with follow-up treatments.

Looking ahead, we will be holding our annual meeting on Tuesday, January 21 in Battle Mountain at the Cooperative Extension office at 4:00 PM. I'll be in Battle Mountain that evening and will take anybody who is attending the meeting out to dinner afterwards.

Keeping up-to-date with all of the changes and current research is important and there are many opportunities throughout the year. The first opportunity is the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition's 15th Annual Winter Weed Conference being held in Ely on January 8th and concluding at noon on the 9th. Once again, it has a great agenda.

The next opportunity for workshop education is at the 2020 Weed Extravaganza - this will be the fifteenth annual workshop that has been held in Elko. We are still working on the agenda and speakers and will most likely be held the last week of April or first week in May.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of this interesting non-profit corporation, we wish to THANK YOU our partners and supporters for your loyal commitment to educating your neighbors and waging the war on noxious weeds within the Humboldt River Watershed.

Humboldt Watershed CWMA

Winter 2019/2020

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2019 PROJECT OVERVIEW

Over the last several years, the Humboldt Watershed Cooperative Weed Management Area (HWCWMA) has been successful at obtaining grant funding from numerous sources to implement a number of noxious weed eradication projects throughout the Humboldt River Watershed. Our grant partners and funding sources include: Barrick Gold, Newmont, Nevada Division of Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Department of Agriculture, National Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and the Spring Creek Association.

The focus of the majority of our projects is to assist landowners with funding that allows them to hire a contractor to treat their noxious weeds over a period of two or more years. Because it takes more than one season to remove noxious weeds from an area, we encourage landowners to continue to submit proposals to our group to ensure successful noxious weed maintenance projects.

Some of HWCWMA's accomplishments include:

Continued mapping and treatment of over 5,000 acres of both medusahead and ventenata (highly invasive grass species) in northern Elko County, Harrison Pass to Lamoille, Boulder Valley, Humboldt River Ranch, Crescent Valley and Paradise Valley.

Continued mapping and treatment of over 8,000 acres of other State listed noxious weed species for many of Elko's Conservation Districts and local landowners who have submitted proposals to our group. The targeted weeds include: Scotch and Canada thistles, spotted and Russian knapweed, hoary cress, perennial pepperweed, black henbane, tamarisk, leafy spurge and poison hemlock to name a few.

HWCWMA co-hosted the yearly Weed Extravaganza that was held at the Elko Convention Center in May of 2019 and at the California Trail Center in 2018. The attendance for the class increases yearly and we plan to continue the Weed Extravaganza workshops as noxious weeds become the

focus for landowners and agencies across the State.

Creation of two Weed Management Plans, for the Spring Creek Association and the South Fork Tribe. Staff gave presentations to the groups and both Board/Councils voted unanimously to support the HWCWMA's noxious weeds efforts. This support and funding has allowed our group to coordinate with these entities to educate the public about the negative effects of noxious weeds on both private properties and across the landscape.

Assistance with the Nevada Weed Management Association's Biennial meeting which was held at the Nugget in Sparks, October 2019. Attendance was at around 120 participants.

The Humboldt Watershed CWMA would like to thank our partners for their funding assistance and continued support. This funding has allowed the HWCWMA to work with both public and private landowners to implement projects where acres of rangeland and roadsides were treated, inventoried and re-vegetated, information was gathered related to Best Management Practices which helped to determine which control methods have shown to be the most effective, perform on the ground site inspections, and most importantly to rehabilitate treatment areas with native species that outcompete many of Nevada's noxious invasive plants. The above-mentioned noxious weed control projects would not have been possible if it was not for the support of agencies and individuals who are invested in improving the condition of the Humboldt River Watershed and its tributaries.





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HWCWMA Making Things Happen Medusahead Projects in Northern Nevada



Weed Control at South Fork State Park

Written by Gary Reese, NDF Resource Management Officer

Memorial Day 2019 brought some heavy rains at South Fork State Recreation Area, which replenished the soil moisture and made for a very weedy summer. With HWCWMA grant assistance, the Nevada Division of Forestry was able to continue its weed control in the Meadows demonstration area south of the causeway. A very effective control of perennial pepperweed was obtained in 2019, from a 2018 boom spraying of metsulfuron (Escort) at 1.3 ounces/acre, plus MSO. Timing of the spraying targeted late flowering and early seed development, to take advantage of carbohydrate transfer to the roots (i.e., to carry the herbicide to the tap roots). Important take home lessons learned were: 1) addition of 2,4-D at 1.3 quarts per acre did not improve control, 2) the reduced 1.3 oz./ac. rate was ideal for a successful broadcast seeding over the subsequent winter, and 3) Garrison creeping foxtail established itself adventively on the herbicided areas, following May 2019 flooding of up to 6 feet deep waters. Be sure not to apply metsulfuron or chlorsulfuron (Telar) to soils with a pH of 7.9 or higher, lest they become sterile for grass seeding establishment for 30 months.

For musk and Scotch thistle control, late May to mid-June boom and wand spraying of aminopyralid (Milestone) at the maximum annual rate of 7 oz./ac. (plus 2,4-D) failed to fully control bolting beginning about 30 days after application. The new bolting was from rosettes which were hidden under bolted plants which had received the bulk of the herbicide spray. The aforementioned rains were also responsible for these weeds bolting well into the summer. Follow-up spraying in August was done using picloram (Tordon 22K) at the maximum annual rate of 2 quarts/acre.