



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.

NEED HELP WITH NOXIOUS WEEDS?

HWCWMA Progress and Fall Project Tour

HWCWMA's noxious weed control efforts between 2011 and 2013 have been largely successful. We have assisted with or helped fund fourteen weed control projects, for a total of 7,132 acres treated within the Humboldt River Watershed. The majority of these projects focused on noxious weed management using herbicide to control perennial pepperweed, Russian knapweed, tamarisk, hoary cress, musk thistle, Scotch thistle and a couple of other less invasive weed species. In addition to herbicide application three projects incorporated seeding to restore riparian vegetation, and two employed goat grazing on their weed infested areas.

In September HWCWMA conducted a tour of five current projects and one prospective project site. Stakeholders

joined in the tour and gave short presentations of their respective projects, sharing their management methods and giving their assessment of the results.

The first stop of the tour was a ranch just east of Elko. HWCWMA's work there included willow-slippings along a highly eroded portion of the River. The willows were used 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.

The second stop was the frisbee-golf course in Elko. This recreation area is located along the banks of the Humboldt River between 5th Street and Errecart Blvd., and is a component of the city's Humboldt Area River Project. The HWCWMA worked in conjunction with the City of Elko and the Nevada Division of Forestry to remove previously entrenched noxious weeds on the course, and assisted to fund herbicide treatments and re-seeding the area. A total of 74 large garbage-bags of noxious weed thatch were collected and hauled to the dump. Crews also cut, approximately 300 tamarisk plants and treated the stumps with herbicide.

The tour then went on to three nearby ranches where we were able to highlight the positive impact of some HWCWMA funded projects and show our funding partners areas where noxious weeds had previously been outcompeting native plants and weakening watershed conditions, a return to desirable vegetation was leading the recovery process of the habitat.

The HWCWMA would like to thank our funding partners for the past two years of generous funding assistance. These noxious weed-control

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Tour participants view a project site along the Humboldt River.



and water quality improvement projects would not have been possible without the support of like-minded agencies and individuals investing in the improvement of the Humboldt River Watershed and its tributaries.

Letter from Vice-President Ryan Shane

Hello fellow watershed inhabitants. It's great to see another year of progression for the Humboldt Watershed CWMA and their growing of roots throughout our urban and rural communities. Weed infestations are expanding 24% every three years in Elko County, according to scientists, and we all know they don't stop at the fence. Whether we like it or not, we are all connected in many ways, and some challenges on earth are just too large for us to not reach across the fence and team up. Chances are that you either make a living from our environment, consume products made with environmental inputs, have a house within the environment, or depend on the environment for

some form of recreation. If not all four.

Each one of us has a dog in the weed-fight because weeds negatively affect our lifestyles. For instance, weeds are generally not consumed by most herbivores, so they tend to build unnaturally large thatches of dead materials that are easily ignitable and pose a wildfire risk to homes, subdivisions, agricultural lands, and wildlife habitats. Weeds can also negatively impact property values whether you own a ranch or a single family home in town. If you produce meat from forages within the watershed, every area of weed invasion equates to a forage loss on your property, which reduces

the total production capacity of the farm or ranch. The costs of weed treatment or lost forages have the same effect on the bottom line of an agriculture producer, though one of them actually has a negative feedback loop on the dilemma of diminishing returns. Recent estimates are \$25 Billion are lost annually to pasture and cropland weeds in the U.S. Diminishing returns for people that produce agricultural commodities from the landscape increases the price of the end product for consumers, so that beef steak that everyone enjoys just gets that much more expensive. Researchers in Australia have calculated that 20% of the losses are passed onto the consumer. For all the outdoor enthusiasts, habitats in Nevada are transitioning rapidly to the point

that they are almost unrecognizable for humans and wildlife. If you enjoy outdoor recreation, chances are your experiences have been or will be negatively impacted whether its cheatgrass seeds in your socks, the lack of mule deer, fishless waters, or new restrictions from the listing of species under the Endangered Species Act. Researchers estimate that Nevada outdoor recreational economic losses from weeds will range from \$30 and \$40 million in the next 5 years. Weeds have the potential to be detrimental to every person within the Humboldt Watershed, so I encourage each one of you to get involved and help the Humboldt Watershed CWMA make progress on weed management.

“THE COST TO CONTROL INVASIVE SPECIES AND THE DAMAGES THEY INFLICT UPON PROPERTY AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE U.S. IS ESTIMATED AT \$137 BILLION ANNUALLY. “

www.defenders.org/publications/Colorado

Preventing the Spread of Noxious Weeds

Have you ever wondered how weeds spread so far and so fast?

Some of the culprits are wind, water, animals, birds, vehicles and humans.

Many weeds have evolved to aid in their own spread. These “aids” include:

- Small barbs that catch on clothing or fur;
- Large barbs that lodge in hooves, shoes, tires etc.;
- Sticky coated seeds;

- Edible fruits;

Since seeds are often the cause of infestations and are spread by vehicles, machinery, boats, animals, stock feed, contaminated soil and people, they can be brought onto a property unknowingly. Often as cuttings of “pretty” wildflowers or gifts. They can even hitch a ride in the soil of nursery stock!

To avoid spreading or introducing weeds, follow these simple tips:

- After being in a weedy area check shoes, clothing and hats for seeds and clean before leaving the site.
- Check picnic blankets and bottom of baskets for sticky seeds/burrs and clean off before leaving the site.
- Try not to overgraze your pasture. Pasture improvement including correct pH, adequate nutrients, and adding desirable forage species can be beneficial and provide a good defense against the

invasion of weed species.

For Vehicles & Machinery:

- Visually inspect the outside for any obvious weed material, remove by hand and bag for disposal.
- Inspect the tires, tracks, wheel wells and undersides for mud or debris – scrape or wash as needed.
- Vacuum the car regularly and dispose of the collected waste in a sealed bag in the garbage.

Keep a clean boat:

- After boating in any water body – especially in Nevada, Arizona, Utah or any state east of the Rocky Mountains, clean your boat and gear thoroughly.

Be Aware:

- Check the soil of nursery stock before purchasing.
- Read labels on seed packets, wildflower blends can contain seeds of undesirable weeds for your area.



Invasive Species to Tackle in the Fall

Tamarisk is an invasive species that can form dense growths, out-competing native plants. This plant is easy to identify in the fall and it is a great time to focus your control efforts on this species.

Tamarisk is native chiefly to the Mediterranean area and to central Asia. Tamarisk is one of several common names for an invasive non-native tree that is spreading rapidly through the intermountain region of the western United States, throughout the Great Basin, California and Texas. It is also commonly referred to as saltcedar.

The tree has tiny, triangular, scale-like leaves that are winter-deciduous. The flowers are pink to near-white, densely crowded along branched terminal spikes; appearing from January to October. Fruit and seeds are tiny, brown and inconspicuous. Under good conditions, the opportunistic tamarisk can grow 9 to 12 feet in a single season. Under drought conditions, saltcedar survives by dropping its leaves.

Tamarisks are extremely invasive in riparian communities, often nearly completely replacing native vegetation with impenetrable thickets. They are extremely competitive against native vegetation because they are aggressive usurpers of water. They also sequester salt in their

foliage, and where flooding does not flush out soil salts the leaf litter increases the salinity of soil surfaces. Dense stands of tamarisks support lower biodiversity than the natural communities they displace. The tamarisk is degrading the rarest of habitats in the desert - the wetlands. Salt cedar invades springs, ditches and stream banks. The tree has taken over more than 1 million acres of precious Western riparian resources.

The tamarisk has an extremely rapid evapotranspiration rate. There is a fear that this rapid loss of moisture could possibly cause serious depletion of ground water.

Most commonly, patches of Tamarisk are cut close to the ground using chainsaws, the stumps are then treated with the systemic herbicide triclopyr. The herbicide must be applied to the stumps within approximately 15 minutes of cutting. Smaller plants can be controlled by spraying the foliage during periods when the plant is not in dormancy.



Tamarisk in flower stage.

STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT A MATURE TAMARISK TREE CAN UPTAKE NEARLY 200 GALLONS OF WATER A DAY! AS A RESULT THE WEST IS LOSING FROM 2 TO 4.5 MILLION ACRE-FEET OF WATER PER YEAR! THAT'S ENOUGH WATER TO SUPPLY MORE THAN 20 MILLION PEOPLE WITH WATER FOR ONE YEAR OR TO IRRIGATE OVER 1,000,000 ACRES OF LAND.

Local Project: Elko Frisbee Golf Course Update

This spring and summer, HWCWMA worked with the City of Elko and the Nevada Division of Forestry to remove heavily matted noxious weeds at the frisbee golf course along the Humboldt River. Weeds identified included: perennial pepperweed, Russian knapweed, hoary cress, tamarisk, and Scotch and musk thistles. Because of the poor condition of the park and the huge domination of noxious weeds, people who used the park were a huge vector in the spread of these noxious weeds to other areas. NDF crews assisted to remove a manageable infestation of tamarisk as well as mow and weed-whack both the Russian knapweed and perennial pepperweed thatch to reduce biomass. Once the biomass was removed, crews were able to apply herbicide on the new season weed growth. This fall, following mowing, the area will be seeded with native grass species which will help to outcompete undesired invasive plants and make the River Park a more enjoyable place to play frisbee golf for Elko's residents.



Before



After



P.O. Box 570
Elko, NV 89803
Phone:
(775)762-2636

MEETINGS:

**ANNUAL MEETING TO BE
JAN. 28, 2014**

**DIRECTORS & OFFICERS
ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD!**

(Check web for details)
www.humboldtweedfree.org

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Introducing our new Administrator, Candy Rex!

Hello! I live on a ranch in beautiful Starr Valley owned by my daughter and her husband. I have the luxury of spending a lot of time with my four grandchildren. I enjoy my horses and love the sport of cutting and living on the ranch gives me plenty of opportunity to work cows and brush up on my skills. Gardening is another one of my favorite pastimes, even though I find it very challenging at times to be a successful gardener here in Elko County with its ever changing climate. I have a love for the great outdoors and all it has to offer and that is how I became interested in the work that the HWCWMA is doing.

I feel this organization is vital to our areas invasive weed control. These weeds threaten our way of life by invading our ecosystem and replacing native plants. These weeds reduce grazing land, impact wildlife habitat, they can threaten our water ways, and invade our crops. They even invade our own yards if we let them. The HWCWMA has a program in place that will help educate landowners and the local community on effective weed control. The program helps identify ways to prevent the spread of these noxious, and invasive weeds. The HWCWMA partners with cooperators in cost share programs to control existing weed infestations. This program is lending a helping hand to this community in the control of invasive, noxious weeds that are threaten this wonderful land we all call home and



Come Join Us!

Be sure to look at the "Upcoming Events" tab on our website, www.humboldtweedfree.org, in the coming months for the latest listing of upcoming events. For more information on any of these events or to get involved, please contact us!

Two directors seats are up for election at the Annual Meeting to be held on January 28, 2014. Getting involved is the best way to share your knowledge, gain new perspective and make a difference!

The Humboldt Watershed CWMA usually meets at 3:00 pm on the last Monday of every month (check the website for any date or location changes) we meet regularly via GoToMeeting, and in person twice a year at the Nevada Department of Agriculture office in Elko. The public is always welcome to attend, or just drop us a line to discuss an invasive species concern or question.

For more information, contact our coordinator, Andi Porreca at:

aporreca@humboldtweedfree.org call: 775-762-2636

or visit us online at: www.humboldtweedfree.org

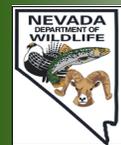
HWCWMA Funding Partners



Nevada Department of Environmental Protection



US Forest Service, Elko County RAC, P.I.L.T. Funds



Nevada Department of Wildlife



Nevada Department of Agriculture



Barrick Gold North America



Union Pacific Railroad

