

## OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** April 15, 2013

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:** 3E

**STAFF:** Ann Bollinger, Natural Resource Specialist *AB*

**REQUEST:** For Discussion and Possible Action: To recommend to the Board of Supervisors a presentation and proclamation for Invasive Species Awareness Week, May 20 – May 26, 2013.

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

Staff and Margie Evans with the Carson City Weed Coalition would like to inform the committee regarding weed updates, funding, and Invasive Species Awareness Week.

One goal of Invasive Species Awareness Week is to educate the community regarding invasive and noxious weeds. Last year Invasive Species Awareness Week was well received and Margie will share a few success stories. Similar outreach methods will be used again this year. A banner across Carson Street will be displayed during May 20-26. May is an ideal month because it correlates with a likely sprouting of our area's noxious weeds. A few other related projects/events occurring this spring include fuels reduction with sheep and Weed Warriors Class. Outreach and education ideas for Invasive Species Awareness Week this year include a proclamation or resolution from the Board of Supervisors, news article(s) in the Nevada Appeal, flyers and posters promoting a weed reporting application for smartphones, and classroom/after-school activities for City students.

The management of invasive and noxious weeds is an essential task for the stewardship of our lands. Open Space lands are at risk of new infestations and reinfestations because of the manner in which weeds get transported. Animals can bring seed from one area to another through their digestive systems or on their coats. Recreationists can inadvertently carry seeds on their clothing, shoes, bicycle tires, and on the tires and undercarriages of recreational vehicles. One focus this year for the Carson City Weed Coalition is to inspect and clean their gear before leaving an area and before entering a new area. In addition, the smartphone application will allow them to report weed sightings and assist in the mapping of noxious weeds around our area.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Move to recommend to the Board of Supervisors a presentation and proclamation for Invasive Species Awareness Week, May 20 – May 26, 2013.

# PROCLAMATION

## Invasive Species Awareness Week May 20 – May 26, 2013

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 555 of the Nevada Revised Statutes provides for the control of insects, pest and noxious weeds; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 8 of the Carson City Municipal Code provides for the Public Peace, Safety, and Morals and requires the control of weeds on any property, premises, or buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, Carson City finds it prudent in partnership with other agencies and organizations, to promote local awareness of the impacts of invasive species, that if not addressed may result in costly public expenditures to protect resources and public health, safety, and welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, Our residents can help prevent the spread of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species by early identification, reporting, and responsible recreation;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Robert L. Crowell, Mayor of Carson City, do hereby proclaim the week of May 20 – May 26, 2013, as “Invasive Species Awareness Week” in Carson City.



Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2013.

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Robert L. Crowell, Mayor

CARSON CITY WEED COALITION  
WORKING TOGETHER

*Signing Cooperators:*

- *Andersen Home Ranch*
- *Bureau of Land Management*
- *City of Carson City*
- *Carson Valley Conservation District*
- *Carson Water Subconservancy District*
- *Eagle Valley Golf Course*
- *Empire Ranch Golf Course*
- *Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch*
- *Nevada Department of Agriculture*
- *Nevada Department of Transportation*
- *Nevada Division of Forestry—Western Region*
- *Nevada Division of State Lands*
- *Nevada Division of State Parks*
- *Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California*
- *University of Nevada Cooperative Extension*
- *USDA Forest Service*
- *Silver State Industries Ranch*

*Additional partners:*

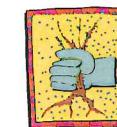
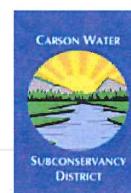
- *River Wranglers*
- *Fritsch, Mark Twain, Empire Elementary Schools*
- *Carson Montessori School*
- *Carson High School Biology on the River*
- *Silver State Charter High School*

## At A Glance

- **22 acres** were mechanically treated for weeds
- **216 acres** received chemical treatment
- **200 acres** were monitored for early detection rapid response
- **984 hours** weed crew treatment time
- **98 hours** Volunteer weed control
- **32 Educational events** held
- **790 adults** and
- **2,116 youth** in face-to-face contact.
- **Dalmatian toadflax** eradicated\*
- **Perennial pepperweed** suppressed\*
- **Hoary cress** controlled\*
- **Russian knapweed** suppressed
- **Scotch thistle** eradicated
- **Musk thistle** eradicated
- **Bull thistle** suppressed
- **Poison hemlock** suppressed
- **Yellow starthistle** suppressed

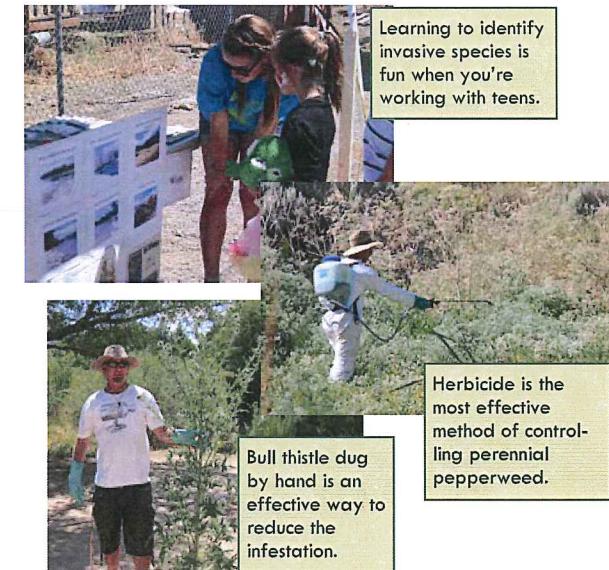
\*For purposes of this report, eradicated means all growing plants. Some seedbank may remain. Suppressed indicates reduced population size; controlled means not allowed to increase.

### Thanks to our Funders!



CARSON CITY WEED  
COALITION

## Getting Things Done 2012



Learning to identify invasive species is fun when you're working with teens.

Herbicide is the most effective method of controlling perennial pepperweed.

Bull thistle dug by hand is an effective way to reduce the infestation.

The Carson City Weed Coalition is a group of private landowners and public agency staff that work together to control and/or eradicate noxious weeds in our city.

Carson City Cooperative Extension

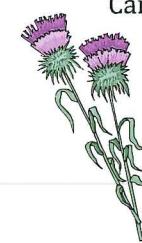
2621 Northgate Lane, Suite 15

Carson City, NV 89706

Phone: 775.887.2252

Fax: 775.887.2065

E-mail: evansm@unce.unr.edu



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At CCWeeds

## OUTREACH

Prevention is the least expensive form of weed control and teaching the public about prevention and identification is essential to that end. We seek to engage Carson City youth and adults in fun learning opportunities with community weed pulls, educational field days around Carson City for area school children and large displays to inform our residents. Through all of this area residents learn to change their actions to lessen weed transfer.

In 2012 we had the pleasure of working with a national group of young people from Students Today Leaders Forever. They removed more than 40 pounds of poison hemlock at Riverview Park.



STLF youth digging hemlock.

Annually the Coalition sponsors a week early in the season devoted to educating the community about invasive weeds. In 2012, we promoted identification and reporting.



Invasive Species Awareness Week brings awareness of invasive plants to



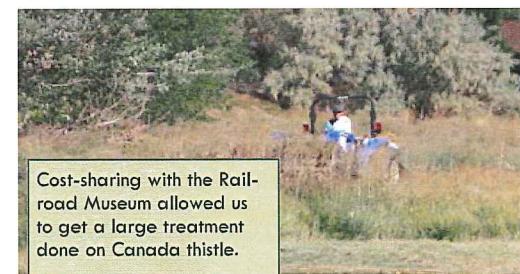
Yellow starthistle pull.

Bouquets of noxious weeds were placed around town in as many venues as possible.

## TREATMENT

Coalition members use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which includes an arsenal of control methods, such as herbicide, mechanical (digging or pulling), biocontrol (plant herbivory to weaken the plants) and cultural (restoring disturbed sites to prevent infestation) treatments.

We dug annual and biennial thistles and poison hemlock. We chemically treated perennial pepperweed, Canada thistle, hoary cress and Russian knapweed. We released stem-boring weevils on another Canada thistle infestation and monitored previous release sites. We actively searched for medusahead, Dalmatian toadflax, and Scotch thistle as well, but found none of those species.



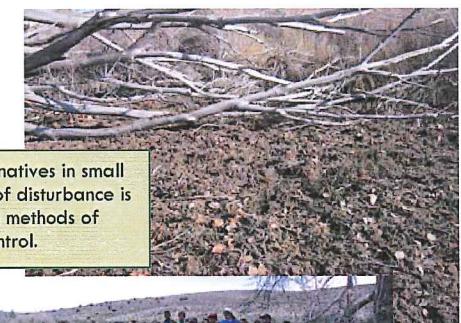
Cost-sharing with the Railroad Museum allowed us to get a large treatment done on Canada thistle.

Treatment costs were covered by a variety of entities, including grants from the Carson Water Subconservancy District, USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry through the Nevada Department of Agriculture, cost-share with private landowners and local entities and labor from Carson City Public Works and Parks and Open Space.

## RESTORATION

Environmental disturbance is the primary reason why infestations get a foothold. Restoring disturbed areas is an important part of the Coalition's weed plan. Students on river-focused field trips get an opportunity to assist in protecting areas from invasion. The Coalition attempts to minimize disturbance and makes plans to revegetate disturbed areas with desirable plants as quickly as feasible.

Disturbance can be caused by natural or human actions; restoring weed treatment sites is crucial to our long-term plan.



Planting natives in small pockets of disturbance is a proven methods of weed control.



CHS Biology classes helped plant bunchgrasses to discourage hoary cress infestations.



Weed-treatment disturbance was revegetated with desirable perennial grasses.



University of Nevada  
Cooperative Extension



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Cooperative Extension

2013 Invasive Weed Training  
**Weed Warriors**  
**Basic Training**



This is an introductory-level training in invasive weeds and common nuisance weeds. The course focuses on the identification of twelve high-priority invasive weeds.

Material covered: Weed law, identification, biology, management, and control of the following species:



**2013 Invasive Weed Training Schedule  
Weed Warriors Basic Training**



**2013 Schedule**

**One class ONLY due to staff layoffs.**

May 20, 1 – 5 p.m. & May 21, 8 a.m. to noon,  
UNCE Reno office

**Dryland, Noxious**

- Knapweed, Diffuse
- Knapweed, Russian
- Knapweed, Spotted
- Leafy Spurge
- Medusahead
- Puncturevine
- Thistle, Musk
- Thistle, Scotch
- Thistle, Yellow Star
- Toadflax, Dalmatian
- Toadflax, Yellow

**Nuisance**

- Cheatgrass
- Common Mallow
- Common Mullein
- Curly Dock
- Curlycup Gumweed
- Dodder
- Field Bindweed
- Hare Barley
- Foxtail Barley
- Kochia (annual)
- Plantain
- Redroot Pigweed

**Riparian, Noxious**

- Canada Thistle
- Eurasian Watermilfoil
- Hemlock, Poison
- Hemlock, Western Water
- Hoary Cress (Whitetop)
- Purple Loosestrife
- Tall Whitetop (Perennial Pepperweed)
- Tamarisk (Saltcedar)

**Act now! This class fills fast and is limited to the first 50 to register!**

**May 20, 1 – 5 p.m. & May 21, 8 a.m. to noon, UNCE, 4955 Energy Way, Reno.**



University of Nevada  
Cooperative Extension

## 2013 Weed Warriors Basic Training

**One class only: May 20, 1 – 5 p.m. &**  
**May 21, 8 a.m. to noon**

**Cost: \$40.00**, fee includes program supplies, a binder of weed identification and control information and refreshments.

**Location:**

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension  
4955 Energy Way, Reno



**Note:** You must attend BOTH days to complete this training and you must preregister using the attached form.

**Registration Information:** Send registrations to Ashley Andrews at University of Nevada Cooperative Extension via mail (4955 Energy Way, Reno, Nevada 89502), fax (775-784-4881) or email ([andrewsa@unce.unr.edu](mailto:andrewsa@unce.unr.edu)). **Registration and payment are due no later than May 1, 2013.**

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Persons in need of special accommodations or assistance must contact Ashley Andrews, [andrewsa@unce.unr.edu](mailto:andrewsa@unce.unr.edu) or 775-784-4848, at least three days prior to the first day of the course.



University of Nevada  
Cooperative Extension

## 2013 Invasive Weed Training **Weed Warriors** Basic Training



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pesticide Applicators:  
7 General CEUs available.  
Bring your card!**



This training is supported by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and the Truckee Meadows Weed Coordinating Group.

**Send registrations to:**

Ashley Andrews  
University of Nevada  
Cooperative Extension  
4955 Energy Way  
Reno, Nevada 89502

Phone: 775-784-4848  
Fax: 775-784-4881  
Email: [andrewsa@unce.unr.edu](mailto:andrewsa@unce.unr.edu)  
Registrations are due no later than May 1, 2013