

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: May 7, 2013

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4B

STAFF: Ann Bollinger, Natural Resource Specialist

REQUEST: Presentation and discussion only regarding Invasive Species Awareness Week, May 20-26, 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 the growth of our area's noxious weeds. A few other related projects/events occurring this spring include fuels reduction with sheep and the Weed Warriors Class (only in Reno, May 20-21). Outreach and education ideas for Invasive Species Awareness Week this year include a proclamation 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. Parks and 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: No action may be taken.

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Reno, Nevada
Permit #26



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension

2013 Invasive Weed Training Weed Warriors Basic Training



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

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:

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.

Cooperative Extension
Washoe County Office
University of Nevada, Reno/0408
Reno, NV 89557-4008



Return Service Requested



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). **Registration and payment are due no later than May 1, 2013.**

The University of Nevada, Reno is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, creed, national origin, veteran status, physical or mental disability, and sexual orientation, in any program or activity it operates. The University of Nevada, Reno employs only United States citizens and aliens lawfully authorized to work in the United States.

Persons in need of special accommodations or assistance must contact Ashley Andrews, 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: _____

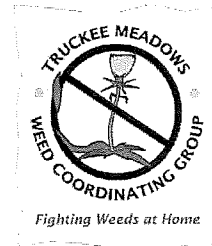
City, State, Zip _____

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
Registrations are due no later than May 1, 2013

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:

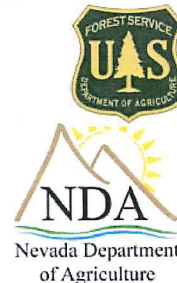
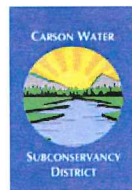
- River Wranglers
- Fritsch, Mark Twain, Empire Elementary Schools
- Carson Montessori School
- Carson High School Biology on the River
- Silver State Charter High School

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



Like us on Facebook
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



STLF youth digging hemlock.

Students Today Leaders Forever. They removed more than 40 pounds of poison hemlock at Riverview Park.

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

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

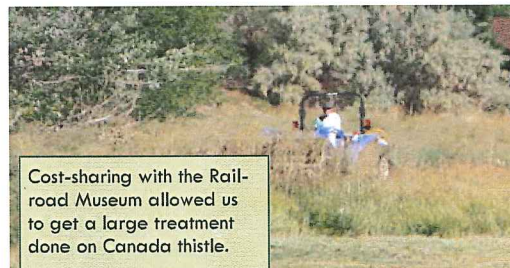


Yellow starthistle pull.

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.



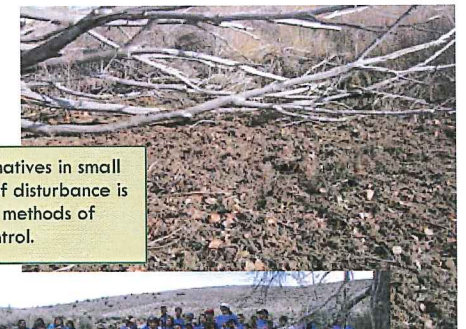
Cost-sharing with the Railroad Museum allowed us to get a large treatment done on Canada thistle.

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 method of weed control.



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



Weed-treatment disturbance was revegetated with desirable perennial grasses.