



STAFF REPORT

Report To: Board of Supervisors

Meeting Date: August 17, 2017

Staff Contact: Daniel H. Anderson, Carson City Weed Coordinator (Daniel H. Anderson, dhanderson@carson.org)

Agenda Title: Presentation from the Carson City Weed Coalition (Daniel H. Anderson, dhanderson@carson.org)

Staff Summary: Led by Carson City, the Carson City Weed Coalition (CCWC) includes representatives from private landowners to various public land management agencies. The overall goal of the CCWC is to provide outreach and education to the public, as well as assistance with weed management efforts throughout the City. The purpose of this presentation is to provide an update to the Board of Supervisors and the public regarding the CCWC and these efforts.

Agenda Action: Other/Presentation

Time Requested: 10 minutes

Proposed Motion

Presentation only. No formal action is needed.

Board's Strategic Goal

Quality of Life

Previous Action

N/A

Background/Issues & Analysis

For many years and until 2014, the Carson City Weed Coalition was led by staff at the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension office in Carson City. At that time, the University System cut the weed program from their statewide list of priorities and budget. In 2015, the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department took responsibility for the program and resurrected the opportunities for Carson City. The program provides residents with expert advice on the control of noxious and invasive weeds, as well as financial assistance when possible. The program has also applied for and been awarded grant funds for the treatment of weeds and restoration of disturbed sites. Throughout the past two years, there has been an increase in community awareness from classroom outreach, media campaigns, workshops, and participation in various events.

Also throughout the past few years and on a statewide-level, there have been several changes to the state law regarding noxious weeds. The primary changes have been regarding enforcement and compliance of weed control.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

NRS 555

CCMC Chapters 3, 8 & 18

Financial Information

Is there a fiscal impact? Yes No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? Yes No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact: N/A

Alternatives

N/A

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____

1) _____

2) _____

Aye/Nay

(Vote Recorded By)

Carson City Weed Coalition



Daniel Anderson
Carson City Weed Coalition
Noxious Weed Coordinator

Who is the Carson City Weed Coalition?

- Representative supporters which include:
 - Private landowners
 - Federal, State, County, and City agencies
 - School districts
 - Non-profit noxious weed organizations
- The Coalition is focused on noxious and invasive weed management



Brief History

- For many years, the Carson City Weed Coalition was led by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
- 2014: The University System cut the weed program from their statewide list of priorities and budget
- 2015: With an annual funding contribution from the Carson Water Subconservancy District, the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department offered to host / house the program

Goals

- City wide coordination plan between every department
- MapeGeo treatment tracker
- Increase funding and budget
- Increase contribution from coalition members
- Build a dedicated weed crew
- Identification, inventory and monitoring infestations



- Treatment of infestations
- Management priorities
- Restoration
- Prevention and exclusion
- Education and awareness
- Increase landowner assistance and participation

Community Awareness

Increase Community Awareness through:

- Invasive Species Awareness Month
 - Classroom outreach
 - Library display, newspaper, radio and social media campaigns
 - Landowner outreach and hands on education
- Weed events: Farm Days, Carson River Work Day, Great Basin Outdoor School, Trout in the Classroom, Weed Warriors, Community Education Class





State Laws

- **NRS 555.150**: Every landowner *shall* control all noxious weeds
- **NRS 555.160**: The Nevada Department of Agriculture may serve notice upon a property owner to control noxious weeds on their property
- **NRS 555.170**: Should the owner fail to comply, the State may notify the board of county commissioners
- **NRS 555.180**: Control costs not paid by the owners will result in a lien upon the property and shall be collected as provided by the law

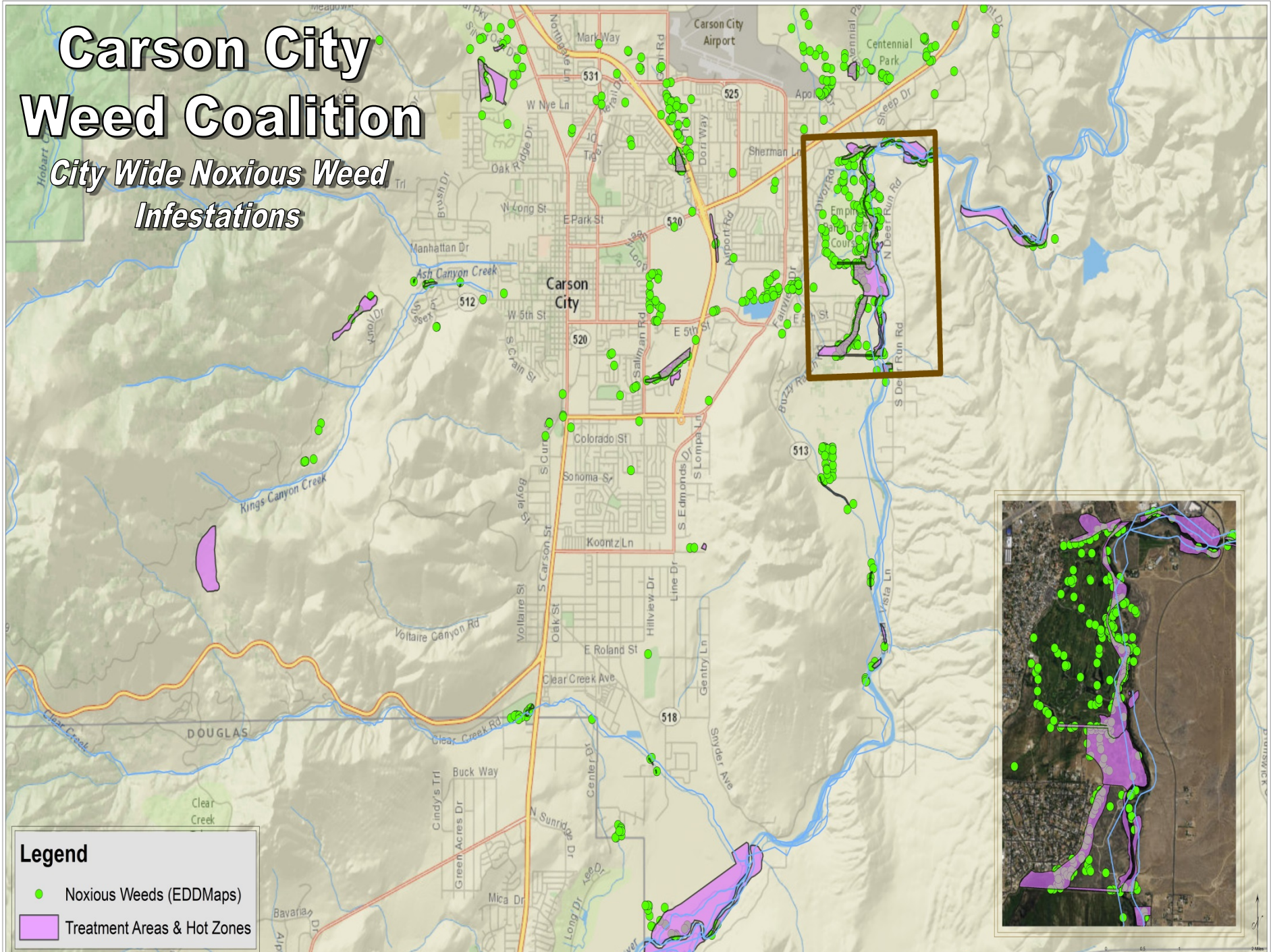


City Ordinances

- **8.08.060 – Property and premises maintenance:** Removal of **weeds**, dry grass, dead trees, or waste materials of any kind
- **11.12.070 – Maintenance of sidewalk area:** Such maintenance includes, but is not limited to, **weed removal**, sidewalk, curb and gutter maintenance, tree care, lawn care, and snow removal
- **18.09.120 – Fire protection standards:** properties must be kept free of **weeds**, litter, rubbish and other flammable materials

Carson City Weed Coalition

City Wide Noxious Weed Infestations



The Constant Battle

(Perennial pepperweed, Hoary cress, Poison hemlock, Musk thistle, & Canada thistle)

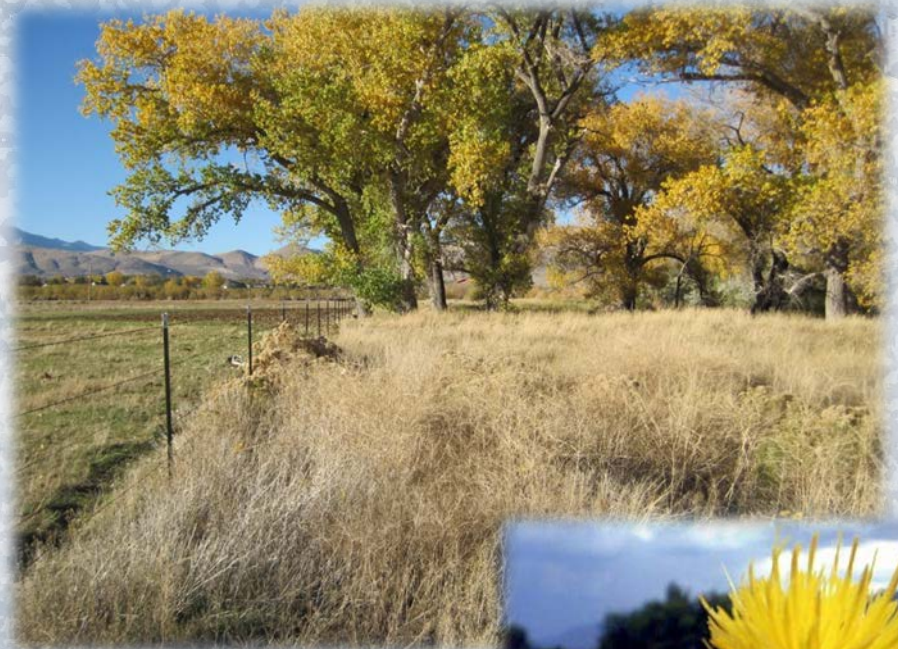
- The top 5 Noxious Weeds we deal with in Carson City
- Abundant
- Difficult to control
- Expensive to eradicate
- Detrimental to native plants and ecosystems
- Decadent plants may increase fire danger



Yellow Starthistle

(*Centaurea solstitialis*)

- Aster family
- Annual
- Deep taproot
- Reproduces by seed
- 150,000 seeds per plant
- Yellow flower with 0.5 to 1 inch long with cotton like hairs
- Poisonous to livestock and wildlife
- Readily populates disturbed sites



Medusahead (*potential threat*)

(*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*)

- Grass family
- Annual
- Reproduces by seed
- Spike flower, awns 1 to 4 inches long, twisted, barbed
- Can outcompete Cheatgrass
- Thatch – increases fire danger
- High silica content alters soil

Medusahead 6/00
CDFA/IPC- C.D. Thomsen



Challenges

- Increased recreational use (*motorized and non-motorized*)
- Increased disturbance along trail systems and water ways
- Landowner cooperation and enforcement
- Need for on-the-ground treatment resources
- Limited treatment funds, including available grants
- Inability to assist landowners due to limited funding





Financial Overview

Carson City Weed Coalition Budget History

- Annual funding - **\$15,000** CWSD
 - Most funds are spent on salary for the Weed Coordinator
- Additional funding
 - 2009 - **\$20,000** ARRA funding
 - 2010 - **\$13,000** ARRA funding
 - 2011 - **\$15,000** CWSD annual funding
 - 2012 - 2014 – **No funding/No program**
 - 2015 - **\$10,000** NV Dept. of Agriculture
 - 2016 - **\$10,000** NV Dept. of Agriculture
 - 2017 - **\$15,000** NFWF/BLM/NDA
 - 2018 - **\$10,000** NFWF/BLM/NDA

Future? Continued grant outreach and increase funding sources to meet goals.

The Carson City Weed Coalition thanks you!



Contact:

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Carson City Weed Coalition

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www.facebook.com/CCWeeds

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
- Nevada Division State Lands
- Nevada Division State Parks
- Northern Nevada Correctional Center
- University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
- USDA Forest Service
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California

Additional Partners:

- Carson Montessori, Empire, Fritsch and Mark Twain Elementary Schools
- Carson High School
- Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystems Health (EDDMAPS)
- Muscle Powered
- River Wranglers

“Thank you for your Support”

At A Glance 2015-2017

- **5 acres** of poison hemlock, Canada thistle, musk thistle, and yellow starthistle were hand-dug
- **106 acres** of noxious weeds received chemical treatment
- **1,215 acres** inventoried and mapped
- **20,000 acres** of Carson City lands monitored
- **28 educational events** held
- **857 adults** and **2,200 youth** in face-to-face-contact
- **Perennial pepperweed** and **bull thistle** decreased
- **Poison hemlock, knapweed and yellow starthistle** contained
- **NO MEDUSAHEAD**



Carson City Weed Coalition

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Like us on Facebook @
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Carson City Weed Coalition

“Together we can keep Carson City free of invasive weeds”



Getting Things Done 2017

Outreach

One of the main goals of the Coalition is to engage in Carson City residents, youth and adults alike, in interesting educational events to help promote awareness and prevention of both noxious and invasive weed species. Many opportunities were



available for residents in 2015-2017 to learn how to identify problem weeds, as well as understand how weeds can spread.

June was Invasive Species Awareness Month.

Through advertising and a free workshop, the goal was to involve the community with mapping, reporting weeds, and to learning about the laws and responsibilities of landowners.

In partnership with the Carson City School District and River Wranglers, the Coalition participated in ten classroom education days which resulted in outreach to more than 2,200 students. This effort of education and outreach with younger generations helps increase weed awareness by teaching children at a young age what role they play in both the spread and prevention of noxious weeds.



Treatment

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a systematic method to determine the best treatment options for a given site and species. A combination of management techniques (chemical, mechanical and cultural) are



applied to effectively manage a species while limiting impacts to

desirable vegetation. Whenever possible, the use of manual removal are more favorable than chemical application. However, on the especially difficult species such as perennial pepperweed, hoary cress and knapweeds, we have to use specially formulated chemicals designed to contain or kill the plant before it

can set seed. Only selective chemical herbicides are used that will kill the weed species but not drift or affect neighboring plants.



Additionally, digging is an IPM tool used to remove poison hemlock near Baily Fishing Pond and bull thistle from Horse Creek Ranch. Along the Carson River, yellow starthistle was also removed by hand. Per Nevada State Statute (NRS 555) anytime a noxious weed is removed, it MUST be bagged and sent to the landfill.

Restoration

Disturbed soil is an invitation for weeds to gain a foothold. Disturbance can be caused by both natural and human actions.

Flooding and fire can create disturbances.

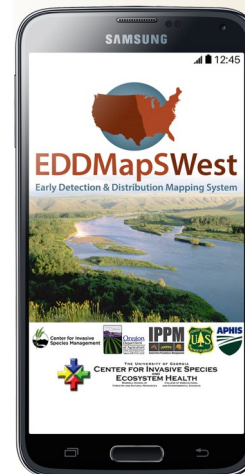
Examples of human disturbances include hiking,



bicycling, equestrian, pets and vehicles. These are all forms of seed transport.

Restoring weed treatment sites is crucial to a long-term abatement strategy. Students helped to restore habitat in the Carson River watershed by seeding native forbs and grasses. Over time, these efforts should help reduce the need for herbicide treatments. Additionally, grant funding will allow the Coalition to focus more on large-scale restoration efforts in the coming seasons.

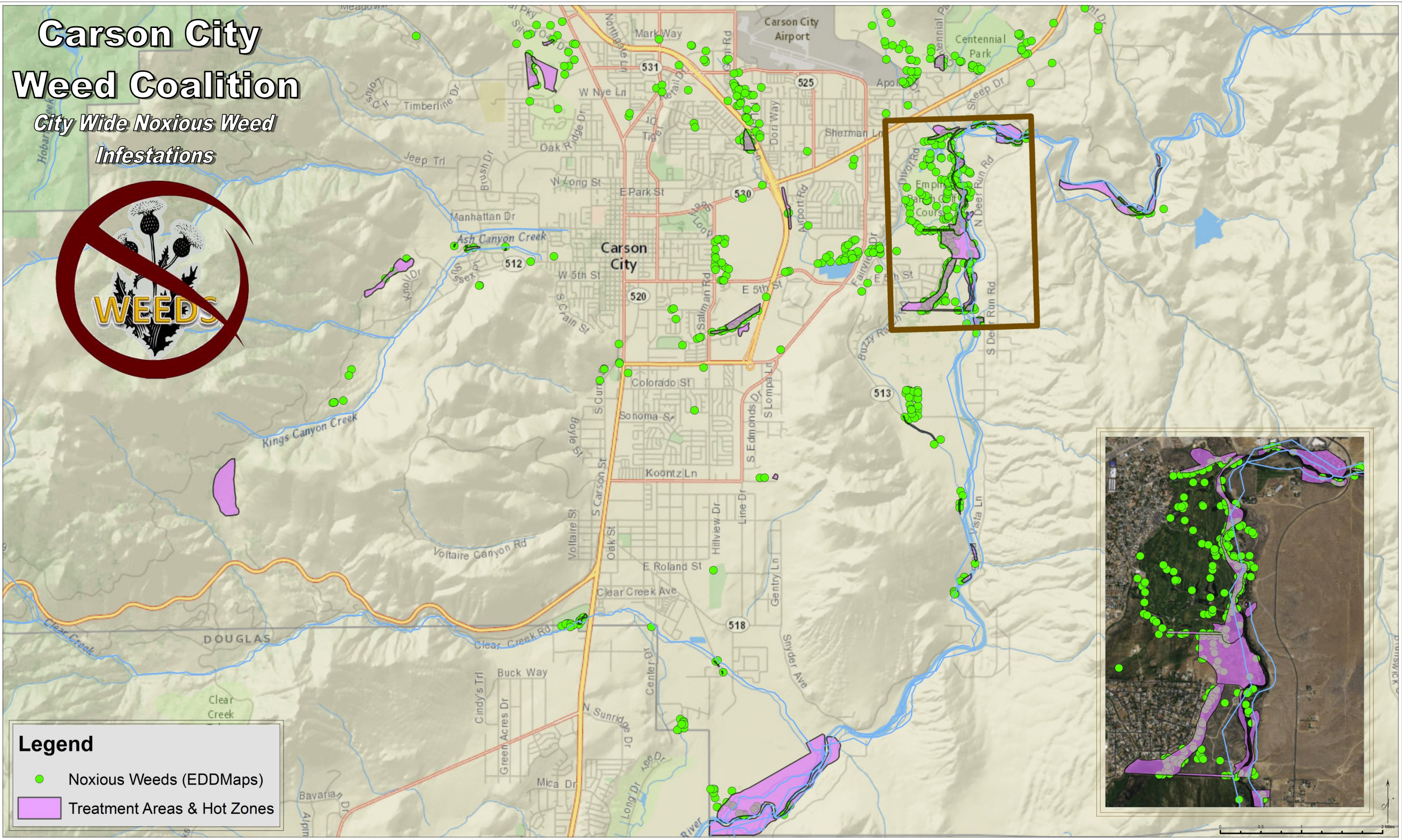
Along with site restoration it is necessary to continually





map and monitor all disturbed, infested, and treated areas. With continual monitoring we are able to track and find the most efficient and successful treatment methods. This can be done using a tool called EDDMapS—a citizen science based application that allows for ease of noxious weed reporting.

Carson City Weed Coalition

*City Wide Noxious Weed
Infestations*



Legend

-  Noxious Weeds (EDDMaps)
-  Treatment Areas & Hot Zones