



STAFF REPORT

Report To: Board of Supervisors **Meeting Date:** July 3, 2019

Staff Contact: Nancy Paulson, City Manager

Agenda Title: For Discussion Only: Presentation and update regarding noxious weeds in Carson City, including discussion concerning newly added species. (Sean Gephart, sgephart@agri.nv.gov)

Staff Summary: Sean Gephart, Noxious Weed Coordinator for the Nevada Department of Agriculture, will provide a presentation regarding noxious weeds.

Agenda Action: Other / Presentation **Time Requested:** 20 mins

Proposed Motion

No action - presentation only.

Board's Strategic Goal

Quality of Life

Previous Action

N/A

Background/Issues & Analysis

N/A

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

N/A

Financial Information

Is there a fiscal impact? No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted?

Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives

N/A

Attachments:

[Noxious weeds Present PDF-final.pdf](#)

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____

1) _____

2) _____

Aye/Nay

(Vote Recorded By)

Noxious Weeds Informative Update



Sean Gephart

Noxious Weeds Coordinator

Nevada Department of Agriculture

State Laws Regulating Noxious Weeds

Noxious Weed Defined:

NRS 555.005: “Any species of plant which is, or is likely to be, a public nuisance, detrimental or destructive and difficult to control”

Introduced Through: feed, seeds, ornamentals



State Laws Regulating Noxious Weeds

Nevada Department of Agriculture's Authority

NRS 555.130:

Designation of Noxious Weeds

The state may declare certain weeds as noxious if such species are likely to be destructive and difficult to control but not so wide spread that their control is impossible.



State Laws Regulating Noxious Weeds

NAC 555.010: *Designation and Categorization of Noxious Weeds*

There are 54 weeds currently listed as noxious.

The noxious weeds are broken down into three categories: A, B, C

- A:** Limited distribution
- B:** Established in certain areas
- C:** Widespread throughout state

State Laws Regulating Noxious Weeds

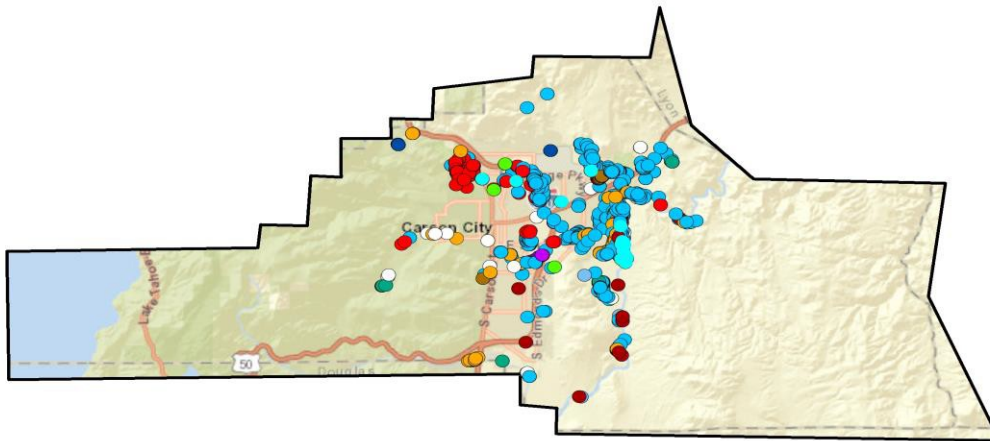
NRS 555.150: ***Control of Noxious Weeds by Owner or Occupant of Land:***

Every person owning, controlling or occupying lands in the state and every county shall control all weeds declared noxious.



Carson City Noxious Weeds Data

Carson Noxious Weeds



Category A

- Eurasian water-milfoil - 12
- perennial sowthistle - 2
- spotted knapweed - 16
- yellow starthistle - 34

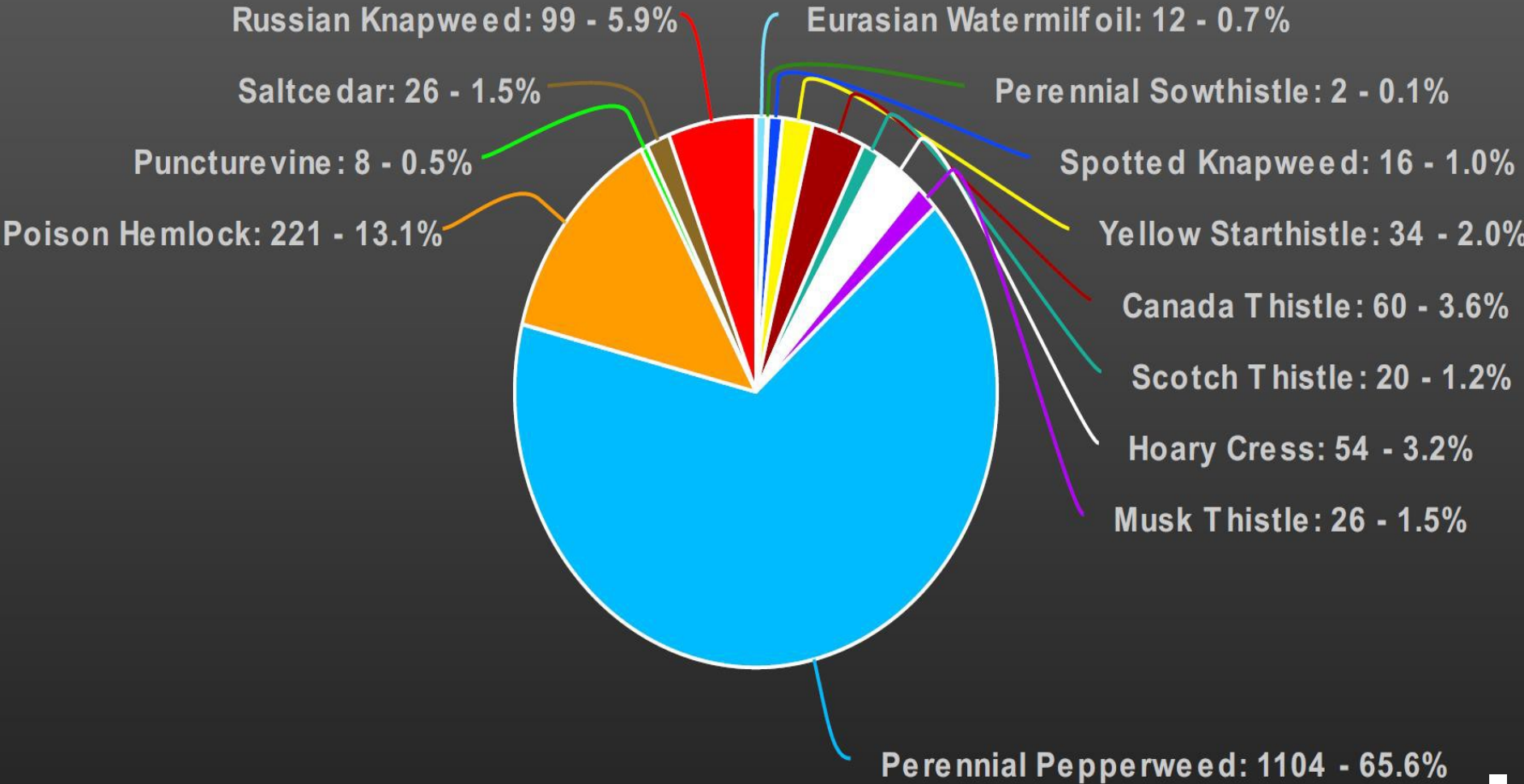
Category C

- Canada thistle - 60
- Scotch thistle - 20
- hoary cress - 54
- musk thistle - 26
- perennial pepperweed - 1104
- poison hemlock - 221
- puncturevine - 8
- saltcedar - 26
- Russian knapweed - 99

GIS Mapping Data:

- Map generated 2019
- Data Collection Since 2014
- Survey and Complaint Driven
- Using EddMaps Cell Phone App.
- App available for use by county
- Points vary in size and infestation
- Points Collected: Public & Private
- Multi Public Agency Collaboration Requested

Carson Weed Distribution



Identified Noxious Weeds



Canada Thistle:

- Perennial
- Spread by Roots and Seeds
- Frequently infests moist areas
- Grows in dense patches
- Several herbicides found effective dependent upon time of application

Identified Noxious Weeds



Poison Hemlock:

- Biennial
- Spread by seed
- Poisonous to livestock
- Frequently infests wet moist areas making access for control sometimes difficult
- Repeated hand removal can be effective as long as the fleshy taproot is severed
- Several herbicides work effectively but must be used prior to seed development

Identified Noxious Weed



Yellow Starthistle:

- Annual
- Spread by Seeds
- Out of control in California
- Manual removal can be effective if done prior to seed development
- Apply herbicides prior to flowering

Identified Noxious Weed



Eurasian Watermilfoil:

- Submerged Aquatic Species
- Perennial, reproduced by root rhizomes, and stem fragments, and seed
- Currently being controlled in Lake Tahoe
- Mechanical/physical removal can be effective but must be done repeatedly and prevent against escaped stem fragments

State and County Collaboration

- **Communications**
- **Weed Survey Work**
- **Mapping**
- **Weed Control**
- **Prioritization**



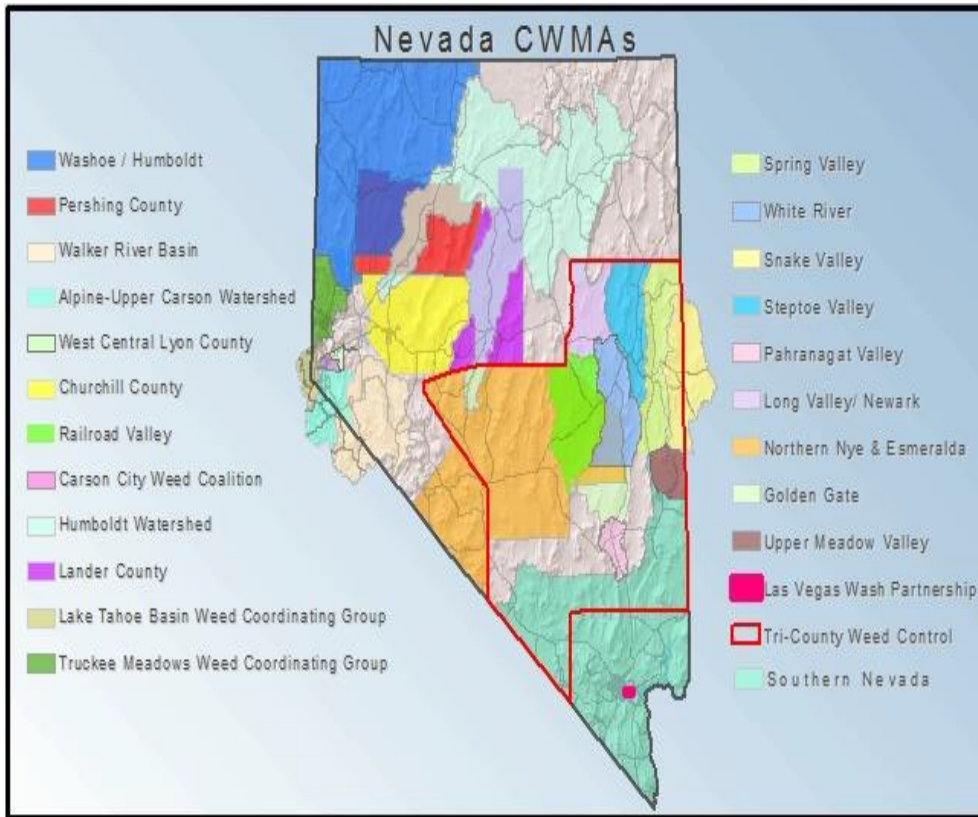
State and County Collaboration

Noxious Weeds Program Cost Share Abatement Program

- Covers 80% of costs following Abatements
- Property Liens must be filed
- Identifies the Weed(s) Needing Control
- Provides Specified Weed Management Plan



State and County Collaboration



- **Conservation Districts**
- **Weed Districts**
- **CWMA's**
- **USFS Grants**

Weed Districts

NAC 555.035 through NAC 555.095: **Weed Control Districts:**

- Paradise Valley Weed Control District
- Ruby Weed Control District
- Diamond Valley Weed Control District
- Douglas County Weed Control District
- Goose Creek Weed Control District
- Lovelock Valley Weed Control District
- Walker River Weed Control District
- Lamoille Weed Control District

Possible Assistance: Bio-Control Releases

Biological Control Agents:

USDA tested biological control agents can be insects, funguses, or bacteria that restrict further growth of noxious weeds. These agents are host specific not to damage other plant life. A few agents available are:

- ***Canada Thistle Rust***

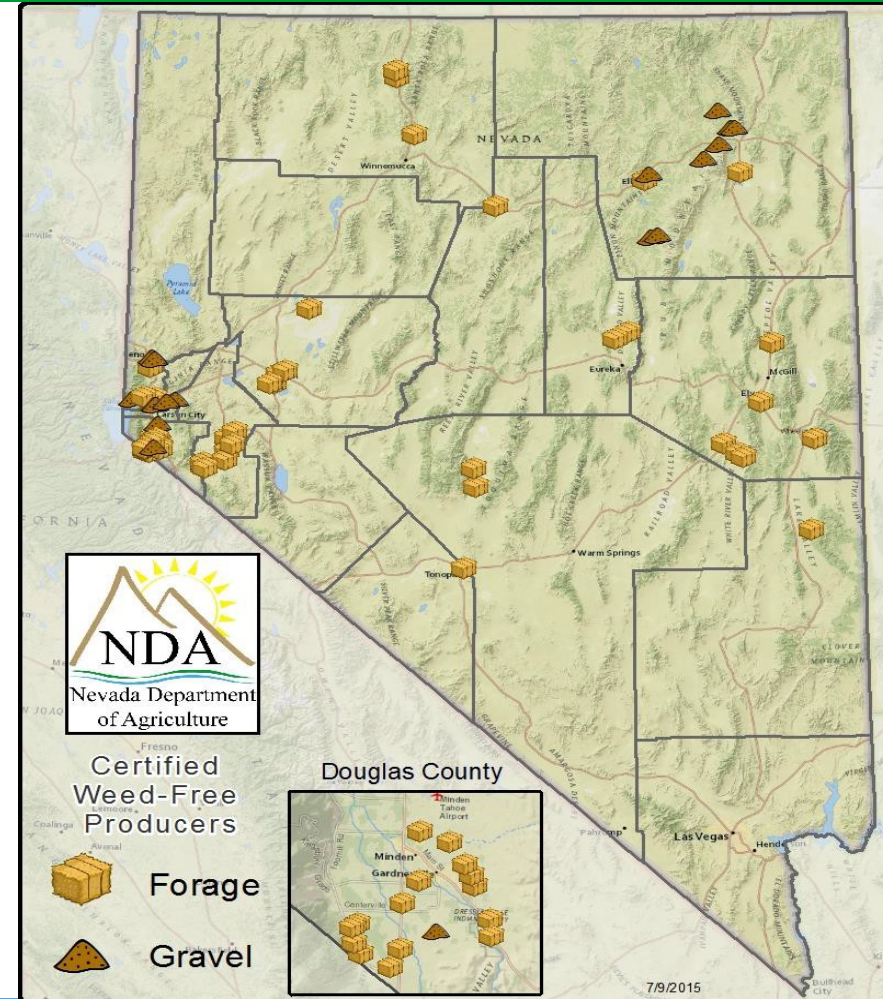


Photos courtesy of Colorado Dept of Agriculture

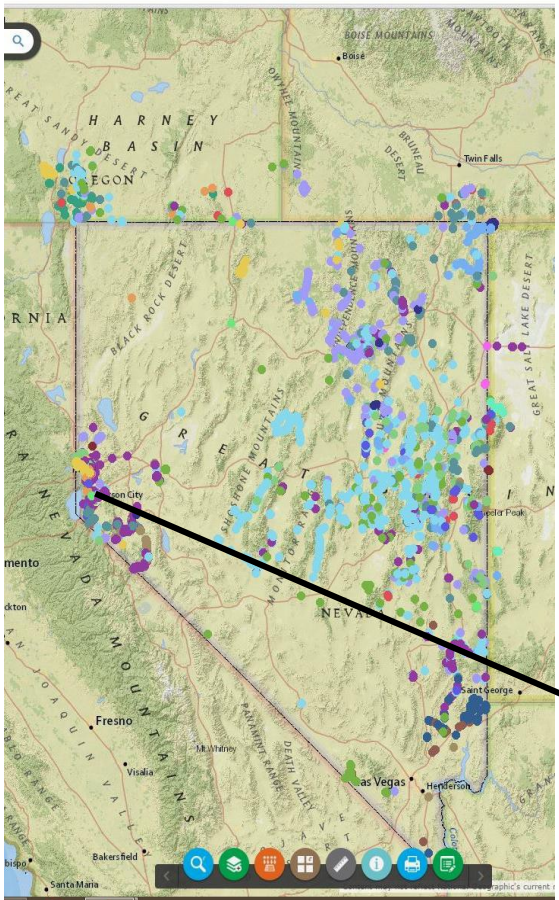
State County Collaboration

Weed Free Gravel and Weed Free Hay Certification Program:

- Required for use when feeding mules and horses kept on federal lands
- Required for use in fire restoration sites
- Required for use in federal construction projects
- Increases value of product
- Limits spread of noxious weeds



Reporting: NDA Website &



Public can report noxious weeds through cell phone or website and record:

- GPS location
- Picture of the plant or plants
- Approximate size of infestation
- Any additional data included by submitter

Reporter_Last	Wilhelm
State_Name	Nevada
County_Name	Washoe County
ObservationDate	7/7/2014 2:45:41 PM
Habitat_Name	
Abundance_Name	
Infested_Area	
Area_Units	.4
Canopy_cover	
Ownership	
	http://www.eddmaps.org/



Challenges County Weed Crews Face

- Fire Fuel Accumulation
- Spreading via Traffic
- Public Perception
- Public Health
- Difficult Access
- Funding Shortages
- Chemical Storage
- Absent Landowners



Resources are needed

Through necessary funding sources, weeds are controlled on:

- County Roads and Rights of Ways
- Open Spaces and Parks
- Private Land Owners !

Which cover:

- Herbicides
- PPE
- Storage
- Equipment
- Personnel



Why Be Concerned?

Decline in :

- Native Plant Species
- Wildlife Habitat
- Agricultural Yields
- Property Values
- Water
- Your Pocket Book



Thank you

Sean Gephart

**Nevada Department
of Agriculture**

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