

Noxious Weeds Informative Update



Sean Gephart

Noxious Weeds Coordinator

Nevada Department of Agriculture

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

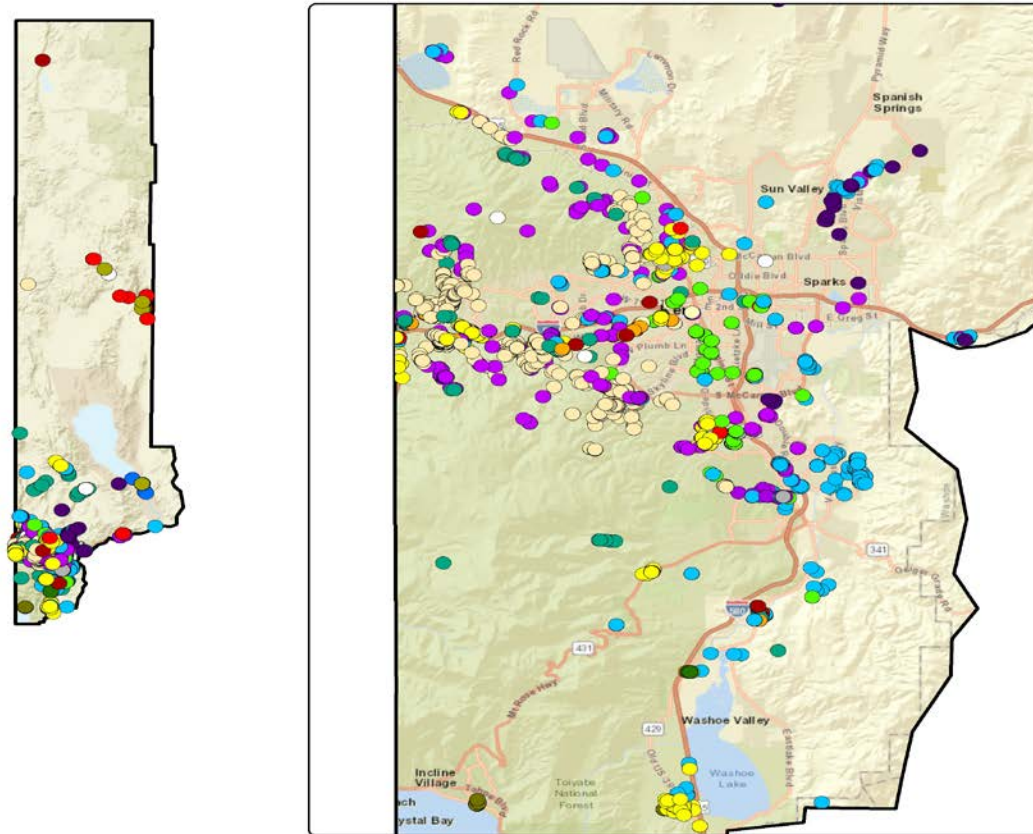
NRS 555.150: *Control of Noxious Weeds by Owner or Occupant of Land:*

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



Washoe County Noxious Weeds Data

Washoe County Noxious Weeds



Category A

- African rue - 3
- Eurasian watermilfoil - 6
- purple loosestrife - 26
- yellow starthistle - 223

Category B

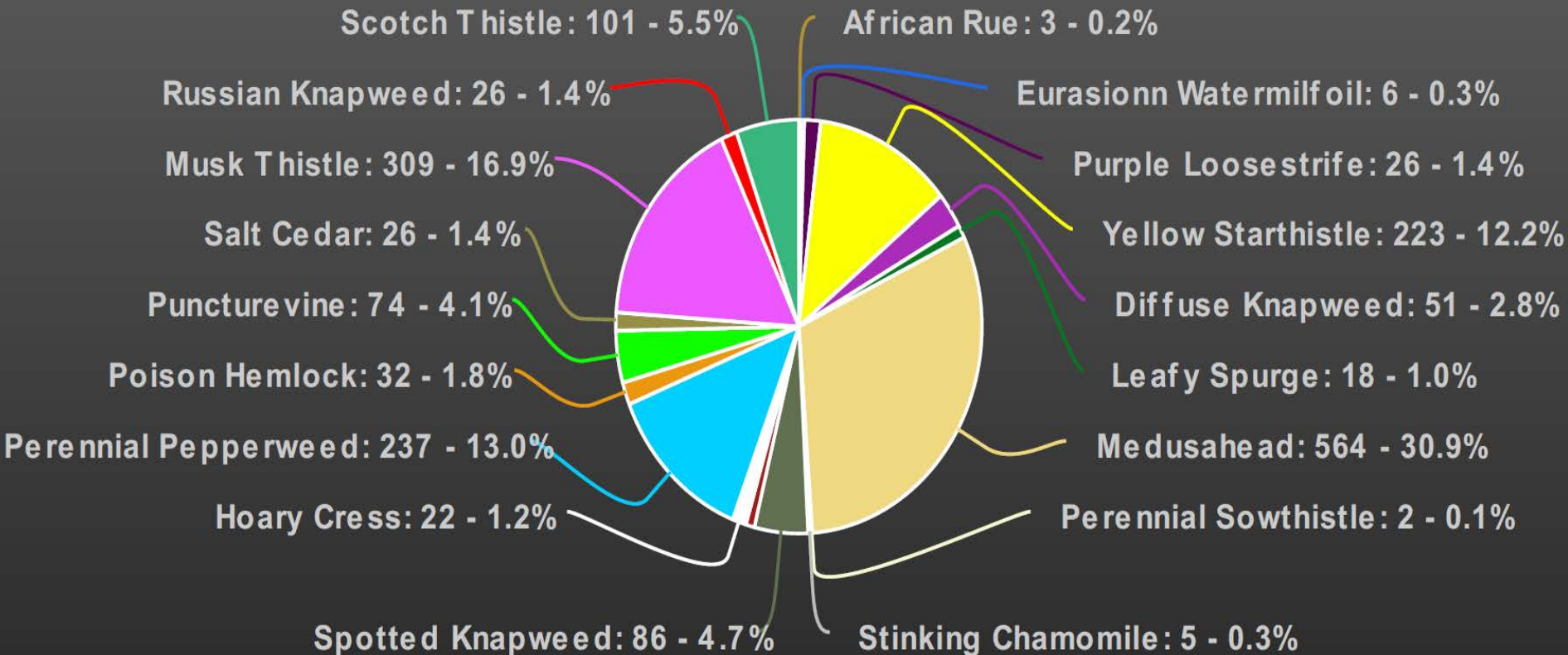
- diffuse knapweed - 51
- leafy spurge - 18
- medusahead - 564
- perennial sowthistle - 2
- stinking chamomile - 5
- spotted knapweed - 86

Category C

- Canada thistle - 14
- hoary cress - 22
- perennial pepperweed - 237
- poison hemlock - 32
- puncturevine - 74
- saltcedar - 26
- musk thistle - 309
- Russian knapweed - 26
- Scotch thistle - 101



Washoe County Weed Distribution



Identified Noxious Weeds



Purple Loosestrife:

- Perennial
- Riparian species, Carson and Truckee River Concern
- Spread by seed, up to 2 million a year
- Biological agent available
- Repeated hand removal can be effective
- Herbicide use a concern due to water habitat

Identified Noxious Weed



Medusahead:

- Winter Annual, Resembles Cheat Grass, spread by seed
- Unpalatable to grazing animals due to its high silica content and stiff awns
- Over time a thick dense layer of fibrous material develops
- Remove thatch layer and treat ground early fall with herbicide containing imazapic

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

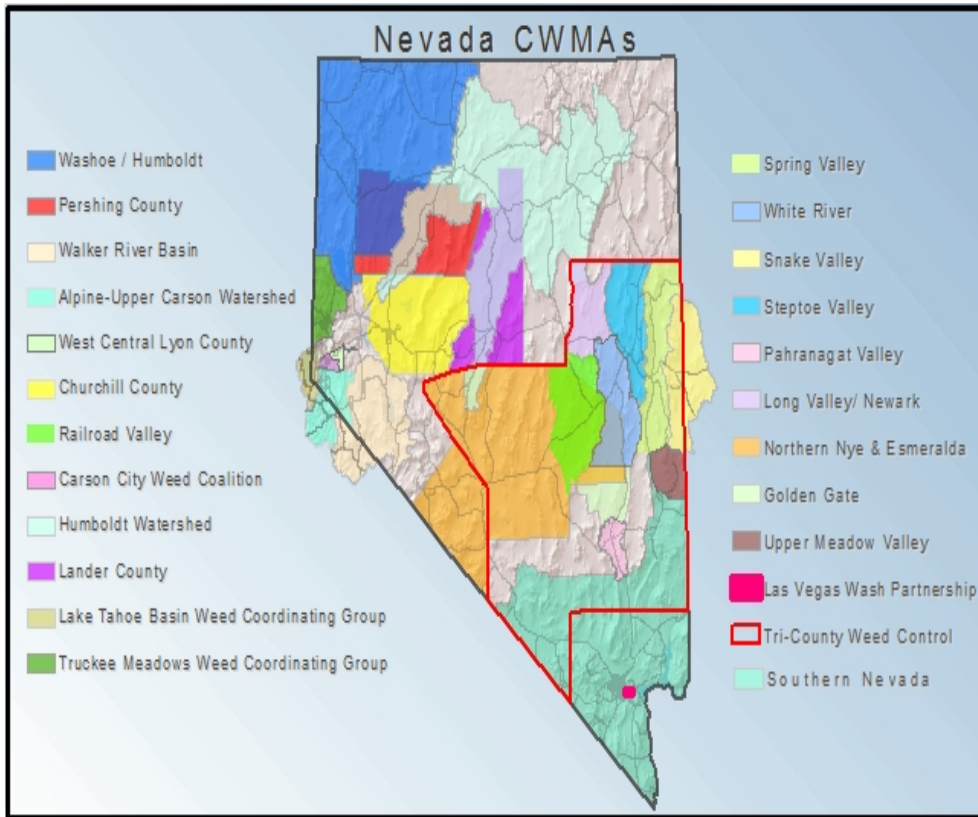
State and County Collaboration

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

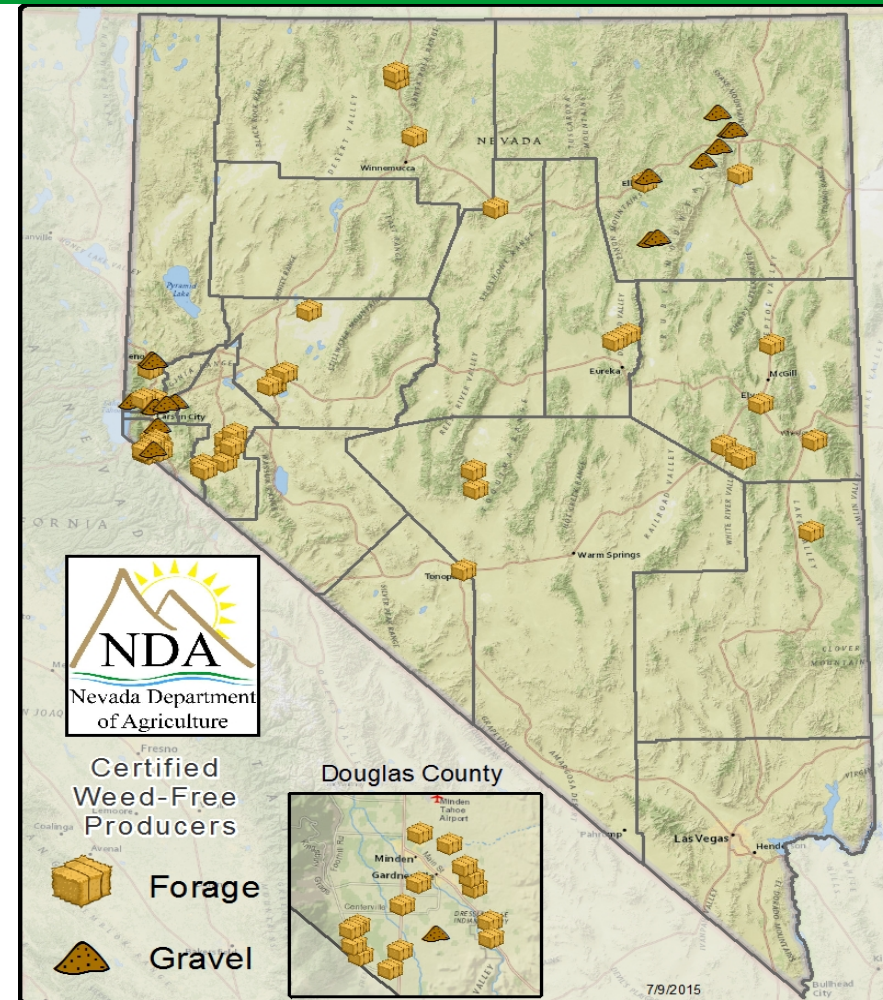


- **Conservation Districts**
- **Weed Districts**
- **CWMA's**
- **USFS Grants**

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



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



Thank you

Sean Gephart

**Nevada Department
of Agriculture**

(775) 353-3640

Sgephart@agri.nv.gov

