

# HWCWMA Holiday Newsletter



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Holidays on behalf of the Humboldt Watershed Cooperative Weed Management Area staff and Board of Directors! As always, a huge thank you for your continued dedication to fighting weeds within the Humboldt River watershed – it takes a village, and we could not fight this battle without your help.

Please note in your calendars for 2025 that we co-host the Weed Extravaganza with the Elko Association of Conservation Districts this March at the Elko Convention Center, date to be determined. A notice for that workshop will be emailed out to you at the end of February. There are also other opportunities to obtain CEUs provided by the Nevada Department of Agriculture and the University of Cooperative Extension, links provided below. We have updated our organization's website with links to all these new resources.

- A hardcopy of the Nevada Pesticide Applicator's Certification Workbook is now available for purchase by using this [order form](#).
- The [Online Pesticide Safety Course and Practice Exams](#) are once again available for those who are studying for their certification exams.
- We have a 1 general CEU [Integrated Pest Management Course](#) available online, which you can take at your convenience.

And last but not least, I would like to give my sincere appreciation and thanks to Andi Porreca, the HWCWMA Coordinator, for keeping the organization running smoothly and to the Board of Directors who provide oversight of this motivated 501(c)3 organization that spans from Wells to Lovelock. Please feel free to reach out if you'd like to become an HWCWMA Board member, we are always looking for partnerships and welcome new faces.

Gerry



## 2024 Accomplishments

This year has certainly been another year to remember. Andi accepted a full-time position with NDF but was able to maintain our on-going contracts with the BLM (agreement finalized in September), NDOW, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Gold Mines, Spring Creek Association, the South Fork Band as well as herbicide cost-share agreements with local landowners.

Through our 2024 partnerships, the HWCWMA was able to accomplish:

- Continued mapping, inventory and treatment of over 20,000 acres of State listed noxious weed species for many of northern Nevada's Conservation Districts and local landowners who have submitted proposals to our group. The targeted weeds continue to include: Scotch and Canada thistle, spotted and Russian knapweed, hoary cress, perennial pepperweed, black henbane, tamarisk, leafy spurge and poison hemlock to name a few.
- On-going use of two Weed Management Plans, for the Spring Creek Association and the South Fork Tribe.
- Our NDOW agreement allowed Ron's Seed and Supply in Winnemucca the opportunity to treat EDRR weeds both on private property and on adjacent lands in Humboldt County.
- Two proposals for funding assistance were submitted in December — one to NDA to help inventory creeks in the Ruby Mountains and another to Nevada Gold Mines to help fund on-going projects.
- Five YESCO billboards were displayed in Elko and along I-80 — two digital (medusahead and Dyer's woad) and three vinyl (squarrose knapweed, yellow starthistle and Dyer's woad).
- With funding assistance from Nevada Gold Mines and the BLM, we were able to host a successful Weed Extravaganza in Elko at the end of March. There were close to 80 attendees with 7 speakers giving presentations on various noxious weeds topics. Those who attended received 5.5 CEUs if qualified.

A huge thank you to all our supporters — we wouldn't be able to do the work that we do without your help!

## Weeds to Watch: Houndstongue

Houndstongue is a biennial plant found in most areas of the continental United States and is also a State listed noxious weed. It can be seen growing along roadsides, trails and other disturbed areas including pastures after overgrazing. It is good to note that houndstongue is a poisonous herb that can kill livestock, so getting rid of any and all plants is a good idea before they have a chance to become established in an area. The first-year weeds appear as rosettes with oblong leaves that feel like a dog's tongue, hence the name. The second year they can grow up to 4 feet tall and produce red to purple flowers. Each flower produces three or four nucules containing seeds. The seeds are barbed and will cling to clothing and animal fur. Although the plant only reproduces from seeds, the seeds travel far and wide by clinging to people, animal fur and even ATV or truck tires.

By acting fast to gain houndstongue control, you may be able to save yourself a lot of work later. You can prevent houndstongue weeds from establishing in your area by pulling out new plants while they are rosettes. Alternatively, you can kill first-year plants readily by spraying with 2,4-D. If you have livestock, it is recommended that you only buy certified weed-free hay to help stop the spread of these and other noxious weeds. There are also some biocontrol options that may be available in your area that will attack the roots and seeds of houndstongue plants. Please check with Andrea Moe, Department of Agriculture at 775-353-3672, if you think you may have houndstongue on your property and need help with control options.



## Humboldt Watershed CWMA's Mission

The HWCWMA was developed to address the invasive weed problem and subsequent decline in water quality within the entire 16,843 square mile watershed, which covers most of Northern Nevada. The primary function of HWCWMA has been to provide land managers, owners and weed control groups assistance in the areas of funding, agency and weed group coordination and cooperation.

We have an opportunity to stop potentially invasive species from spreading if we act quickly and our staff can provide private property owners with site-specific treatment options for specific plant species. The HWCWMA also maps and monitors heavily infested sites in the watershed which allows the HWCWMA the ability to provide educational and financial assistance to landowners and groups in their management efforts, ultimately improving all the qualities of the land and water within our watershed.

HWCWMA's website serves as a clearinghouse for information on invasive weeds known to exist or potentially invade the Humboldt Watershed. Our website ([humboldtweedfree.org](http://humboldtweedfree.org)) contains fact sheets for state listed noxious weeds in Nevada, Board of Director's information, funding partner's links, and many more features including a detailed project proposal packet that you can print, fill out and mail back to us at your convenience. We are looking to expand our project area outside of the Humboldt River and always welcome new funding opportunities.

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HWCWMA  
P.O. Box 8203  
Spring Creek, NV 89815  
[humboldtweedfree.org](http://humboldtweedfree.org)

