

Controlling weeds on Nevada's newest state park- Partnerships and long- and short- term solutions- Dash Hibbard, Randy Denter

Bio: Dash Hibbard is the Land Manager for Walker Basin Conservancy, where he does terrestrial restoration of old fields as part of the Conservancy's effort to restore Walker Lake. Dash received his B.S. in Biology from Bates College in 2007 and his M.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Science from the University of Nevada, Reno, in 2015, where he focused on plant and restoration ecology. He has worked for the NPS, USFWS, USFS, and the Great Basin Institute in the for over 10 years, performing and supervising weed control work at each position and across the United States, from Nevada and California to Michigan, Washington, Tennessee, and Maine, but Nevada is home.

Pollinator protection and pest management- Kevin Burls

Abstract: Native and introduced pollinators are often present in the same areas as invasive weeds, and weed management may potentially negatively affect pollinator populations under some circumstances. Pollinator life cycles are complex and maintaining healthy habitats is one of the most important ways to conserve native pollinator populations. This talk will present an overview of pollinator life cycles and ecology, how they interact with native and invasive plant populations, and how integrated pest management strategies can be used and adapted to protect native pollinators.

Bio: Kevin has been the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) educator for the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension since 2015. His specialties include native insects, especially butterflies, and his current work focuses on pollinator health and IPM on Recreational Lands. He is also familiar with native pollinator plants (that is, he pretends to know what he's talking about). Originally from northeast Ohio, Kevin has lived in Reno since 2007 and earned his Ph.D. from the Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology program at UNR in 2014. Together, Kevin and his wife Cynthia Scholl also founded a small science education nonprofit, Nevada Bugs and Butterflies, in 2012. In his off time he can be found repairing the irrigation at his home in Washoe Valley.

Right of Way applications on, over, and near surface water- Eli Kersh

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Bio: Eli is a licensed Pest Control Advisor in California and has worked in the aquatic plant management industry as an applicator, a private consultant, and as a manufacturing technical representative. Eli spent many years working in and traveling to remote wilderness areas of Alaska and Canada as a fishing or kayaking guide. Through these and other experiences he

developed knowledge and skills that led him to seek an academic path geared towards the Outdoors. He received his undergraduate degree from UC Santa Barbara in 2007 where he majored in Geographic Information Science. After several years working as an independent GIS analyst for Fire & Police Departments, Indian Tribes, and other agencies, he returned to school in 2011 to obtain a masters degree in Limnology with an emphasis in Lake Management. Eli completed his thesis on Eutrophication of Lakes and Vegetation Management in 2013. Combining his education, skills and experiences, Eli worked as an Environmental Service Manager for a Lake Management company and is now working as a private consultant and as an Aquatic Specialist for Alligare, LLC.

Eli is on the Board of Directors for the California Weed Science Society, the premier authoritative source of information on weed biology and weed management in California. He is also the President of the California Lake Management Society and is a Certified Lake Manager by the North American Lake Management Society.

Can we predict cheatgrass die-offs? – Cindy Salo

Abstract

In 2003, miles-wide holes appeared in the blanket of cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) covering large swathes of the Intermountain West. Die-offs (more correctly, stand failures) have reappeared sporadically since. Although people disagree about what causes the die-offs, most recognize these events may be opportunities to reseed affected areas with desirable species. A rancher and an entomologist both saw army cutworms (*Euxoa axiliaris*) eating cheatgrass in early 2003 in northern Nevada and southwest Colorado, respectively. The entomologist described conditions before the larval outbreak. In early 2014, I recognized the same conditions in southwest Idaho and asked people to watch for larvae. The army cutworms created cheatgrass die-offs and also defoliated native shrubs in southwest Idaho. Army cutworm outbreaks seem to occur after a year of dry weather creates bare ground for egg laying, heavy late summer rain germinates winter annuals, numerous adult moths return from high elevations in fall to lay eggs, and dry weather through winter limits larval diseases.

Bio

Cindy Salo is a plant ecologist currently exploring the role of army cutworms in periodic cheatgrass die-offs. She has an undergraduate degree in Animal Science and Agronomy from the University of Minnesota and graduate degrees from the University of Arizona: M.S. in Soil Microbiology and Ph.D. in Plant Ecology. In her 30 years as a researcher, Cindy has investigated plant interactions and invasions in southern Mexico, the Sonoran Desert, Senegal, and the Intermountain West. She has conducted research at the University of Arizona and the U.S. Geological Survey. Cindy currently owns Sage Ecosystem Science Corp. and divides her time between rural Idaho and rural Arizona. More at CindySalo.com.

Weed issues in restoration- Ed S. Kleiner

Bio: Following a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics at the University of Nevada Reno, Ed began his seed business 32 years ago. As a seed company president, he has worked in most

sectors of the reclamation industry from traditional mining ventures to new age solar projects. For the last 20 years he applied much of his experience to developing his 43 acre seed farm in Gardnerville, NV. Today, Comstock Seed is focused on locally sourced seed collections for their client base in the Sierras, Mojave, and Great Basin.

His industry experience began in 1983 as a seed acquisition foreman for Wind River Seed. For three years he traveled the western United States purchasing seed and organizing collections of native seeds. In 1986 he opened his wholesale company Seed Futures, in Reno, NV. He incorporated Comstock Seed in 1990 with his wife Linda and opened a retail outlet in Reno NV two years later. During the summer of 2000 he moved his company to a 43 acre farm in Gardnerville, Nevada.

Comstock Seed has grown continuously, establishing long-term relationships with many Great Basin, Mojave, and Sierra clients including ski resorts, energy companies, government agencies, tribes, contractors and homeowners. One of his primary roles has been working as a liaison between his clients and the public agencies that govern land use permits.

He frequently speaks to business organizations, agencies, and private groups about reclamation efforts in the western U.S.

Invasive annual grasses and wildfire in the Elko District- Steph Frederick

Abstract: Invasive Annual Grasses and Wildfire in the Elko District

There has been an increase in the total acreage in wildfires and post-fire restoration activities since the 1990's in the Elko BLM district. Annual invasive grasses, including cheatgrass, red brome, medusahead, and ventenata have been a major contributor to wildfire size and frequency in the area. The results of several, multi-year studies on post-wild fire aerial and ground applications of imazapic and glyphosate on medusahead, ventenata, and cheatgrass infested BLM managed rangelands will be discussed, as well invasive grass identification, and additional post-fire restoration treatments (noxious weed treatments, drill seeding, etc).

Bio: Steph graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2009 and has worked in multiple facets of natural resources and agricultural in their career. Steph's work in post-wildfire vegetation studies began in 2012 with an NPS project monitoring the burn severity and effects on vegetation and soils in New Mexico's Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument following the 2011 Miller Fire. Steph has been involved in the Elko Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Field Office's Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) program since 2013 through an agreement with Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition (ENLC). Currently, Steph works for the BLM managing noxious weeds on post-wildfire rangelands in the Elko District.

Native and introduced seed mix performances on cheatgrass rangelands- Charlie Clements

Bio: I started my career with ARS in 1988 shortly after receiving my Bachelors and Masters of Science in Wildlife and Range Management from the University of Nevada. The focus of my career has been on the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded rangelands throughout the Great Basin. I have been researching for more than three decades numerous integrated approaches that include aggressive and effective weed control practices, plant material testing and seeding

methodologies to improve seeding success and suppress exotic and invasive weeds. “Native and Introduced Seed Mix Performances on Cheatgrass Rangelands” will present the audience with on-the-ground research over numerous years and the ability of native and introduced perennial grasses to germinate, emerge and establish on arid lands and the ability of these species to suppress cheatgrass and the fuels associated with cheatgrass rangelands.