

## Weed Treatment Projects

The BLM Elko Field Office is treating invasive, nonnative noxious weed species on public lands through a cooperative Integrated Weed Management effort with Elko, Eureka, Lander, and Humboldt Counties and their associated conservation/weed districts and State agencies. Treatment methods utilized include biological, chemical, mechanical.

Here are some selected weed treatment projects being conducted in Spring/Summer 2001:

### Cross Ranch Perennial Pepperweed Treatment

The Cross Ranch hay meadows are located along Marys River a few miles north of Death, Nevada. This area was part of a land exchange and is now used as cultivated hay meadows. Marys River provides habitat for the Lahontan cutthroat trout, a federally listed threatened species, and is potential habitat for the Columbia spotted frog, a federally listed candidate species. The sale of hay from this area is used to help fund efforts for trout conservation. Approximately 50 acres are infested with perennial pepperweed. In order to effectively control this plant, the residual grass and other vegetation must be burned away so that herbicide may be applied to the perennial pepperweed. The meadows were burned in April and May and herbicide was then applied to the rosettes. The area will then be irrigated to provide a fresh crop of hay, free of noxious weed seeds.

### Emergency Fire Rehabilitation Weed Treatments

Noxious weeds can easily establish themselves in wildland fire affected areas. Part of the fire rehabilitation effort is to remove the noxious weeds so that the native vegetation can return and restore the landscape to a healthy condition. The Elko Field Office is conducting numerous treatments in areas burned in 1999 and 2000. Many different weed species are present in these burned areas. Russian knapweed, Hoary cress, Scotch thistle, Canada thistle and others.

What can you do to help with weed prevention:

When in the mountains, drive only on established roads and trails away from weed infested areas.

When using pack animals, carry only feed that is certified weed-free. Make sure the certification is for "all states". What is considered a noxious weed in one state may not necessarily be a noxious weed in the state where the feed originates.

Within 96 hours before entering back country areas, feed pack animals food that is certified weed-free.

Remove weed seeds from pack animals by brushing them thoroughly and cleaning hooves. If you find a few weeds without flowers or seeds, pull them and leave them where

found. If flowers or seeds are present, place the weeds in a plastic bag or similar container and dispose of properly.

If you find a weed infested area, let the landowner or land managing agency know so they may take steps to control the weeds.

What you should not do:

Don't pick the flowers of noxious weeds and take them home.

Don't pick and transport wild flowers that you can't identify.

Don't camp or drive in weed-infested areas.