

JERRY ASHER'S INVASIVE PLANT EXPERIENCE

2005

Jerry Asher worked for the Bureau of Land Management for 40 years throughout most of the west. During his last 11 years he worked full time informing others about the severe impacts along with solutions to the ever accelerating and massive spread of invasive non-native plants on federal, state, and private wildlands. Now retired, he continues to update his information and give weed presentations as a BLM volunteer.

From 1988 through 1991 Jerry worked extensively in the western states developing the Vegetation Diversity Project: A Research and Demonstration Plan to Restore and Maintain Native Plants on Deteriorated Rangelands in the Great Basin and Columbia Plateau. While talking to dozens of Federal, State and Private wildland experts in many states about restoring land, there was always a common theme that everyone urgently wanted to express: the rapid expansion of weeds.

Since the invasions of these non-native plants were such a deep concern shared by so many knowledgeable people, Jerry was compelled to collaborate with most leading weed scientists, all western university weed science departments, and other experts and managers to develop slide presentations describing this rapid and often permanent deterioration of wildlands (with today's economics and technology).

A range management graduate of the University of California, Jerry served in variety of capacities from wildlife biologist to district manager. He gave over 220 weed slide (picture) presentations. Jerry was chosen by the Weed Science Society of America to give a slide presentation representing all agencies and western lands at a Congressional briefing and was similarly chosen to represent all federal land management agencies at a Senate field Hearing. He also gave eight other congressional briefings along with presentations to numerous universities, two state legislatures, two conferences in Canada, national conservation conferences, and all levels of government. He has been featured as an authority on wildland weeds in a National Geographic book, Science Magazine, the Idaho and Western Farmer-Stockman magazines, Technical Review (MIT), USA Today, Sports Afield, and two issues of Audubon Magazine.