

## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Weed Conference a Success

On January 8-9, ENLC hosted its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Weed Conference in Ely at the Bristlecone Convention Center. More than 80 individuals from across Nevada participated in the conference. Almost half of the participants were attending to gain additional Continuing Education Credits for their Nevada applicator license. Since ENLC's initial involvement with establishing cooperative weed management areas, education and outreach have been a major component of those efforts, so it is nice to see such a diverse group from across the state participating in the conference.

The conference presentations ranged from updates from the Nevada Department of Agriculture on weed free hay, mulch and gravel, bio-control availability in Nevada, and applicator laws and regulations to presentations by USDA on the effectiveness of native and introduced seed mixes for rangeland rehab. To give you a taste of some of the presentations, we have included some of the abstracts submitted by the presenters below.

### **Pollinator Protection and Weed Management: Kevin Burls, UNCE**

Native and introduced pollinators are often present in the same areas as invasive weeds, and weed

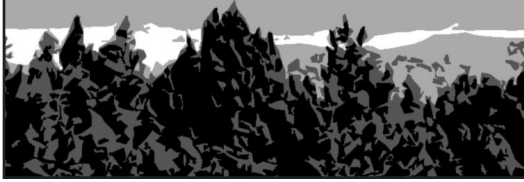


**ENLC Board Secretary Carol Ferguson and Staff Ecologist Julie Thompson gearing up for the Weed Conference.**

management has the potential to 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 presented 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.

*Continued on pages 4-5*

## Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition



### Our Mission

The mission of the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition is to restore the dynamic, diverse, resilient landscapes of the arid and semi-arid West for present and future generations through education, research, advocacy, partnerships, and the implementation of on-the-ground projects.

### Our Vision

We envision a future where the ecosystems of the arid and semi-arid West thrive. Functioning, diverse ecosystems will be the result of restoration achieved and maintained with naturally occurring disturbances such as fire, in combination with other management prescriptions, including traditional uses. The Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, will be a recognized contributor and leader in this effort for future generations of Americans.

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## Thoughts From the Barn

**Betsy Macfarlan, Executive Director**



How time flies. In another two months, ENLC will mark the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary since we opened our doors in 2001. At that time the organization consisted of me as the sole employee and a loosely knit group of dedicated individuals from UNR, BLM, and a variety of non-profits and interested publics who acted as the steering committee for

ENLC until we formalized our structure.

Over the years I have come up with various topics and themes to write on while working in my barn, which is where the column's name comes from. Once again as I sit down to bang out some thoughts I am waiting on a doe to kid. So far this year my girls have had four sets of triplets, two sets of quads and one set of twins, and I still have 18 girls to go.

While my does have been prolific, I'm very concerned about our rangelands' condition coming into this spring and summer. A year ago, we were having a record-breaking year for snowfall and that moved into a wet early spring, but then Mother Nature and our changing climate essentially shut the faucet off until late November. The monsoon season was hit and miss, and the late fall storms never showed up. Now it is mid-February, the temperatures outside are mid-forties, the average temperature in eastern Nevada in January was 4.8 degrees warmer than normal, and as of the end of January the precipitation for the water year was sitting at 76 percent for eastern Nevada. Since we haven't had any measurable precipitation since the





end of January, I expect our percentage is even lower. All of this is setting us up for a very dry spring/summer.

Last year many of us reaped the benefits of all the early moisture with lots of forage for wildlife and livestock. We were also fortunate that it was a relatively easy fire year for Nevada. Now moving into this spring I'm concerned that we once again have dry rangelands, springs that may or may not have recharged, lots of very dry fine fuels left from last year, and a continued excessive number of wild horses and burros on the rangelands. There has been some movement on the wild horse and burro issue in the past year, and there is a Summit planned for Cody, Wyoming in late May to address this issue, but our resources continue to be degraded while everyone keeps **TALKING!**

I have lived in Nevada for over half my life and the horse issue has been a challenge the entire time I have lived here. It isn't getting any better, and in fact when you factor in appeals, drought, economic down turns and the loss of any processing plants in the US (for domestic horses), the issue has become even more dire. In the Ely BLM District, the wild horse population has grown to a number greater than what the entire wild horse and burro population was when the Wild Horse and Burro Act was passed in 1971. This is just one BLM District. This problem impacts every BLM District in Nevada, several in Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Oregon and California. When feed is available, horses will graze 20 hours or more a day. Our fragile desert ecology cannot stand that kind of continuous pressure. Yes, I am fully aware of the other large animals both domestic

and wild that are grazing on these same areas, but the domestic animals are managed (seasonal use) and in some cases completely removed to benefit the resources, while the horses remain.

With unknown and unpredictable changes facing our natural resources, as a result of the changing climates, it seems like we are long past the point where we need to get serious about protecting our natural resources and stop allowing politics and emotions to dictate what happens. If we don't get serious about protecting what we still have, we will lose it, and while I won't be leaving any children behind, I have many friends and family who do have children and grandchildren and they would like us to leave our planet in at least as good of shape as it is in now, if not better.

In addition to the challenges of excess wild horses, Nevada is also facing increasing challenges of other invasives in the form of noxious weeds and aquatic invaders such as the Zebra mussel. ENLC has been on the forefront of the noxious weed issue for over 15 years. Each of the nine CWMA's we oversee will hold their spring meetings late in March, April and May. These meetings are where we are all updated on the latest information regarding invasive species in our watersheds and communities and what grant funds are available to help with the war on weeds. I hope to see many of you at these meeting this spring as we have new information on some of the weeds we were hoping to keep out of White Pine and Lincoln Counties.

Thanks for your ear.

*Betsy*

## Save the Date: May 27-29, 2020

We are announcing a Summit on Free Roaming Equids and Ecosystem Sustainability (FREES) to be held this year in Cody, Wyoming, at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West ([centerofthewest.org](http://centerofthewest.org)). This meeting is a follow-up to the successful 2019 Summit held in Reno, Nevada. Our purpose is to develop stakeholder-based comprehensive communication strategies and processes to manage free-roaming equids in concert with other public lands multiple-use objectives to achieve western rangeland ecosystem sustainability.

During the Summit, participants will receive updates from the FREES network, working group progress, new research, and policy developments. We will learn more from representatives of our host state of Wyoming about challenges and successes in their great state. All of this information will be used to continue to develop action plans towards our goal of *Healthy Herds on Healthy Rangelands*.

FREES seeks to enhance communication and engage diverse stakeholder groups in meaningful dialogue as we work together. Please save the dates of May 27-29 and plan to attend. More information to follow.



**Free Roaming Equids  
and Ecosystem  
Sustainability Network**

# 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Weed Conference

*Continued from page one*

## **Native Plant Materials for Pollinator Conservation: Carianne Campbell, Strategic Habitat Enhancements LLC**

Insect pollinators provide critical ecosystem services in natural and agricultural systems, yet many species are facing alarming declines across the world. Strategic use of native plant materials in restoration and revegetation projects can encourage native insect population health and recovery by providing diverse floral resources, overlapping bloom periods, and a focus on early and late blooming species. A method for building site-specific project plant palettes was described, with examples from Nevada.

## **Nevada State weed laws and Nevada weed list changes: Andrea Moe, NDA**

This presentation covered basic noxious weed law in the state of Nevada, including who is responsible for the control of noxious weeds, how a weed is listed as noxious, and the different categories of noxious weeds in the state. It also discussed the seven new species that were added to the noxious weed list in the most recent update and some basic identification and background information for each.

## **Best Management Practices and Integrated Management Practices: Andrea Moe, NDA**

This presentation defined integrated pest management and explained how it functions as a best management practice in weed control under a variety of different circumstances. The focus was on the way that using different management techniques cooperatively will increase the overall positive results that can be achieved for any given project. The presentation also



**Presenters Carianne Campbell and Kevin Burls prepare their presentations.**

addressed the importance of identifying the weeds on site prior to treatment and clearly defining a project goal prior to beginning treatments so that the best results can be reached for any management goal when dealing with any weed species.

## **Seed Mix Performances on Cheatgrass Rangelands: Daniel Harmon and Charlie Clements, USDA-ARS Great Basin Rangelands Research Unit**

Each year the USDA-ARS Great Basin Rangelands Research Unit designs and implements various seeding trials throughout northern Nevada as a means to best understand the potential of available plant materials for rangeland rehabilitation seeding efforts. In order to evaluate the success or failure of these seeding efforts, we must first define our goals. Our primary goal is to establish a sufficient density of long-lived competitive perennial grasses that will suppress cheatgrass and associated annual fuels, thus decreasing the fire cycle and restoring plant community function such as succession towards shrub co-dominance.

On rangelands dominated by cheatgrass, it is critical to eliminate the cheatgrass competition prior to any seeding effort. Taking advantage of hot, shrub-fueled

fires that kill a significant amount of the cheatgrass seed bank can be one means of achieving this. However, it is limited as many of the fires are fueled by cheatgrass and lack the heat to kill the cheatgrass seed on the surface, leading to high cheatgrass competition and failed seeding efforts after the fire.

The best means to eliminate the cheatgrass competition is by using a pre-emergent herbicide (e.g. Plateau – Imazipic) to fallow the site for one year (apply herbicide in September, remains active for one growing season), eliminating any cheatgrass seed input while depleting the seed bank, and then seeding desired perennial grasses the following year (October- 13 months after initial September herbicide application).

Based on our results from numerous seeding trials at numerous sites and repeated multiple years, we found that native seed mixes (Bluebunch wheatgrass- 6lbs, Sherman big bluegrass-2lbs, and Sandberg bluegrass- 2lbs/acre) were successful when weed control was effective at reducing cheatgrass competition and when annual precipitation was above average (>10"). With these two requirements we had a 40% success rate with native seed mixes. Introduced seed mixes (8lbs/ acre -crested or Siberian wheatgrass) did not require near 100% effective cheatgrass weed control prior to

seeding and could establish in drier years (< 10" annual precipitation). This lead to a 80% success rate with introduced seed mixes. Regardless of the seed mix type, success requires the best decisions to be made such as eliminating cheatgrass competition prior to seeding and choosing the best performing plant species for your site. Ultimately mother nature still needs to play ball though, and if she doesn't, then don't quit, try again and learn from your experiences even failures.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Weed Conference is already scheduled for January 6-7, 2021.

## Thanks to Our Sponsors

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Weed Conference was once again a success, in part, due to our fantastic sponsors. ENLC would like to recognize these individuals and businesses for their support and generosity. Because of the high level of sponsorship that we receive for this conference, we are able to keep our registration costs to a minimum. If you frequent or know any of these businesses, thank them for supporting ENLC and the Winter Weed Conference.



**The PlayCleanGo booth educated participants about spreading noxious weeds.**

Bayer Crop Science  
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Kinross Bald Mountain  
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# BLM and NDOW Partner to Rehabilitate Wildfire-Damaged Public Lands

The Bureau of Land Management and Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) are working together to improve fish and wildlife habitat and restore watershed health to public lands burned in the Goshute Cave Fire. BLM Ely District and NDOW staff last month transplanted in Goshute Creek willow cuttings taken from a nearby state park. The creek is home to a population of Bonneville cutthroat trout, a BLM sensitive species and State of Nevada protected gamefish. Heath Korell, NDOW fisheries biologist, said the willows will help to stabilize the streambank and improve water quality. “Stabilizing the habitat is key to the fish’s persisting in Goshute Creek. The creek represents an out of basin population that provides redundancy in the Pine Creek/Ridge Creek strain of Bonneville cutthroat trout that are found in Great Basin National Park,” Korell said.

The agencies last winter partnered to aerially seed more than 15,300 acres of BLM-administered land blackened in the 2018 wildfire. The lightning-ignited fire burned 32,215 acres of the public lands in and outside the Goshute Canyon Wilderness in White Pine and Elko counties, about 60 miles north of Ely.

Chris McVicars, BLM Ely District natural resource specialist and fire rehab program manager, said initial monitoring indicates that the burn area is recovering well. “Natural recovery is occurring earlier than we normally see, especially in the higher elevations,” McVicars said. McVicars extolled NDOW for its collaboration on this and other eastern Nevada projects. “We work closely with the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Agency staff assists in planning and implementation, and the department provides funding and materials, and labor for projects,” he said.

BLM Ely District Fire Management Officer Tye Petersen echoed McVicars’ sentiments. “We could not accomplish what we have without participation from



**(above) The agencies in February aerially seeded approximately 15,337 acres or nearly half of the public lands burned in the Goshute Cave Fire. The approximately two-week seeding required 138,243 pounds of grass, forb and brush seed.**



**(left) Nevada Department of Wildlife Habitat Biologist Moira Kolada plants the now-dormant willows in mud to keep them moist. When they take root, the willows will stabilize the streambank, and improve water quality and watershed function.**

the Nevada Department of Wildlife. It’s partly due to that agency’s hard work and commitment to Nevada’s public lands that our projects have been so hugely successful,” he said.

Other elements of the Goshute Cave Fire’s emergency stabilization and rehabilitation plan were fence construction and repair, hazardous tree felling, soil stabilization and noxious weed treatments, and reconstruction of the Goshute Creek Campground.

# Why Invasive Species are Like a Bad Boyfriend or Girlfriend

**Hannah Bowers, Communications & Program Manager, North America Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) & PlayCleanGo**

*Reprinted with permission from PlayCleanGo.org*

As I was summiting Twin Sisters in Colorado, I felt like I was on top of the world! Emotionally, because there's nothing better than hiking in the mountains, and literally because I was standing on an 11,427 ft. peak.

Then my mind drifted to more unpleasant thoughts—my annoying hiking partners also known as, invasive species. Particularly, I started to worry about how to properly clean off my hiking gear – my shoes, my socks, my pack, my clothes! I wanted to avoid tracking dirt, seeds and those illusive invasive species on an airplane, across the country, back home to Alabama. I needed to drop them like a bad habit, dump them like a bad boyfriend (or girlfriend).

Then it hit me, why are invasive species like a bad boyfriend (or girlfriend)? Let me give you a few reasons:

## **Invasive Species Can Be Attractive**

At first glance, your partner may be as eye-catching as a field of yellow irises. Gorgeous, even. Nothing indicates that they are bad news bears, until you learn more about them.

## **They're Shady About Their Past**

Bad partners and invasive species won't willingly tell you about their dark history. They will insist that they are totally normal, they belong here, stop questioning their old whereabouts! \*Eyeroll\*

## **Invasive Species Can Be Found Anywhere**

You never go out expecting to get into a bad relationship. They're sneaky that way. You can be somewhere totally innocent, like a coffee shop or garden center, and there they are, waiting to trick you.

## **They're Clingy**

Invasive species and bad partners know when they're not wanted, so they'll work that much harder to latch on. Have you ever tried scrubbing zebra mussels off a boat hull or kicking someone out of your house? Not pleasant!

## **They're Dirty**

No matter how many times you have to say it, they will track mud, dirt and everything in-between all over your clean floors. You'll bemoan the fact that you didn't give them the brush off when you should have

## **Invasive Species Are Bad Neighbors**

Not to assume, but bad partners are usually bad neighbors, blasting music and only caring about themselves. Likewise, with invasive species. Kudzu is one of the worst neighbors in the world—it takes over literally all the land.

## **Invasive Species Cause Stress**

Being outdoors and being in a good relationship are two things that should bring happiness. They're also two things that can cause great stress when dealing with annoying partners or invasive species, like my summit in Colorado.

## **They Don't Listen**

The most frustrating thing of all, Am I Right? There's a reason they're called *invasive*.

## **Invasive Species Are Kind of Our Fault**

Whether we purchased them from a garden center, let them hitchhike on our gear, let them take a ride in the back of our truck, or found them on an app, we unintentionally let these bad relationships into our lives. But with a strong will and some confidence, we all can say goodbye and good riddance to both bad relationships and invasive species.

Love is wonderful, if your relationship is full of roses and tulips and other lovely, native species. But if not, maybe it's time to give bad relationships the brush off, the wash off, the boot!



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## Calendar of Events

March 6	White Pine County Coordinated Resource Management Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m., BLM Conference Room
March 23	Railroad Valley CWMA Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Current Community Center
March 24	Newark/Long Valley CWMA Meeting 10:00 a.m., Eureka Public Administration Bldg.
March 24	Steptoe Valley CWMA Meeting, 5:00 p.m., White Pine County Library (NEW LOCATION)
March 25	Spring Valley CWMA Meeting, 2:00 p.m., Art Andrae's Ranch
March 25	Snake Valley CWMA Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Baker Community Center
March 26	White River CWMA Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Community Center
March 28	Get Outdoors Nevada Day (Las Vegas)
April 1	Pahranagat Valley CWMA Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Alamo Annex
April 2	Upper Meadow Valley CWMA Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Ronda Hornbeck's house
April 8-12	Clark County Fair & Rodeo (Logandale)
April 18	Pahrump Earth Day/Arbor Day (Pahrump)
May 20	S. NV CWMA Meeting, location and time to be announced later
May 27-29	Summit on Free Roaming Equids and Ecosystem Sustainability, Cody, Wyoming Buffalo Bill Center of the West

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