

## ENLC's Annual Winter Weeds Conference a Success

ENLC held its 17th Annual Winter Weeds Conference in Ely on January 4-5, 2023. Despite the bad weather a few days earlier, we had the best turnout yet, with over 110 participants. Most of these individuals were able to acquire additional continuing education units (CEUs) to put towards the renewal of their applicator certifications and licenses. We also offered, in partnership with the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA), the opportunity for anyone who wanted to take the applicator's exam to do so. NDA reported ten (10) people took advantage of this and took the exam following the conference.

The topics ranged from restoring rangelands from cheatgrass infestations to pinyon juniper thinning, removal, and reseedling in the Great Basin. Rather than attempt to summarize each of the presentations, we have included the abstracts for some of the presenters below. If you are interested in the full presentation, please contact ENLC and we will obtain permission from the author to share their presentation with you.



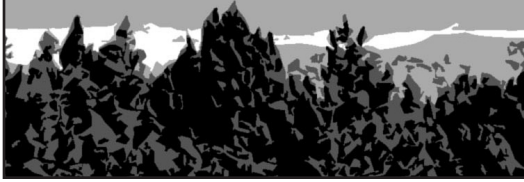
### Restoring Rangelands from Cheatgrass Infestations

*Dan Harmon, USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Great Basin Rangelands Research Unit*

Dan presented USDA ARS' experiential rangeland restoration research, it's current applications, and the role that historical cheatgrass management perspectives played in shaping the most successful and effective cheatgrass control techniques. Harmon

*Continued on page 4*

## 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.

### Board of Directors

Robert Koch, **Chair**  
Laurie Carson, **Vice Chair**  
Carol Ferguson, **Secretary**  
Jerry Martin, **Treasurer**

Doug Busselman • John Hiatt  
Ronda Hornbeck • Bill Wilson  
Bill Wolf

Susi Algrim, **Executive Director**

The Landscape News is published three times per year. Design and layout by  
Tempra Board & Associates.

[execdir@envlc.org](mailto:execdir@envlc.org) • [www.envlc.org](http://www.envlc.org)

## Changing of Seasons

**Susi Algrim**  
**Executive Director**

Welcome to the new year.

Things have been changing and evolving at ENLC since our last “talk.”

We are excited to announce that full-time ENLC staff has doubled since last year and we are looking forward to doing more conservation, restoration, data collection, partnering, education and outreach throughout the arid and semi-arid lands of the west!

As the 2023 field season approaches, we plan on hiring 15 seasonal employees based throughout northern Nevada. We are flying 10 positions based in the Elko and Carson City District BLM offices. These staff will inventory, monitor, and treat weed populations in conjunction with the BLM. We are also hiring five seasonal staff to be based in Ely at the ENLC office. Three of them will be conducting ecological monitoring in partnership with the Ely Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. We are also hiring two individuals that will be assisting on several projects including: acoustic bat data collection in Basin and Range National Monument, and education, outreach, and interpretation with the Humboldt-Toiyabe F.S. and Great Basin National Park.

Due to all the snow (and rain in the south) we have received so far this winter, we are anticipating a productive growing season across most of Nevada. Unfortunately, that also means that we will likely have bumper crops of noxious and nuisance weeds, which may translate to large fires. Please see *High County News*’ story on page six, “How far will you go to reduce your wildfire risk,” to learn more about ways to mitigate wildfire risk near your property.

We are finally starting to see funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) trickle down the pipe. With these funds making their way to on-the-ground projects and other activities, ENLC is preparing for the growth potential that may come if we are able to secure some this funding. It’s an exciting time and we are glad that you’re here with us on this journey. Thank you for your continued support of the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition. Until we chat again.



# ENLC Partners With State and Federal Agencies on Aerial Seeding



**(left) A boom truck operator lowers the filled bag within inches of the hopper of an Air Tractor 802, which can carry up to 800 gallons of seed.**

**(right) An employee of Crop Jet Aviation, LLC fills a bag attached to a boom truck with seed.**



The Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition (ENLC), a non-profit conservation organization, is partnering with state and federal agencies to seed 19,000-plus acres of eastern Nevada's burned public lands. The aerial applications augment previous seedings that improve wildlife habitat and watershed health.

Lara Derasary, ENLC wildland fire rehabilitation specialist, said field assessments suggest the sites selected would benefit from additional seed to support revegetation and habitat restoration efforts. "Given the highly variable annual and inter-annual climatic conditions within the region, we may determine that some sites could benefit from seedings conducted over multiple years," Derasary said.

The ENLC, Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ely District are applying seed to nearly 14,900 acres burned

in the 2018 Goshute Cave Fire. The lightning-ignited fire burned 32,215 acres of BLM-administered land in and outside the Goshute Canyon Wilderness in White Pine and Elko counties, about 60 miles north of Ely.

The partners are seeding approximately 3,935 of the 4,050-plus acres of public land burned in the human-caused 2020 Flat and Baldy fires located in the Antelope Range and 46 acres burned in the lightning-ignited 2018 Paine Fire in Duck Creek Basin, about 60 and 15 miles northeast of Ely, respectively. Approximately 315 of the 338 acres burned in the lightning-ignited 2017 Hobson Fire, about 75 miles northwest of Ely, will also be treated.

All five of the burned areas were initially seeded within a year of the fire event as part of an Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan prepared and implemented by the BLM.

# Winter Weeds Conference

*Continued from page one*

reviewed cheatgrass herbicide control and its effects on competitive weed seedbanks and he presented summarized field data from numerous years of restoration plant material testing throughout northern Nevada. Their research has determined the general appropriateness for seeding specific grasses, shrubs and forbs including native and introduced restoration species. Harmon outlined useable guidelines and specific actions to maximize effective strategies to rehabilitate cheatgrass dominated landscapes and manage for a more productive and sustainable natural resource base.

## **Pinyon Juniper Thinning, Removal, and Reseeding in the Great Basin**

*Dana Johnson, Rangeland Restoration Services, LLC*

Dana discussed Pinyon Juniper thinning and reseeded specific to Cave Valley Ranch. Observations noted during these efforts will be discussed, not to contradict current methods or tools, but to challenge

land managers to think outside the box to continue to improve our restoration efforts.

## **Partnering with ENLC Weeds Crew to Improve Landscape Health in the BLM Carson City District Office**

*Dylan Hardy, Carson City District Office in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)*

Dylan presented the Bureau of Land Management Carson City District's strategies for managing noxious weeds and the district's partnership with the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition through a cooperative agreement. The BLM Carson City District hosted an ENLC weeds crew in 2022 who identified and treated 1,000s of acres of noxious and nuisance weeds across the 5.3-million-acre district. He discussed the district's work in 2022 on managing weeds for post-wildfire rehabilitation, fuels management, recreation, and species conservation.

## **How Herbicides Work Influences Their Selection**

*Brad Schultz, University of Nevada at Reno, Cooperative Extension*

Herbicides are complex chemicals intended to control weeds through a designed disturbance, using their selectivity to promote desired plants growing with the targeted weed(s). This presentation discussed these concepts; clarified

*Continued on next page*



**Wilbur-Ellis' Don Frantz demonstrating the effectiveness of surfactants using a cabbage leaf at the 2023 Winter Weeds Conference**

# ENLC Recognizes Winter Weeds Conference Supporters

Our 17th Annual Winter Weeds Conference was a success in part due to the fiscal support we receive from a number of businesses and individuals. This support helps us keep our registration fees down, which in turn encourages a greater participation in the conference. We would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their support this year:

Nevada Gold Mines  
Spring Valley Wind, LLC  
Envu Vegetation Management  
Wilbur-Ellis  
Mt. Wheeler Power  
Corteva Agriscience  
KGHM Robinson Mine  
Comstock Seed  
Rangeland Restoration Services, LLC

Calibre Mining Corp.  
Carter Cattle Co.  
University of Nevada, Reno Extension  
Robison Engineering Company, Inc.  
Liberty Gold  
White Pine County Tourism & Recreation  
White Pine Main Street  
White Pine Chamber of Commerce

## Weeds Conference

*Continued from previous page*

the confusing and often misused terms, mode, and mechanism (site) of action; the different types of herbicides; and factors that influence herbicide effectiveness. Collectively, these factors influence herbicide selection and short- and long-term treatment success.

### Various Weed Control Methods and Partnerships Throughout Nevada and the Region

*Curt Deuser, National Park Service, Inter-Regional Invasive Plant Management Team*

This presentation featured a variety of weed control and restoration projects being implemented by the National Park Service Lake Mead Inter-Regional Invasive Plant Management Team and its many partners. Numerous priority weed species were discussed, including effective control methods and strategies. Various weeds species from “A to Z” including small annual weeds to large woody perennials and many in between.

Additional presentations were made by the Nevada Department of Agriculture regarding biocontrols currently being utilized in the state and those on the horizon, pesticide regulations, Worker Protection Standards, and recent updates to NDA laws. Representatives from Envu Vegetation Management (formerly Bayer Environmental Sciences), Corteva Agriscience, BioWest Ag Solutions, and Wilbur-Ellis also gave presentations on their products, the importance of understanding pesticide labels and instructions, ways to enhance spraying efficacy, applicator safety, and uses for their products in restoration sites and on ditch banks. An Extension Educator with UNR presented on Nevada’s most poisonous weeds and how they affect their victims. A Natural Resource Specialist with BLM presented on strategies and tools for effective early detection and rapid response by using the Invasive Species Habitat Tool (INHABIT).

The dates have been set for the 2024 conference, which will be held at the Bristlecone Convention Center in Ely, NV on January 10-11, 2024.

# How Far Will You Go to Reduce Your Wildfire Risk?

By Kylie Mohr, *High Country News*

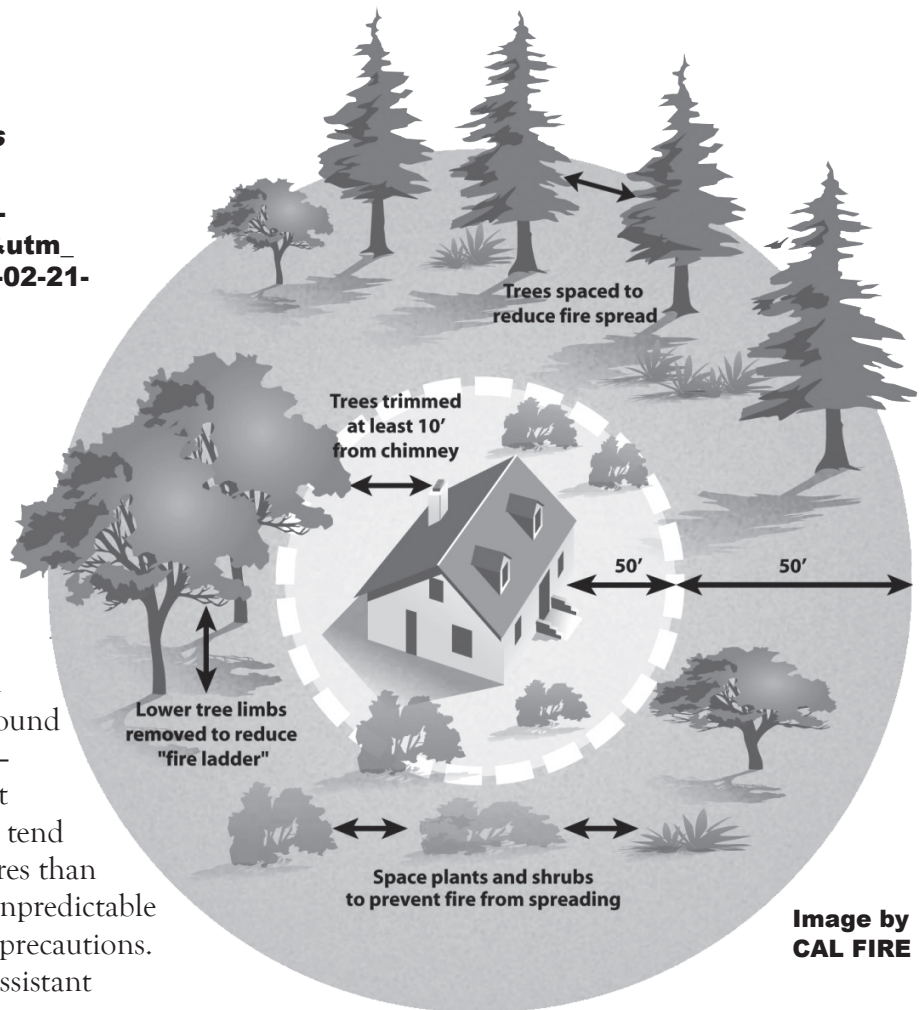
[https://www.hcn.org/articles/north-wildfire-how-far-will-you-go-to-reduce-your-wildfire-risk?utm\\_source=wc1&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=2023-02-21-Newsletter](https://www.hcn.org/articles/north-wildfire-how-far-will-you-go-to-reduce-your-wildfire-risk?utm_source=wc1&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2023-02-21-Newsletter)

No one wants to lose their home in a wildfire. But what pushes people to act beforehand to protect their property — to cut down overgrown shrubs around decks, prune low-hanging tree branches or clear dead leaves from gutters?

A study of homeowners in Deschutes County, Oregon, published this month in the *Journal of Environmental Management*, found that people with an “egalitarian” outlook—those more likely to express concern about the environment and their communities—tend to take more wildfire preparedness measures than others. “Fatalists”—those who feel risk is unpredictable and resources are limited—take the fewest precautions.

Study author Erika Allen Wolters, an assistant professor of political science at Oregon State University, said the results highlight the influence of an individual’s worldview on their response to risk. “I’m always curious about the human perspective,” she said. “How we think about risk, how we mitigate it, whether we mitigate it, the ways we bypass thinking about it or doing anything.”

The study surveyed about 450 homeowners who live in areas where development and forests overlap. Survey respondents were asked for their thoughts on the role of individuals in society, as well as about the measures they’d taken to protect their homes. They were specifically asked about their adoption of the Firewise USA program recommendations, created by the U.S. Forest Service and the National Fire Protection Agency to help communities reduce wildfire risk. Among other measures, Firewise recommends that homeowners plant fire-resistant vegetation, prepare evacuation plans, and use nonflammable building materials.



Prepared properties contribute to a less flammable neighborhood.

While most respondents expressed concern about wildfire risk, their willingness to minimize it depended on their previous experience with wildfire, their proximity to forests or rangelands, and the existence of local land-use rules, such as building codes or homeowners’ association requirements. Young homeowners and women were also more likely to act.

Other factors not included in the study—such as physical mobility and socioeconomic status—can also be barriers to wildfire preparedness. So can politics: In the summer of 2022, a wildfire risk map issued by the state of Oregon prompted outrage among those who saw it as a costly attack on private property and symbolic of government overreach. The map was rescinded, and proposed revisions have been further delayed. Building-code updates for high and extreme risk areas won’t go

*Continued on next page*

# Reducing Wildfire Risk

*Continued from previous page*

into effect until the map controversy is resolved.

“I’m always curious about the human perspective... How we think about risk, how we mitigate it, whether we mitigate it, the ways we bypass thinking about it or doing anything.”

Bob Horton, director of the Western Fire Chiefs Association, said that “many” properties he sees in Oregon’s Jackson County, where he used to be a district fire chief, aren’t ready to withstand a wildfire. He suspects that conventional motivational strategies—brochures, education, tents at events—aren’t enough to prompt widespread action. This study, he said, “is really helping better inform and drive practitioners like myself toward a better understanding of the human experience.”

The new study recommends that fire safety officials deliver a variety of messages about fire preparedness.

“Whatever you’re trying to do, it needs to be salient for people,” Allen Wolters said. Egalitarians might be motivated by the idea of helping their communities, while individualists may respond better to market-based incentives or approaches that prioritize autonomy. “This is why humans are so complex,” Allen Wolters said. “Appealing to one might not appeal to another.”

With spring in the Western U.S. arriving sooner and becoming hotter and drier, local restrictions on brush-pile burning and the use of mechanical thinning equipment are coming into force earlier in the year. “There are six to eight weeks less time homeowners have to prepare properties than we had just five years ago,” Horton said. As the annual window of opportunity narrows, it becomes even more urgent to motivate people to prepare for the possibility of flames.

## Calendar of Events

<b>March 3</b>	<b>White Pine County Coordinated Resource Management Meeting, Ely</b>
----------------	---

<b>March 7</b>	<b>Newark/Long Valley CWMA Meeting, Eureka Steptoe Valley CWMA Meeting, Ely</b>
----------------	---

<b>March 9</b>	<b>Upper Meadow Valley CWMA Meeting, Ursine Pahranagat Valley CWMA Meeting, Alamo</b>
----------------	---

<b>March 14</b>	<b>Spring Valley CWMA Meeting, Yelland Ranch Snake Valley CWMA Meeting, Baker</b>
-----------------	---

<b>March 21</b>	<b>Humboldt Watershed CWMA Weed Extravaganza, Elko</b>
-----------------	--

<b>March 22</b>	<b>Railroad Valley CWMA Meeting, Currant White River Valley CWMA Meeting, Lund</b>
-----------------	--

<b>May 18</b>	<b>Southern Nevada CWMA Meeting, Las Vegas</b>
---------------	--

<b>June 18-24</b>	<b>Society for Range Management (SRM) Range Camp</b>
-------------------	--

<b>July 14-16</b>	<b>Great Basin Kids Workshop (White Pine County) - Ward Charcoal Ovens and Cave Lake State Park</b>
-------------------	---

<b>July 27-29</b>	<b>Great Basin Kids Workshop (Lincoln County) - Kershaw Ryan State Park</b>
-------------------	---

<b>August 18-20</b>	<b>White Pine County Fair – ENLC’s Noxious Weed Educational Booth</b>
---------------------	---



**Eastern Nevada  
Landscape Coalition**

**PO Box 150266  
Ely, NV 89315**

**775.289.7974  
execdir@envlc.org**

PRESORT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ELKO, NV  
PERMIT NO. 138

## ENLC Membership Reminder

By supporting ENLC as a member, you are supporting our annual programs and workshops. These events aren't covered by project or agreements, so your memberships are critical to keep these events going. A few of these events are our Great Basin Kids Workshop, our Annual Winter Weeds Conference, and our

CWMA Volunteer Workdays, which are all events that ENLC hosts that are supported by its members.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Susi Algrim, ENLC's executive director, at 775-289-7974 extension 1#.

### ENLC Membership

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Business/Organization** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

*Membership contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.  
ENLC's tax ID number is: 33-1001664.*

<b>Student</b> (enrolled in school)	<b>\$ 15</b>
<b>Senior (60+)</b>	<b>\$ 35</b>
<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>
<b>Restoration Partner and</b> <b>/or Nonprofit Org.</b>	<b>\$ 100-\$ 999</b>
<b>Corporate</b>	<b>\$ 250</b>
<b>Lifetime Restoration</b> <b>Partner</b>	<b>\$ 1,000+</b>

**Send your check and this form to:**

**ENLC  
PO Box 150266  
Ely, NV 89315**