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BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Noxious Weeds, Invasive & Non-Native Species*

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The BLM Carson City District (CCD) is developing the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Carson City District planning area. The Carson City RMP will provide detailed information about the current state of resources on public lands within the planning area, and set forth a plan of action for managing those resources for the next twenty or so years under the BLM's multiple use mandate.

CONTROLLING NOXIOUS WEEDS, INVASIVE & NON-NATIVE SPECIES IN THE PLANNING AREA

The purpose of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) vegetation treatment program is to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires by reducing hazardous fuels, to restore fire-damaged lands, and to improve ecosystem health by controlling weeds and non-native species, manipulating vegetation to benefit fish and wildlife habitat, improve riparian and wetland areas and improve water quality for priority watersheds (USDI FES 2007).

Noxious weeds and invasive annual grass species out-compete native vegetation, primarily in disturbed areas, for resources through advantageous physiological characteristics. Weeds threaten to degrade public lands in Nevada by spreading into and infesting sensitive riparian ecosystems, important rangelands, wildfire scars and developed lands maintained as rights of way and recreational areas. Unbalanced biodiversity, a weakened ecosystem, a higher propensity for soil erosion, increased frequency of wildfires and limited food stuff resources for wildlife, both terrestrial and aquatic, are threats caused by noxious weed infestations on the CCD. Weeds on private agricultural lands have the potential to spread onto federal lands and vice versa.



Saltcedar (*Tamarix* species) Infestation

Preventing the introduction of noxious weeds and invasive species is the first line of defense against noxious weed establishment and spread, usually associated with cultural control practices.



CCD Noxious Weeds

Common Name	Scientific Name
Russian knapweed	<i>Acroptilon repens</i>
Hoary cress	<i>Cardaria draba</i>
Musk thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>
Diffuse knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>
Yellow starthistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>
Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea stoebe</i> ssp. <i>Mincranthos</i>
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Bull thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Poison hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>
Perennial pepperweed/ Tall whitetop	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>
Dalmatian toadflax	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Scotch thistle	<i>Onopordum ancanthium</i>
African rue	<i>Peganum harmala</i>
Mediterranean sage	<i>Salvia aethiopsis</i>
Medusahead	<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>
Saltcedar /Tamarisk	<i>Tamarix</i> sp.
Puncturevine	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>

Noxious weeds continue to gain dominance in areas where weeds are established. These areas then become launching points from which new areas with suitable habitat and disturbance are infected. Without an IPM approach, damaged or degraded areas are not re-vegetated allowing noxious weeds to persist and increase on the landscape and over time will allow the succession of other non-native invasive species to migrate to the area, establish, and gain dominance. The increasing urbanization of western Nevada and eastern California will bring additional disturbances to native vegetation communities and will facilitate the spread of noxious weeds by means of increased human-caused fires, damage of native plant communities, and spread of weeds by motorized vehicles. Climate change is projected to increase the spread of noxious weeds.

CCD Planning Webpage:
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html

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