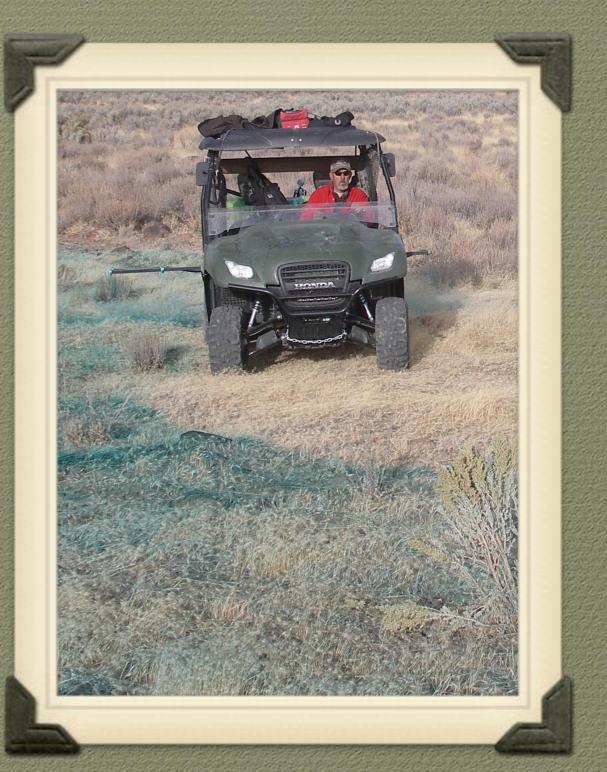
Confessions of a Medusahead Weed Warrior

> Presented by Daryl Riersgard



What we are going to

- Big picture (NevadaoVer
- Smaller picture (Paradise Valley)
- MH Phenology
- MH, general info
- What is needed to fight back
- MH partners (trust and confidence)
- Worst case examples

- Outline continued.....
- What can you door longer term solutions

MH big picture, Nevada

- Gerlach
- Reno/Washoe County
- Douglas County
- Paradise Valley and Humboldt County
- Elko

Small picture Paradise valley

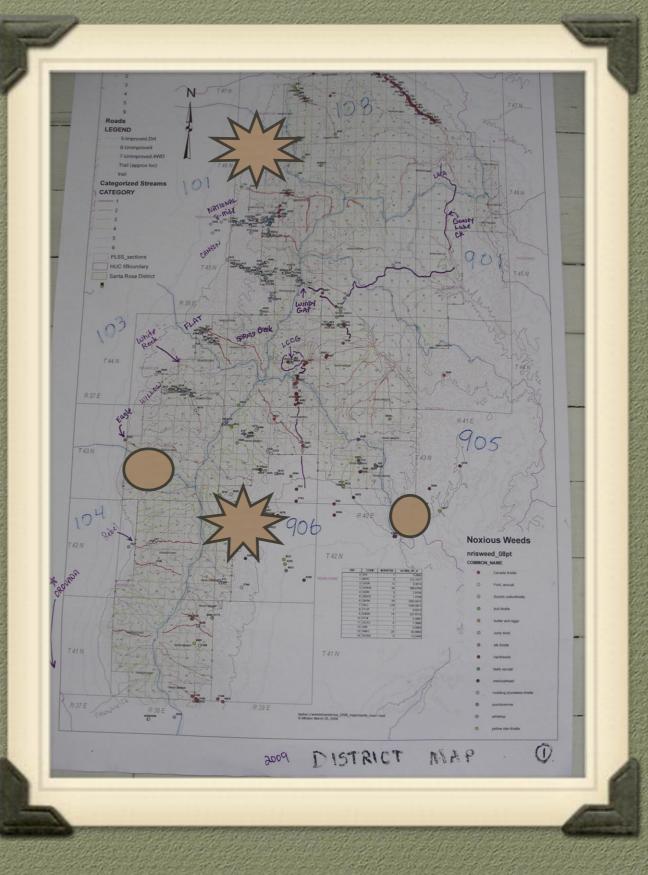


Paradise Valley 13 watersheds

Forest Service map

McDermitt up to 10K acres NW paradise Valley, 7K acres

National Canyon and Martin Creek



Medusahead phenology



MH seed awn, found on a rock, no soil contact



new MH in and around older cheat grass, good time for Journey (May)





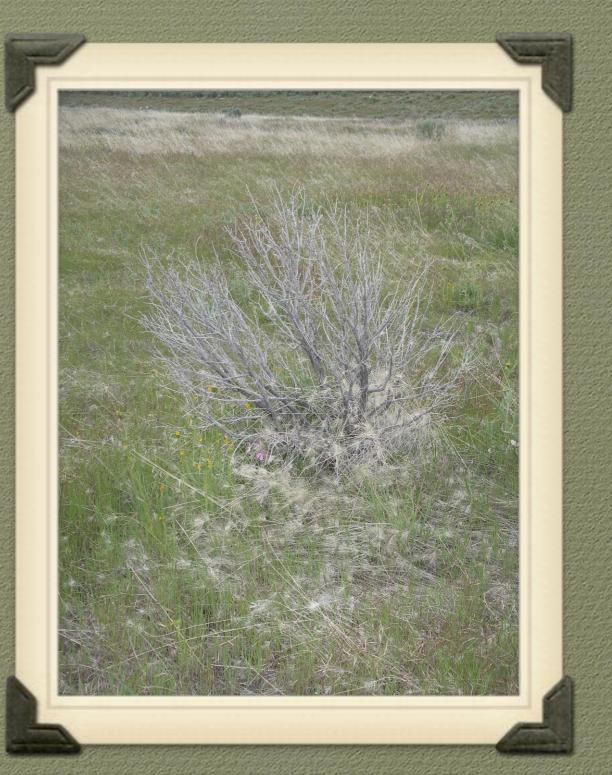


Start pre-emergent spraying, late october, November and December (if mother nature will permit)

Medusahead General info

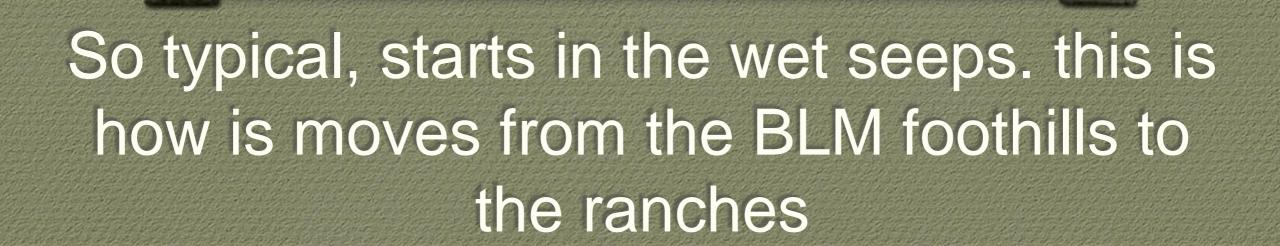
Typical sage brush cluster

Hard to get aerial spray down and around this brush cluster, worse if sage is alive





Morey Creek Wx Station, MH vs. Cheatgrass who wins?



BLM weed seeds flush unto the valley ranches.....we now have 9 ranches infested



You don't know what you don't know



What is elevation limit? My last patch was 5,827'





This drainage used to be full of wild flowers....from Wild flowers to MH to bare ground



MH thatch cover



Plateau, test strip



MH would't hurt the landscape?



How to kill MH with aerial application

What is needed to fight MH

- Start with the ground guy, coordinator
- Find good (and smart) weed partners
- Make a plan
- Maps, photos and other documentation
- Find some money (or go home)

Medusahead partners

Boyd Hatch, USFS good guy





Rob Burton, BLM good guy, liked to spend time in the field



Brad Schultz, good guy, University Extension



With all of your partners, bring it together, get to work



Ground help, thanks to NDF

Senator Dean Heller

Took the time for an extended walking weed tour to see the damage from Medusahead....

has promised support



Worst case examples



Water shed from mountains, through the foothills to the Bell Ranch



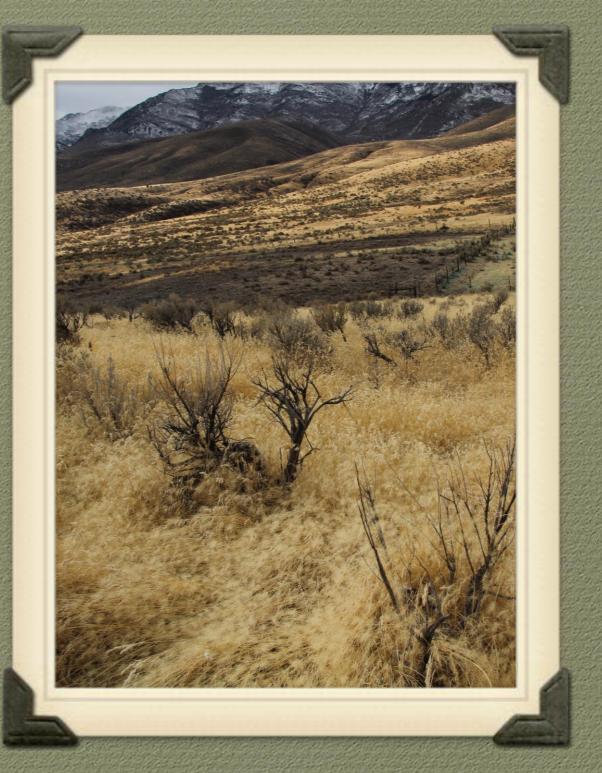
Not enough \$\$\$



John Bell ranch, now clean of MH

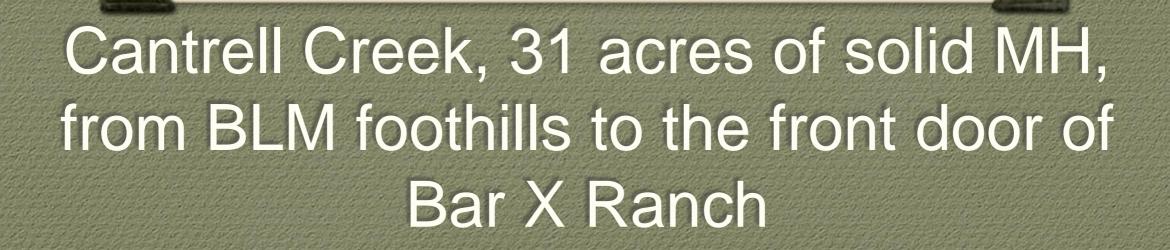
BLM land, 258 acres

It only took years to convince BLM that this was a bad patch and needed aerial application (note the dead sage brush)





Lamance watershed, waiting for USFS to approve aerial application





Cantrell Creek dumps right into Bar X ranch

What can you do? longer term solutions

- Either get involvedor stay involved
- Know what is being developed, politically (weigh in).....AB227 Nevada, HR 3994 Congress
- Newer and bigger role for NWMA
- Know what MH is (or isn't).....rancher reports
- Share Conservation Commission letter
- BLM funding (x 10)



Not medusahead

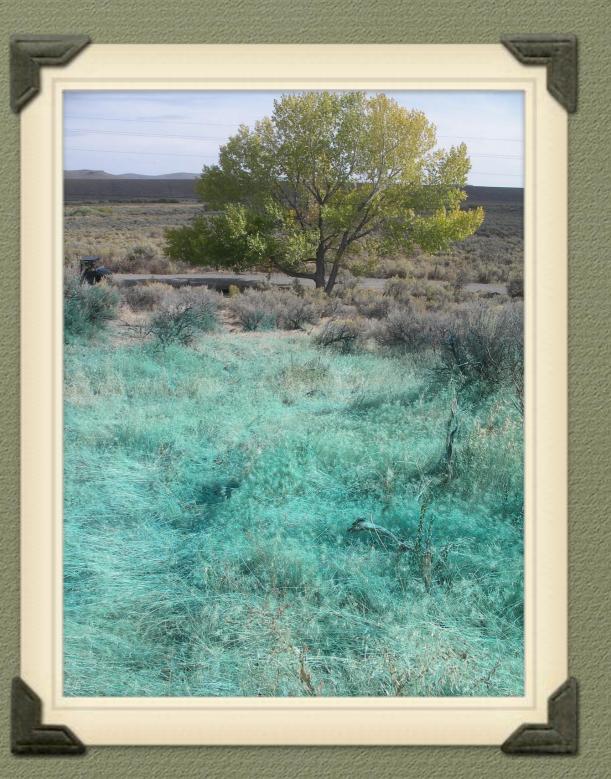
Rancher reports



what ranchers report

Example of a new patch of Medusahead, 4.5 miles from the nearest known patch.

How did it get there?





October 7, 2014

Ms. Amy Lueders, State Director Bureau of Land Management 1340 Financial Boulevard Reno, Nevada 89502-7147 Mr. Bill Dunkelberger, Supervisor Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest 1200 Franklin Way Sparks, Nevada 89431

Greetings Ms. Lueders and Mr. Dunkelberger,

The Nevada State Conservation Commission requests the BLM, USFS and others take a new, coordinated approach to deal with the Medusahead rye problem in Nevada. The work will require increased funding, and we suggest additional options in the current draft Sub-regional Greater Sage-grouse EIS could be a great opportunity to accomplish significant forward movement to reduce this injurious invasive and improve core Sage-grouse habitat at the same time.

Paradise Valley, Nevada offers an excellent case in point of the problems and possibilities of the Medusahead rye situation. Approximately 28 years ago a California equestrian hunter introduced the grass by importing contaminated hay. The following spring, local rancher Fritz Buckingham noticed an odd new weed/grass species in the area the hunter had used. Since no one was aware of the weed threat, it was not treated. Over ten years ago, the USFS made attempts to control Medusahead rye in the Lamance watershed; about 2009 the local Weed District got involved.

Now, approximately 80% of the current Medusahead infestation resides on the BLM foothills. In recent years, the local BLM office has attempted to provide limited funding. They also took the initiative to push for 1500 acres of aerial spraying. This tool was carefully used to treat the highest priority large patches. The BLM was not able to provide actual ground sprayers until the 2014 season. At the same time, the Forest Service Santa Rosa District aggressively used ground crews of two to four sprayers. For a six-year period, the Weed District spray crews worked side by side with the Forest Service crews.

USFS policy will not permit aerial spraying, yet there are multiple sites that lend themselves to aerial spraying only. This policy has helped to promote the uphill spread of Medusahead to the mountain slopes, again in the Lamance watershed.

The facts are clear in Paradise Valley, and representative of other areas of the state: most of the seed source for Medusahead rye is on the government managed land and when spring runoff occurs each year, billions of Medusahead rye seed heads move down stream. Paradise Valley currently has nine ranches that are infested and patches are popping up across the valley, even on the east side around Martin Creek. These infestations were not present two years ago.

Medusahead rye has been found in other areas in Nevada. One of, if not the worst infestation in the state, is on the upper plateaus between Gerlach and the California state line. To make this location even more challenging is the fact there are three BLM district offices involved as well as some USFS lands. A well informed BLM employee in that area has admitted that the problem is well beyond his ability to control. The key point here is that least one federal weed manager has decided that the problem is so big that he has no choice but to let it go, a situation that is simply unacceptable.

Recently, Forest Service crews, Nevada Department of Agriculture staff, and our regional Conservation Districts Program staff discovered a large, hard to access field adjacent to the McDermitt Indian Colony.

The end

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