



A Partnership to Protect
Agriculture, Communities, and the
Environment

What is a CWMA?

Cooperative Weed Management Area =

- **Common concern**
 - Landowners, agencies, and organizations concerned about weeds in a given area
- **Helping each other**
 - Share information and resources
 - Leverage funding
- **Coordinating the work**
 - Weed prevention and detection
 - Weed control treatments

Southern Nevada CWMA

- **Background**
 - Previous CWMA in southern NV
 - Las Vegas Wash Weed Partnership
- **Need**
 - Fountaingrass issue in Laughlin
 - Other serious weed concerns:
 - Sahara mustard, Camelthorn, Malta starthistle, Russian knapweed
- **Organization**
 - Working group for Fountaingrass Control Initiative
 - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing CWMA

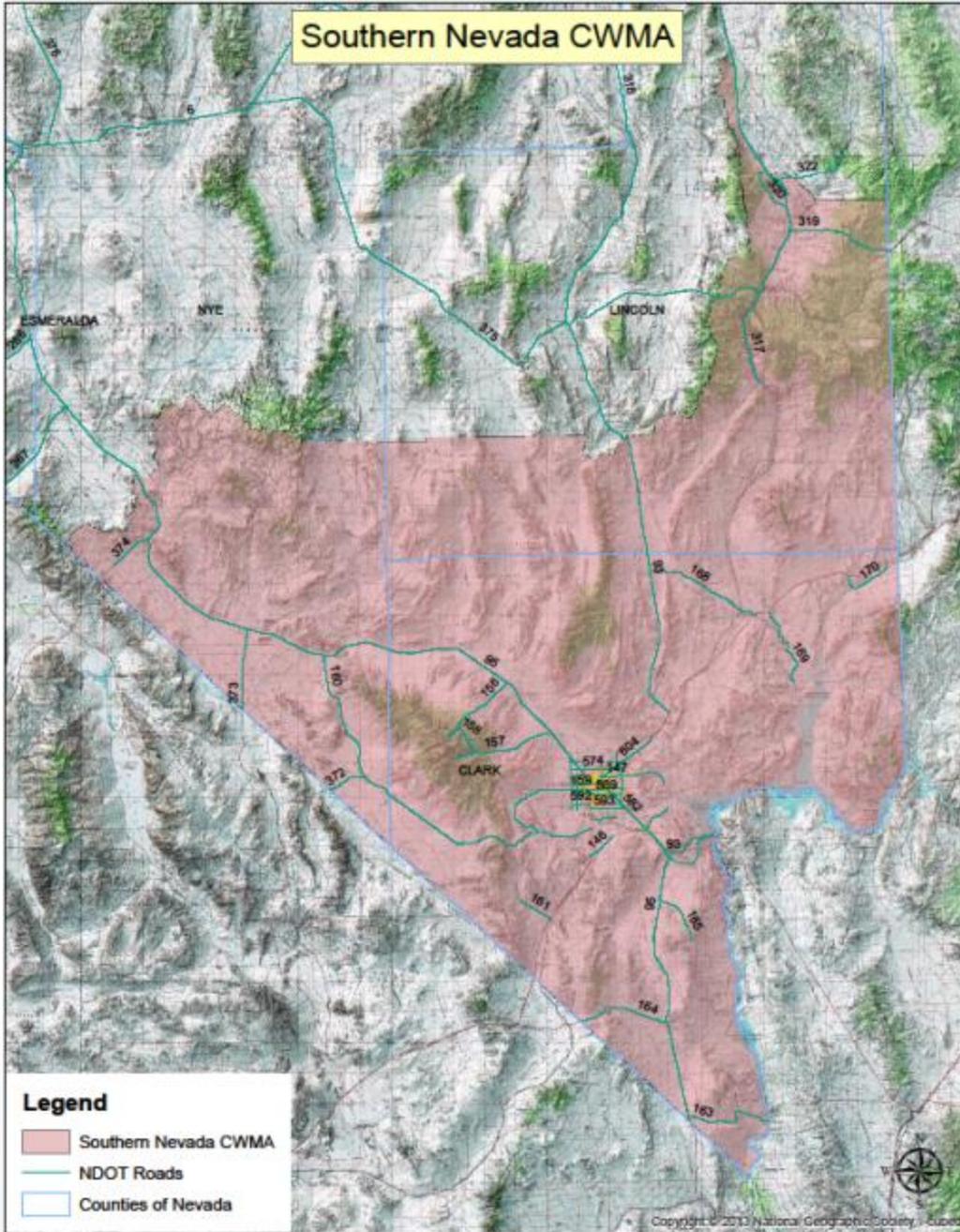
Partners (so far)

- **Landowners/Organizations**
 - Private landowners
 - Eastern NV Landscape Coalition
 - Tri-County Weed Control
- **County**
 - Clark County Desert Conservation Program, Parks and Recreation, Town of Laughlin, Southern NV Water Authority
- **State**
 - NV Dept of Agriculture, Dept of Wildlife, Dept of Transportation
 - NV Div of Forestry, Div of State Parks
 - University of NV Cooperative Extension
- **Federal**
 - USDI National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management (Las Vegas and Ely), Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation
 - USDA Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- **Tribes**
 - Moapa Band of Paiutes

Other potential partners

- **Master Gardeners**
- **Nurseries/Garden Centers**
- **Landscape architects**
- **Landscape maintenance professionals**
- **Chambers of Commerce**
- **Recreation User Groups**
- **Youth Groups**
- **Schools**
- **Las Vegas Paiute and Fort Mohave Indian Tribes**
- **Bullhead City**

Southern Nevada CWMA





Carolyn Martus



Green (or Crimson)
Fountaingrass
Pennisetum setaceum

The Problem

- Fountaingrass is planted in ornamental landscaping
- Seeds are carried by wind and by water
- Seeds germinate readily
- Plants spread into undesirable locations, including
 - riverbanks, roadsides and canyons
 - agricultural fields and orchards
- **Invasive plants:**
 - **Compete with and crowd out native plants or crops**
 - **alter wildlife habitat and food sources**
 - **increase the threat of wildland fire**









Photo by Joe DiTomaso, Regents of the University of California, Copyright 2008

Nevada Weed Laws

NRS Chapter 555.130-201

- **Green fountaingrass is a Class A Noxious Weed**
- **Regulated by NV Dept of Agriculture**
- **May not be sold or planted in Nevada**
- **Landowner/occupant is required to eradicate it**
- **Remedies for compliance**

Invasive Plant Management

Lake Mead Exotic Plant Management Team

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



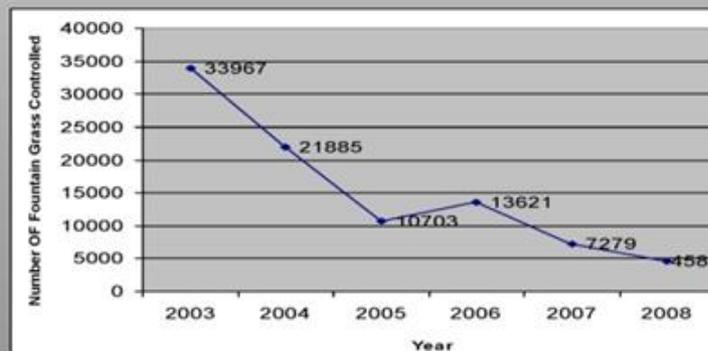
Keeping Fountain Grass out of the Mojave Desert

Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*) is an escaped ornamental perennial bunchgrass from Africa that has invaded parts of Hawaii and the Sonoran Desert. It is adapted to fire and increases hazardous fuels causing wildfires in areas that may not have historically occurred. It was detected in the late 1990's within the Mojave Desert at Joshua Tree NP and along the Colorado River corridor on the shores of Lake Mohave. The extent of these populations was limited and a rapid response was necessary to keep it from spreading out of control. If no action is taken then fountain grass would spread by windblown seed similar to the way tamarisk has infested the region. The National Park Service began controlling these recently detected populations in 2001. Control is also occurring on adjacent US Fish and Wildlife Refuges by the NPS Lake Mead EPMT through partnerships agreements. Nevada designated fountain grass on the State Noxious Weed List in 2002 and one the largest commercial nurseries in the state voluntarily withdrew it from sales prior to listing. Populations of this weedy grass have dramatically declined due to successful control actions.



Escaped Ornamentals: What you can do

- Assess the invasive potential of a plant prior to planting.
- Remove plants that are establishing outside of intended area.
- Do not share plants that are overrunning your yard.
- Never dispose of aquatic plants in waterways.
- Follow prohibited plant laws in your area.
- Be aware of what you plant.

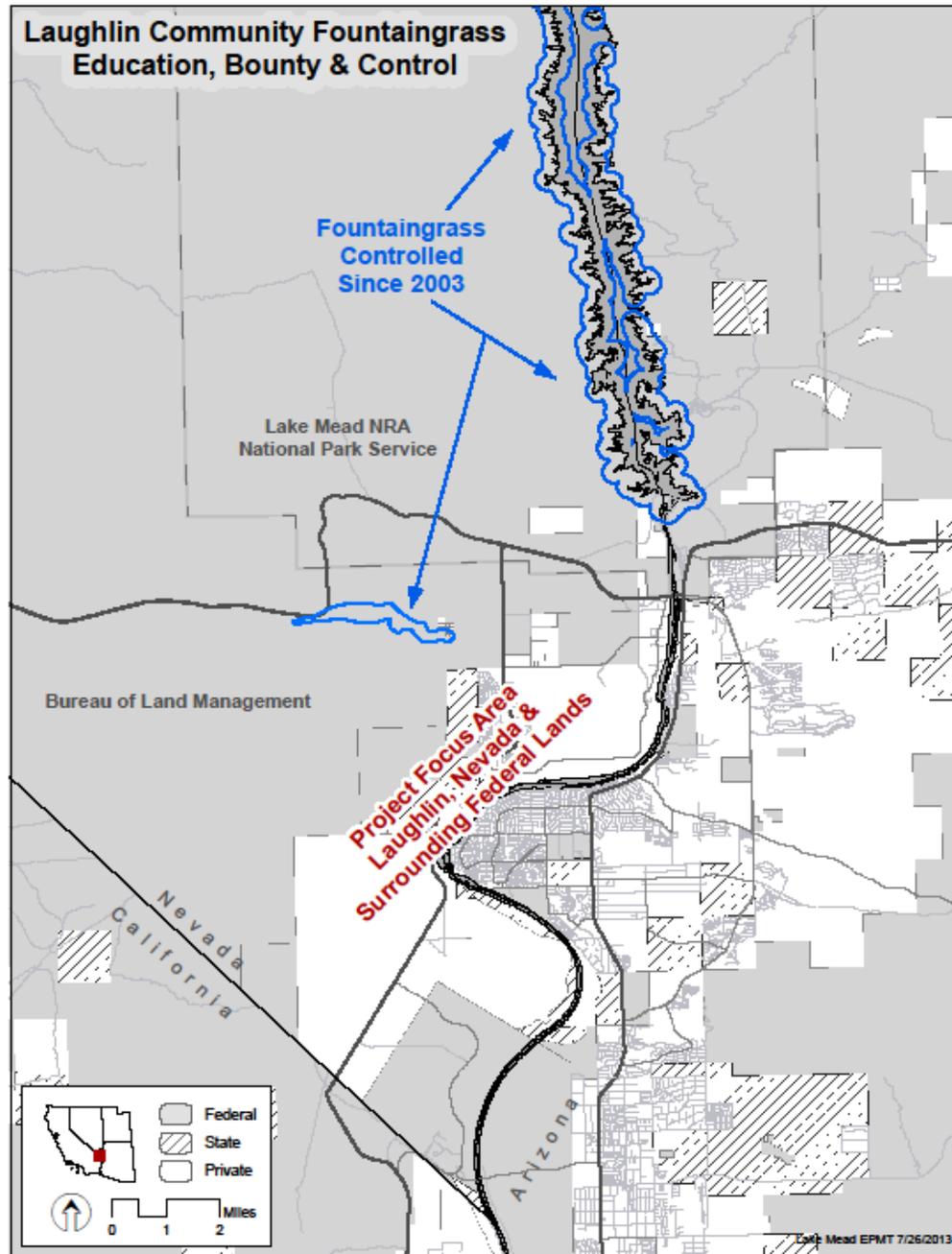


Further Information

Curt_deuser@nps.gov

www.nature.nps.gov/biology/invasivespecies/

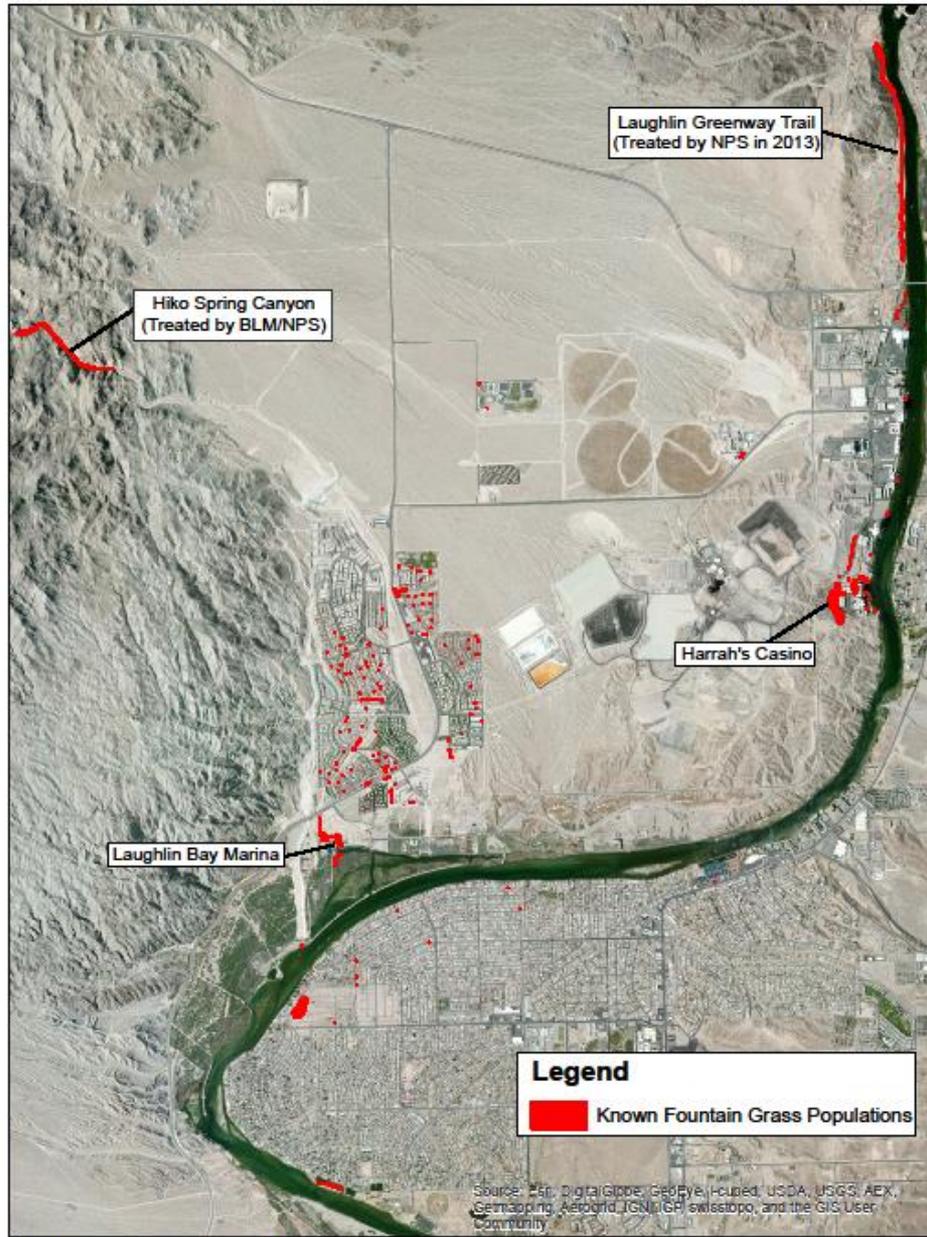
Laughlin Community Fountaingrass Education, Bounty & Control



The Plan

- **Assess the scope and scale of the problem**
 - **Map and evaluate extent of infestations**
- **Public awareness and education**
 - **Fountaingrass is a Noxious Weed and banned in Nevada**
 - **Why it's bad for the environment, agriculture, communities**
 - **Alternative plants suitable for landscapes**
- **Community action**
 - **Incentives for removing fountaingrass from private lands**
 - **Volunteer "Weed-Pull" events in parks and open spaces**
 - **Coordinated treatments on public lands**
- **Restoration and monitoring**
 - **Plant native species in sensitive natural areas**
 - **Follow-up treatment of new fountaingrass seedlings**

Laughlin, NV Fountain Grass Locations



0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles Lake Mead EPMT







Community Outreach

- **Town of Laughlin:**
 - Laughlin Town Manager, Community Development Manager
 - Laughlin Town Advisory Board
 - Hotel-Casino Resorts
 - Homeowners Associations
- **Organizations**
 - Colorado River Heritage Greenway Trails Association
 - NV Cooperative Extension
 - Master Gardeners
- **Media:**
 - Laughlin Nevada Times
 - Las Vegas Review-Journal



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension

PEER
REVIEWED

Fact Sheet-14-11

Green Fountain Grass

(*Pennisetum setaceum*)

This problem for our environment is pretty, but pretty bad

Angela M. O'Callaghan, Ph.D.

Social Horticulture Specialist

ML Robinson

Horticulture Specialist

INTRODUCTION

When we hear that a plant is a weed, we often envision something unpleasant to see, touch or have nearby, such as a stinging nettle or some thistles. If that were true, weed control would be less challenging than it is – everyone would want to remove the pests!

The unfortunate fact is, a plant need not be ugly to pose a big problem. Some of our most environmentally destructive weeds were actually introduced as lovely landscape plants. Only after they have become overly successful, crowding out members of the native plant community, does their negative potential become clear.

One of those pest plants is green fountain grass, *Pennisetum setaceum*. It has thrived throughout the world wherever it has been introduced. In the Western United States, its drought

tolerance gives it an advantage over less tolerant native or introduced plants.

DESCRIPTION

This clumping grass produces tall (up to 5 feet) flower plumes.



Pennisetum setaceum can invade urban and rural landscapes. Photo: A. O'Callaghan

Fact Sheet

University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension

- Updated an earlier fact sheet
- Fact Sheet 14-11 available online



Your help is needed to protect
Nevada's healthy ecosystems.

Stop the invasion of fountaingrass
in Southern Nevada!

Brochure

- NV Dept of Agriculture developed and printed 1,000
- Bureau of Reclamation updated and printed 3,500
- Distributed copies and/or PDFs to
 - CWMA partners
 - Laughlin civic center
 - Volunteers
 - Master Gardeners
 - Public/community events

Community events

- Clark County Fair
- Wings and Wildlife Festival
- National Public Lands Day



BOUNTY on fountaingrass!

- **FREE 1-gallon sacaton grass plant in exchange for fountaingrass removed from private property**
- **Take a photo of your fountaingrass after removal**
- **Bag and dispose of fountaingrass (don't spread seeds!)**
- **Report fountaingrass removal through EDDMapS (via smart phone app or online), or by email or mail**
- **On confirmation, arrange to pick up your free plant!**

Plant Exchange



Alternate Plants



**Alkali Sacaton
(Dropseed)**

Sporobolus airoides

-native



Robert H. Mohlenbrock



© W.L. Wagner

**Alkali Muhly
(Scratch grass)**

Muhlenbergia asperifolia
-native



© Robert Soreng



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Bush Muhly

Muhlenbergia porteri
-native



**Desert Spoon
(Sotol)**

Dasyilirion wheeleri
-native



Deerglass

Muhlenbergia rigens
-native



NOT Recommended:

Red/Purple Fountaingrass

Pennisetum setaceum

var. "rubrum"

Cultivar of green fountaingrass

Reported to be sterile, but...
some seeds have produced
viable green fountaingrass

Green or Red?



Look closer



Weed-Pull Events



Funding to date

- **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation**
 - \$75,000
- **US Bureau of Reclamation**
 - \$20,000
- **US Bureau of Land Management**
 - \$15,000
- **NV Department of Agriculture**
 - \$16,000
- **NV Department of Wildlife**
 - \$1,000
- **Matching contributions (in-kind)**
 - \$81,000 projected non-federal agencies, organizations, volunteers

How Can I Help?

- **Spread the word**
 - Tell others how fountaingrass is harmful
 - Report fountaingrass locations
 - www.agri.nv.gov, EDDMapS-West app/online
- **Act/Recommend**
 - Safely treat or remove fountaingrass plants
 - Plant non-invasive plants
- **Volunteer**
 - Sign up for volunteer weed-pull events
 - Help recruit, organize or supervise volunteers

Other Accomplishments

- **Priority weed species list for southern NV**
 - **45 species in 3 counties**
- **Technical assistance to:**
 - **Moapa Band of Paiutes**
 - **City of Henderson Parks and Recreation**
 - **NV Dept of Transportation**
 - **Nye County weed management plan?**
- **Email: S.NV.CWMA@gmail.com**
- **Facebook page: [Southern Nevada CWMA](#)**

Next Steps

- **Priority weed issues**
- **Outreach to new partners**
- **Assistance to landowners**
- **Sustainable funding**
- **Education and Training**

Questions?



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Facebook: Southern Nevada CWMA

**For more
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