

**TESTIMONY ON INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITIES ON THE
HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST
FOR THE
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS**

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you Mr. Chairman and Committee Members for providing this opportunity to speak before the Legislative Committee on Public Lands. My Name is Brett Glover and I am the Forest Invasive Species Coordinator and my name is Marnie Bonesteel, Resource Staff Officer on the Santa Rosa Ranger District, on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Our testimony today will update the committee on management actions currently being implemented on the National Forest and outline some of the higher priority issues that the Forest is currently facing in the realm of Invasive Species Management. I will provide some background on the Forest and then address the following areas in more detail:

- 1) Invasive Species Management on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
- 2) 2005 Successes
- 3) Cooperation, Coordination & Partnerships
- 4) 2006 Program
- 5) Invasive Species Treatment, Post Fire-Santa Rosa Ranger District

BACKGROUND

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest's 6.3 million acres of public land is located throughout the State of Nevada and a small portion of Eastern California. Starting in the North East corner of the State, are the Jarbidge, Ruby Mountain, and Mountain City Ranger Districts. Central and Northern Nevada includes the Austin-Tonopah, Ely and Santa Rosa Ranger District. The Sierra front includes the Carson and Bridgeport

**EXHIBIT F1 - LANDS
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Districts and in the South is the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (SMNRA). Our Forest Supervisor's office is located in Sparks, Nevada.

The dominant vegetation types on the Forest that can be impacted by invasive species are Sagebrush/Grasslands, Aspen, Mountain Brush, Riparian, Pine, Fir and Pinyon-Juniper. The lands within the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest provide important recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, sight-seeing, hiking, off highway vehicle uses, and camping for the residents of Nevada and California as well as other visitors.

INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM

Invasive Species are one of the largest threats facing land owners and land managers within the State of Nevada and across the West. Invasive species affect both public and private lands and they impact both rural and urban areas without regard to ownership or boundaries. In many parts of the Western United States weed infestations are being maintained with no hope of complete eradication. Invasive species can seriously impact rangelands, agricultural operations, wildlife and fisheries habitat, recreational opportunities, and even urban developments.

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Invasive Species Treatment Program began in 1996.

The species of most concern on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest include:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| ○ Leafy Spurge | ○ Perennial Pepperweed (Tall |
| ○ Scotch Thistle | White Top) |
| ○ Toad flax. | ○ Knapweeds |
| ○ Medusa Head grass | ○ Houndstongue |
| ○ Dyer's Woad | ○ Musk Thistle |

Other Invasive Species of Concern

Blister Rust and the New Zealand Mud Snail have been located in Nevada.

Blister Rust is a fungus which infects White bark pines; they include the ancient Bristlecone Pine and Limber Pine. The fungus was located on the Mountain City Ranger District.

2005 SUCCESSES

- The Forest treated 1600 infested acres
- The Forest employed twelve students
- The 2005 field crews were trained to use a personal data recorder (PDR), a digital mapping program with a GPS attachment. This process is used to save time and improve mapping procedures to then download into a Forest database-TERRA.
- Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR)

COOPERATION, COORDINATION, & PARTNERSHIPS

Nevada has not lost the war on weeds; however, there is currently significant cause for concern. To prevent the spread of weeds it will involve all agencies, land owners and public land users to recognize the problem and be willing to find solutions.

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest has many partners including the Nevada Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Nevada Division of Forestry, County Extension, Conservation & Weed Districts and the many Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA's) across the State. It is imperative that we all continue our cooperation across boundaries to reduce the spread and risk of new infestations.

There are several ways the Forest is working to assist in cooperation and prevention.

- Certified Weed Free Forage Requirements on all National Forest's in the Intermountain Region, this includes Nevada, Idaho, Utah and parts of Wyoming
- Encouraging land owners to get their fields certified
- Education and prevention with livestock permittees during annual meetings
- Encouraging private land owners to participate in NRCS weed program
- Addressing the issue as everyone's problem, not singling people out
- Assisting with on the ground projects with CWMA's, Weed Districts, and other land management agencies
- Education and Prevention at Outdoor School, Nevada Cattlemen's Convention, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Employees annual All Employees Day
- Treating infestations across boundary's

2006 PROGRAM

The budget for 2006 has increased since last year and this will help significantly with the inventory and treatment of invasive species. Some of the highlights for 2006 are as follows:

- 2006 Budget \$446,840
- 17 employees
- Continued cooperation with various partners
- Implement Forest Standards and Guides-Best Management Practices
- Target small infested acreage first and then focus on larger infestations
- Treat with Burn Area Emergency Rehab dollars the North Road Fire

FIRE AND INVASIVES

The Santa Rosa Ranger District has had several years now with only limited wildfire activity with the exception of the Upper Willow Fire in 2001 (40,000 acres) and the North Road Fire (12,000) in 2005. Rehabilitation activities to fight Scotch Thistle continue on the Upper Willow Fire and will begin this spring on the North Road Fire. To date the following activities have occurred to rehabilitate the burned area on the North Road Fire. Treatment is completed using Burn Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) funding.

- Approximately 150 acres on Santa Rosa District boundary (350 ft. buffer) were seeded and 110 acres (300 ft. buffer) of riparian seeded this fall, 2005
- Green-stripping, planting species that help slow down fire, has forage potential
- Quick moving fire, upper elevations have native seed source, lower elevations contend with cheat-grass invasion and noxious weeds
- Four miles of forest boundary fence was reconstructed this fall 2005
- Four miles interior rangeland allotment fences will be reconstructed in spring, 06'
- Invasive species treatment will begin in the spring, continue through summer, 06'
- Monitoring of the recovery will occur this spring and summer, 06'
- Stepped up effort on behalf of Ft. McDermitt Tribe, BIA and FS to have unauthorized horse owners remove animals and treat invasive species across land management boundaries

CONCLUSION

Thank You Mr. Chairman and committee members for this opportunity to speak. I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have regarding the Invasive Species Management Program on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

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