



# Nevada-Placer Weed Management Area

## 2013 Annual Report and Newsletter



*Dedicated to preventing and controlling invasive weed species in Nevada and Placer Counties by sharing resources and information.*

### Partner Highlight

#### Weed Control in the Truckee River Watershed Cooperation Works

**By Kathy Welch, Truckee River Weed Warrior**

The Truckee River Watershed Council brings the community *Together for the Truckee* to protect, enhance and restore the Truckee River Watershed.

Truckee River Weed Warriors is one of our programs. We work to prevent and control the spread of non-native invasive plants in the Middle Truckee River watershed, which covers approximately 435 square miles, or 285,000 acres. Fortunately, we don't work alone.

Since invasive plants are in an early stage of invasion, the principle of "Early Detection, Rapid Response," is critical to success. Through a series of workshops, public events, and our website ([www.truckeeriverwc.org/weed-warriors](http://www.truckeeriverwc.org/weed-warriors)), we have educated hundreds of residents and professional land managers on the effects invasive plants on the way land functions. As a result, the public has reported to Weed Warriors more than 100 invasive plant sites in 2013.

Identification of these landscape changers is just the first step. Education on effective treatments of these species is crucial to controlling these species without spreading them in the treatment process. For example, small root fragments of some non-native invasive plant species such as perennial pepperweed can regenerate a whole new plant. Attempts at manual removal can cause these populations to increase since removal of the entire root system is usually not possible. In many of these cases, chemical treatment is the most effective method of control. Nevada and Placer Counties have the expertise to treat weeds that can't be controlled with mechanical methods.

Weed Warriors also conducts community weed pulls where we manually remove invasive plants. Early on, we recognized that we had no effective way to dispose of these plants and may even spread these invasive plants further. Once again, the counties helped us solve this problem by picking up and disposing of bags of List A and B noxious weeds following these events.

Assistance from the counties enables us to follow our principle of "Early Detection, Rapid Response".



Landscapers training: Truckee River Weed Warriors, Kathy Welch and Rachel McCullough explain identifying characteristics of local invasive plants to land managers.



Susi Urie, East Zone Botanist for the Tahoe National Forest and volunteer Weed Warrior, talks about non-native invasive plants with residents at Truckee Day.



Truckee River Watershed Council brings the community *Together for the Truckee*. It focuses on collaborative solutions for the protection, enhancement and restoration of the Truckee River watershed.

[www.truckeeriverwc.org/weed-warriors](http://www.truckeeriverwc.org/weed-warriors)

## Tahoe National Forest



In 2013, the Tahoe National Forest received a grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) to treat nonnative invasive plants (NNIPs). Using this money, Forest Service crews were able to treat over 165 acres of National Forest System lands (NFS) to remove Scotch broom, French broom, yellow star-thistle and spotted knapweed.



The goal of the grant is to manually treat NNIP occurrences to keep them from expanding within forest areas and/or into adjacent forest and reducing the health of the forest. Forest health is promoted through site specific reduction of highly flammable ladder and surface fuels, promoting biodiversity through improving rare plant/fungi habitat and NNIP removal.

Treatment will continue in 2014.



## 2013 Highlights

### Detection and Mapping

- Over 2,500 invasive weed sites on public and private lands were monitored.

### Control and Eradication

- Sponsored 4 community weed pulls in Truckee Region resulting in removal of more than 10,000 non-native invasive plants.
- Reported 87 new populations of invasive plants in the Truckee region to counties for control.
- Species Controlled: Artichoke Thistle, Arundo, Barbed goat grass, Bull thistle, Canada thistle, Chinese tallow, Dalmation toadflax, Diffuse knapweed, Dyer's woad, French broom, Hoary cress, Italian thistle, Jerusalem oak, Oblong spurge, Mexican tea, Musk thistle, Pokeweed, Perennial pepperweed, Red sesbania, Rush skeletonweed, Russian knapweed, Scotch broom, Scotch thistle, Spotted knapweed, Stinkwort, Yellow starthistle

### Education & Outreach

- Helped educate hundreds of Truckee area residents via website for Truckee River Weed Warriors, <https://www.truckeeriverwc.org/weed-warriors/ww-overview>, booths at public and neighborhood events, and public weed walks.
- Trained more than 60 professional land managers in Truckee area at workshops.
- Provided information to 130 homeowners on invasive plants during on-site consultations.

## Fire Safe Council of Nevada County's Scotch Broom Challenge

The Scotch Broom Challenge was created to address the spread of this highly flammable and invasive plant in our community. Through our individual home advisory visits, we became aware that local nurseries were selling Scotch Broom to homeowners as ornamental landscaping. We developed a program to educate nurseries why this particular plant is NOT suitable as ornamental landscape material in a high wildfire hazard area. We provided Firewise plant labels to be used at the retail point of sale to help identify safe plants to place next to your home.

In the spring of 2013 over 300 volunteers took the Scotch Broom Challenge and pulled on 24 community project sites in Nevada and Placer Counties. Thank you to all who continue to volunteer their time to make the Scotch Broom Challenge such a success!

### Nevada-Placer Weed Management Area Partners:

Bear Yuba Land Trust, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, California Department of Food & Agriculture, California Invasive Plant Council, California State Parks, Caltrans, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Placer County Agriculture Department, Placer County Resource Conservation District, Placer County Starthistle Awareness & Removal, Placer Land Trust, Nevada County Agriculture Department, Nevada County Fire Safe Council, Nevada County Resource Conservation District, Truckee River Watershed Council, U.S. Forest Service-Tahoe & El Dorado National Forests.

