How We Got The Project Going & How We Are Doing It?

Assessing, Planning, & Prioritizing

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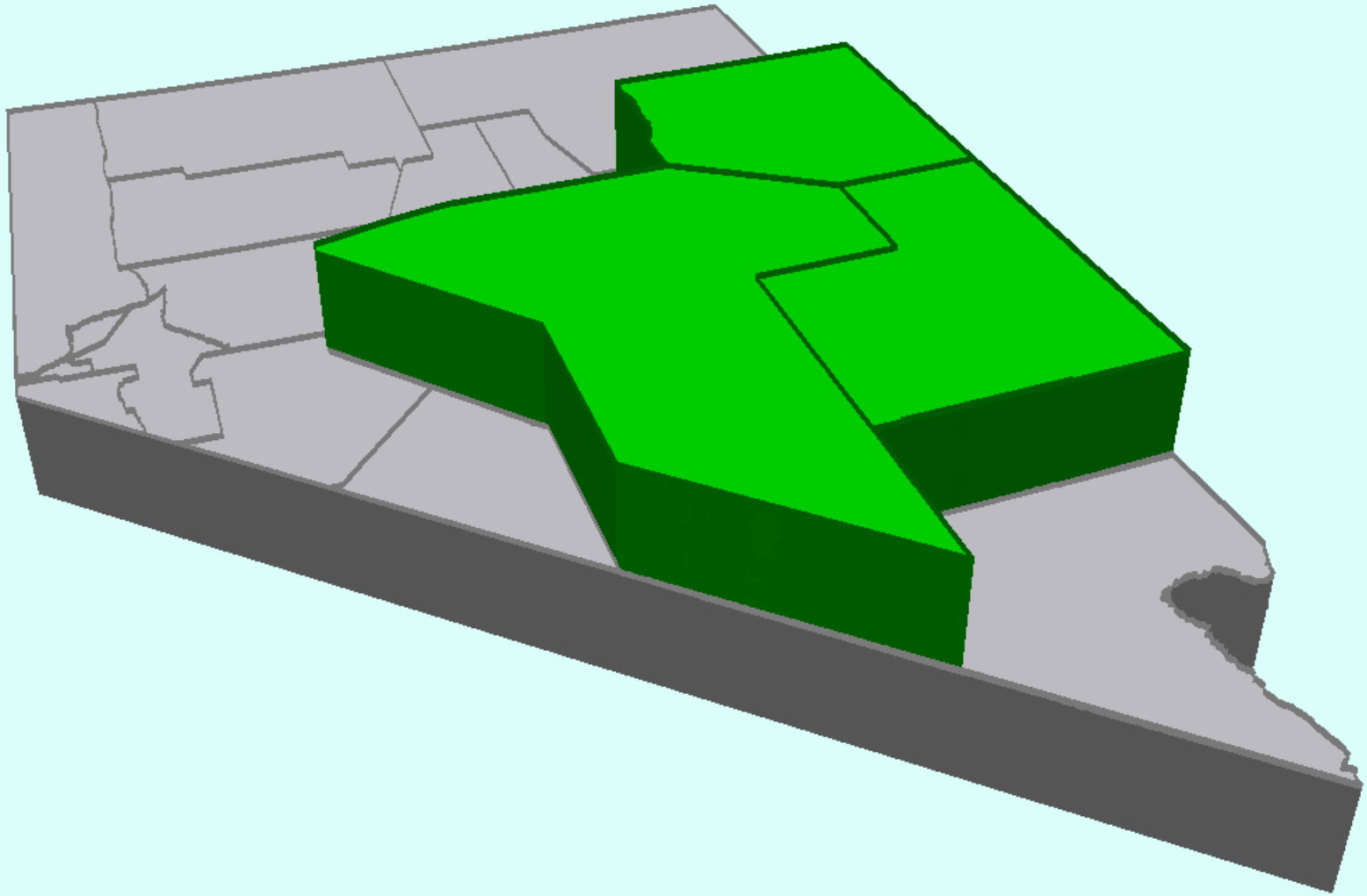
Cal-EPPC Symposium
Oct. 2, 2003

University of Nevada Reno

Tri-County Weed Program

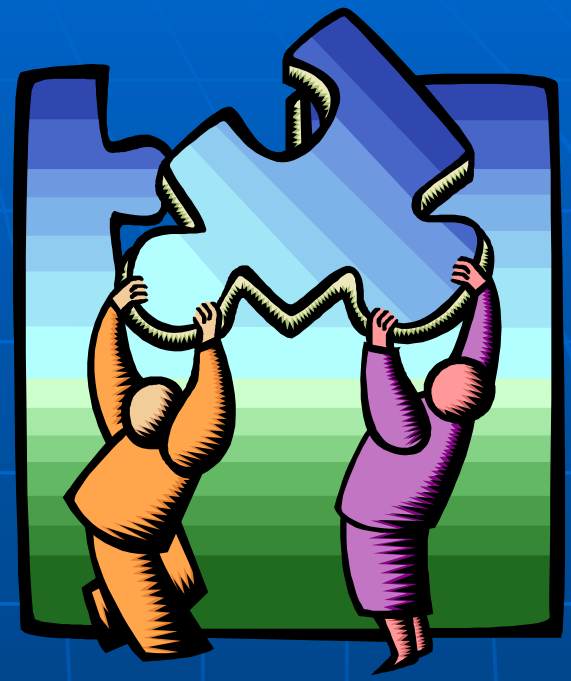
23, 460,480 Acres



Putting the Pieces Together

To Conduct Weed Management Over A Large Landscape

Collaboration



- Partnership, Collaboration, Communication, Coordination Toward a Common Vision
- Inter-Jurisdictional Issues Such as the Spread of Invasive Weeds Are Addressed With Partnerships

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LANDSCA
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FULL SERVICE
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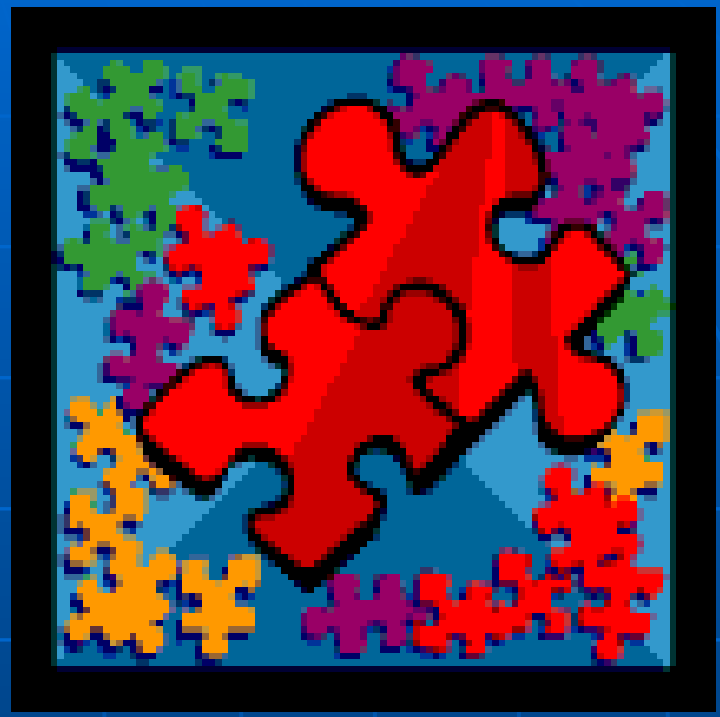
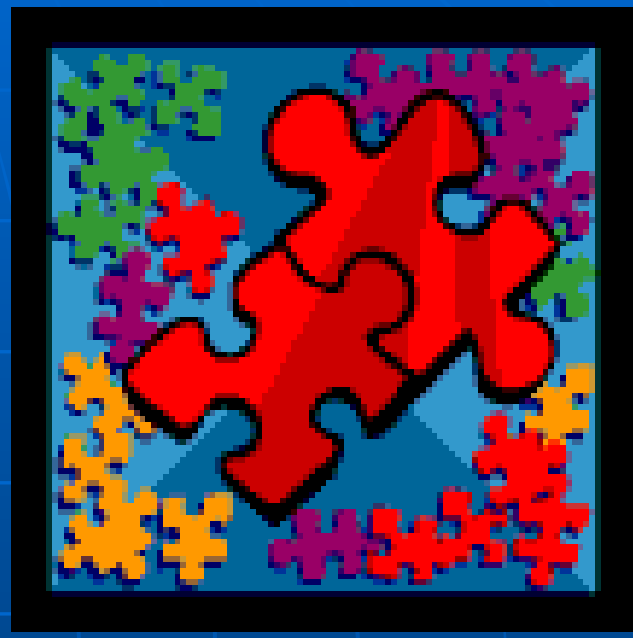
Organization



- Counties
  - White Pine County
  - Lincoln County
  - Nye County
- Conservation Districts
  - White Pine Conservation District
  - Lincoln Conservation District
  - Tonopah Conservation District
  - Southern Nye Conservation District

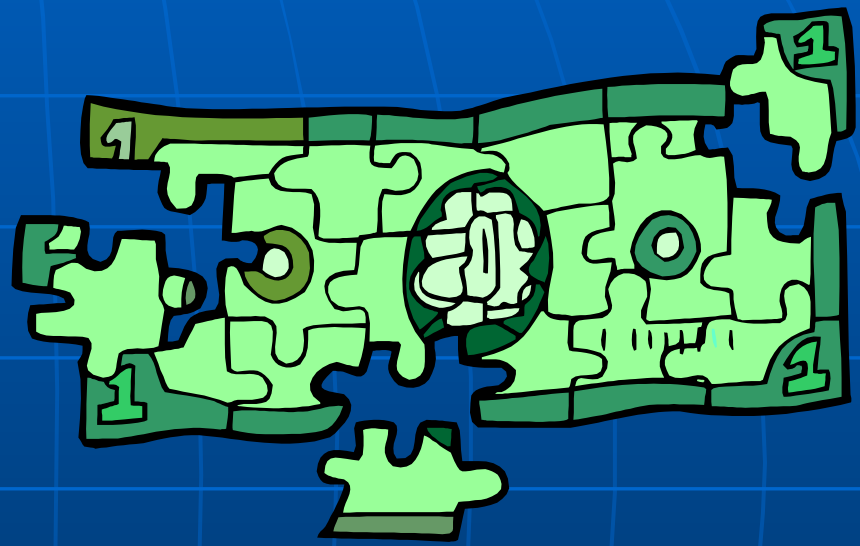
Organization



- Federal Agencies
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - Forest Service
  - Fish and Wildlife Service
- Tribes
- State Agencies
  - Division of Wildlife
  - Division of State Parks
  - Department of Transportation

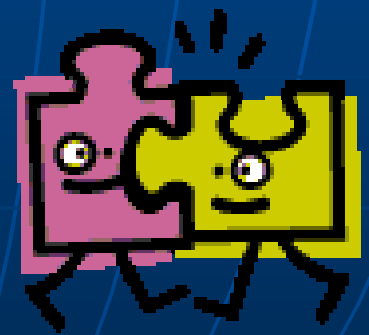
Tri-County Weed Program

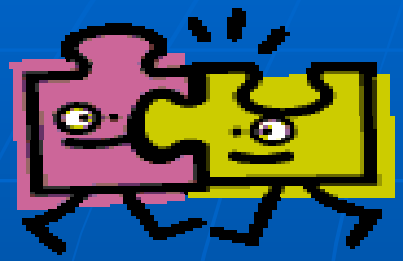
- Landowner Funded
- No Tax Levy
- Agency Participation
- Mostly Voluntary Participation
- Strongly Supported Throughout Area



Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA's)

Local Groups that Have Agreed to Work Together to Combat Invasive Weeds

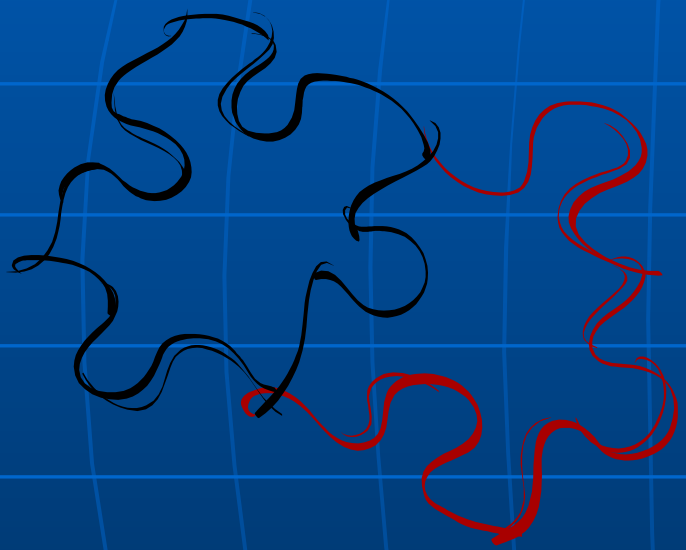




CWMA's

- Where Landowners Come Together
- Boundaries Flexible & Self-Defined
- Bottom Up Priorities
- Individual Ownership of Vision/Process
- Allows Spending Federal Funds on Private Properties
- Instrument to Funnel Resources
  - Comprehensive Prioritization of Work
  - More Efficient Strategy

Requires



- Flexibility
- Efficiency
- Patience
- Persistence

Flexibility

- Open Minded
- Establish Priorities But Remain Flexible
- Be Willing To Give Up Some Control
- Collaboration Adds Complexity
  - Financial
  - Legal
  - Social
  - Procedural

Efficiency

- Systematic
- Technology Based
- Use Laws/Rules To Advantage

Patient

- Mistakes Will Be Made
- People and Personalities Change
- Credibility is Earned
- Trust is Built By Results
- Politics/Control Will Effect Your Program
- Money Will Always Be Insufficient, But Will Be Adequate For the Credibility Earned
- People Learn And Accept Change At Different Rates

Persistence

- Energy/Interest Starts High, But Declines With Time
- Maintain Energy With Ownership And Accomplishments
- Maintain Interest With Shared Decision Making And Responsibility
- Keep On Truckin’

Technology Use

Technology Use

- Expands Our Capability to Manage Weeds
  - Data Collection using Computers and GPS
  - Collection during Inventory and Treatments
    - Handhelds with Data Dictionary
    - Vehicle Mounted Complete Units
    - GIS Software and Capabilities
    - Information Collection Mechanics
      - 24K Base Map under Real Time Data Collection
      - Transfer from Mobile Units to GIS

Data Uses For Management

- GIS Format Exportable to Other Users
- Real Time Information During Inventory and/or Treatment
- Current Verification/Quality Control
- Visually Measure Progress
- Measures Changes Over Time
- Provides for Future Modeling

Data Provides Accountability

- Site Specific Herbicide Use
- Site Specific Treatment Areas
- Previous Data Provides High Confidence of Treatment Conclusions
- Specific Individualized Financial Accountability By:
  - Location
  - Treatment
  - Other Information as Needed

Control Efforts

Inventory

- Sites with High Probability of Weeds (Hot spots)
  - Transportation Systems
  - Disturbed Areas
  - Riparian Systems
- Randomly Selected Areas
- Verification with Independent Checks

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Priorities

- Healthy Rangelands (Education & Management)
- New Weed Infestations (Newly introduced)
- Outlying Small Weed Populations
- Transportation Corridors (Roads, Utilities)
- Weed Dispersal Mechanisms (gravel, hay)
- Containment of Large Weed Infestations
- Control Large Weed Infestations
- Site Restoration

Direct Targeted Controls

- Herbicides
  - Application Method
  - Application Rate
  - Application Timing
  - Target Species
- Grazing
  - Target Species
  - Timing (Frequency, Duration, Stage)
- Biological Control Agents

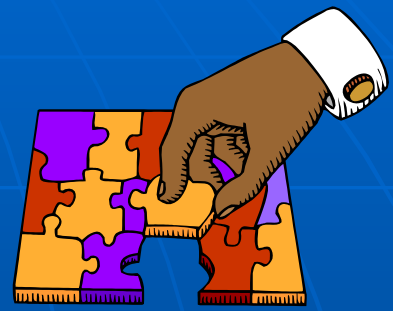
Indirect Controls

- Range Management
  - Revegetation When Necessary
  - Vegetation Manipulation
  - Vegetation Use Levels
- Multiple Use Considerations
  - Disturbance Events
  - Use Levels
  - Isolation of Activity

Tri-County Weed Program Organization Keeps Records Complying With All Laws And Regulations

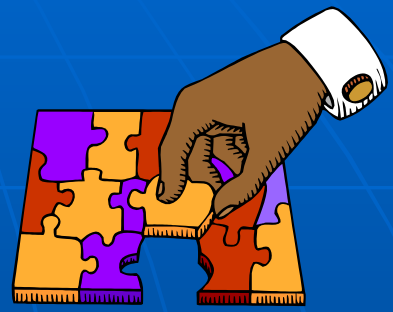
Except Those Unique to Individual Partners

Lessons Learned



- Social Issues
  - More Weeds Than Current Estimates
  - Individual Responsibility
  - Personal Ownership of the Problem
  - County Liability Issues
  - Retaining Momentum
  - Education Needs
  - Presence At Community Events

Lessons Learned



- Social Issues
  - Communication Throughout The Program (What is Going On?)
  - When New Groups Form; Each Start At The Beginning
  - Enhancement of Progress Toward Goals By All The Partners

Questions?