

It's a Burning Issue!!

The importance of WMA's: Fire and Noxious Weeds

LeeAnne Mila

Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

El Dorado and Alpine Counties



Weed Management Area Groups: Alpine/Upper Carson, El Dorado, and Lake
Tahoe Basin

Weeds of Concern:







1992 The Cleveland Fire burned 22,000 acres

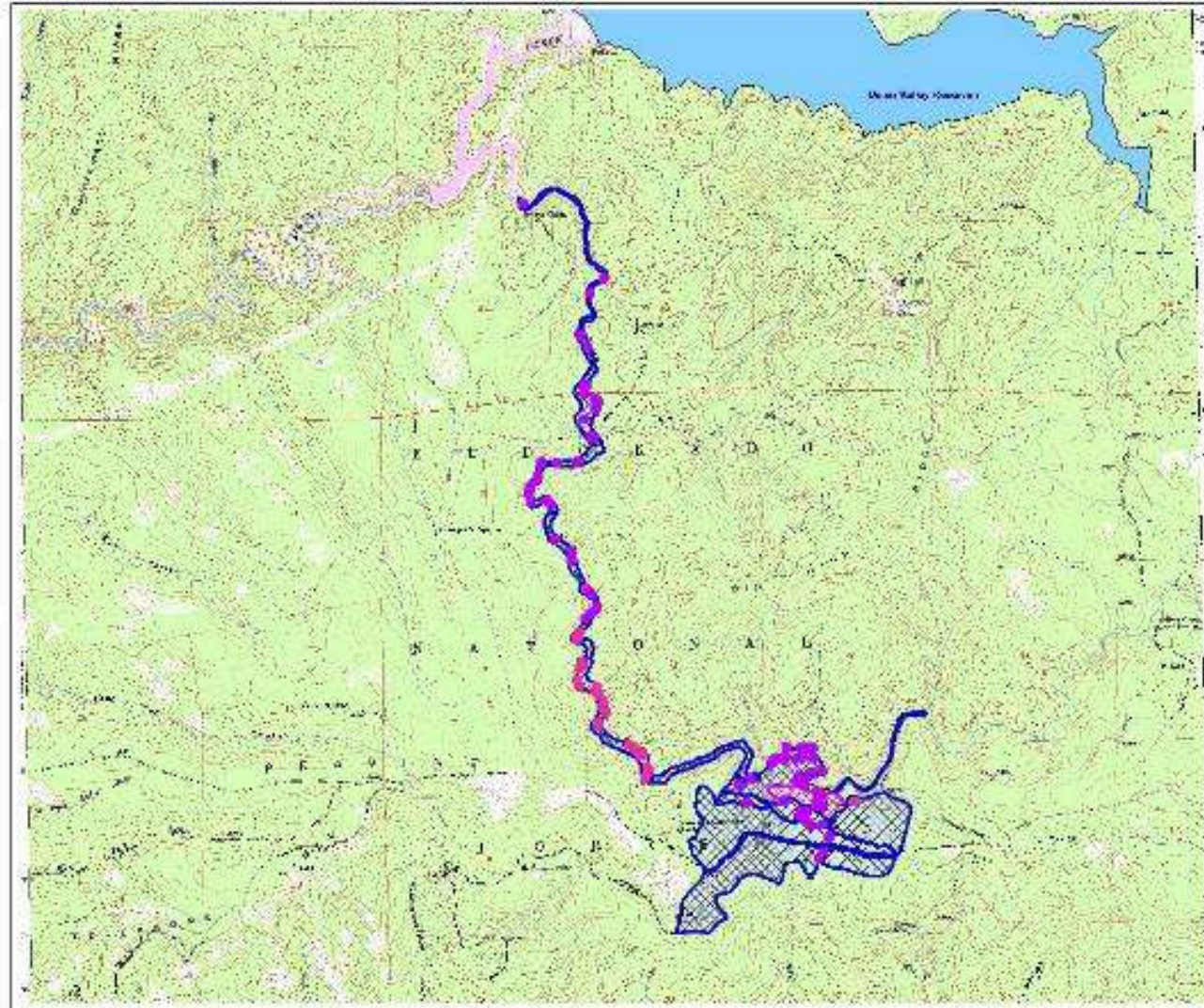
- **Spotted Knapweed was first detected in 1999 by SPI**

Most likely brought in as seed on fire equipment from out of state

- **At first it was thought to be a small population—soon realized it was at least 20 acres (ended up being 70 acres)**
- **There were delays in additional survey & eradication work due to: Very steep terrain, Heavy slash piles & debris (knapweed likes to hide underneath), Limited funding (SPI funded all early work)**
- **About this same time (1999) the El Dorado Weed Management Area was forming which gave the Ag Department leverage (due to all our partners) to apply for grants to fund survey & eradication work**



Cleveland Fire Area: Spotted Knapweed Eradication Project




- Spotted - Approved
 - Spotted - Approved - No DFD DMU
- Source: DFD
- 2002 De la Balle Survey
 - 2002 Project Area



This document was compiled for use as a field guide only. It is not intended to be used as a legal document. The information contained herein is for informational purposes only. The Department of Fish and Wildlife reserves the right to change the information contained herein without notice.

Colorado Department of Fish and Wildlife
1110 North Lincoln Avenue, Suite 100
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

- 
- ❖ **2004 The Fred's Fire burned 7,700 acres**
 - **Brought in another Noxious weed: Perennial pepperweed aka Tall whitetop**

 - ❖ **2007 The Angora Fire burned 3,100 acres in SLT**
 - **Yellow Starthistle was brought in with the erosion control materials (rice straw waddles)-contaminated at storage site**
 - **The first plant to resprout after the fire was Dalmation toadflax**

 - ❖ **2014 The King Fire burned 97,717 acres**
 - **Burned in known areas of previous noxious weed sites on both private and Federal lands (Spotted Knapweed, Tall Whitetop, Yellow Starthistle, Dyers Woad)**
 - **The Fire Incident Command Posts were heavily infested with yellow starthistle**
 - **No equipment or vehicles were washed as they arrived at the incident or prior to working on the fire line. Weed washing was established for demobilizing resources only.**
 - **Some impromptu weed washes were set up in the field during the 2nd half of the fire when working in close proximity to high priority weed infestations (knapweed)**

2021 Caldor Fire: 221,775 acres
2021 Tamarack Fire: 68,696 acres



•The King Fire had 146 miles of dozier lines, 114 miles of road as completed line were created.

•Additionally 216 miles of roads were used as travel corridors, staging etc.

•These disturbed areas have the potential to be areas of weed dispersal.

•Even rehab and repair work post fire had the potential to spread more noxious weeds.

Partners

Partners



Partners



Weed Management Areas – Critical Infrastructure

Bringing together partners –

- Multiple Counties, Multiple States
 - Public Agencies
 - Other County Departments
 - Utility Companies
 - Federal Agencies
-
- California State Parks
 - PG&E, SMUD, EID, STPUD
 - SMUD
 - CalTrans, CDFA, Nevada Dept. of Agriculture
 - Nevada DOT
 - Sierra Pacific
 - Alpine/Upper Carson Watershed Group