



SUMMIT LAKE PAIUTE TRIBE
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SUMMIT LAKE PAIUTE COUNCIL
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Secretary/Treasurer: Jerri Lynn Barlese • Council Member: Robyn Burdette • Council Member: Reggie Lee Townsend

To: Tribal Members and Other Interested Persons
From: William Cowan, Director, Natural Resource Department
Subject: Controlling Noxious Weeds on Summit Lake Reservation
Date: May 26, 2009

The Summit Lake Paiute Tribe (Tribe) is under obligation to control noxious weeds on riparian and rangelands areas of the Summit Lake Paiute Reservation through a range improvement contract funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Noxious Weed Program and through a Tribal Wildlife Grant funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

On Tuesday, May 26, 2009, newly hired Noxious Weed Technicians and one Crew Leader started their first day of work with orientation of Reservation facilities, employment policies, and noxious weed safety and treatment techniques. Please welcome the following Noxious Weed Technicians: Mike Arend, Michael Lucas, Wayne O'Neil, Tony Phillips, and Robbie Summers. Noxious Weed Technicians will be supervised by Kent Bloomer, Natural Resource Technician and Micah Minaberry, Noxious Weed Technician Crew Leader. Additionally, Jim McClure, Maintenance Worker, will assist as needed. Noxious Weed Crew Leaders attended training in 2008 to obtain certification to apply pesticides through the Nevada Department of Agriculture. Certified personnel are bound by law to comply with federal guidelines outlined by the Environmental Protection Agency to safely apply herbicides.

On Wednesday, May 27, 2009, the Tribe will start control methods on noxious weeds inhabiting the Reservation. Noxious weeds include: hoary cress (*Cardaria draba*), perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Russian knapweed (*Centaurea repens*), and scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*). For information on these highly invasive weeds including identification, please visit the Nevada Department of Agriculture Noxious Weeds website at:
http://agri.state.nv.us/PLANT_NoxWeeds_index.htm

Herbicide applications by the Tribe will continue through June when noxious weeds are most susceptible to treatment. Riparian areas and dry meadowlands near Mahogany and Snow Creek, Summit Lake and perennial springs are primary treatment areas. Pesticide treatment will also include roadsides areas.

Hoary cress, Perennial Pepperweed, and thistles are the primary weeds of concern. Hoary cress and pepperweed are members of the mustard family. These perennial weeds are just starting to produce flowers. They are highly competitive with native vegetation and once established and can take over an area. Hoary cress and pepperweed grows from both seed and root fragments. Tilling or other mechanical means of control are not recommended since they spread this plant. Hoary cress, pepperweed and thistles have been effectively controlled with herbicides if treated during early detection and before these invasive plants become established. Applicators will utilize various herbicides known as Escort, Rodeo, and 2,4-D. These herbicides are safe for the environment when properly applied to authorized sites and by strictly following label instructions. The Tribe will apply these herbicides directly on the plant by using spray and wicking techniques.

Safeguards initiated by the Tribe to inform members and the public of herbicide application activity are as follows:

- Red placards will be posted on Reservation entry signs and the informational kiosk near the Tribal Compound to inform Tribal members and the public that herbicides are being applied. On dates when no herbicides are being applied, these red placards will not be posted.
- Plants that have been treated with herbicides will have a blue dye on them.
- Areas treated with herbicides will be delineated with surveyor flagging to inform people that re-entry is not advised. Surveyor flagging will be removed when it is safe to enter areas that have been treated with herbicides (generally within 4 hours of herbicide application).

While visiting the Reservation, please feel free to approach Tribal employees to learn more details about noxious weed threats and treatments. Below are photographs of noxious weeds threatening the natural plant community and beauty of Summit Lake and surrounding area. If you have any questions or concerns, please visit the Tribal website and submit them to William Cowan, Director of the Natural Resource Department or Ron Johnny, Environmental Coordinator and Director of the Environmental Protection Department by way of the email link.



Hoary Cress

Courtesy of Lander County Conservation District



Scotch Thistle

Courtesy of Colorado Noxious Weed Guide



Perennial pepperweed

Courtesy of Colorado Noxious Weed Guide