



NEVADA SECTION
SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

Thursday June 10th , 2021

The Nevada section of the Society for Range Management presents

Breaking the Cheatgrass Fire Cycle

The Great Basin, the largest cold desert in North America, has undergone a rapid increase in the size and frequency of wildfires. This is due in large part to the increases in nonnative, invasive annual grasses. The transition to novel ecosystems with increased fire dangers due to fine-fuel loads and continuity threatens wildlife, native plants, agricultural livestock production and urban wildland interfaces. Recognized as early as 1932 by G. D. Pickford, the cheatgrass fire cycle continues to pose a major challenge to land managers.

Hear from professionals working in the field of cheatgrass control and management as you visit sites to observe the problems, the solutions and the tools to achieve success. See real world on the ground examples of large-scale restoration efforts on cheatgrass invaded landscapes.

AGENDA

8:30 a.m. Registration at the [Horseshoe Ranch](#)

Directions: Take NV-306 exit off of I-80 , travel south ~4.5 miles and take a right, follow Highline Canal Rd. to the large (white roof) arena.



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8:45 a.m. – Overview of NV Goldmines (NVGM) ranching operations, presented by Dave Voth, who oversees all aspects of NVGM ranching operations. From the maintenance of water rights to conservation mitigation, Dave ensures the sustainability of resilient and resistant landscapes while preserving a profitable agricultural enterprise.

9:15- STOP 1: Hear more from Dave Voth on the ranch's collaborative effort with the BLM's Outcome Based Grazing Program. Information on the USDA Agricultural Research Service targeted fuels grazing projects will be provided by Dr. Pat Clark (handout provided, unable to attend)

10:00 – STOP 2: Observe a 1,000-acre Imazipic herbicide cheatgrass control plot. Hear from William Kutosky, biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service working with the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. William has 12 years experience working in habitat restoration and integrated pest management using pre-emergent herbicides to control invasive annual grasses. All aspects of Imazipic application will be discussed including rates and application timing as well as discussions of new pre-emergent products such as Indazaflam. Observe the release of perennial grasses such western wheatgrass after cheatgrass control and discuss required seeding efforts post cheatgrass control.

10:45 – STOP 3: Observe a successful perennial grass seeding effort. Presented by Chris Jasmine, NV Goldmines Manager of Biodiversity and Rangelands. Learn about the numerous large scale seeding efforts Chris has conducted over the past years and what goes into a successful effort. Hear from Chris on his experiences with mitigation programs, NVGM's conservation Credit System Projects and the benefits of perennial grass seeding efforts. Discuss how perennial grass stands create a resistance to cheatgrass invasion, decrease fire threats and increase carbon sequestration, while providing a much-needed forage resource.

Lunch Break 12:00 to 12:30 at the Battle Mountain [Lions Park 592 N 1st St.](#) (lunch provided)

Directions: Take exit 231, turn right Broyles Ranch Rd., turn left S. Broad St., Turn right onto E. Front St., turn left N. Reese St. *The PARK is on the left*

12:45 – STOP 4: Fuel Breaks and critical Wildlife habitat. Presented by Caleb McAdoo, NDOW Eastern Region Habitat Supervisor. Hear from Caleb about his 15+ years of experience with NDOW and wildlife habitat restoration efforts. Observe a largescale forage kochia seeding along the foothills of the Sheep Creek Range. Discuss topics from wildlife forage, browse and cover needs to preventative fire break applications to post fire restoration efforts. Learn about the numerous collaborative habitat improvement efforts NDOW and the BLM conduct annually.

1:25 – STOP 5A: Targeted fuels reductions. Observe a pasture system with and without grazing and the resulting fuels reductions. Open Discussion

1:50 – STOP 5B: State and Transition Thresholds. Observe a decadent sagebrush stand with a cheatgrass understory. Discuss the risks of fire and transitioning to full cheatgrass dominance as seen across the road pre- and post-burn. Open Discussion

AGENDA

2:30 – STOP 6: Bureau of Land Management post- and pre-fire seeding efforts. Presented by Marissa Murphy, Project Manager for Range Improvements and ESR, Elko district BLM and Casey Addy, the Elko District BLM Post Fire Recovery Manager. Hear about their experience with post fire seeding efforts, the Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) program and all the work they do to stabilize soils and restore plant communities on a sustainable trajectory towards recovery after fires.

3:00 – STOP 7: USDA Agricultural Research Service native plant restoration research. Hear from Charlie Clements, Range scientist about his decades of plant material testing and arid land cheatgrass rehabilitation efforts. Observe replicated years of native and introduced perennial grass species seeding efforts and what factors determine successful establishment.

3:30 adjourn: Dinner in Elko location TBA (email: nvsectionwebmaster@gmail.com for more info or questions)

