Lake Tahoe Basin Weeds Coordinating Group 2007 Annual Report

LAKE TAHOE BASIN
WEED COORDINATING GROUP

The Lake Tahoe Basin Weeds Coordinating Group (LTBWCG) is a diverse partnership of agencies and community members dedicated to preventing and controlling invasive weed species in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Successful collaboration and coordination by LTBWCG partners has enhanced our ability to:

- coordinate early detection, prevention, control and eradication efforts,
- educate a variety of audiences on methods to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive weeds, and
- standardize methods for treatment and data collection.

LTBWCG Committees include mapping and data collection, an on-the-ground control team, and education and outreach. The Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group, originally a subcommittee of the LTBWCG, formed a separate working group in 2007 to better address all aquatic invasive species, both plant and animal, threatening Lake Tahoe. The LTBWCG will continue to work in partnership with the aquatic working group to coordinate efforts and comprehensively address common issues.

Three important 2007 LTBWCG cooperative projects included: 1) support of the development and use of innovative integrated pest management techniques, including the precision application of herbicides utilizing the "Dip and Clip" treatment method, 2) assistance to landowners in the Angora Fire area to survey and treat historical weed infestations during the critical post-fire revegetation period and 3) an invasive weeds tour in July to highlight current projects and programs.

Spotted knapweed *Centaurea biebersteinii*

2007 Highlights

Detection and Mapping

- Detection surveys were completed on over 1880 miles of roads
- 520 sites were monitored in the Lake Tahoe Basin, including historical and new infestation sites

Control and Eradication

- 21 net acres in the Basin were treated to eradicate terrestrial weeds. Compared with 2006, this represents a 32% decrease in the area requiring treatment!

Education & Outreach

- 1080 people reached via trainings, events, and workshops
- 81 homeowners received invasive weed consultations
- 6,200+ brochures distributed basin wide

Early Detection and Eradication Network

Weed invasion pressure is considered high in the Lake Tahoe Basin due to the bi-state border location and nexus of travel corridors, historical escaped ornamental weed populations, construction and road maintenance activities and the seasonal influx of tourists. The invasive nature of these problem weeds and the difficulty and cost in removing them once established, lends an inherent urgency to detect and eradicate new infestations quickly. An early detection and rapid response network is coordinated by the LTBWCG to ensure that the entire basin is surveyed annually.

The detection network in the Basin is strengthened by educational efforts to assist the general public and agency staff in learning to identify invasive weeds that are a potential threat to the area. Invasive weed tours, weed identification workshops and trainings, informational booths at local events and one-on-one homeowner consultations increase the number of "eyes" to detect new infestations.

Invasive weeds reproduce prolifically by seed and root, and outcompete native and other desirable plants. Once established, weed infestations:

- Reduce land and recreational values
- Damage water quality and clarity
- Contribute to soil erosion
- Degrade wildlife habitat

2007 Invasive Weeds Tour

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For more information: Wendy West, Chair, University of California Cooperative Extension wkwest@ucdavis.edu 530.621.5533 or Jenny Francis, Outreach Coordinator, Tahoe Resource Conservation District, 530.543.1501x 109 www.tahoercd.org

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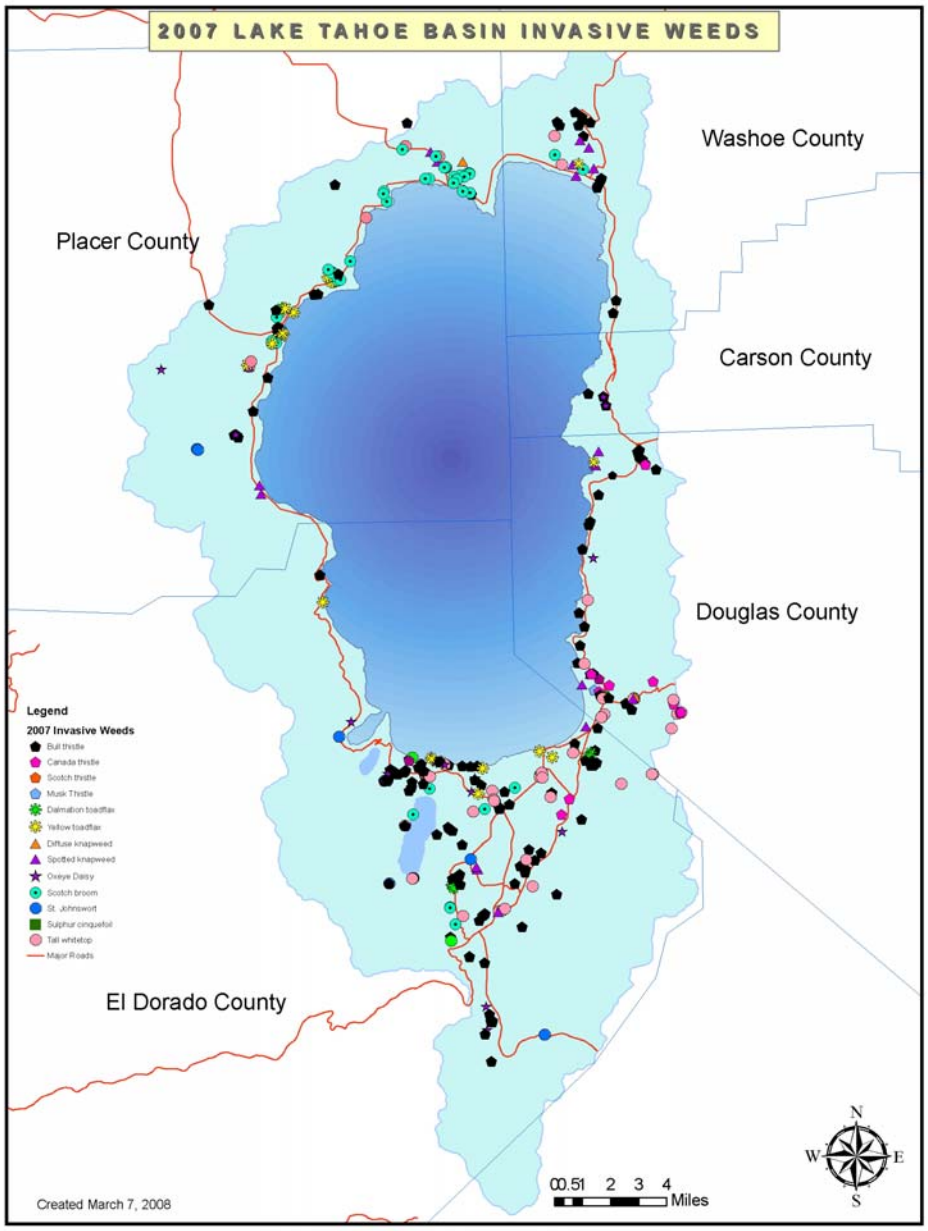
PRIORITY WEEDS



Group 1:
Watch for, report, and eradicate immediately

These species are: 1) not currently found in the Lake Tahoe basin OR 2) documented in areas adjacent to the basin and may move into the area OR 3) are small, eradicable populations. Aggressive treatment will be pursued when these species are found; educational programs will target early detection and reporting of these species

Canada thistle *(Cirsium arvense)*

Diffuse knapweed *(Centaurea diffusa)*

Hoary cress *(Cardaria draba)*

Musk thistle *(Carduus nutans)*

Rush skeletonweed *(Chondrilla juncea)*

Russian knapweed *(Centaurea repens)*

Scotch thistle *(Onopordum acanthium)*

Squarrose knapweed *(Centaurea virgata Lam. ssp. squarrosa)*

Sulfur cinquefoil *(Potentilla recta)*

Teasel *(Dipsacus fullonum)*

Yellow starthistle *(Centaurea solstitialis)*

Group 2:
Manage infestations with a goal of eradication

Encourage the management/control of populations of these species to prevent further spread in the Lake Tahoe basin. Isolated populations will be targeted for eradication.

Bull thistle *(Cirsium vulgare)*

Dalmatian toadflax *(Linaria dalmatica)*

Eurasian watermilfoil *(Myriophyllum spicatum)*

Curlyleaf pondweed *(Potamogeton crispus)*

Oxeye daisy *(Chrysanthemum leucanthemum)*

Perennial pepperweed *(Lepidium latifolium)*

Klamathweed *(Hypericum perforatum)*

Scotch broom *(Cytisus scoparius)*

Spotted knapweed *(Centaurea biebersteinii)*

Yellow toadflax *(Linaria vulgaris)*

Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group Partners:

California Dept. of Food and Agriculture, California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Prevention, California State Parks, California Tahoe Conservancy, California State Lands Commission, Caltrans, Douglas County Weed District, El Dorado County Agriculture Department, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lake Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nevada Tahoe Conservation District, Nevada/Placer County Agriculture Dept., Nevada Dept. of Agriculture, Placer County Weed Management Area, Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Tahoe Resource Conservation District, University of California Cooperative Extension, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Forest Service-LTBMU