

STATEWIDE NOXIOUS WEED PANEL DISCUSSION 2020

DESIGNATION OF CHEATGRASS

Participants included multiple state and local agencies, extraction industry representatives, agriculture industry representatives, Weed and Pest Districts, and others.

PROS	CONS
Large portions of the state are cheatgrass free and we have an opportunity to protect these ecosystems & agricultural systems.	Long term successful reclamation could be costly & designation may impact bond releases for reclamation activities.
Management & treatment options are limited but more are available now than in the past.	Cheatgrass free seed can be difficult & expensive to acquire for reclamation/restoration projects.
There is widespread agreement that cheatgrass is a serious threat. Partners are willing to engage on landscape scale programs that could have large positive impacts.	Producing cheatgrass free seed is challenging & expensive for growers.
Awareness levels of invasive annual grasses are high.	Accomplishing an effective treatment program can be onerous for private landowners/lessees without funding through landscape scale programs.
Native and agriculture ecosystems are under direct threat and being proactive is important.	Listing (designated or state seed list) may have negative financial impacts on seed growers.
Cheatgrass has brought attention to invasive species management challenges of all types.	Landscape scale management with multiple federal, state and local partners can be challenging.
Listing as a state designated species could bring in more funding through various grant opportunities.	Listing as a state designated weed would have major impacts on state agency budgets.
Listing cheatgrass as a state designated species would not directly impact the state seed law as they operate under separate lists.	
Many agencies already have cheatgrass management programs.	