Despite all the weeds currently infesting Eureka County, there are literally hundreds of new weeds lurking on its borders. The weeds on this poster are of particular concern because they are known to spread rapidly, cause damage to desirable habitats and be difficult to control. The best approach for these weeds is early detection and rapid response. This involves diligent monitoring for new invasions and prompt action to eliminate them. The maps are shaded to provide current abundance information for each species: **NOT KNOWN**  **RARE**  **COMMON**
Dalmatian toadflax (Linaria dalmatica): Perennial. I.D.: Up to 4 feet tall; stem and leaves smooth and waxy; leaves alternate, dense, lance- to heart-shaped, have smooth margins and are blue-green; leaves clasp the stem; flowers yellow, sometimes with an orange-bearded throat and a long spur; look like snapdragons. Other: Often infests rangelands, waste areas and roadsides; may be toxic to livestock if ingested in large quantities.

Diffuse knapweed (Centaurea diffusa): Biennial (sometimes annual or perennial). I.D.: Up to 2 feet tall; stem rough and covered with short, stiff hairs; leaves alternate, lower leaves pinnately divided, sometimes covered with short grayish hairs; upper leaves linear with smooth margins; flowers white or pale purple; flower base covered with yellow, comb-like bracts tipped with a narrow spine. Other: Often infests rangelands, waste areas and roadsides; dry, mature plants often break off and tumble in the wind to spread seed.

Dyer’s woad (Isatis tinctoria): Biennial, sometimes annual or perennial. I.D.: Up to 4 feet tall; leaves lance-shaped, bluish-green and smooth (hairless) with a distinct white mid-vein; margins are wavy to smooth; leaf base claps the stem; flowers yellow with four petals and have a flat-topped appearance; mature seed pods dark brown to black; dry; mature plants often break off and tumble in the wind to spread seed. Other: Commonly found parasitizing alfalfa; seeds are long-lived in the soil.

Houndstongue (Cynoglossum officinale): Biennial (sometimes annual or perennial). I.D.: Up to 4 feet tall; stem covered with long hairs; leaves alternate, lance-shaped, with a rough texture and covered with long hairs; only lower leaves have petals; leaves decrease in size from bottom to top of plant; flowers purplish-red with five petals and occur in clusters; seeds turn brown when mature and are covered with short prickles that can attach to clothing or animal fur. Other: Plants are annual; often found in pastures, roadsides, fence lines, waste areas and along waterways; toxic to livestock, especially horses; has a distinctive odor that may cause animals to avoid it. Other: Often infests waste areas, roadsides, rangeland, pastures and crop fields.

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Leafy spurge (Euphorbia esula): Perennial. I.D.: Up to 3 feet tall; base of plant often woody; entire plant contains milky, white sap; leaves alternate, linear, with no petiole and smooth margins; flowers small, showy, green to yellow and clustered at tips of stems; bracts below flowers are heart- to kidney-shaped and have the appearance of flower petals; produces a spherical capsule with three chambers. Other: Often found in pastures, waste areas, rangelands, field borders and along waterways; sap can irritate skin, eyes and the digestive tracts of humans and animals (sheep and goats are immune).

Medusahead (Taenium caput-medusae): Annual. I.D.: Grass. 0.5 to 2 feet tall; stem sometimes covered with short hairs; collar region usually has long hairs and auricles and a membranous ligule; seedhead a spike, awns are stiff, straight or twisted and barbed; spikes often remain intact on dry plants through winter. Other: Grows best on clay soils; primarily infests rangeland; unpalatable to grazing animals due to high levels of silica in the foliage and long, stiff awns; matures two to four weeks later than other annual grasses.

Puncturevine (Tribulus terrestris): Annual. I.D.: Prostrate; multiple stems spread radially from crown; up to 3 feet long; leaves opposite, usually hairy, pinnately compound; leaflets oval and margins are smooth; flower five yellow petals; seed is a woody bur with stout spines. Other: Grows best in dry, sandy soils; often infests roadsides, crop fields and waste areas; spines on fruit can cause injury to livestock and humans and can also puncture tires; foliage can be toxic to livestock.

Purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria): Perennial. I.D.: Up to 6 feet tall; stem has four to five sides and is covered with short hairs; leaves mostly opposite or whorled, narrow to lance-shaped with smooth margins, smooth (hairless) to hairy with no petioles; flowers have five to seven pink to purple petals surrounding a yellow center; each petal has a dark mid-vein and appears wrinkled or crushed. Other: Grows best in wet areas; often found in wetlands and along the edges of ponds and waterways; historically used as an ornamental plant but has escaped cultivation.

Salt cedar (Tamarix spp.): Perennial. I.D.: Shrub or small tree up to 20 feet tall; reddish-brown bark; leaves turn yellow to red in autumn; leaves alternate; deciduous; green to blue-green, small and scale-like; flowers tiny with five white to pink petals; arranged in finger-like clusters at the tips of branches. Other: Often found along edges of waterways, lakes, ponds; high concentration of salt in fallen leaves; high water use.

Silverleaf nightshade (Solanum elaeagnifolium): Perennial. I.D.: 1 to 3 feet tall; stem covered with dense, short hairs and sometimes with red to yellow spines; leaves alternate, oval to lance-shaped with wavy or lobed margins; covered with tiny hairs that are star-shaped upon magnification; flowers star-shaped, purple to blue with five petals and a yellow stamen; berries are round, shiny, yellow, and resemble tiny tomatoes. Other: Often infests rangeland, roadsides, waste areas and crop fields; toxic to livestock and humans.

Spotted knapweed (Centaurea biebersteinii): Biennial. I.D.: Up to 4 feet tall; leaves alternate, gray-green, pinnately divided, dotted with resin and sometimes covered with small grayish hairs; upper leaves smaller and narrower with few to no lobes; flowers white to purple; base of flower is covered with bracts with dark, comb-like tips that give the appearance of spots. Other: Grows best on dry, well-drained soils; often infests rangeland, waste areas and roadsides.

Squarrose knapweed (Centaurea virgata var. squarrosa): Perennial. I.D.: Up to 2 feet tall; grows as a basal rosette prior to bolting; leaves alternate; lower leaves pinnately divided and often covered with short grayish hairs; upper leaves linear with smooth margins; flowers pink to purple; base of flower is covered with comb-like bracts that are tipped with a spine that curves out and downward. Other: Often infests rangeland, waste areas and roadsides.

Sulfur cinquefoil (Potentilla recta): Perennial. I.D.: 1 to 2 feet tall; stem covered with hairs; leaves alternate, palmately-compound with five to seven leaflets; rough and hairy with toothed margins; flowers have five yellow petals with notches at tip and a yellow center. Other: Often infests rangeland, pastures, roadsides and waste areas.

Yellow starthistle (Centaurea solstitialis): Annual. I.D.: 1 to 6 feet tall; stems winged; leaves blue- or gray-green and covered with fine hairs; rosette leaves are oval to linear with deeply lobed margins; stem leaves are alternate, linear to oblong with smooth to wavy margins; flowers yellow; base of flower is covered with cotton-like hairs and straw-colored spines. Other: Often infests rangeland, pastures, cultivated fields, waste areas and roadsides; causes “chewing disease” in horses by damaging the area of the brain that controls fine motor movements — particularly of the mouth — resulting in starvation or dehydration.

Yellow toadflax (Linaria vulgaris): Perennial. I.D.: Up to 3 feet tall; Woody base; leaves alternate, linear, with smooth margins; flowers bright yellow to white, sometimes with an orange-bearded throat and a yellow spur; look like snapdragons. Other: Grows best in coarse soils; often infests rangeland, waste areas and roadsides; toxic to livestock if ingested in large quantities.

Weed Impacts
All weeds impact their environment by replacing desired vegetation and reducing forage availability and habitat quality. Impacts for specific weeds are stated when they are more severe. (e.g., they are toxic to animals).

Weed Management
Weed management decisions are dependent on habitat and surrounding vegetation, and are not listed in this publication. For those recommendations, please reference the Nevada Noxious Weed Field Guide (http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/nr/2010/5p1001.pdf) or the Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook (http://uspest.org/pnw/weeds/).

Contact
If you have seen these weeds, contact your local University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, BLM, USFS or conservation district office: http://www.unce.unr.edu/contact/personnel.

References:

Authors:
Luo Bleeker, Research Coordinator, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension; J. Earl Crouch, Extension Agronomist, Utah State University; Jay Davison, Area Forage and Alternative Crops Specialist, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension; Brad Schulz, Extension Educator, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension; Gary McGuin, Extension Educator, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.

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