



# Summit Lake Paiute Tribe Newsletter

May 2012

(Photo Courtesy of Rachael Youmans)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS!**

### ***CONNECTING WITH NATURE EVENT***

The Connecting With Nature event is scheduled for June 30 - July 1, 2012 on the Summit Lake Reservation. A formal invitation with all of the details will be sent in the next few weeks, but we wanted to make sure it's on your calendar now! All Tribal members and their families are invited, and food, transportation, and camping accommodations will be provided- all you have to do is bring yourself, a change of clothes, hygiene items, and excitement to learn about the Reservation and its natural and cultural resources!



### ***NOXIOUS WEED HERBICIDE APPLICATION***

The annual effort to control noxious weeds on the Reservation will soon begin. Plants are sprouting sooner this year due to the mild winter, and since the best time to apply herbicide is as soon as plants appear in the spring, crews of herbicide applicators have been assembled and will begin applying herbicide on or around May 21, 2012. Herbicide application will last through mid-July or until noxious weeds mature and develop seeds. At this point, herbicide application is ineffective.

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

- 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. Flagging will be removed when it is safe to enter treated areas (generally within 4 hours of herbicide application).
- Herbicide applicators wear white protective suits and are highly visible as they walk through meadows. Feel free to approach them to learn more about noxious weed threats and treatments or contact the Natural Resources Department if you have questions or concerns. Staff can be reached by calling the Tribal Administrative Office at (775) 827-9670.

Plants targeted for removal by the noxious weed effort are hoary cress and various species of thistles. These plants are not native to the plant community on the Reservation and once they become established they can take over an area, choking out native plants. Herbicide application is the most effective control mechanism, especially for hoary cress since it can grow from both seed and root fragments so pulling is not recommended. Two herbicides known as Escort and 2,4-D are used to treat noxious weeds on the Reservation. Both herbicides are safe for the environment when properly applied. Herbicides will be applied directly to the plant by using spray and wicking techniques, and treated plants can be identified by the blue dye present on the leaves. The dye is mixed with the herbicide to identify where it has been applied.

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### ***University of Nevada Reno Food Web Study***

Activities for the food web study initiated as a partnership between the Tribe and University of Nevada Reno (UNR) are underway again, and a new lead researcher is on board. Jason Barnes is a graduate student at UNR and is excited to be heading up the project. A native of Reno, Jason spent several years working on a hotshot crew, fighting wildfires throughout the west and Alaska before returning to Reno to pursue a degree from UNR. As an undergraduate student Jason was active in various research projects, culminating during the summer of 2011 by overseeing operation of the fisheries research station at Fallen Leaf Lake. Fully invested in the future of Nevada fisheries, he co-founded the UNR chapter of the American Fisheries Society to encourage dedicated students in fisheries studies. Jason will be around all summer conducting research, so be sure to say hello!



### ***New Noxious Weed Signage***

Through the Tribal Wildlife Grant that has helped fund the noxious weed effort for the past four years, money was allocated to design and install signs educating the general public about the impact of noxious weeds. After many alterations, the final design has been sent to the sign printing company. Later this summer when you travel to the Reservation from the north, south, or east, you will see the sign below at the watershed boundary. Don't know what a watershed is? Come to the Connecting With Nature event and find out!

The sign features a background image of a landscape with a lake and mountains. The text on the sign includes:

- Help Stop the Spread of Noxious Weeds**
- Get Informed**
- Be aware**
- Do your part**

On the right side, there are six small images of weeds, each with a label:

- Perennial Pepperweed
- Hoary Cress
- Canada Thistle
- Medusahead
- Russian Knapweed

At the bottom left, it says "Partners against weeds" and lists several logos. At the bottom right, it lists logos for NRCs, DOI, and other organizations. A line of text at the very bottom reads: "Funding for this sign has been provided by a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Tribal Wildlife Grant".

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