Abstracts for Idaho Noxious Weed Conference
January 29-30, 2025
Nampa Civic Center

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

8:30 – 9:00 AM Opening Remarks

President Shawn Strong & Executive Director Patxi Larrocea-Phillips

9:00 – 9:50 AM Turkish Thistle Panel

Jeremey Varley (Section Manager, Idaho State Department of Agriculture) (25 Minutes)

For the Idaho portion of this presentation, the discussion will delve into the current picture of just where this newer noxious weed is infesting the canyon lands of the Hells Canyon Recreation Area and Lower Salmon River Canyon. As well as how this plant has escaped outside of these deep canyons and has expanded into Idaho County, Idaho. ISDA in partnership with Idaho County and Federal Partners has annually conducted projects to attempt to reduce the population of Turkish thistle, this discussion will compare those results of herbicide treatments, and the results of survey events conducted to evaluate the total presence of Turkish thistle in Idaho.

Carl Jorgensen (Supervisory Entomologist, USDA Forest Service) & Beckijo Smergut-Wall (North Zone Invasive Plant Coordinator, USDA Forest Service) (25 Minutes)

This section will be a discussion on past USDA Forest Service management efforts on Turkish thistle, the environmental impacts and potential funding opportunities for future control. The presentation will also discuss current efforts to identify Turkish thistle in the current area and working with partners that include the state and counties to help control the noxious weed.

9:55 – 10:45 AM Navigating Product Use, Risk and Conservation of Endangered Species

Matt Kern (Global Ecological Risk Expert, Envu)

Endangered species pesticide risk evaluations and consultations between the USEPA and Services (US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service) are intended to protect threatened and endangered species. These consultations often result in product use restrictions that have a direct impact on end users and manufacturers. Methods, policies, and risk mitigation strategies continue to evolve rapidly with every new federal action around ESA. Additionally, the role of EPA in jeopardy and Adverse Modification (J/AM) analysis, Pesticide Use Limitation Area (PULA) development and mitigation implementation continue to expand. New methodologies from multiple stakeholders are being put forward to minimizing assessment uncertainties and to develop targeted protective measures for listed species and their habitats. Policies must consider safeguarding endangered species, potential assessment uncertainties due to resource constraints and implementation with user communities. In this presentation, we provide an overview of the pesticide ESA evaluation process with specific examples regarding assessment and implementation of mitigations for end users. Our discussion will also encompass efforts to expand mitigation options and improve connectivity between

risk assessment and necessary mitigations. Lastly, we will outline the challenges and opportunities emerging from these evolving practices and experiences.

10:45 – 11:10 PM ***Networking Break – Visit our Vendors***

11:10 – 12:00 PM **Pesticide Labels and Endangered Species Act Mitigations**

Annie Krueger (Senior Consultant, Compliance Services International)

Under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), every federal agency must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on any action that may jeopardize the continued existence of threatened and endangered species. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is therefore required to consult with USFWS and NMFS on any pesticide registration or re-registration action. Given the size, scope and complexity of these consultations for the >1700 threatened and endangered species, the EPA has failed to complete these consultations for decades and has faced litigation for each registration action that does not address ESA consultation requirements. In 2022, EPA committed to fulfilling its ESA obligations and has begun including ESA assessments in every decision issued. Where risks are identified, EPA has developed new approaches to label language and mitigation requirements to protect threatened and endangered species. This presentation will review these ESA mitigation changes with a special focus on Idaho noxious weed control activities.

12:00 – 1:30 PM **LUNCH BREAK**

1:40 – 2:30 PM **Aquatic Weed Impacts and Identification**

Dr. Mirella Ortiz (Assistant Professor, Utah State University)

Aquatic weeds can negatively impact native aquatic plant species, affect fish and wildlife habitat, and interfere with numerous human activities. Managing an aquatic ecosystem presents unique challenges - in this talk, participants will learn how to identify the most problematic aquatic weeds in the west and how to manage them through different mechanisms including chemical treatments.

2:30 – 3:00 PM ***Networking Break -- Visit our Vendors***

3:00 – 3:50 PM **Identification of Invasive and Non-Invasive Grass Species of the West**

Lydia Fields (Sales Agronomist, Wilbur-Ellis Company)

Grass species native to Idaho play a vital role in the ecology and health of natural and previously disturbed sites. Invasive grass species, mainly annuals, threaten the success of these sites by out-competing native and desirable species. Proper identification of these species is critical for proper management and preservation of our natural landscapes. Invasive grass species life cycle and reproduction methods will influence timing and type of control measures necessary. This presentation will provide an overview of how to properly identify grass species common to ID, and which control measures, which could be chemical, mechanical or biocontrol, work best to manage.

Thursday, January 30, 2025

Concurrent classes will take place with the following tracks:
Track 1: Technology Emphasis
Track 2: Application Strategies, Methods & Safety

Track 1: Technology Emphasis

8:00 – 8:50 AM Sustainable Use of Herbicides

James Jackson (Market Development Specialist, Alligare)

This presentation will cover how herbicides can be used to enhance rangelands, by controlling invasive species, improving forage production, and reducing wildfire risk on western U.S. rangelands. This presentation will focus on common rangeland herbicides applications, effective life span of herbicide treatments. Additionally, the presentation will cover some of the safety of herbicides and what could be some of the unintended consequences that managers need to be aware of when applying herbicides.

8:55 – 9:45 AM Successful Residual Weed Control Programs

Dave Collins (Area Sales Manager, Envu)

From the start of vegetative management, we have all seen both successes and failures within various weed control programs. Many factures can be at play in these situations, some of which we can control and others not so much. This presentation will focus in on the key foundational practices of building a successful residual weed control program in both bare ground environments as well as in invasive annual grasses.

9:45 – 10:00 AM *Networking Break -- Visit our Vendors*

10:00 – 10:50 AM Choose the Right Herbicide: A Discussion on Effective Noxious Weed Control

Tanner Smith (Vegetation Management Specialist, Corteva Agriscience)

Choosing the right herbicide is a critical step in building resilient strategies for effective noxious weed control. This engaging presentation is designed for land managers and pesticide applicators, focusing on the essential principles of safe and effective herbicide selection and application.

Participants will gain new insights into:

- Label and Labeling Comprehension: Decoding pesticide labels and understanding how to use them as a tool for precise and compliant application.
- Safety: Implementing best practices to minimize health risks and ensure safe handling of herbicides in the field.
- Application Methods: Selecting and optimizing the most effective application techniques to enhance herbicide performance and minimize waste.

Practical case studies and field-tested insights will provide attendees with actionable knowledge to optimize herbicide efficacy while balancing ecological and economic considerations. Whether managing invasive weeds in pastures, rangelands, or other sensitive environments, participants will gain the tools needed to make informed decisions for sustainable weed control.
Through this session, attendees will explore innovative approaches to tackling noxious weeds and strengthening Idaho's landscapes for the future.

10:55 – 11:45 AM Improving Efficacy in Pesticide Applications

Don Frantz (Branded Products Territory Representative, Wilbur-Ellis)

I will enthusiastically cover all topics with an upbeat, fresh presentation that conveys my passion for the industry, while having an information dense talk. I will discuss the importance and understanding of label instructions. Ways to enhance spraying efficacy and applicator safety. How Adjuvants aid in the application of pesticides, and how each family improves the physical properties of spraying. Defining spray drift and cultural methods to improve drift risk. Overall tips and tricks of proper mixing and loading. General importance and methods for calibrating equipment. Options to improve the water quality of our pesticide spray mixes, and how that interacts with the active ingredients we use.

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM LUNCH BREAK

1:00 – 1:50 PM Nufarm XHL Formulations and Herbicide Options for Increased Control of Resistant Weeds

Jon Storr (Territory Manager, Nufarm)

Universities have identified kochia resistant to several different herbicide families. I will show data from field trials indicating which products we can utilize to control these resistant biotypes and discuss Scorch EXT and explain its uses for IVM situations. I will introduce new dual salt technology in high load XHL products from Nufarm and discuss the advantages with these new products. We will also look at using blended products with multiple sites of action and discuss the advantages of having these products work together to control resistant weed species. I will show examples of plot work in several western states. As a review we will look at some products currently in use such as E-2, Aquasweep, Scorch EXT and Goal brands and discuss the importance of good application and coverage to attain complete control of brush. I will show field trials of Aquasweep, Scorch EXT and E-2 on invasive species Russian Olive, Multiflora Rose, kochia, marestail, houndstongue, and Mullein.

1:55 – 2:45 PM UAV Applications: New Tech to a Traditional Trade

Dustin Polasek (Eastern Regional Manager, Nutrien Solutions)

This class will go over UAV/Drone chemical applications. Included in this course will be a dive into current rules and regulations, the history of UAV usage, current application models available, and lastly we will review several research cases regarding UAV applications in multiple environments with the application of chemicals.

Track 2: Application Strategies, Methods & Safety

8:00 – 8:50 AM Cogongrass Control in Ada County (25 Minutes)

Adam Schroeder (Director, Ada County Weed, Pest and Mosquito)

Cogongrass (Imperata cylindrica) is a recent addition to the Idaho Noxious Weed List, and is considered one of the worst invasive species in the world, causing both economic and ecological damages that impact forestry, agriculture, rangeland, and natural ecosystems. This presentation will share the biology, timeline of control strategies, monitoring, and documentation efforts implemented by Ada County as part of an Early Detection Rapid Response initiative to eradicate wild-type and ornamental plantings of Cogongrass in various settings.

Flowering Rush Control Update (25 Minutes)

Jeremey Varley (Section Manager, Idaho State Department of Agriculture)

Flowering rush for many years has presented challenges in effective control methods. This presentation will specifically look at Lake Pend Oreille in Idaho and discuss some treatments that have and are continuing to occur. A look into the first use of UAV technology to treat Flowering rush and the results of the treatments. Additionally, there will be an overview of Flowering rush biology, current infestation presence in Idaho's waterbodies.

8:55 – 9:45 AM Update on Aerial Control of Cheatgrass Using Milestone and Plateau

Diane Schuldt (Botany, Invasive Species, Pollinators, and Native Plant Materials Program Manager, USDA Forest Service)

This session will provide an update on the results of seven years' worth of fall applications of tank-mixed aminopyralid and imazapic via helicopters in central Idaho. Discussion includes a quick review of equipment used, necessity of drift control and adjuvants in aerial applications, and application methods. The presentation will focus on timing of herbicide application and environmental outcomes.

9:45 – 10:00 AM *Networking Break -- Visit our Vendors*

10:00 – 10:50 AM Update on Administrative Rules Governing Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds (25 Minutes)

Jeremey Varley (Section Manager, Idaho State Department of Agriculture)

Updates to IDAPA 02.06.09 Rules Governing Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds that occurred in 2024. The main drive for this year's update resulted due to petitions received to add species to the noxious weed list. This will be a recap of those petitions and the results of the negotiated rulemaking that was held in 2024.

Update on Administrative Rules Governing Pesticide Use and Application Rules (25 Minutes)

Douglas Chan (Ag Program Manager, Idaho State Department of Agriculture)

Updates to IDAPA 02.03.03 Rules Governing Pesticide Use and Application Rules that occurred in 2024. This session will update conference attendees on several changes to these administrative rules and how they affect pesticide applicators in Idaho. Rule changes included new competency determination methods and changes to the apprentice license so that it can be applied to all categories except AA, NS and SF.

10:55 – 11:45 AM Use of Drones in County Noxious Weed Programs

Jud Elkington (Director, Bonneville County Noxious Weeds)

This session will allow at least two county noxious weed superintendents to discuss the trials and tribulations of incorporating new technology such as drones into their county noxious weed program. The noxious weed superintendents will discuss what types and the identification of those noxious weeds they mainly control. Additionally, the county weed superintendents will discuss the types of chemicals used in noxious weed control.

Mitch Whitmill, Rhett Hansen & Cindy Shelton (Jefferson County Noxious Weeds)

We will be presenting on the use of our survey drones. Specifically, we will be highlighting the benefits that has brought to our department in identifying noxious weeds. These benefits include seeing successful and unsuccessful treatments from ground crews. We will also highlight how it helped with a lawsuit that we were involved in and how it helped us through the process.

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM LUNCH BREAK

1:00 – 1:50 PM BLM Idaho Restoration Projects & Post Wildfire Invasive and Noxious Weed Control (25 Minutes)

Lonnie Huter (Planning & Environmental Coordinator, Boise District BLM)

During 2024 nearly 300,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management ground burned due to human and lighting caused wildfires across the state including 150,000 acres in the Boise District of southwest Idaho. Following the fires, emergency stabilization and rehabilitation (ESR) treatments are being planned and implemented over the next three years. One of the primary goals is to reduce risk of further invasive annual grass and noxious weed invasion. This presentation will focus on planned herbicide treatments and other rehabilitation activities. Application rates, application timing, and variation in invasive annual grass cover will be discussed.

Indaziflam Control and Impacts on Native Species (25 Minutes)

Dr. Tim Prather (Professor, University of Idaho)

Our research shows control from indaziflam of several years. We found some decrease (about 5% cover) of Sandberg bluegrass from imazapic. We saw increased recruitment of native forbs, 4 years after treatment. Removal of annual grasses increased use of treated areas by sage grouse. We also found small mammal numbers were higher in treated areas.

1:55 – 2:45 PM Idaho Weed Quiz

Dr. Tim Prather (Professor, University of Idaho)

Danielle Gunn (Professor & Extension Educator University of Idaho)

Understanding characteristics to aid identification of our noxious weeds can help noxious weed managers find that new noxious weed coming into your area. We will discuss the identification of a subset of our noxious weeds, 20 to 25 noxious weed species. We also will discuss some aspects of the weed's biology and suggestions for control. Expect to be challenged and hopefully learn something new about everyone's favorite topic, noxious weeds!