

WARNING:

Cheatgrass is highly invasive.

If you encounter this grass, do not help it escape. We have drawn a line in the sand. Keep your rangelands cheatgrass-free.

The Story

Cheatgrass made its way to North America from Europe and has been spreading its invasive seeds in all types of areas from the desert floor to the mountain tops all across the continent. This annual grass usually germinates in autumn and is tough to stop because of: 1) an extensive root system that robs soil moisture from desirable species, 2) abundant seed production — each plant can produce in excess of 300 seeds, and 3) it adapts to almost all kinds of soil and invades exceptionally quickly. This intruder thrives in heavily grazed rangeland, roadsides, waste places, burned areas and disturbed sites. Once it begins to dominate an area, rehabilitation and restoration is difficult and costly. It's time to draw a line in the sand and prevent the spread of cheatgrass onto new rangelands.

The Culprit

Cheatgrass is a weedy annual grass that grows from 2 to 24 inches tall, and even the smallest plants can produce seeds. These invaders begin growth looking like desirable grasses before beginning to mature and “cheating” us out of the plants we want. They usually take on a rusty-red to purple color at maturity. But as moisture decreases, they dry out and take on a grey-ish yellow color and the seeds stick to anything they can, including animal fur, shoelaces and socks. The constant pricking of cheatgrass seeds on the ankles aids in identifying infested areas.



WANTED-DEAD

.... NOT ALIVE!



Cheatgrass (aka: Downy Brome/June Grass)
Bromus tectorum (L.)

Hold the Line Against Cheatgrass

- Step 1: Map the boundaries of existing weed infestations.
- Step 2: Meet with neighbors.
- Step 3: Identify and agree on where the cheatgrass-free line should be drawn.
- Step 4: Develop and implement prevention strategies like seasonally avoiding ATV travel on infested sites.
- Step 5: Develop an educational program, such as road signs that remind everyone using your roads to check tires and animals for weed seeds before entering a weed-free area.
- Step 6: Develop and implement an early detection and alert system that includes systematically searching your property for new infestations, monitoring old infestations, and keeping your neighbors aware of any weed movements.
- Step 7: Design a cheatgrass eradication program that will quickly respond to new infestations and monitor your progress each year.