

- Issue 6
- Fall 2015

# High Sierra

# WEEDS

## Feather River *and* Sierra Valley Resource Conservation Districts



### Where are the Weeds?

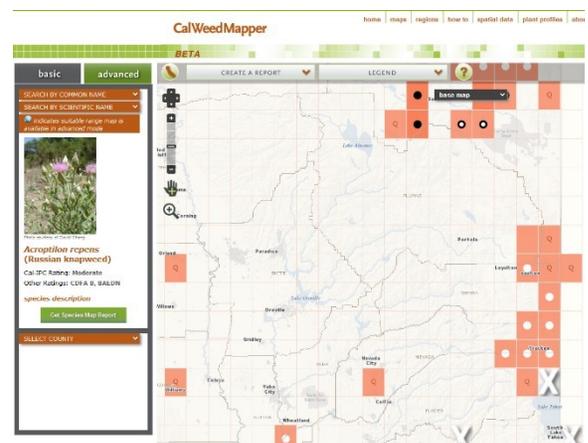
#### California Invasive Plant Council's CalWeedMapper

Curious to know which invasive plant species are in Plumas and Sierra Counties? Want to find out which ones may be lurking in the vicinity of your property? Then check out the **CalWeedMapper** tool developed by the California Invasive Plant Council (<http://calweedmapper.cal-ipc.org/>).

**CalWeedMapper** is useful for any landowner or agency who is interested in identifying and locating

invasive plant species in their area. It shows where each plant currently exists in the state, where it is spreading, and where it is currently under active management.

Reports can be generated by region or County and used for prioritizing management of weeds based on current and projected distribution data for each species. Invasive Plant species are



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### Introducing Tom Getts as the New Weed Ecology and Cropping Systems Advisor

My name is Tom Getts and I am the new Cooperative Extension Weed Ecology and Cropping Systems Farm Advisor for Lassen, Sierra, Plumas, and Modoc counties. I am stationed in Susanville, and I can be reached at 530-251-2650 or [tjgetts@ucanr.edu](mailto:tjgetts@ucanr.edu).

I was born and raised in Colorado where I developed a love for the outdoors, agriculture, and the natural ecosystems. I Studied at

Colorado State University where I received a bachelor's degree in Forestry, and a master's degree in Weed Science. My main two research projects focused on; Russian olive tree control with herbicides, and the tolerance of restoration species to herbicide applications. However I also worked on numerous other research projects. I sprayed experimental herbicide trials evaluating both crop safety and weed

control. I conducted geo-referenced mapping of invasive species in the mountains of Colorado. I helped collect, map, and test suspected herbicide resistant weeds from agricultural fields.

One of my responsibilities as a Farm Advisor is to provide information to the community about weeds and crops. The information I am able to

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## HIGH SIERRA WEEDS

### Weed Mapper, *continued*

divided into 3 categories: 1) weeds not yet present in a region, but that should be watched; 2) weeds that can be eradicated because populations are currently isolated and small; and 3) weeds that may be controlled, but likely not eradicated due to large population.

**Check it out!** And if you have any questions regarding weeds, your local Ag Department or Resource Conservation Districts can assist.

### Don't forget to use **Protection**

Spraying season is coming to an end, but follow these safety tips if you decide to use herbicide as a tool for weed control.

#### **COVER UP**

Read your herbicide's label. It will tell you what kind of equipment you need.

#### **PLAY IT SAFE**

- Tuck sleeves into gloves and pant legs into boots. Replace any damaged clothing.
- Wash hands frequently.

- Use the recommended amount of herbicide (it's not only wasteful, it's illegal).

#### **CLEAN IT UP**

- Put all clothes in a plastic bag, and wash your hands, arms and face after handling them.
- Take a shower.
- Wash clothing separately in hot water & soap. Run an empty load with detergent to clean the machine.

### Tom Getts, *continued*

provide comes from research that has been conducted by scientists working for the University of California and others in the scientific community. Countless research studies have been conducted to providing information on specific weed control techniques, improving cropping systems efficiencies, and practices to maintaining healthy ecosystems. I am here to be utilized as a resource for the community in order to find this information, and I am available to answer specific questions by phone email, or in person. Current information on non-desirable plants, can help people detect problem species early, and control them before they spread.

Unfortunately there isn't always an easy answer when it comes to weed management. There are often social, economic, ecologic, and climatic constraints that impact the effectiveness of management techniques. Often times more information, or information applicable to the local area is needed. Which is why I am also responsible for conducting research on the worst weeds and newest weeds in the local area.

My research program will be split between weeds of agricultural production areas, and invasive weeds in natural areas. I will research integrated pest management

approaches for these species, in order to provide more effective tools for people to manage weeds on their properties. Certain management techniques maybe more ecologically and economically desirable. I am also interested in studying restoration practices in order to establish desirable vegetation after weeds are removed. Lots of weed management practices can offer good control in the short term, and I am interested in studying management strategies that can also offer long term control.

I look forward to hearing about the weeds you need help controlling!

Tom Getts



#### **TOM GETTS**

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## Rick Reimer, Owner of Reimer Pest and Weed Control



Rick spotting  
Tall White Top

Rick has been working with the Sierra Valley RCD on their Sierra Nevada Conservancy projects in Sierra Valley and Upper Long Valley. He is treating non-native species of weeds in both locations located on private and public lands. He is treating Tall White Top, Short White Top in some locations, Musk Thistle, Knapweed, and Pepperweed. Due to the amount of rain we received in these locations early on, the growth rate and quantity of non-native species were accelerated much more than in previous years.

Rick was born and raised in Chico CA. He attended Butte College and Chico State and has an Ag Science degree. He bought their business, Reimer Pest and Weed Control, in 1983. Rick is licensed in California and Nevada.

There are many misconceptions regarding pesticides in general. The products that are used these days are much safer and are made for specific uses. When used correctly, they are not harmful to humans, fish, insects, etc. Pest control businesses are also monitored by the Department of Agriculture with monthly reporting and registration annually to make sure our license, insurance and continuing education is current.

## Upper Long Valley Creek Agricultural Lands Improvement Project

The Upper Long Valley Creek Agricultural Lands Improvement Project, Agreement #666, was approved and funded through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Grants Program and assigned to the Sierra County Fire Safe and Watershed Council, who then partnered with the Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD) for project management. The SVRCD partnered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) for additional resources.

The project's scope is to eradicate specific noxious weed species found in northeast Sierra County such as perennial Pepperweed, Knapweed, and thistle by spraying permitted herbicides thus improving and maintaining forage quality located in this area. The treatment areas are a mix of private and public lands. Some of which have very high concentrated amounts of the noxious weeds listed.

Since spring of 2013 workshops and meetings have been held to make contact with landowners. In addition to signing them up for the program, educational literature was handed out and discussions have been held focusing on the condition of working lands and riparian and the associated upland health. The main priority of these work sessions has been to educate and address the spread of noxious weeds and how individuals can protect their existing natural resources.

To date, numerous treatments have been applied seasonally (Spring-Summer months) for 2013, 2014 and 2015. Also, pre-treatment and post-treatment plant stem counts in test plots have been performed by the DFW yearly and continuous workshops and meetings have been held with the community.

Overall, the results have shown a large decrease of noxious weeds in the areas treated and the enthusiasm from the participants to continue eradication efforts has been overwhelming. Furthermore, the relationships and communication between adjacent landowners has strengthened which will go on to support continued endeavors once this project has been completed. Due to the high success rate of this Lands Improvement Project future funding and partnering will be pursued and it is our hopes that these continued collaborations will go on to reinforce the work that has already been completed.

### UPPER LONG VALLEY CREEK PROJECT AREA



## HIGH SIERRA WEEDS



Sierra Valley  
Resource Conservation District

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Quincy, CA 95971

E-mail: [sierravalleyrcd@gmail.com](mailto:sierravalleyrcd@gmail.com)

Website: [www.sierravalleyrcd.com](http://www.sierravalleyrcd.com)



Feather River  
Resource Conservation District

PO BOX 3562  
Quincy, CA 95971

E-mail: [featherriverrcd@gmail.com](mailto:featherriverrcd@gmail.com)

Phone: (530) 283-7511

Have a weed  
success story that  
you'd like to share?  
Tell us about it!

## Update from The Plumas Sierra Dept of Agriculture

The Plumas Sierra Department of Agriculture is wrapping up another weed season and has seen a lot of exciting new changes. We have hired a full time permanent Agricultural Technician to help out in our noxious weed program. Jennifer Wiley started with us as a seasonal employee and transitioned into the full time position.

In Sierra Valley, we are working with some of the local ranchers to control Perennial Pepperweed (Tall White Top) in the area. We have been working hard on the road sides

as well targeting Yellow Star Thistle along with Spotted Knapweed.

The Department has recently been awarded a new California Department of Food and Agriculture Grant from July this year and continuing till December 2106. The new grant allows us to work on both private and public land along with the surrounding national forests.

The new grant targets all rated noxious weeds but will focus on several new weeds such as Leafy Spurge, Russian Olive, and Dyers Wode; just to name a few.

This new grant will also focus on mapping and monitoring using the Cal Flora database in conjunction with Cal Weed Mapper. This will allow us to share information with other local agencies along with the public to better track and control many of the noxious weeds. Mapping and monitoring efforts require a team effort from everyone so please contact the Department with any questions or concerns. You can reach Jennifer by phone at 530-283-6365.

## Join the WEEDS Revival!

We Eradicate Exotic & Detrimental Species, or 'WEEDS', is a group of dedicated individuals representing various organizations that have worked together to control the spread of invasive plant species in Plumas & Sierra Counties. In the past, this group has provided education booths at the Plumas/

Sierra County Fair and sponsored an annual weed tour for the public. The group is planning a meeting in January 2016 to share updates and strategies. Agencies and private landowners are welcome to attend – look for an announcement on date and location later this year!



*Save the Date:*

Continuing Education for private applicator's license.  
November 24, 2015 at 8am

For More Information  
call Willo Vierra at  
530-283-6126