

Conservation in Action: *Noxious Weed Threats and Mitigation Resources*



Presentation Focuses

- Soil Health & Water Quality
- Habitat for Native Wildlife & Pollinators
- Noxious Weed Risks and Management
- Website Resource Hub Demonstration



Why is Soil Health important?

- Foundation to healthy ecosystems and successful agriculture
- Regulating water, sustaining plant and animal life, filtering potential pollutants, cycling nutrients, and providing physical stability and support

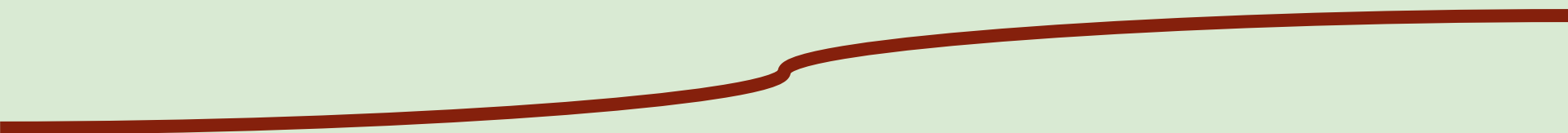


How does soil impact water quality?

- Erosion = Sedimentation
- Leaching & Runoff
- Nutrient levels
 - Eutrophication
 - Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB)
 - Hypoxic zones



How do noxious weeds affect soil health and water quality?

- Lack of biodiversity, outcompeting native plants
 - Loss of topsoil and organic matter- vital for plant health
 - Less water holding capacity- leaching and runoff
 - Lack of soil stability= erosion & sedimentation
 - Detrimental to aquatic ecosystems and organisms
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Mitigating Threats from Noxious Weeds

- Increasing biodiversity and organic matter
- Invasive species control
- Being aware! Learn your local noxious weeds, and avoid spread.
- Follow removal with native vegetation plantings
- Nutrient management
- Cover crop/ ground cover



How do we best support and create wildlife habitat?

- Determining best organisms for your ecosystem
- Providing basic needs
 - Water
 - Shelter/ nesting area
 - Cover from predation/ nesting
 - Food/ resources
- Land management



Wildlife Habitat Land Management

- Brush management
- Noxious weed removal
- Native plantings
- Greater biodiversity
- Controlled burns
- Cover crops, ground cover
- Wildlife corridors



Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat

Grasses:

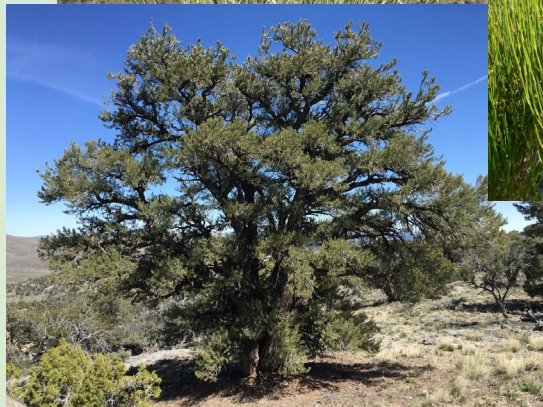
- Indian Ricegrass
- Little Bluestem

Shrubs:

- Green Ephedra
- Utah Serviceberry

Trees:

- Pinon Pine
- Utah Juniper



Pollinators



- Flowering plants throughout multiple seasons
- Nesting
- Biodiversity!



Examples of Native Flowering Plants in Western Colorado:

Spring/ Early Summer: Penstemons, Serviceberry

Summer: Asters, Blanketflower

Fall: Rabbitbrush, Common Sunflower




Mesa Conservation District's Local Resource Hub: Now Available!

- Online resource hub tailored for local needs and unique characteristics.
- [Resource Hub Home Page](#)
- Scan the QR Code to view the Resource Hub:



Welcome to the Resource Hub

Brought to you by the Grand Valley Water Committee



GRAND VALLEY
WATER COMMITTEE

Click the buttons below to find available resources on soil health, irrigation, business management, weather and climate, ag-informed behavioral health, CO Division of Water Resources, and much more! Stay tuned for future resources on local conservation-focused contractors and services available locally and around the western slope!

Want to help us inform this resource hub? Click the button below to contact us or email mesaconservationdistrict@gmail.com

Contact us



Thank you!

Have additional questions?

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