

WALLOWA COUNTY
BOARD of COMMISSIONERS
STATE of OREGON

541-426-7730
FAX: 541-426-0582
TERA ELLIOTT E.A.

CHAIR JOHN HILLOCK
COMMISSIONER TODD NASH
COMMISSIONER SUSAN ROBERTS

commissioners@co.wallowa.or.us

March 1, 2023

Wallowa County Board of Commissioners (BOC)
Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

9:00 a.m. Thornton Conference Room
VIA Zoom Meeting
Wallowa County Courthouse

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner John Hillock
Commissioner Todd Nash
Commissioner Susan Roberts

STAFF PRESENT: Tera Elliott, Executive Assistant
Katy Nesbitt, WC Natural Resource & Economic Dev. Director
Andy Marcum, WC Vegetation
Paige Sully, County Counsel

OTHERS PRESENT:	Bill Bradshaw, WC Chieftain Daniel Park Mark Porter, ODA Shanda Hyllested, Tri-County Marci Schreder, Wallowa Resources	Teresa Smergut, WC Weed Board Joe Sims, Wallowa Resources Beckijo Wall, Weed Board Member Janet Hohmann, Weed Board Member
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ZOOM ATTENDIES: Angelika Ursula Dietrich
T. Beau Ellis, Atty for Poppleton
Deanne Darling

9:00 a.m. – Chair Hillock opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

Acceptance of Outdoor Arena Bid – Wallowa County Fair

Commissioner Hillock advised three bids were received. After review of the bids and products, the selected bid belongs to W-W Manufacturing, which was also the least expensive bid received.

*Commissioner Nash moved to accept the proposed bid from W-W Manufacturing
Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion*

The vote:

*Commissioner John Hillock – aye
Commissioner Todd Nash – aye
Commissioner Susan Roberts – aye*

Acceptance of Request for Qualifications Contract Manager/General Contractor – Wallowa County Fair

Commissioner Hillock recused himself from voting on this item.

Commissioner Roberts advised the request for qualifications was sent out a few weeks ago, advertising in newspapers and several other sites for contractors who would want to be a CM/GC for the rehabilitation of the county fairgrounds. One submission was received by the deadline: Wellens General Contractors.

*Commissioner Roberts motioned to accept the Wellens submission
and to set in place the meetings with them to determine what the scope of work will be*

Commissioner Nash seconded the motion

The vote:

Commissioner John Hillock – abstained

Commissioner Todd Nash – aye

Commissioner Susan Roberts – aye

Consideration and/or approval of Consent Agenda

Consisting of:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Payment of Claims on County Funds | |
| 2. Minutes: | February 15, 2022 – BOC Regular Meeting |
| 3. Employee Action Notice(s): | Kelsey Owens – Position Change, from Juvenile Tracker
to Grand Jury-Victim Ad. |
| 4. Resolution(s): | None |
| 5. Order(s): | None |
| 6. Contract(s): | None |
| 7. Easement(s): | None |
| 8. Agreement(s): | None |
| 9. Grant Initiation(s) | None |

Commissioner Nash moved to approve the Consent Agenda

Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion.

The vote:

Commissioner John Hillock – aye

Commissioner Susan Roberts – aye

Commissioner Todd Nash – aye

Agenda Items:

Poppleton vs. Wallowa County – Discussion on LUBA remand

Paige Sully advised the above-named case has been remanded from the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) to Wallowa County for additional proceedings. Ms. Sully received a letter this morning with Mr. Ellis' position on behalf of Ms. Poppleton. Both Mr. Hostetter and Mr. Ellis interpret the ruling to provide this has been remanded for Wallowa County to re-open the record and take additional testimony or evidence on the two relevant findings that were the basis of the assignments of errors. Ms. Sully stated she does not necessarily agree with that. In Ms. Sully's review of the ruling, the ruling is not that there was insufficient evidence in the record, but that the findings do not reflect the record; the findings are not drafted correctly. Ms. Sully believes the matter was remanded for the findings to be supplemented, amended, or redrafted.

The commissioners may schedule a hearing, providing notice to the relevant parties, taking additional evidence and testimony on the two issues which the matter was remanded on. Ms. Sully does not believe the Board of Commissioners is required to hold another hearing.

Mr. Ellis has requested the matter be remanded to the Planning Commission. Ms. Sully does not recommend doing so, given the decision of the Planning Commission was overturned by the Board of Commissioners.

Based on the recommendation of council, Commissioner Nash made a motion to remand back to the Planning Commission. There was no second on the motion.

Ms. Sully advised that was not her recommendation. Her recommendation was for the Board of Commissioners to continue to entertain this matter. Commissioner Nash stated he had misunderstood the recommendation.

Commissioner Roberts moved to request the attorney for the applicant take the matter back and flesh out the three reasons the matter was returned, which was deficient findings, not that the decision was bad.

Mr. Ellis commented virtually and believes there is insufficiency of evidence in the record that is explained in the decision by LUBA. Mr. Ellis thinks it is appropriate to hold a de novo hearing on this issue prior to new findings being prepared for the Board's consideration. Mr. Ellis does not think the evidence exists in the record to support the decision the Board reached.

Commissioner Hillock advised Commissioner Nash's motion will be withdrawn for lack of a second. Commissioner Roberts restated her motion at the request of Commissioner Nash.

Commissioner Roberts moved to request the attorney for the applicant review and flesh out the findings he submitted in lieu of holding a de novo hearing

Ms. Sully, in speaking to Mr. Ellis' position, believes if LUBA held there was inadequate evidence in the record, LUBA would not have remanded but would have granted the appeal.

Commissioner Nash seconded the motion

The vote:

Commissioner John Hillock – aye

Commissioner Todd Nash – aye

Commissioner Susan Roberts - aye

Daniel Park clarified with the commissioners the decision will go to Mr. Park's attorney with no further evidence being submitted, using only the existing record.

Ms. Sully advised she will draft the letter to Mr. Park's council outlining the decision made today, asking him to prepare and present amended findings. Ms. Sully suggested a follow-up of this matter be on the agenda the first meeting in April.

Mr. Ellis confirmed he preserved adequately his objection to "that" process/procedure given the language of the opinion of LUBA. Commissioner Roberts thanked him.

Order 2023-002 - Vacation of a portion of River Way, Imnaha, Wallowa County, Oregon

Commissioner Roberts advised she has worked with the applicant on this and has spoken with the Forest Service who has no interest in this one way or the other. This piece of land has a small cabin on it. All the surrounding landowners approve of the vacation.

*Commissioner Roberts moved to vacate the small portion of land
that doesn't seem to belong to anything
Commissioner Nash seconded the motion*

The vote:

Commissioner John Hillock – aye

Commissioner Todd Nash – aye

Commissioner Susan Roberts - aye

Wallowa County Weed Board Annual Update - Highlighting 2022 accomplishments and Plans & Projects for 2023

Teresa Smergut, chair of the Wallowa County Weed Board started off thanking their partners and stating some of the projects and community information outreaches they have done. Ms. Smergut named the members of the Weed Board and continued with the PowerPoint presentation (attached). Andy Marcum, Mike Beachy, Marci Schreder, Shanda Hyllested, Beckijo Wall and Mark Porter all shared their part of the presentation in correspondence with the PowerPoint.

Brief discussion took place during and after the presentation and the commissioners thanked the presenters and thanked all the attendees for coming and for the work they do.

Other Business:

2023 Title II Funds Wallowa-Whitman National Forest – Katy Nesbitt discussed the Project Application presented at the Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC) tech meeting in February. The application was updated and presented to the standing committee yesterday and is now before the Board of Commissioners. The request is for approximately \$80,000. If the commissioners approve of the ranking of projects, the list will be uploaded and hand delivered to the supervisor of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in Baker.

*Commissioner Nash moved to put all the available funds into the Cayuse Project
which has been one of our highest priorities
Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion*

The vote:

Commissioner John Hillock – aye

Commissioner Todd Nash – aye

Commissioner Susan Roberts - aye

Ms. Nesbit affirmed that is how it will be presented to the Forest Service and all the proper channels. Ms. Nesbit also stated with Commissioner Nash, John Williams, and possibly other local constituents attending the NE Oregon RAC meeting, we will have people in the room and virtually to talk to the project and champion this request. Commissioner Hillock also stated there will be funding, approximately \$40,000, from Kyle Hogrefe's doctorate work, made available from Texas Agricultural and Mechanical University. Commissioner Roberts said there is minimal funding the County can put forward to send somebody out this year to relocate the plots which would set the Forest Service ahead of schedule when this funding becomes available in 2024. Commissioner Roberts also stated she is pleased with the capable people which are a part of this process to defend Wallowa County's Title II submission this year.

There was no further business.

Adjournment:

The official meeting adjourned at approximately 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Tera Elliott, Executive Assistant

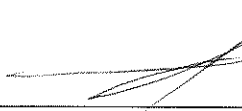
WALLOWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Commissioner John Hillock



Commissioner Susan Roberts



Commissioner Todd Nash



ATTEST: Tera Elliott, Executive Assistant

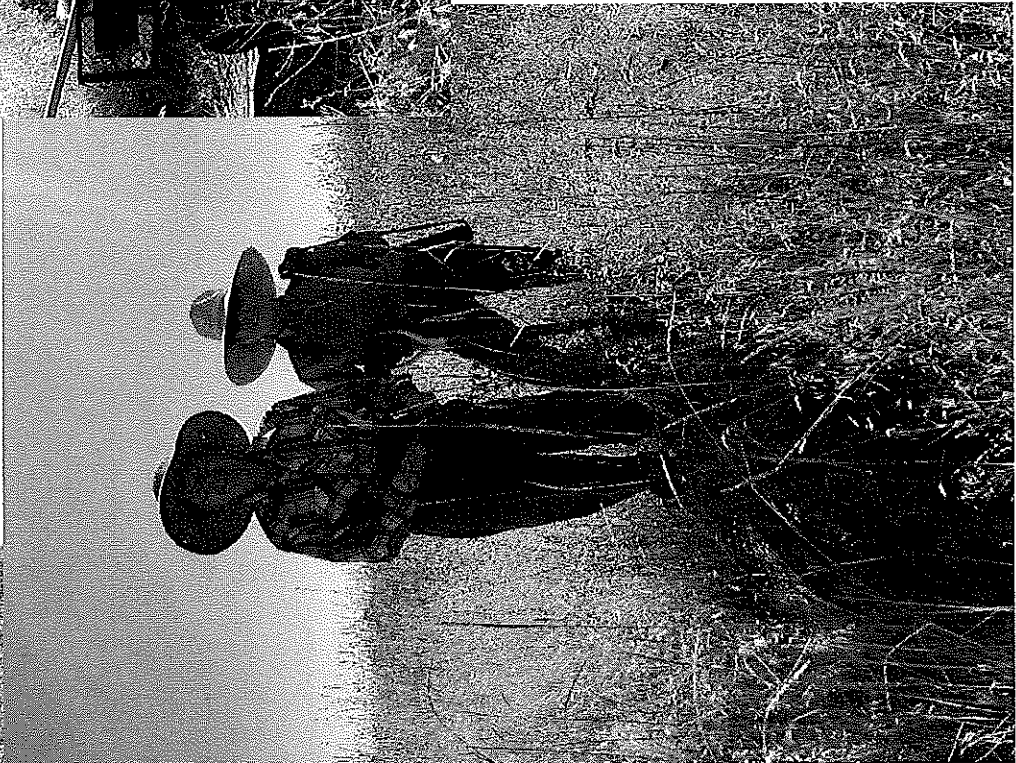
Wallowa County Weed Board

Agency and Partner Updates

2022-2023

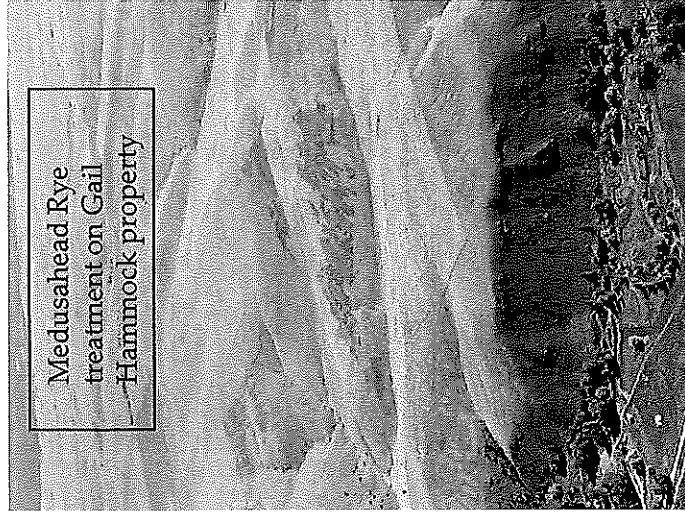
Current Membership

- **Chair-** Teresa Smergut (Private) 2023
- **Vice Chair-** Kelly Birkmaier (Private, Range Consultant) 2023
- **Secretary-** Marci Schreder(Wallowa Resources) 2023
- **Member-** Mike Beachy (The Nature Conservancy) 2023
- **Member-** Beckijo Smergut (USFS- Wallowa Whitman) 2023
- **Member-** Ingrid Cook (Private) 2023
- **Member-** Mike Hale (Private) 2024
- **Member-** Chris Cunningham (Private) 2024
- **Member-** Shanda Zettle (Tri County CWMA) 2023
- **Member-** Joe Sims (Wallowa Resources) 2024
- **Member-** Janet Hohmann (Private) 2023

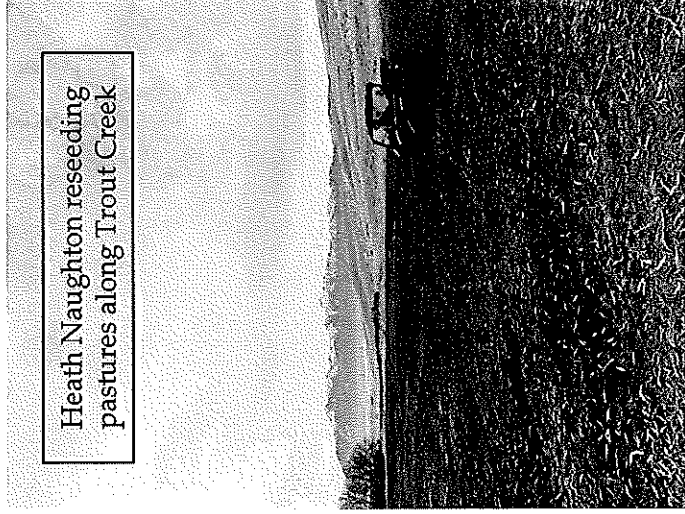


Wallowa County Vegetation Dept.

Medusahead Rye
treatment on Gail
Hammock property



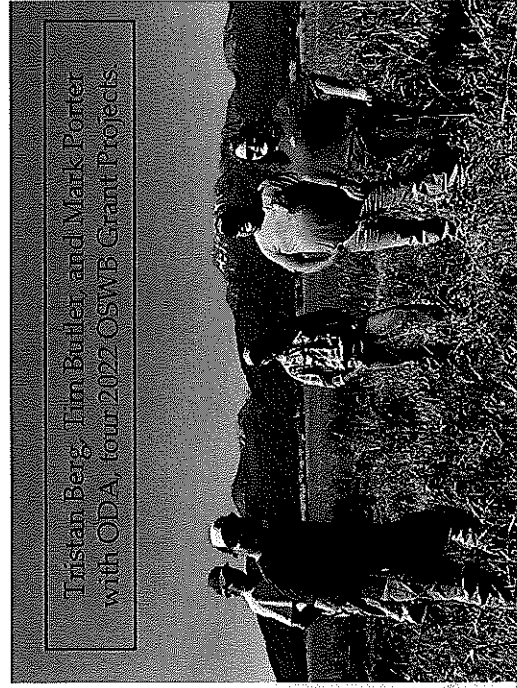
Heath Naughton reseeding
pastures along Trout Creek



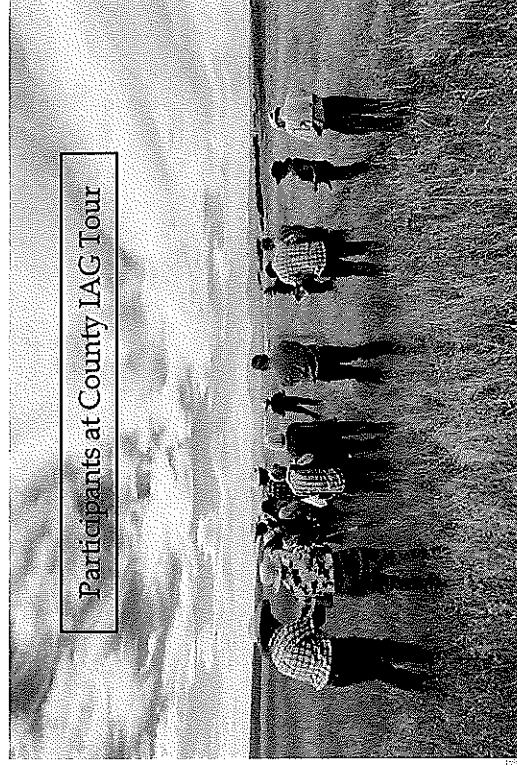
2022 Accomplishments

- 9,820 acres surveyed for Plumeless Thistle and IAG
 - 320 acres of IAG's treated with Rejuvra
 - 1,837 net acres of A and T listed weeds treated
 - 1,758 net acres of B listed weeds treated
- 270 acres of County Road ROW and Gravel Pits treated (Bareground and Broadleaf)
 - 220 acres of WURRA ROW treated (Bareground and Broadleaf)
- Reestablished County Noxious Weed Tour with Partners
 - Reestablished Noxious Weed booth at County Fair
- \$28,528 County Cost-Share to Landowners Jan '22-Jan '23
- Certified 30 ton of hay for Hay Station and Grain Growers
 - 18 acres of reseeding along Trout Creek

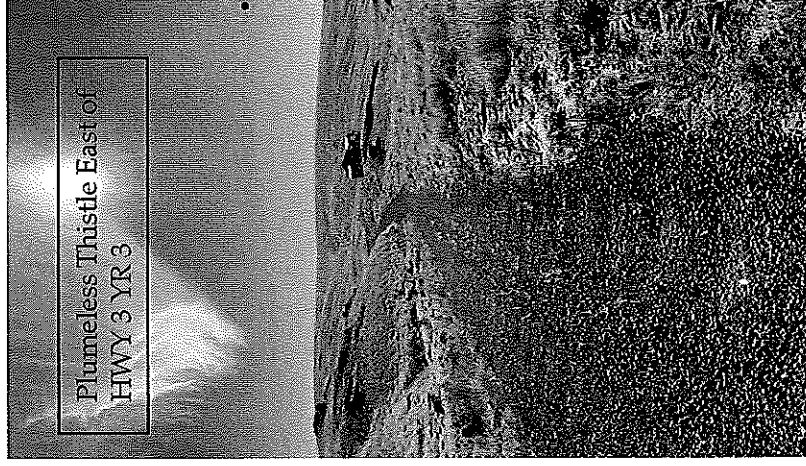
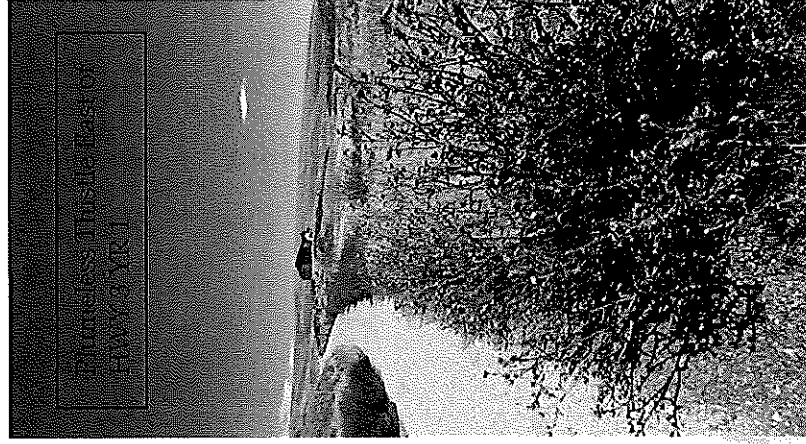
Tristan Berg, Tim Butler, and Mark Porter
with ODA, tour 2022 OSWB Grant Projects



Participants at County IAG Tour



Wallowa County Vegetation Dept.

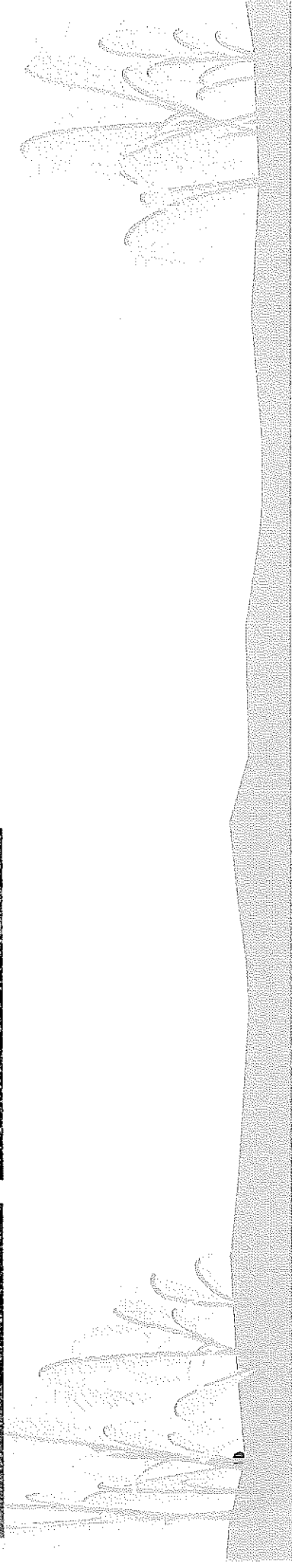


2023 Plans and Projects

- Increase Education and Outreach with partners at local events
- Survey and Treatment of Wallowa River from Lake to Enterprise Survey and Treatment of ditches in Upper Valley for Yellow Flag Iris
- Expand outreach and engagement with IAG Working Group
 - Reestablish landowner calibration and training event
 - Increase certified hay amount from 30 to 50 ton
- Assist Weed Board to help PASS WEED LEVY MAY 2023

Projects:

- Little Sheep Corridor SCT, CBL, RSW, YST
- Lower Wallowa River MHW, CBL, LSP, SKW
 - Lostine River MHW, LSP, CBL, SKW
 - Mid-Valley Musk Thistle
 - Bear Creek MHW, LSP, SKW
- Mid-Valley Invasive Annual Grass Survey and Treatment
 - East Moraine MHW, SKW, CBL, SCT



2022

- 25,000 Dollars TNC spent for contracted weed treatments.
- 450 Hours treating weeds (TNC staff, contractors, volunteers).
- 79 Net acres treated on Zumwalt Prairie Preserve.
- 11 Miles of road ROW's treated with Rejuvra and Plateau herbicides for IAG's and Puncturevine.

2023

- Concentrate on WC "Target" listed weeds of greatest concern including M. Rye, R. Skeletonweed, C. Bugloss, M. hawkweed and Whitetop.
- 2023 priorities:
 - Treatment of all known infestations of Medusahead Rye and Rush Skeletonweed along with continued surveys for new locations. Plan to add \$5,000 for increased RSW treatments in 2023.
 - Continue survey for Medusahead Rye in Zumwalt Prairie Preserve's key areas within the Wallowa County Invasive Annual Grass core area.
 - Continued partnership with other WC landowners and stakeholders on IAG strategic plan implementation.
 - Two TNC staff serve on WC weed board.



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™



Wallowa Resources

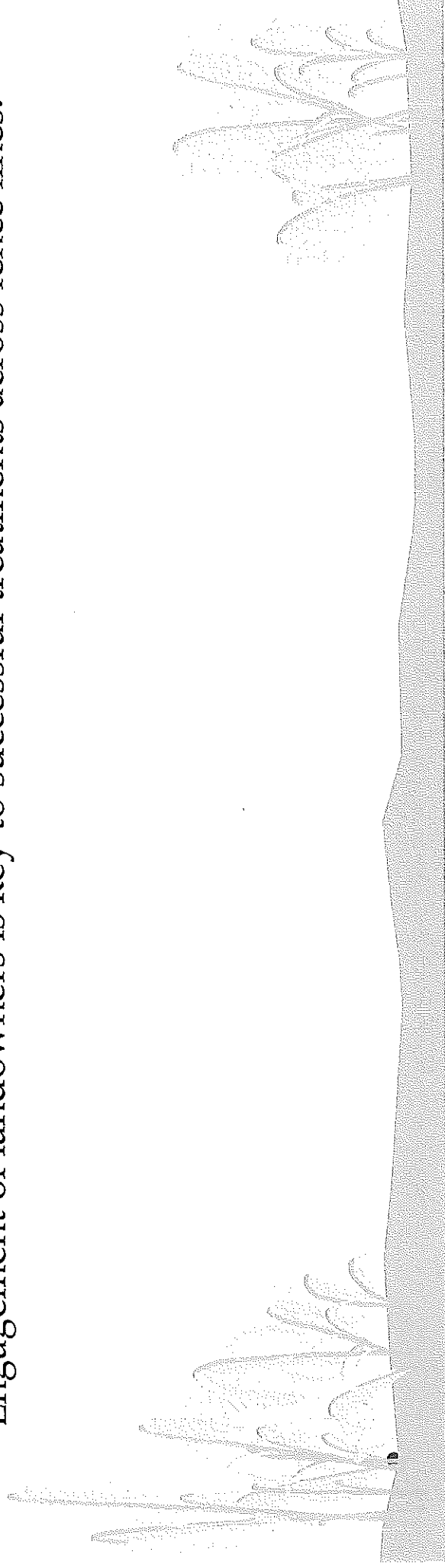
Accomplishments in 2017

- Private Landowners Served: 45
- Local Contractors Hired: 6
- Acres Treated: 3,500+
- Permits and Approvals: 1,000
- Workshops Presented: 1
- IAG Survey Conducted: 100
- IAG SAP Completed
- Secured New Funding
- Collaborated With Federal And Private Land Owners To Treat The Joseph Canyon And Elbow Creek Fire Zones

Moving Forward – 2023

plans

- Continue OSWB/OWEB grant projects
- Work with Federal agencies to protect funding viability
- Addressing data gaps through monitoring and case studies is essential to continued learning and improving our treatment practices
- Leveraging funding resources to meet range resilience goals
- Adaptive management is the name of the game
- Engagement of landowners is key to successful treatments across fence lines.

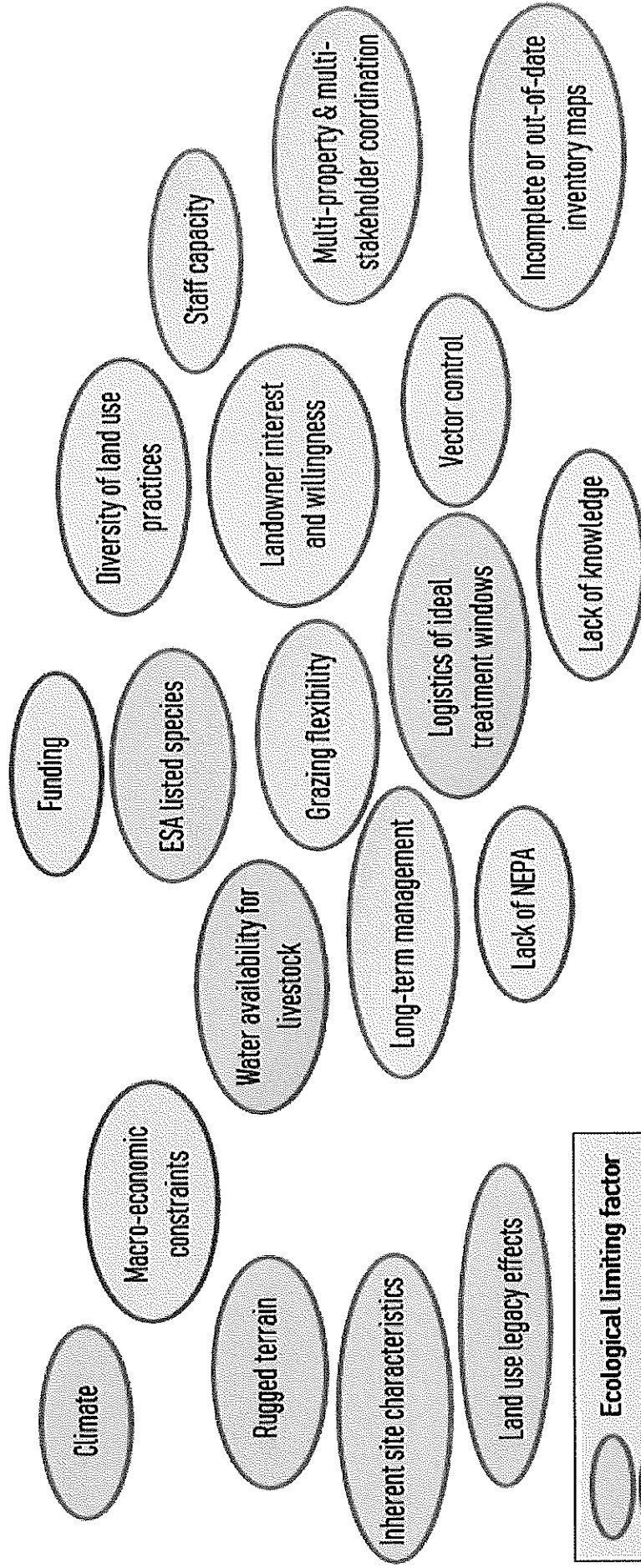


Assess Rangeland Stressors

Less surmountable



More surmountable

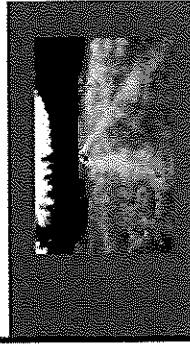


- Ecological limiting factor
- Economic constraint
- Cultural/social barrier

Prioritize Management to Defend the Core

Focus on Desirable versus Undesirable Vegetation

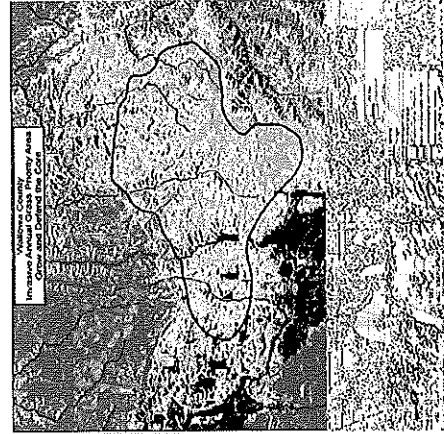
WALLOWA COUNTY INVASIVE
ANNUAL GRASS PARTNERSHIP
STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN



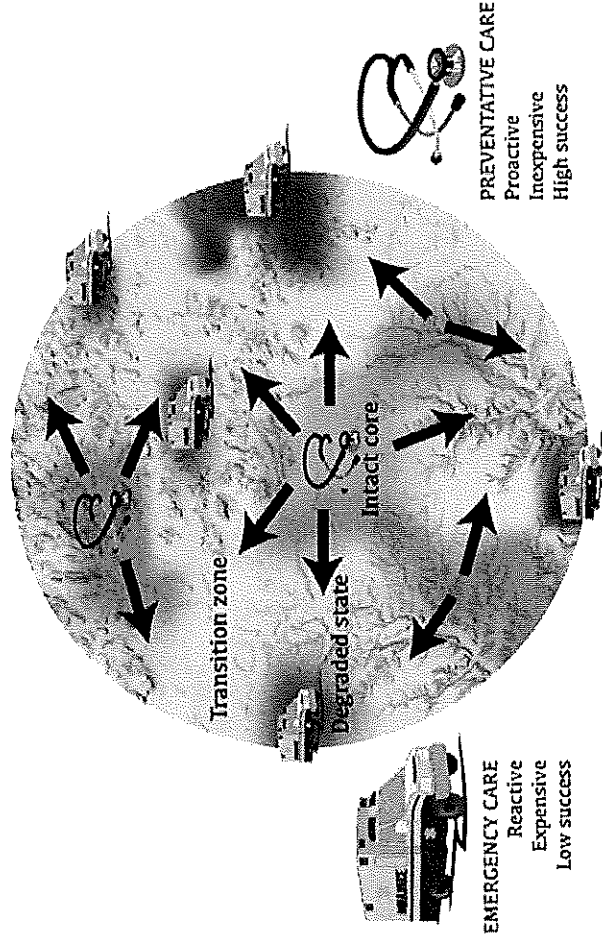
BASIC RANGELAND MANAGEMENT PLAN



RDI Ranch



“Defend the Core”



Degraded state

Transition zone

Intact core

Credit: USDA-NRCS, Working Lands for Wildlife

Execute Implementation Plan

- OWEB IAG Stakeholder Engagement Grant
- OWEB Defend & Grow the Core Grant
- NRCS IRA Funding & EQUIP

Intersect:

Range MGNT
Forest Fuels
MGNT
Weed MGNT

Whole Ranch
Management
Planning
Multiple
Rangeland
Stressors

Prioritize
Management to
Defend Core

Tri-County CWMA

2022 Accomplishments

Project Name	Staff Hours
USFS Cache Creek	80
USFS Turkish Thistle	65
USFS Reds Horse Ranch	40
USFS Pittsburgh (S&F)	114.5
USFS Hells Canyon Dam	23
Wallowa Resources Minam River Float	60
ODFW Minam/Big Canyon	\$17,910 Contracting
ODFW Lostine Restoration	74



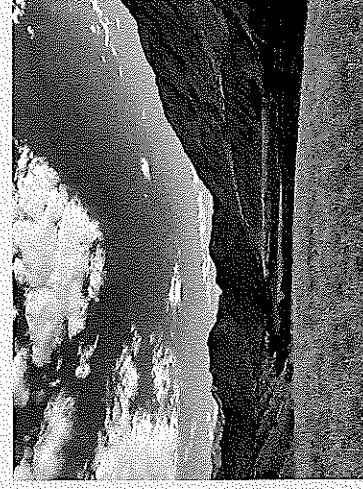
2022 USFS Pittsburgh



2022 ODFW Lostine



2022 USFS Cache Creek



2022 USFS Pittsburgh

[Handwritten signature]

Wallowa-Whitman N.F.

2022 Accomplishments

- ✓ 72 Net Acres (HB applied) = ~1300 Treated Acres
 - ✓ Partnership Acres = ~ 334 Acres
 - ✓ USFS Acres = ~ 454 Acres
 - ✓ Contract Acres = ~522 Acres
- ✓ New team member- Allyssa (permanent tech)
- ✓ All backcountry airstrips treated
- ✓ All known Turkish thistle sites treated along Snake River



Fall 2022 HC Dam Trip

Grants/Contracts:

- \$7,000 BAER funding for Dry Creek
- \$15,000 ID RAC (Turkish thistle)
- \$38,000 for HCNRA Airstrips (2022-2024)

Agreements:

- \$10,000 ODA
- \$15,000 Tri-County
- \$20,000 Wallowa Resources

Priority Species:

- Turkish Thistle
- Common Bugloss
- Orange/Meadow Hawkweed

Rush Skeletonweed- 408 Ac

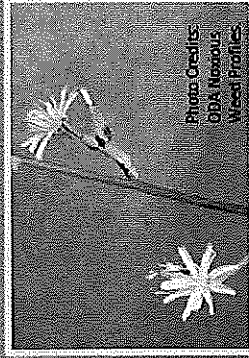
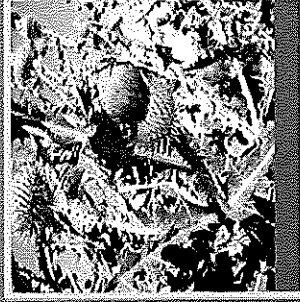


Photo Credits:
ODA
Mosses
Weed Profiles

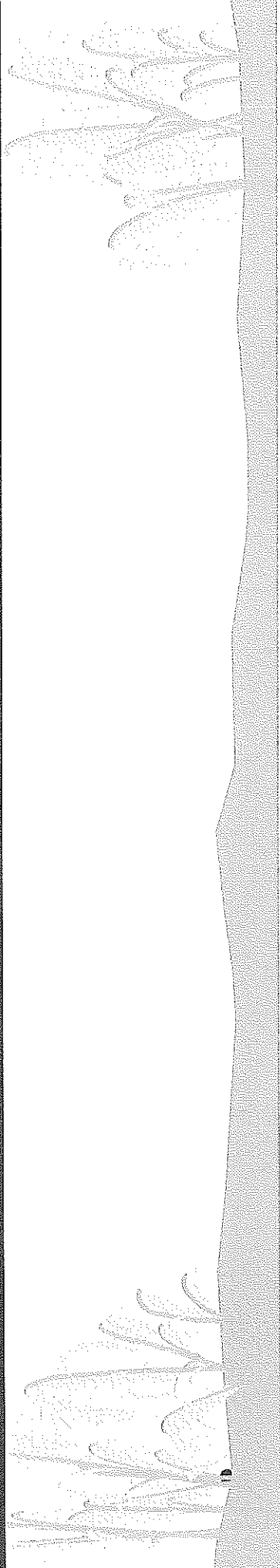
Scotch Thistle- 240 Ac



Puncturevine- 150 Ac



Meadow Hawkweed- 150 Ac



Wallowa-Whitman N.F. -Looking Forward-

2023 Priority Projects

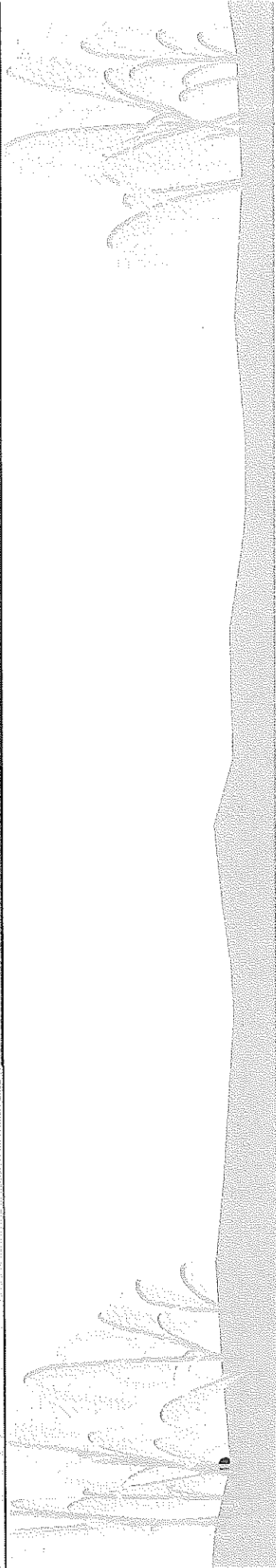
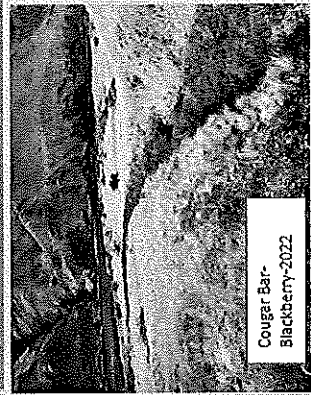
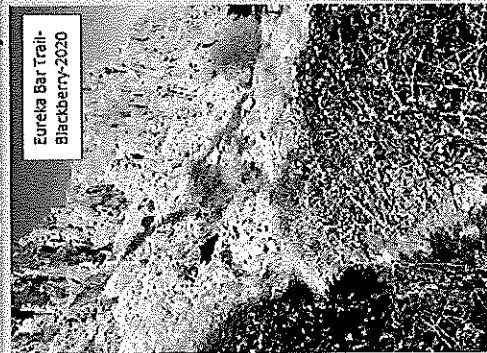
- ✓ Turkish thistle in Oregon/Idaho
- ✓ Double Creek post fire weed treatments
- ✓ Snake River
 - ✓ Turkish, Puncturevine, Rose Campion, Blackberry, Spotted knapweed
- ✓ Biocontrols: Canada thistle/Knotweed
- ✓ Monitoring for bio-control (Skeletonweed, crupina, whitetop)
- ✓ Back country airstrip treatments

Contracts:

- \$50,000 All Backcountry Airstrips (2023-2025)
- \$50,000 BAER for Double Creek
- PENDING BAR for Double, Nebo, Sturgil fires

Agreements:

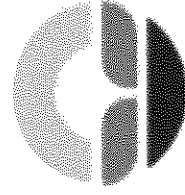
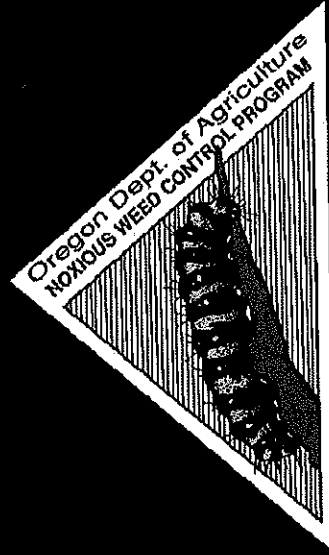
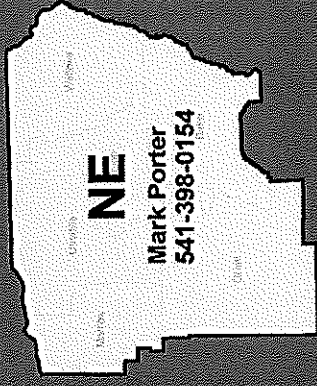
- \$20,000 ODA
- \$30,000 Tri-County (UMA/WAW)
- \$30,000 Wallowa Resources (UMA/WAW)
- \$80,000 Wallowa Resources (Title II-UMA)
- \$48,000 Wallowa Resources (Title II-WAW)
- \$30,000 Wallowa Resources (Turkish thistle-WAW)
- HCRC Idaho Title II
- Joseph Plains MOU



Thank You!
Questions?

Wallowa County

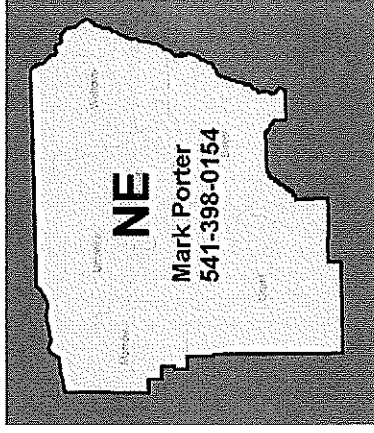
Update 2023



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

Wallowa County

Update 2023



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

A-listed weed projects

- Wilted thistle ↓
- Plumeless thistle ↓
- Orange hawkweed ↓
- Hoary alyssum ↓
- Turkish thistle ↑

2021 to 2022:

↑ Increase

↓ Decrease

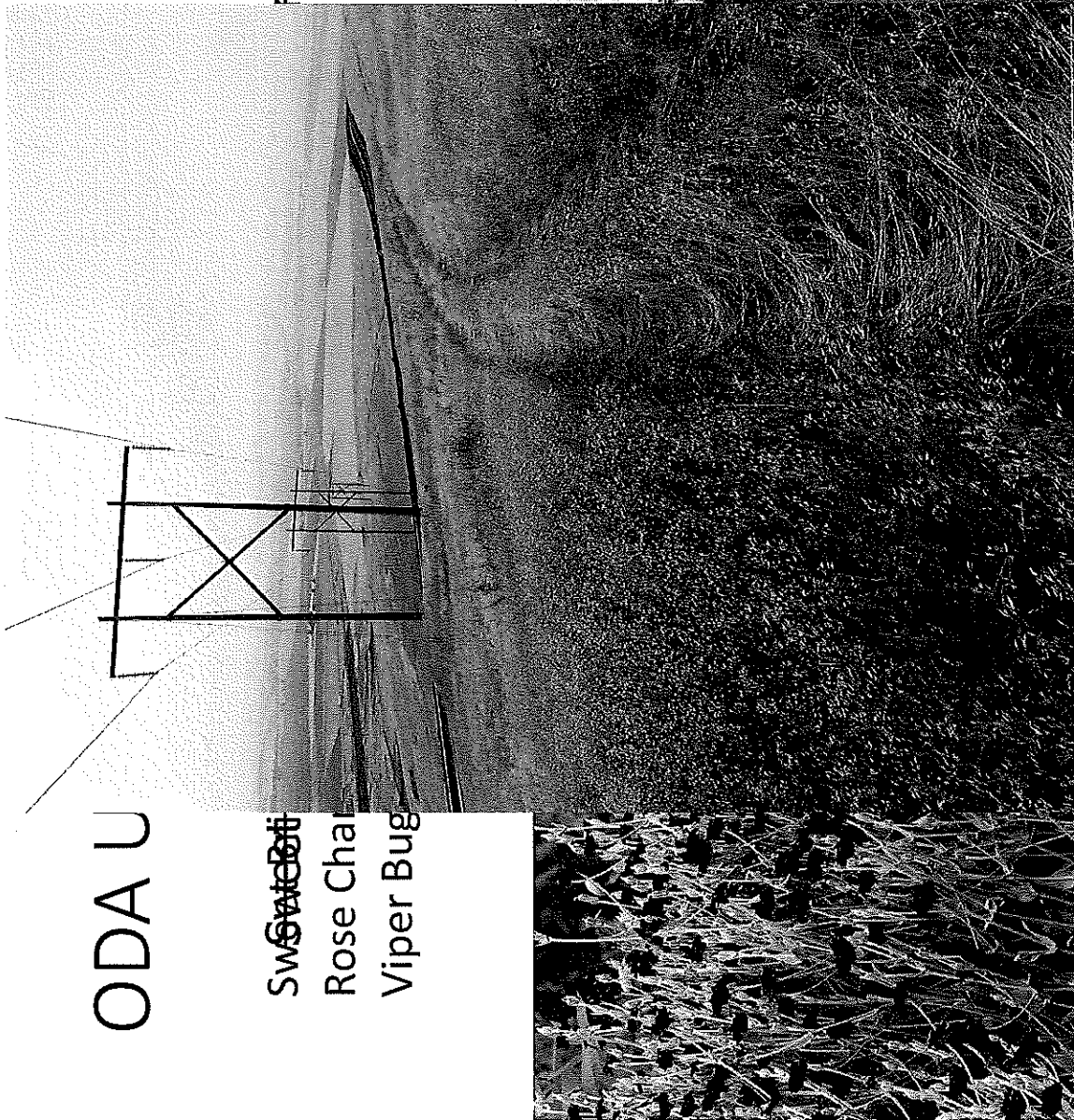
X Eradicated





ODA U

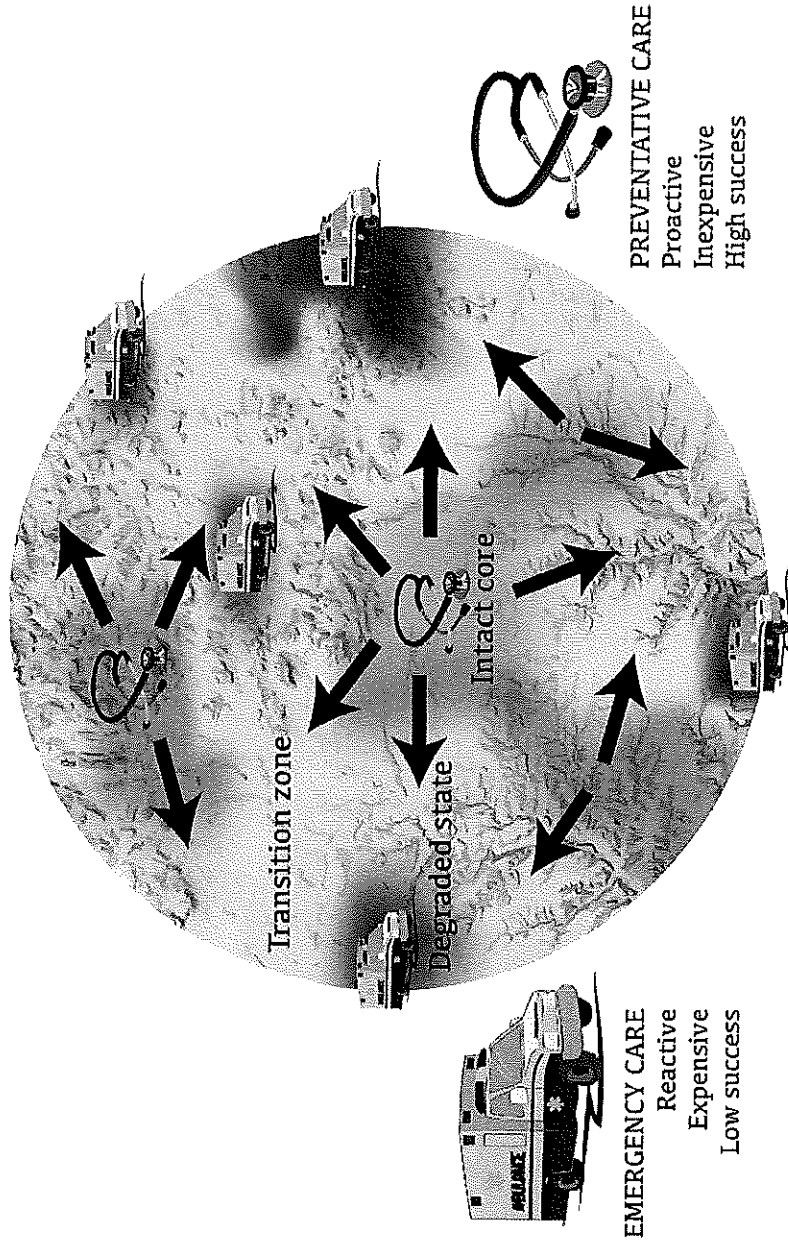
Swatara
Rose Cha
Viper Bug



and Canina



Defend the Core, Grow the Core



Degraded state

Transition zone

Intact core

Credit: USDA-NRCS, Working Lands for Wildlife



Bio-Control



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE