

- ◆ CHEATGRASS IS ONE OF THE MOST WIDESPREAD INTRODUCED ANNUAL GRASSES IN NORTH AMERICA OCCURRING IN ALL 50 STATES AS WELL AS IN MOST OF THE CANADIAN PROVINCES AND IN MEXICO.
- ◆ CHEATGRASS IS ESPECIALLY COMMON IN THE WESTERN STATES INCLUDING THE COLUMBIA BASIN, SNAKE RIVER BASIN AND THE GREAT BASIN.
- ◆ IT IS BEING FOUND THROUGHOUT SUBLETTE COUNTY AND THE STATE.
- ◆ IT IS A WEED OF ROADSIDES, CROPLAND, HAYLAND, PASTURELAND, RANGELAND AND WASTE PLACES.
- ◆ THIS ANNUAL GRASS IS A THREAT TO WYOMING LANDSCAPES AND OUR WESTERN HERITAGE.



⇒ CHEATGRASS CAN ALTER NATIVE RANGELANDS BY CREATING A MONOCULTURE & INCREASING THE RISK OF ANNUAL WILDFIRES THAT REDUCE RANGE PRODUCTIVITY.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

**Plants Database Website**  
<http://www.plants.usda.gov>

**SPONSORED BY:**

**Upper Green River Valley Basin  
 Sage Grouse Local Work Group**



This winter annual grass changes color from **GREEN**



to **PURPLE**



to **BROWN**  
 as the plant matures and dries out

**CHEATGRASS**  
*(Bromus tectorum)*

**THE INVASIVE GRASS  
 YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT...**

**WHAT IS IT AND WHAT CAN WE DO  
 ABOUT IT?**

**HELP TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF THIS  
 PLANT BY CONTROLLING IT ON YOUR  
 PROPERTY**

⇒ FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, LANDOWNERS AND OTHER PRIVATE ENTITIES ARE DEVELOPING A PLAN TO ADDRESS THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF NOXIOUS WEEDS AND INVASIVE PLANTS, SUCH AS CHEATGRASS.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
**Sublette County Weed and Pest**  
**307-367-4728**

## FORAGE IS FORAGE OR IS IT?

- ◆ CHEATGRASS CAN PROVIDE FORAGE FOR WILDLIFE AND LIVESTOCK
  - ~ **BUT** its unpredictable
    - \* availability is for a short period
    - \* can be during different times each year but primarily late winter to mid spring
    - \* forage yields (production lbs/ac) vary widely from year to year
- ◆ GRAZING MAY BE PROBLEMATIC
  - ~ grazing cheatgrass while it's green may have reduced effectiveness in our area
    - \* snow cover may hinder animals from reaching harvestable areas
  - ~ mature plants are unpalatable
    - \* must be grazed early as plants dry up quickly

⇒ SHARP TIPPED SEEDS WITH BARBED AWNS CAN WORK THEIR WAY INTO THE EYES, NOSTRILS, MOUTHS AND INTESTINES OF GRAZING ANIMALS



- ◆ LUMP-JAW (*ACTINOMYCOSIS*) CAN OCCUR FROM PUNCTURES IN THE TISSUE THAT BECOME INFECTED, RESULTING IN:
  - ~ abscesses, or soft tissue infections that often need to be lanced, drained and disinfected;
  - ~ and bone infections, establishing through the dental sockets of livestock whose permanent teeth are coming in (generally occurs in two-to three year old cattle)
- ◆ SECONDARY CONDITIONS SUCH AS INDIGESTION AND CHRONIC BLOAT MAY OCCUR

## Common Symptoms of Lump-Jaw:

1. LUMPS ARE FORMED ON THE JOINTS INSIDE THE MOUTH
2. THE TISSUES INSIDE THE MOUTH BECOME SOFT AND SWOLLEN
3. THERE MIGHT BE A PRESENCE OF YELLOW PUS IN THE SWOLLEN AREAS
4. NEARBY AREAS OF THE MOUTH CAN BE AFFECTED AND CHEWING BECOMES MORE DIFFICULT AND PAINFUL FOR THE ANIMAL
5. CATTLE MAY LOSE TEETH IRREGULARLY
6. LOSS OF WEIGHT CAN BE SEEN IN THE AFFECTED CATTLE AS THEY AVOID EATING
7. DIFFICULTY IN BREATHING

## CHARACTERISTICS

- ◆ CHARACTERIZED BY:
  - ~ early maturation
  - ~ prolific seed producer
  - ~ vigorous growth
  - ~ finely divided fibrous root system
  - ~ long awns that adhere readily to:
    - \* fur; feathers; clothing;
    - \* and can become lodged in many cracks and crevices, including tire treads and bumpers of vehicles, etc.
- ◆ SEEDS ARE DISPERSED BY:
  - ~ wind
  - ~ animals
  - ~ humans
  - ~ reclamation practices
- ◆ CAN GERMINATE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR WITH ADEQUATE MOISTURE, ALLOWING FOR SEVERAL GROWTH FLUSHES EACH YEAR
  - ~ uses available water early
  - ~ causes rapid depletion of soil moisture (and possibly nutrients), giving it a competitive advantage over native perennials

## CONTROL OPTIONS

- ◆ VARIOUS OPTIONS EXIST TO HELP CONTROL CHEATGRASS AND ALLOW NATIVE PERENNIALS TO ESTABLISH
- ◆ THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CONTROL OPTIONS OFTEN DEPENDS ON THE LIFE STAGE OF THE PLANT
- ◆ CONTACT YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION SPECIALIST OR COUNTY WEED SPECIALIST FOR ASSISTANCE ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHEATGRASS CONTROL IN YOUR AREA