

RUSH SKELETONWEED

Chondrilla juncea

EARLY DETECTION, RAPID RESPONSE.

Invasive weeds reduce land values, degrade natural areas and once established are very difficult to control. When found, the plants must be removed and the area monitored to prevent future spread. The Invasive Species Program (ISP) is a joint effort between TRCD and NTCD who collaborate with the *Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group (LTBWCG)*, a diverse group of agencies and community members dedicated to preventing and controlling invasive weed species in the Tahoe Basin. An early detection and rapid response network is coordinated by the LTBWCG to ensure that the entire basin is surveyed annually. TRCD offers one-on-one vegetation consultations for homeowners to help identify and control local invasive weed infestations and to find native plant alternatives. By being an extra set of eyes, educated homeowners increase our ability to detect new infestations in Tahoe.

How did Rush Skeletonweed get here?

Rush skeletonweed was recorded on the east coast during the 1870's, possibly as a contaminant in seed. Currently, this weed threatens native plant biodiversity and grain production in Mid-Atlantic and western states.



Origin: Eurasia

Noxious Weed List: NV-YES, A-listed; CA-YES, A-listed

Habitat: Disturbed soils along roadsides and rangelands

Life Cycle: Perennial

Flowering time: Mid-July to September

Spread: Seed and roots

Height: 1-4 ft

Stems: Nearly leafless. Coarse, downward pointing brown hairs near base; stems and roots exude a white latex sap when cut

Leaves: Narrow and linear, mostly at the base of stem

Flowers: Strap shaped petals whose ends look like teeth; flower heads single or in clusters of two to five

Flower color: Yellow



Why is it a threat to the Tahoe Basin?

- ☹ Deep taproot contributes to soil erosion
- ☹ Degrades wildlife habitat and reduces biodiversity by forming a dense monoculture
- ☹ Difficult to control: small pieces of root can grow new shoots



NOXIOUS WEED:

An invasive plant that is difficult to control, aggressive, and intrusive, as well as detrimental to important native species.

Those listed as A-listed are:

- Only found in a few places so far
- Control required in all infestations
- Not allowed in nurseries

Do Not Disturb!
TAHOE NATIVE



Hawksbeard

- ☺ **Flower:** Strap shaped petals whose ends look like teeth
- ☺ **Flower color:** Yellow
- ☺ **Stem:** Branching towards top, nearly leafless
- ☺ **Leaves:** Gray-green, divided, at base of stem; resembling dandelion leaves

Call Us!
NONNATIVE INVASIVE



Rush Skeletonweed

- ☹ **Flower:** Strap shaped petals whose ends look like teeth
- ☹ **Flower color:** Yellow
- ☹ **Stem:** Nearly leafless. Brown hairs at base; stems and roots exude a white latex sap when cut
- ☹ **Leaves:** Narrow and linear, at base of stem

Think you spotted this invasive weed?

- 1) Please contact your local Resource Conservation District. In California, call TRCD (530) 543-1501 ext. 113. In Nevada, call NTCD (775) 586-1610 ext. 28.
- 2) A member of the Invasive Species Program (ISP) staff will come identify the plant and record the weed's location to add to our Basin-wide map.
- 3) District staff will work with you to determine the best method of control that fits your property and the invasive weed(s) present. With your permission, the District will monitor the site after control measures are completed to ensure control efforts succeeded.
- 4) At your request, your local RCD also provides native and adapted plant consultations to homeowners free of charge. After evaluating your property, staff can provide plant plans for your yard and accompany you to a local nursery to help pick out native plants that will thrive on and add beauty to your landscape.

