Weed Control After Development

Quade Schmelzle
Supervisor
Campbell County Weed and Pest
Natural Site vs Developed Site

- Plant density/ diversity
- Balanced use of resources available
- No competition
- Resources available
Types of Development

- Rights of Way: vehicle transportation
- Pipeline Corridors: long corridors of disturbed soil
- Well Pad Sites: large bare-ground sites

Each site will have different objectives with weed control.
The road sides might only be treated for noxious weeds with herbicides being the primary method of weed control.
Pipelines may want all undesired species controlled to ensure successful reclamation.
Pipeline Continued...

- Broadcast herbicide treatments may not be the best option
- Spot spraying noxious weeds still needed
- Annuals like kochia or Russian thistles (tumble weeds) can be mowed
- Other mechanical methods may be used until the desired vegetation has established
Developed Well Sites

- Bare-ground objective?
- Safety Concerns
- Fire suppression
How Weeds Spread:

Vehicle Movement
Seed Establishment on Developed Roadways:

- Seeds will travel
- No competition makes establishment easy
- Watch for likely sources - weed type and sites suited for weed development
How Weeds Spread:

Environmental Pathways
How Weeds Spread:

- Seeds
- Rhizomes
- Both

Natural Growth Patterns
How Weeds Spread:

Wildlife and Domestic Animals
An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure...

...Prevention is the Least Expensive and the Most Effective Management Tool
Conduct Weed Surveys

- Before disturbance is made
- During construction of site
- After reclamation is performed

Save $$ by knowing what is there and focus on prevention
Weed Survey

- Document what and where (GPS)
- Noxious: report them
- Bring in for I.D. if needed
- Communicate!
Other Prevention Methods:

- Wash Equipment
- Use Certified Weed-Free Seed
- Certified Weed Free Straw on Reclamation
- Treat Weeds before they can have a chance to spread