**Cheatgrass control plan for HR Ranch subdivision open spaces**

Cheatgrass is an annual non-native invasive grass. The seed can survive in the soil for up to 10 years making it difficult to control. Cheatgrass greens up very early in the spring so that it can take advantage of the early spring moisture giving it a competitive edge over most native vegetation. It will eventually take over an area leaving no native vegetation. Once it takes over it makes the area useless for wildlife, bees, birds, and most grazing. These Open Space areas in the HR Ranch subdivision are such a valuable resource for wildlife. Many of the native prairie birds like the Western Meadowlark, Lark Bunting, and Grasshopper Sparrow to name a few require areas like this for nesting and raising their young. With all of the housing developments coming up in Laramie County these native prairie areas are crucial for these species.

The Open Space areas in the HR Ranch subdivision are currently being invaded by cheatgrass but it is not to the point where it has completely taken over. Control at this point will be easier since there still is some existing native vegetation and a complete over seeding will not be required.

Cheatgrass is listed as a noxious weed in Laramie County, which means control is required.

**Cheatgrass control plan**

Fall (mid-September to mid-October) of 2019 or 2020 spray open space areas with Plateau (or equivalent)

Assess the area the following summer/fall to determine if any areas will need to be seeded. This would be areas that were completely overtaken by cheatgrass leaving no native vegetation.

The second spring (spring of 21 or 22) after spraying, seed areas that were determined to require seeding.

Spray area again the second fall (fall of 21 or 22) with either Plateau or Esplanade. Esplanade may be more affective and longer lasting at this point.

Due to cheatgrass seed surviving in the soil for up to 10 years. Spraying will need to be repeated until the 10 years has passed. At that point it can be reduced to spot spraying on a yearly basis to keep it from coming back in.