

VENTENATA

Jane Mangold, MSU

Ventenata

(*Ventenata dubia*)

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Ventenata

- Non-native annual grass
- First documented in 1952 in WA
- Abundant in grasslands of west-central ID by 1980s
- First documented in MT in 1990s
- Problematic in ID, eastern WA and OR over last 10-15 years
 - 30% increase in cover, 50% increase in frequency on prairie systems (Ridder et al. 2022)
- Rapidly increasing, moving eastward

Impacts

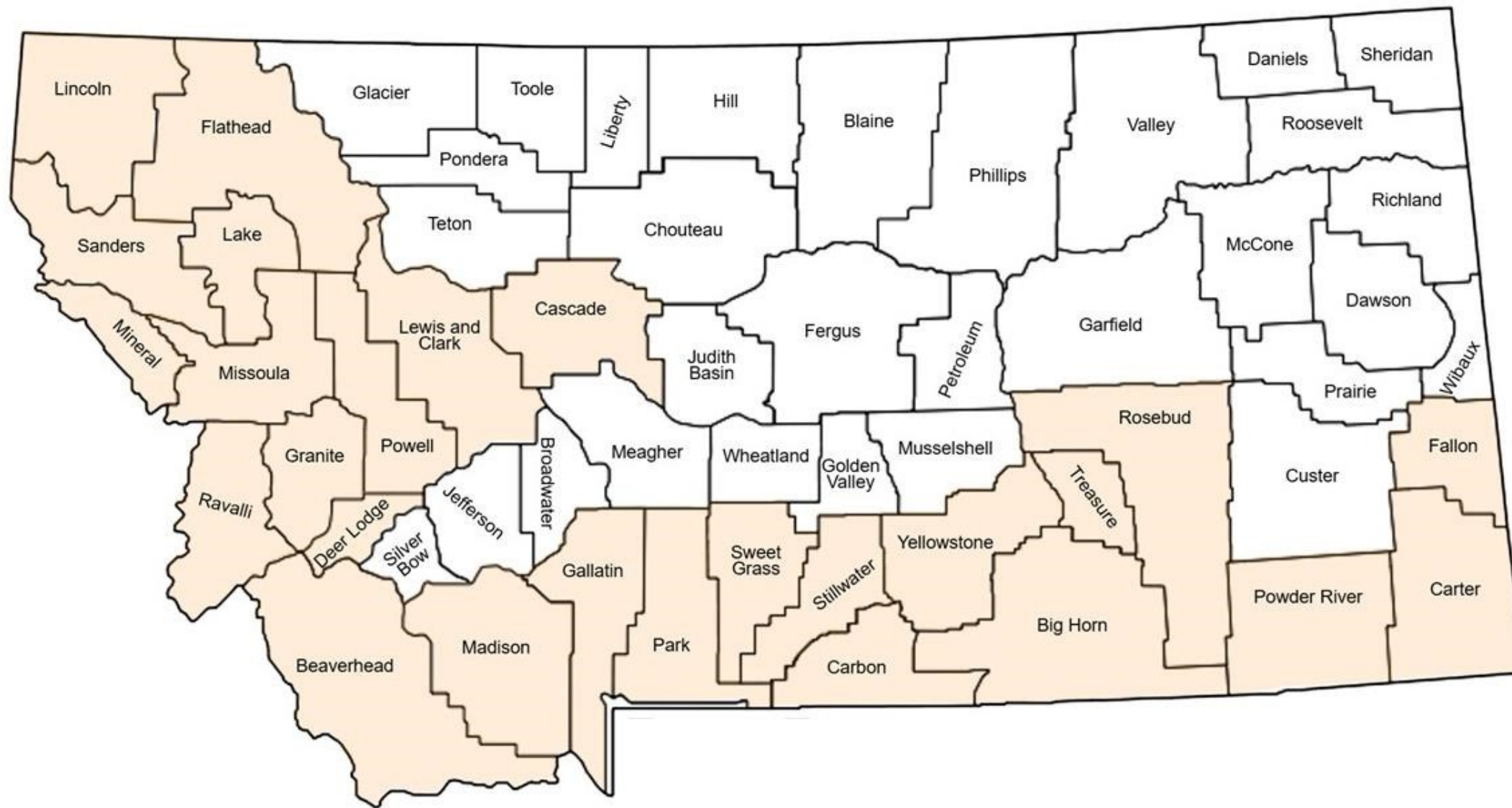
- Reduce forage for livestock and wildlife
 - Unpalatable, ~9-12% silica content
- Displace native species, forming monocultures
- Litter accumulation
- Fire hazard?
- Soil quality?
 - Nutrient cycling
 - Erosion

A wide-angle photograph of a lush green rangeland. The foreground is filled with tall, vibrant green grasses growing in clumps. The middle ground shows a vast, flat expanse of similar grassland stretching towards the horizon. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is a natural, open landscape.

70% of Montana (65 million acres) are rangelands. These lands provide habitat for wildlife, forage for livestock, clean water, erosion control, recreation, and are a major element of the natural beauty of our state.



Photo: Bob Demery, BIA



Prevention

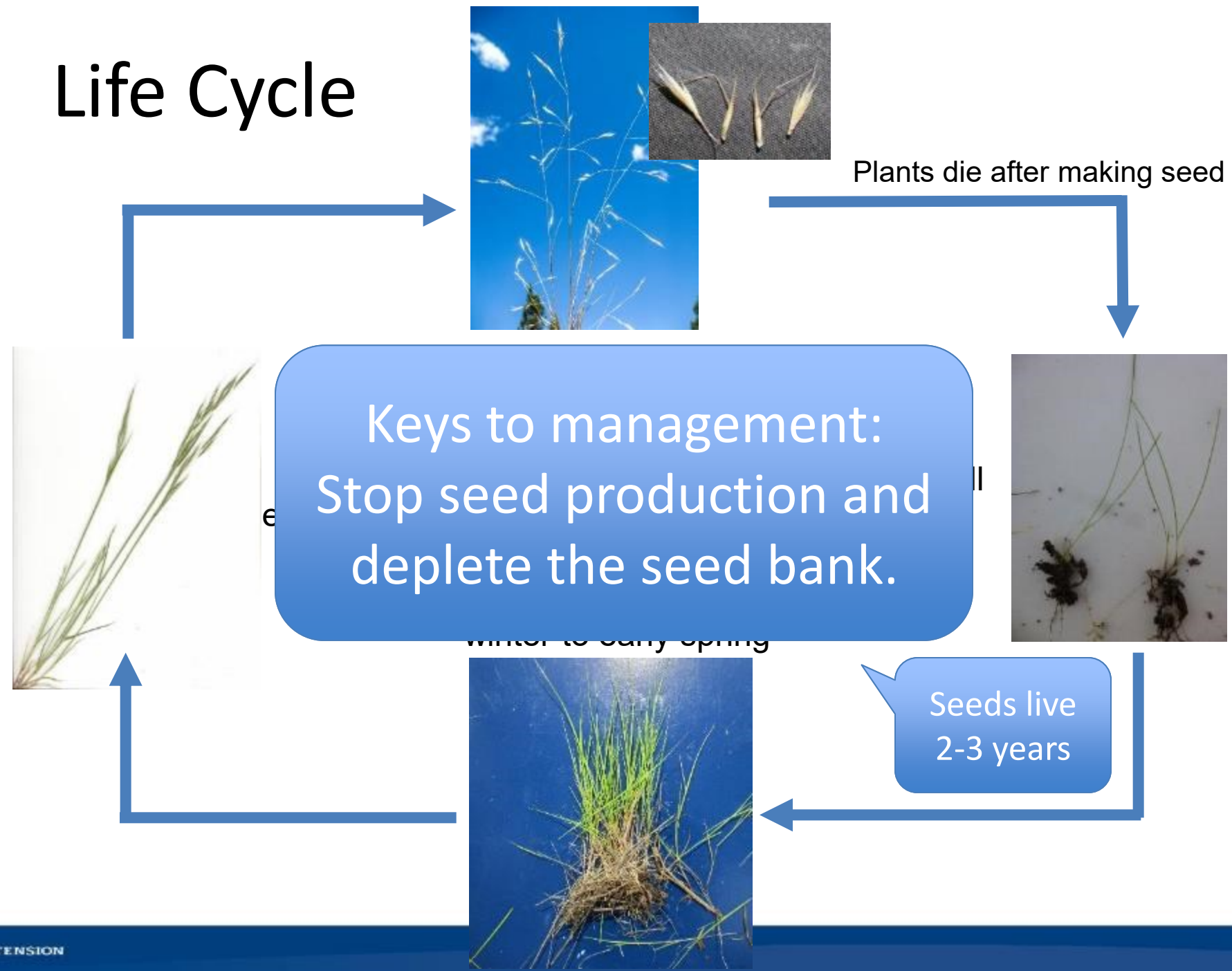
- Take care of large, perennial bunchgrasses and rhizomatous grasses
 - Multiple studies show annual grasses increase as perennial grasses decrease
- Learn to identify ventenata
- Control patches while small
- Avoid traveling through infestations, wash vehicles and equipment, use clean hay



Photo: Bob Demery, BIA



Life Cycle



Chemical Control

Currently Most Promising Option



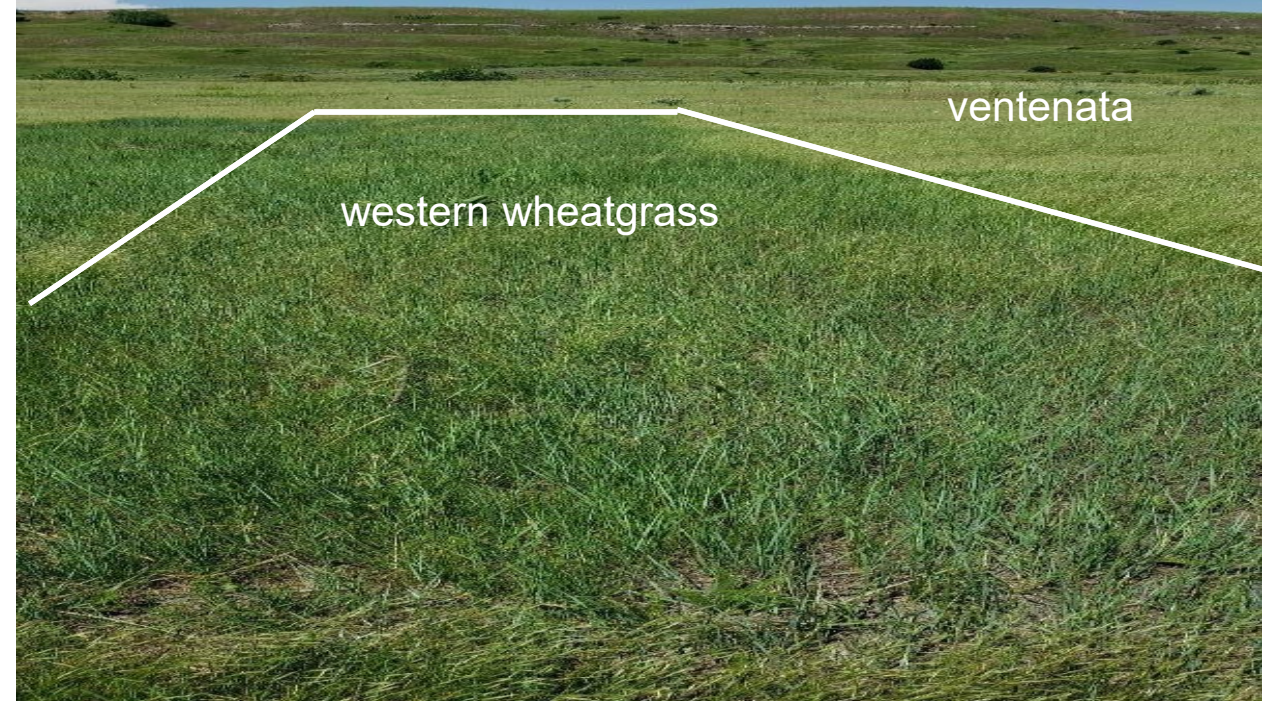
Not treated (left, brown) and aeriually treated (right, green)

Photo: Jaycie Arndt, IMAGINE, Univ. of WY

Good to excellent control with
imazapic, rimsulfuron, and indaziflam



Imazapic applied to ventenata



Indaziflam applied to ventenata

Sprayed

Not Sprayed



Regional Partnership



invasivegrasses.com

About the Partnership

This project seeks to put science into practice, helping land managers address the greatest threat to the sagebrush biome: **invasive annual grasses**. Centered around the proactive "Defend and Grow the Core" framework, a cooperative team from multiple universities, federal, state, and local agencies, non-profits, and the private sector will embark on a campaign to equip land managers with the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to implement effective invasive annual grass management. Experts will translate the latest science into highly usable technical materials, foster experiential learning through field workshops and online modules, and establish an innovative multi-state demonstration and monitoring network that enables adaptive management and ongoing technical support.

Goal

Empowering Land Managers to Defend and Grow the Sagebrush Core



Level 2: Field Workshop

Level 1: Virtual Wo

Land Managers FAQs

Invasive Grasses Re

Thank you!

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Ventenata infestation with treated test plots
(dark green rectangles are western wheatgrass)

