

# Revegetation Field Day

May 15, 2013

Benge, WA

A rangeland field day was held May 15, 2013 on revegetation plots in the Benge, WA. This field day was sponsored by Washington State University Extension and the USDA-ARS Forage and Range Research laboratory Logan UT, and showcased cooperative research for the rehabilitation of rangelands infested with Medusahead weed [*Taeniatherum caput-medusae* (L.) Nevski]. This important invasive weed is native to the Mediterranean area and was introduced to the United States in the 1880s. It now is spreading across 10 Western states with between 30 million and 76 million acres of public and private land already infested. Pesticides, controlled burning and grazing during the brief period in the annual weed's early life that it is edible can all help reduce spread of Medusahead, but effective control is unaffordable for many ranchers. Washington State University and the FRRL is working with ranchers to develop management strategies using improved FRRL grass and forage kochia germplasm to mitigate the effects of this invasive weed. About 35 people at the field day on Wednesday morning, which featured plots containing various native and non-native grasses and forage kochia. Some grass/forage kochia combinations show promise in controlling the weed.



Some field day participants inspect rangelands previously infested with Medusahead that are in the process of becoming more productive with the use of native and non-native plant materials (grasses and forage kochia).



Forage kochia emerging in grass plots that have excluded the Medusahead weed.



A stand of Vavilov II Siberian wheatgrass which has established (over 3 years) on rangelands previously infested with Medusahead weed.