



Implementation of UAS to Locate and Identify Rush Skeleton Weed in the Idaho Big Desert



August 13 – August 17, 2012



The Raven UAS allows for collection of aerial imagery at various flight heights to evaluate the effectiveness of using the UAS to locate and identify the Rush Skeleton invasive weed



The Raven UAS allowed for near real time collection of video imagery to assist in the identification of Rush Skeleton Weed.



Lessons Learned: Due to the RQ-11 RavenA low resolution video sensor, distinguishing between the native vegetation and the Rush Skeleton weed proved to be difficult. Those areas that had a known target placed next to the plant were identifiable. Future missions looking at this plant should be collected with high resolution fixed imaging cameras, such as GoPro modification. With the additional sensor enhancements, the flying heights could be adjusted to cover a larger ground surface area per flight line.



Rush Skeleton Weed



Upper Snake Field Office BLM staff, Salt Lake District Staff with BLM National Operations Center Staff

The Bureau of Land Management National Operations Center and the Bureau of Land Managements Upper Snake Field Office coordinated a proof of concept project on the use of unmanned systems in helping to determine the spread of noxious and invasive Rush Skeleton weed within the Field Office in August of 2012.

