

Alyssum murale &  
Alyssum corsicum

Illinois Valley, O'Brien & Kerby, Oregon  
Josephine County

# HISTORY

- Viridian Resources, LLC with the assistance of USDA ARS, and OSU imported two non-native species of *Alyssum* adapted to serpentine soils (*A. murale* and *A. corsicum*) (aka yellow tuft alyssum) to use for “phytomining.” The plants were purported to accumulate nickel from the soil and were to be harvested and burned to obtain the nickel from the ash.
- The project failed, Viridian did not follow the agreed upon Best Management Practices, and both species of *Alyssum* escaped and are spreading in widely diverse areas around O’Brien, OR and on the Siskiyou NF.

*Alyssum murale* flowering in June 2008, next to Illinois Valley Airport, in O'Brien, OR.  
The alyssum is the yellow-flowered plant dominating the field.



Photo by Ken French

# Examples of non-compliance



Harvested bales left in the field and unharvested plants going to seed

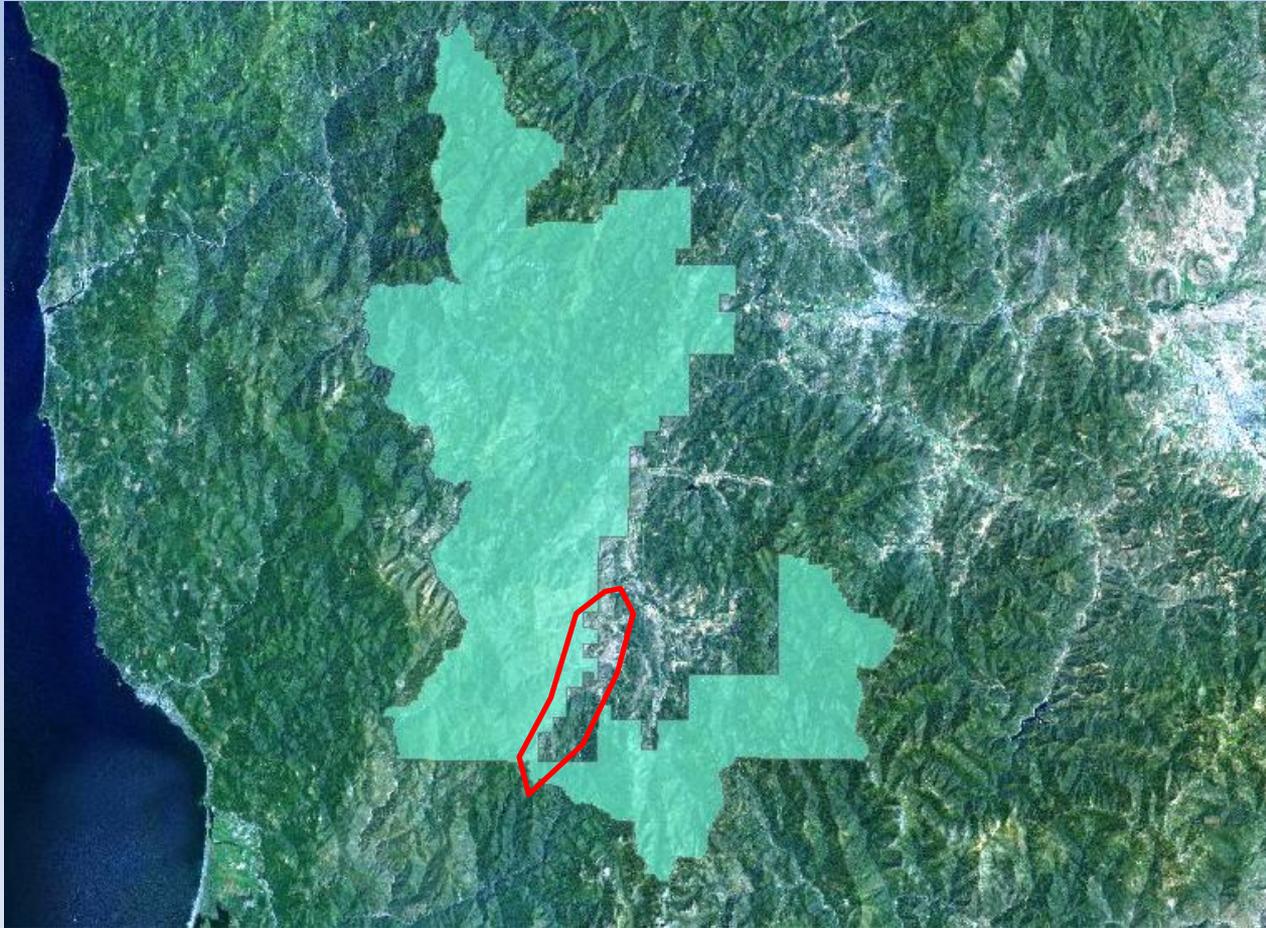


Harvested bales improperly stored and never processed



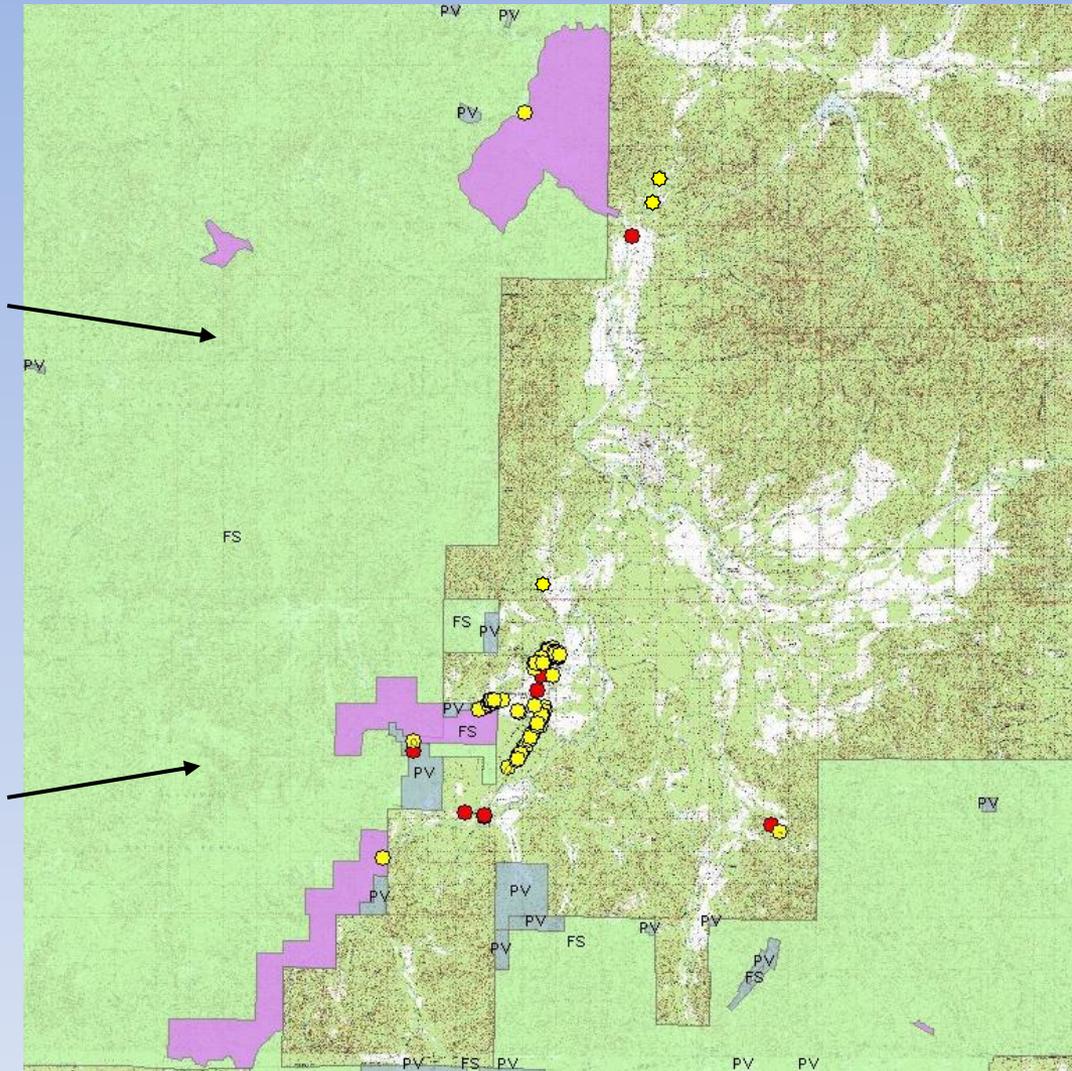
Flowerheads / Seedheads that were left in the Airport fields showing seeds. Photo taken 9/27/06

# General Location of infestations



Rogue River – Siskiyou NF, Wild Rivers RD, Illinois Valley

Portions of the 2002 Biscuit Fire Area



FS – green shade

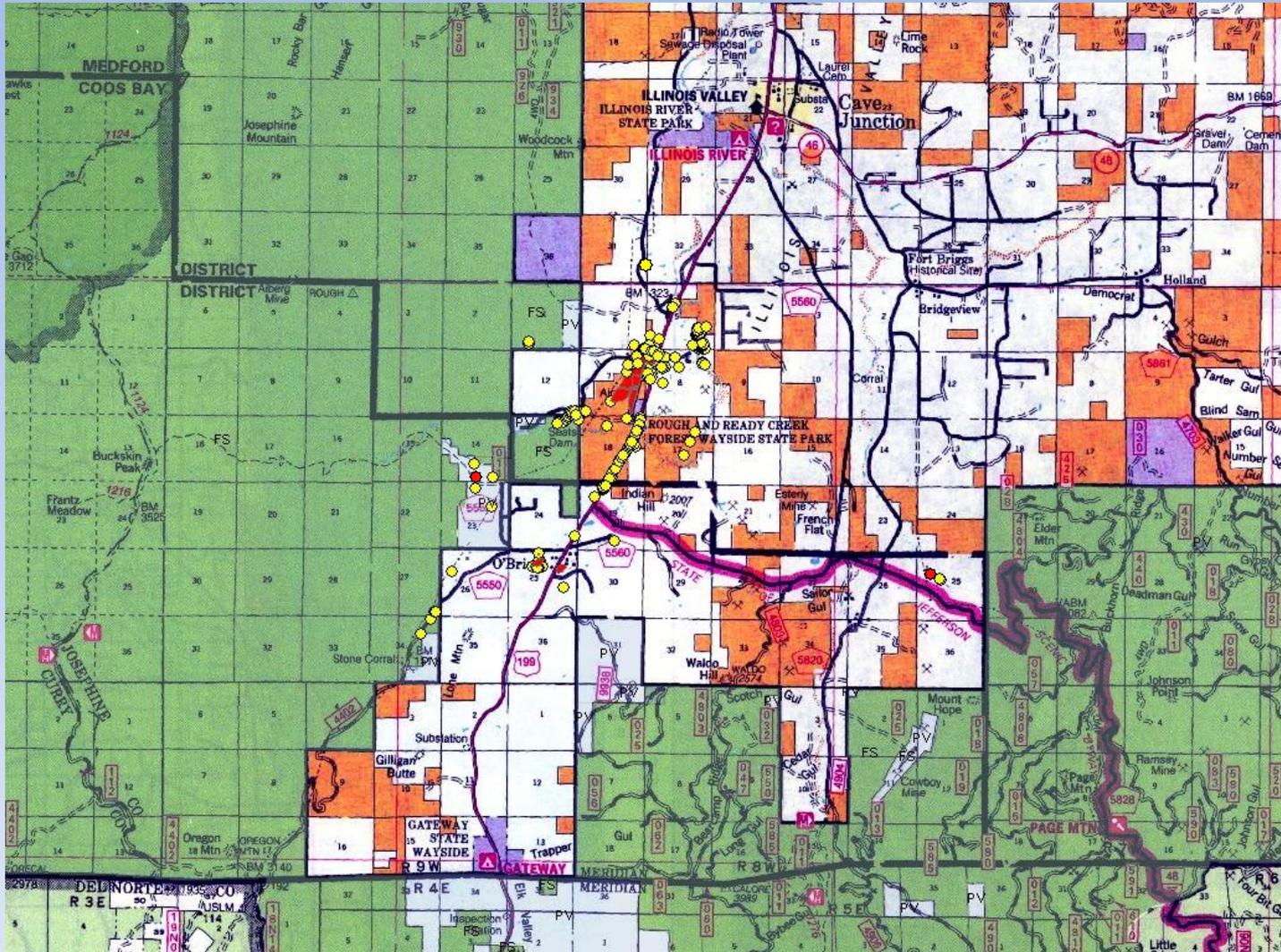
FS Botanical Areas – purple

Red – planted sites

Yellow – escaped Alyssum sites

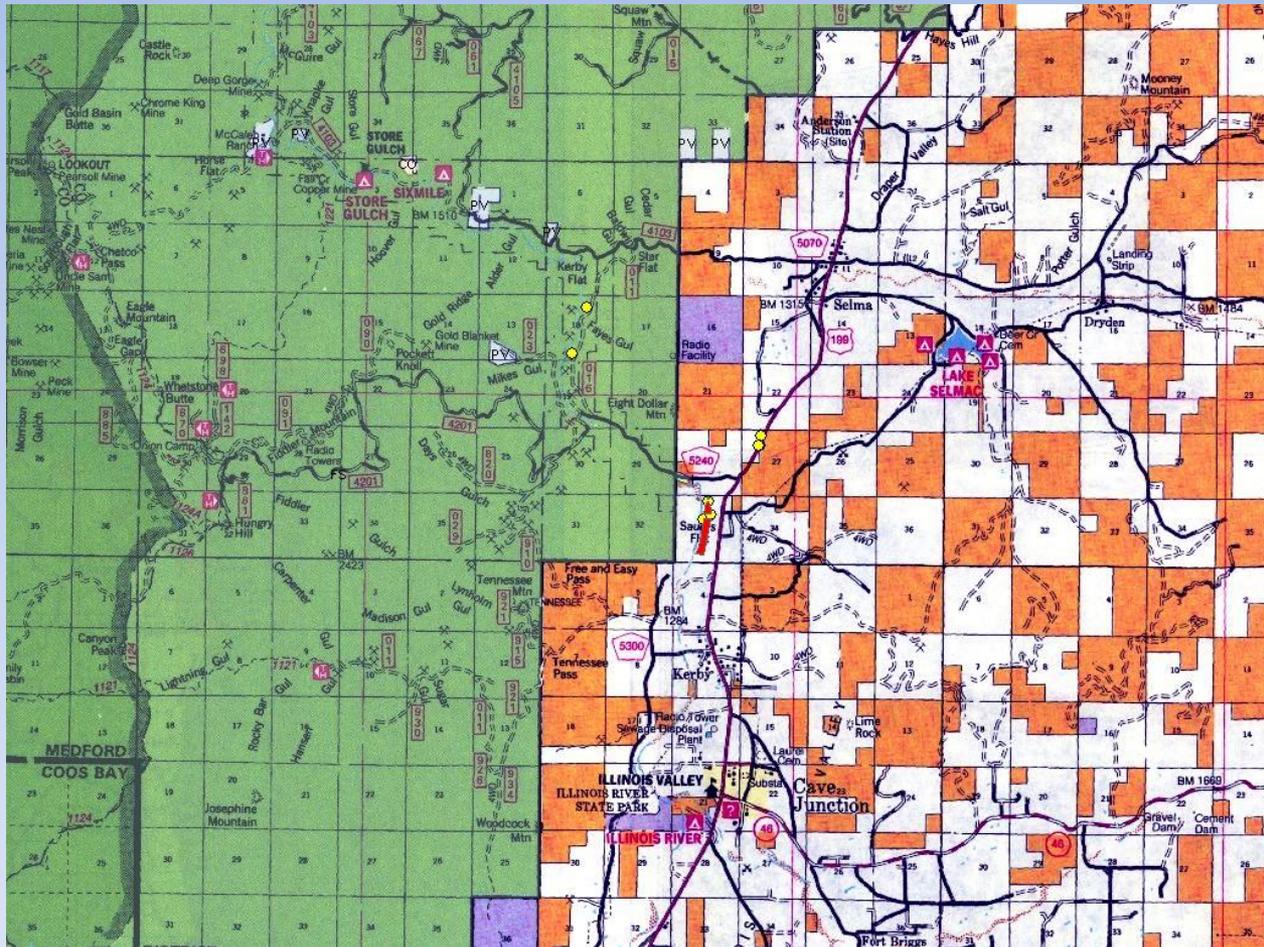
# O'Brien Vicinity 2010

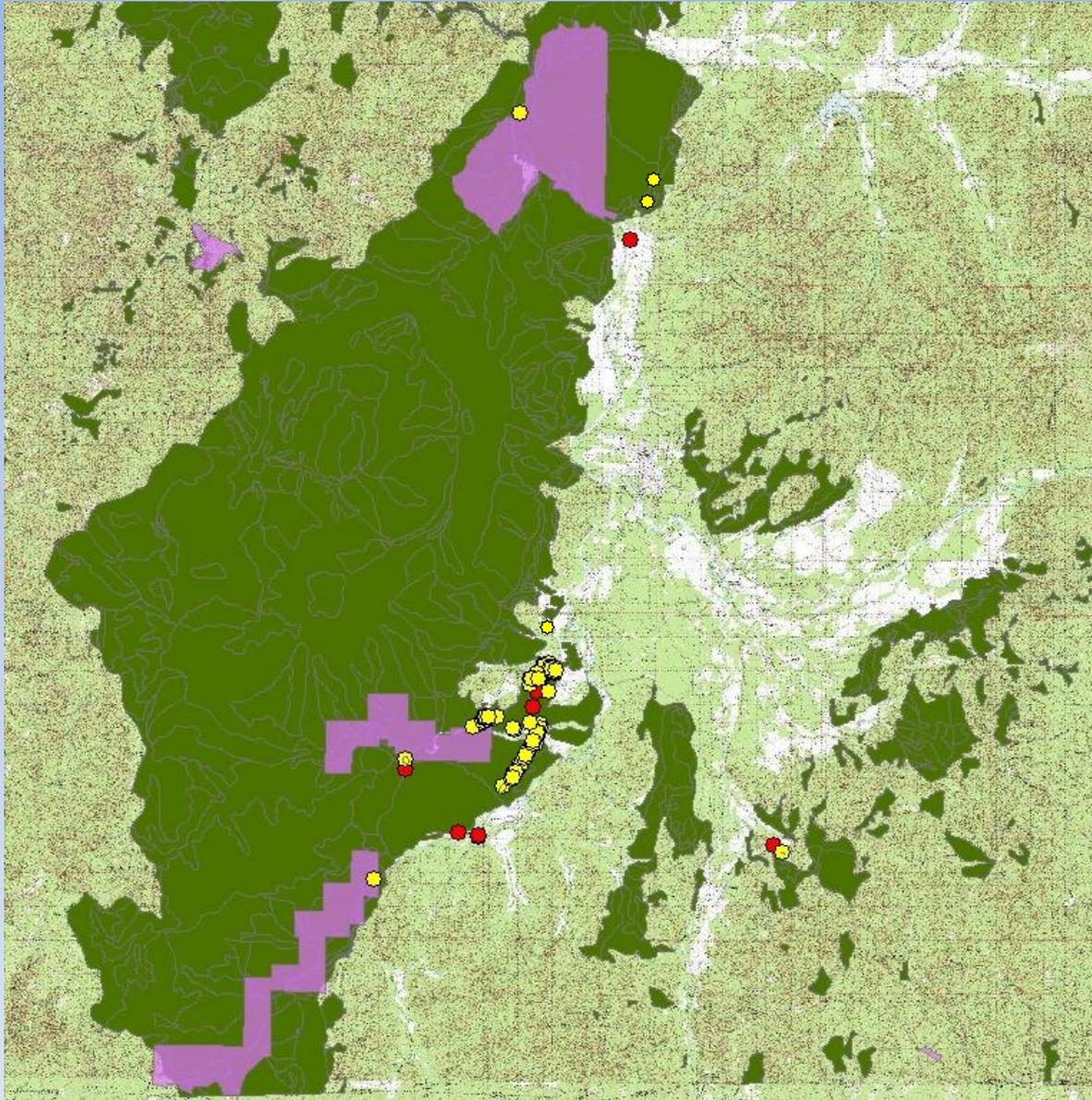
Red – planted sites      Yellow – escaped Alyssum sites



# Kerby & Selma Vicinity 2010

Red – planted sites    Yellow – escaped Alyssum sites





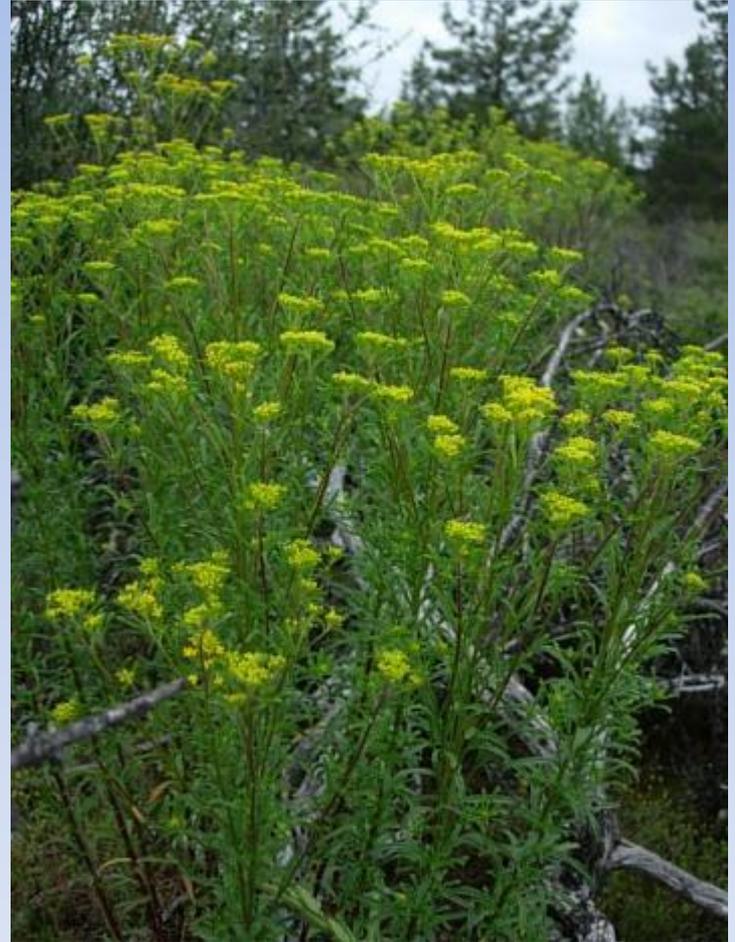
Serpentine Soils – dark green

FS Botanical Areas – purple

# Alyssum murale



Linear green leaves, yellow flowers  
Grows in open areas as well as deep  
underneath *Ceanothus* shrubs



# A. murale growth form and habitat Josephine County, OR



West of airstrip, southern part of airport,  
looking south towards Rough and Ready  
Botanical Wayside.

Flowers and buds near Seats Dam, USFS site.

# Alyssum corsicum

seedling and mature foliage

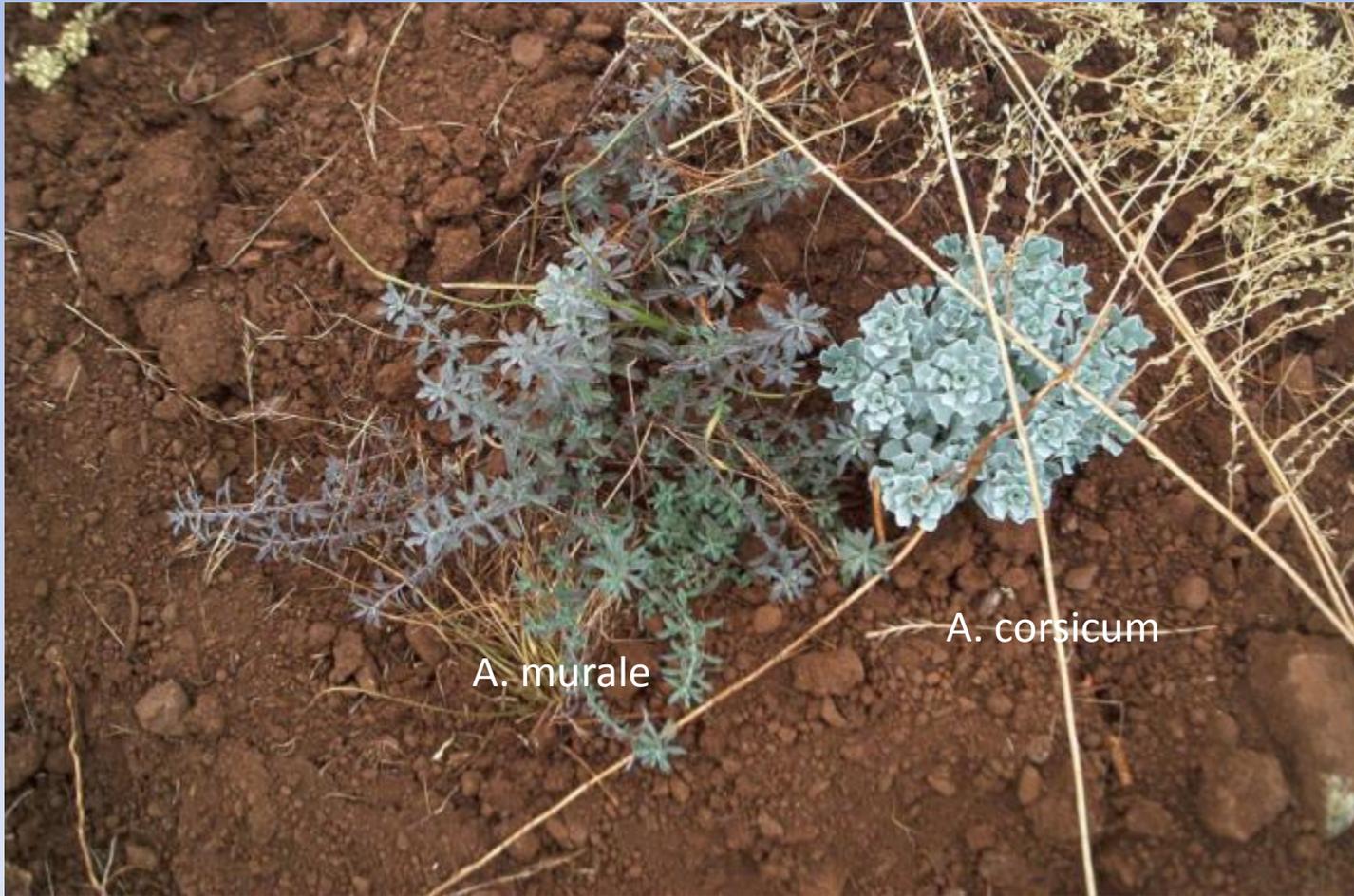
Grey, fuzzy leaves; less linear than *A. murale*. Also has yellow flowers



# Timeline

- In the late 1990's Alyssum was introduced to the Illinois Valley at an experimental site by USDA, OSU and Viridian LLC
- 2002 Viridian Resources LLC planted 9 sites near O'Brien, OR
- 2005 Alyssum found growing wild and far from planted sites
- 2006 Alyssum found growing on Forest Service land
- 2007-2008 USFS and ODA document wild populations
- 2009 Alyssum found along West Fork Illinois River at the end of Patton Bar Road in a large infestation
- 2009 *Alyssum murale* and *A. corsicum* petitioned for listing, then listed, as a noxious weed in OR
- 2009 - 2010 Large scale control efforts begin, including planted sites abandoned by Viridian Resources

Both grow sympatrically, and on serpentine soils



Alyssum field was treated by Ken French, ODA, with 1.5 oz. of Escort and 8 oz. of Phase surfactant in 25 gallons of mix per acre applied by a Polaris ATV with booms on April 15, 2009.

The green line is immature Alyssum that will need to be spot treated by backpack sprayers.



Photo by Ken French

Giant blue-eyed Mary (*Collinsia grandiflora*), a native species, blooming in treatment site 1 year after treatment, May 2010.

ODA crews Glenn and Jeremy spot treating Alyssum in 2010 with backpack sprayers.  
Treated Alyssum field, with native plant growing 1 year after treatment (YAT).

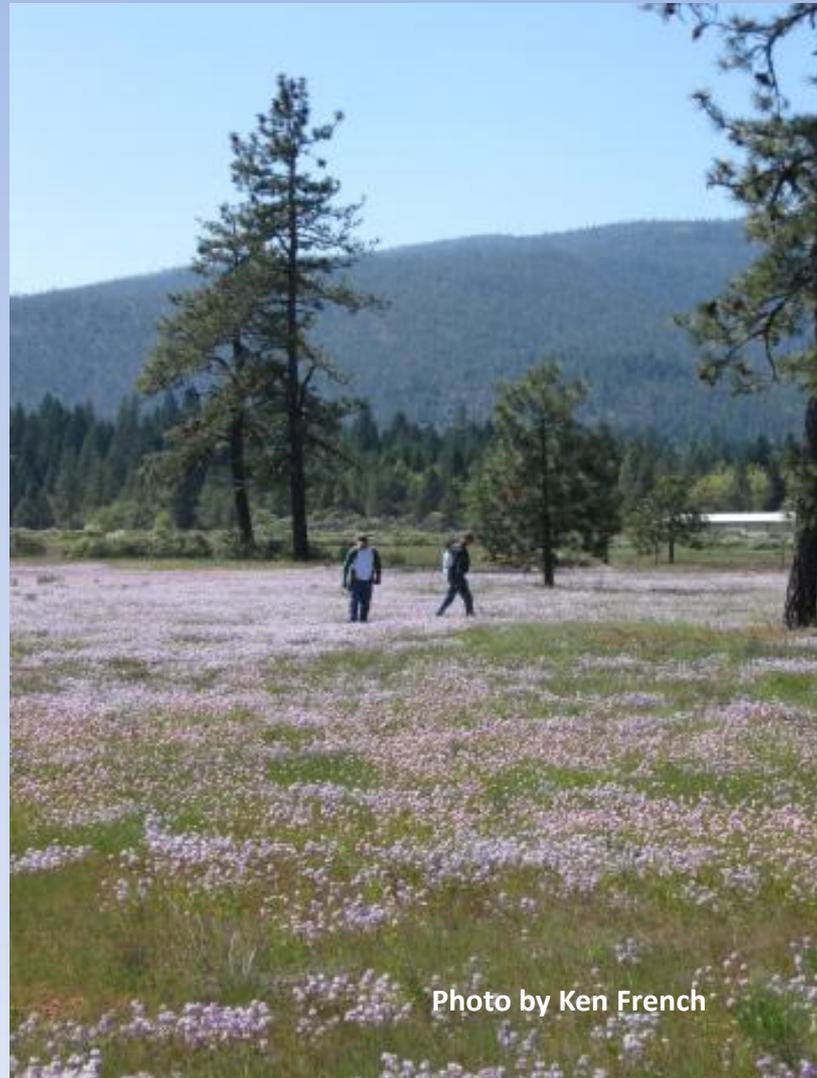


Photo by Ken French