

## **[1] History, Politics and Administration of the National Jointed Goatgrass Research Program** Darrell Hanavan, Presenter

The National Jointed Goatgrass Research Program was founded in 1994 when a special grant of \$350,000 was received from the US Congress through CSREES-USDA. Washington State University was designated as the lead agency for this grant. The purpose of this grant was to provide funding to develop improved integrated management systems for jointed goatgrass in 10 western states where the weed was causing significant losses in wheat yields and farm profitability. Key factors in getting this program established was involving wheat producers in the planning of the Program and its oversight through a national steering committee, having producer support at the local, state and national levels, and identifying a US Congressman who would support the appropriation of funds during the life of the Program. Another important factor to the success of this Program was the seven regional workshops that were held in the early years in all major areas in the western US where jointed goatgrass occurred in wheat. These workshops helped increase producer awareness of the problem and helped to identify data gaps for new research projects. During the 13-year life of the Program, a total of \$4.15 million was awarded to projects in 10 western states. Typically, there were 15 to 20 proposals funded each year. About 32% of the funds were spent on developing integrated management systems. About 30% was spent on developing systems to manage herbicide-resistant wheat and gene flow between wheat and jointed goatgrass, and another 18% was spent on technology transfer activities and publications. Only 6% of the funds were spent administrating the Program. A Research Coordinator was hired to oversee the Program, to arrange an annual review of all projects each year and to arrange for the publication of an annual progress report each year. A national Extension Coordinator was hired to transfer the latest research findings to producers. Early in the life of the Program, a web site [www.jointedgoatgrass.org](http://www.jointedgoatgrass.org) was established to provide easy access to all progress reports, scientific publications, and technology transfer publications and activities. Plans are in place to support and maintain the web site through 2012. In 2000, a 5-year plan was developed to bring the Program to an orderly conclusion. Included in this plan were plans to publish four national bulletins on the state of the science of jointed goatgrass and four regional bulletins that provide guidelines to wheat producers to develop integrated management systems for this weed. This Program will conclude in August 2009 when the final research projects are completed, but the benefits to agriculture and science will continue for many years. Because of the success of this national program, it will serve as a model for future national programs.