



BEFORE and AFTER in California's grasslands—Roadside vegetation shows how California's grasslands grew for eons--low growing, green in summer and very little fire fuel. Behind the fence are the weed grasses that fuel summer fires--As they grow, they produce herbicide-like chemicals, that stop the original low-fire-fuel natives from growing back. Natives shown are Valley Gumplants (*Grindelia*) and Dove weed or Turkey Mullein.



A grass fire captured from inside a vehicle on Sept. 11 near Bindloss, Alta. (Dwayne Turner)

Four potential solutions: 1.) **Convert** weed-grass areas back to local native grasses and wildflowers. 2.) **Sow** local native grass and wildflower seeds **after each fire**, to keep weed grasses from regrowing and make more fires. 3.) **Plant** Pseudomonas host plants, for more regular rainfall and fewer droughts. 4.) **Educate home-owners**, to cut the weed grasses earlier, monthly and higher, to help convert the weed grasses back to native cover.

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