

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

for Controlling the Spread of Noxious Weeds

By adopting a proactive approach to noxious weed control, especially in areas of human-caused disturbances, we can ensure that the potential for introducing new noxious weed species is eliminated and the spread of existing invaders is reduced. Noxious weed management through prevention and early detection and rapid response (EDRR) is more cost-effective than treating large infestations. The principles of EDRR are geared toward the discovery—and rapid treatment—of invaders that are new to an area or region.

Are you planning an activity that will cause a ground disturbance?

Land owners, land managers, and contractors should implement the use of Best Management Practices when ground disturbances are planned, including those that require permits or leases. These practices include, but are not limited to, the following:

Learn to Identify Noxious Weeds Before a new project is initiated—or on an annual basis—offer noxious weed identification training to all personnel involved in the project. Contact the county weed district, Cooperative Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or other trained personnel¹ for information on available trainings. *Personnel contracted to control or treat invasive or noxious weeds should be certified in compliance with both state and federal law.*

Conduct a Survey Before the project begins, conduct a survey to ensure that the entire project area is free of noxious weeds. The survey area should include the entire area of the planned disturbance as well as all travel corridors into and out of the project area. The survey should be completed by trained agency staff, the county weed coordinator, county weed district staff, or other qualified personnel¹.

Inspect All Equipment Inspect all equipment used in the project, including personal vehicles, before moving it onto or off of the project site to ensure that it is free of dirt or debris that may contain noxious weed seeds or plant parts.

Use Certified Weed Free Products Require that materials used during construction and restoration—including gravel, sand, top soil, seed, and mulch—be certified weed free². Contractors, operators, and vendors of such materials must provide proper documentation stating that the material used is certified weed free.

Have a Plan Permit and lease holders and contractors must provide an approved noxious weed management plan if required or requested by the state or county weed district.

Conduct Periodic Inspections Throughout the duration of the project, enlist authorized (trained) personnel¹ to conduct periodic inspections of the project site.

Restore the Area Upon project completion, revegetate or restore any and all disturbed areas.

Report Sightings If noxious weeds are discovered during any of the above processes, immediately report the sighting or infestation to the appropriate department and/or agency personnel¹. Treatment, control, or isolation of the species should be initiated before any ground disturbance begins.

By following Best Management Practices, we can eliminate the need for forced control and regulation beyond the laws currently in place. These practices are not intended to cause undue regulatory stress, delay project onset, or increase work loads, but rather to increase awareness, educate private landowners and the public, and prevent the spread of noxious weeds on public and private lands.

¹ Qualified or authorized personnel include in-house or contract employees who have attended proper training in noxious weed identification. This may include “tailgate” identification sessions on site. Contact the local agency for trainings available in your area (see reverse).

² In order to obtain certified weed free status, products—including gravel, sand, top soil, seed, mulch, and forage—must be inspected on site per specific standards to ensure that they are free of noxious weed seeds. Certified weed free products are marked with special labeling, tags, twine, or other documentation. For information on where to obtain certified weed free products, contact the county weed district.

QUICK REFERENCE

Implement the use of Best Management Practices when planning an activity that will cause a ground disturbance. These practices include, but are not limited to, the following:

Learn to Identify Noxious Weeds Offer noxious weed identification training to all personnel involved in the project.

Conduct a Survey Before the project begins, conduct a survey to ensure that the entire project area—including all travel corridors into and out of the project area—is free of noxious weeds.

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For a list of species of concern in the project area, contact the county weed district.

Watch Out for These Invaders



COMMON TEASEL
(*Dipsacus fullonum*)



YELLOW STARThISTLE
(*Centaurea solstitialis*)



BLUEWEED
(*Echium vulgare*)



SPOTTED KNAPWEED
(*Centaurea stoebe*)



COMMON CRUPINA
(*Crupina vulgaris*)



LEAFY SPURGE
(*Euphorbia esula*)



DYER'S WOAD
(*Isatis tinctoria*)



RUSH SKELETONWEED
(*Chondrilla juncea*)