

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Nevada State Office
P.O. Box 12000 (1340 Financial Blvd)
Reno, Nevada 89520-0006
<http://www.nv.blm.gov>

In Reply Refer To:
9011 (NV-930) P

May 3, 2004

EMS TRANSMISSION 05/04/04
Instruction Memorandum No. NV-2004-051
Expires: 9/30/2005

To: Field Managers, Nevada
Deputy State Directors and Staff Chiefs, NSO

From: State Director, Nevada

Subject: Weed Inventory Protocol

DD: 11/15/04

According to *Partners Against Weeds – An Action Plan for the Bureau of Land Management* (BLM, 1996), noxious weeds are spreading on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered lands at over 2,300 acres per day, and on all western public lands at approximately 4,600 acres per day. In order to effectively address the deleterious effects of noxious weeds on ecosystems, managers need to have solid information on locations and extent of infestations. Periodic, systematic inventories are essential to provide this information. Merely spot-checking or making “ballpark” estimates on extent of infestations is clearly inadequate. Nevada BLM has demonstrated a substantial commitment to inventory of weed populations. For example, from fiscal year (FY) 2000 through FY 2003, about 13.5 million acres have been inventoried. Another five million acres are planned for inventory in FY 2004.

While the Field Offices are to be congratulated for making such a significant accomplishment, we have a long way to go to complete inventory of all 48 million acres under BLM administration along with follow-up monitoring. It is essential that as we continue to gather data, we use standardized methods which provide consistent results, are easily repeated by different observers, and are cost effective.

Over the last three years, the Ely Field Office has partnered with Tri-County Weed Control sponsored by White Pine County and by Bob Wilson, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension to conduct their inventory. As a result, several million acres have been inventoried at a cost of less than \$.10 per acre and with excellent reliability. At the Nevada BLM State Weed Program Workshop held in March 2003, Mr. Wilson was requested to formally document Tri-County’s survey methodology, so that it could be reviewed by the Field Offices, and considered for adoption as Nevada BLM’s standard for weed inventory. The document entitled “Invasive Weed Survey Protocol” was prepared and reviewed by the Field Office Weed Coordinators at the

March 2004 Weed Workshop. The group decided to field test the methodology during the 2004 field season and, following the field season, recommend to Field Managers that the Protocol either be formally adopted as written, or be modified and then adopted.

Field Managers are requested to use the Invasive Weed Survey Protocol (copy attached) for all noxious weed inventory conducted during FY 2004 and to provide an evaluation of the Protocol to Ted Angle, State Weed Program Coordinator, by November 15, 2004. Questions should be directed to Ted Angle at (775) 861-6401.

Signed by:
Amy L. Lueders
Associate State Director, Nevada

Authenticated by:
Florence Kopec
Staff Assistant

1 Attachment

1. Draft Invasive Weed Survey Protocol (2 pp)

cc:
WO-220, Room 314, LS (Attn: Gina Ramos)