

APPENDIX I**THE RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE WEED PREVENTION PLAN OF APRIL 1999**

General Management Actions in this plan include:

- Applying integrated management practices.
- Emphasizing disturbances of areas such as roads, rights-of-way, and recreation sites.
- Detecting new invaders first and controlling small populations of priority second.
- Continuing public education in local area.
- Emphasizing mechanical control, but also using biological control and herbicides where such methods are effective.

Land Use Planning Management Actions include:

- Working with Federal, county and city planning staff and zoning committees to include consideration for noxious weed management when developing or approving plans, permits or leases.
- Including weed risk factors and weed prevention considerations in all environmental analyses for projects, permits, plans, alternative development, etc.

Surface Disturbance Management Actions include:

- Minimizing the amount of surface disturbance when possible to reduce area for weed establishment.
- Reestablishing vegetation on all disturbed soil from construction, reconstruction and maintenance activities, except road travelways.
- Accomplishing reseeded during the first available window of opportunity.
- Requiring certified noxious weed free seed or testing at a suitable laboratory before allowing the use of the seed for any reclamation or rehabilitation project.
- Requiring certified weed-free straw or hay for use as mulch.
- Requiring power or high pressure cleaning of construction equipment prior to moving into relatively weed-free areas and/or leaving known weed infested areas. This currently is used on multi-State and multi-county projects.
- Inspecting gravel pits and fill sources to insure the material comes from weed-free sources.
- Monitoring the construction site for weed control needs until vegetation is re-established.
- Retaining reclamation bonds for weed control until the site is returned to the desired vegetative condition.

- Removing weed seed sources from adjacent sites or from the access route that may contaminate the construction site.

Vehicle Management Actions include:

- Surveying roads for the presence of weed sources before maintenance activities.
- Controlling weeds if necessary before maintaining the roadway.
- Reseeding disturbed areas that are not part of the road running surface or needed for maintenance purposes.
- Retaining desirable roadside vegetation to discourage weeds.
- Removing seed sources or control weeds that could be picked up by passing vehicles on significant access routes.
- Requiring power or high pressure cleaning of off-road equipment before moving into relatively weed free areas.
- Ensuring that weed prevention and related resource protection is considered in travel management plans.
- Closing or reducing the number of vehicle trails in weed-infested areas to reduce the spread of weeds.

Livestock Management Actions include:

- Avoiding trailing livestock through weed-infested areas.
- Where possible, trailing on roadways where detection of weeds is more likely to occur.
- Allowing only certified weed free hay and grain (whole, rolled, steamed or cubed) or pelletized feeds to be fed on Federally managed lands (Emergency feeding may be exempted with written authorization from the Field Manager).
- Managing grazing allotments to prevent excessive soil disturbance at salt licks, watering sites and other livestock concentration areas.
- Avoiding grazing any reseeded sites until vegetation is well established.
- Holding livestock used in cultural management of weeds in a weed-free environment for a period of time before and after moving them into the weed management area (This is to allow the animals to clean their digestive tract of weed seeds).

Recreation Site Management Actions include:

- Ensuring that areas under recreation permit have on site weed control and minimize the spread to other areas.
- Requiring that all pack and saddle stock use only certified weed-free feeds and straw bedding.
- Signing trailheads and campgrounds for weed awareness, weed prevention, and weed reporting techniques.

Fire Management Actions for Prescribed and Wild fires include:

- Requiring the cleaning of fire equipment following fire activities in weed-infested areas (if possible, complete the cleaning before leaving the fire site).
- Considering weed prevention measures in all fire rehabilitation plans by including the weed coordinator on the rehabilitation team.
- Requiring certified weed free seed or testing at a suitable laboratory before allowing the use of the seed in fire rehabilitation projects.
- Emphasizing "light hand" fire suppression tactics to minimize the amount of surface disturbance.
- Avoiding staging equipment and resources in weedy areas.
- Avoiding off road travel in weed-infested areas.
- Establishing a weed control and monitoring plan, and requiring that a map of weeds in the area should be in place as part of the environmental analysis before conducting any prescribed burn.
- Include funding in budget for weed control and monitoring.

Land Management Actions include:

- Evaluating private lands being considered for Federal acquisition through purchase, exchange or donation for the presence of noxious weeds.
- Partnering with private landowners as much as possible to control weeds on private land.
- Including a requirement to control and manage noxious weeds on Federally authorized actions.

Early Detection Management Actions include:

- Providing training to field personnel in the identification of weed species known to occur in the area and preventative measures they are expected to follow (special attention should be given to equipment operators and fire personnel).
- Making weed identification handbooks available to all field going personnel.
- Making inventory and weed occurrence information readily available to field personnel and personnel actively involved in planning and designing projects.
- Encouraging field staff, landowners and managers to recognize and document weed populations.
- Developing education and awareness programs where visitors and users of the lands assist managers in locating and identifying new invader species.
- Conducting systematic and periodic inventories to detect new weed infestations.