

What are invasive weeds?

Invasive weeds are plants that are "out of place". They have been introduced to locations where they do not occur naturally and have an adverse affect (either economically or ecologically) on the habitats they invade.

Why are invasive weeds a problem?

Because these plants are not native to our area, the insects, diseases and animals that would normally control them are not found here. These plants have an unnatural advantage and are able to spread at an alarming rate, crowding out the native vegetation. Once established invasive weeds are extremely difficult and expensive to combat.

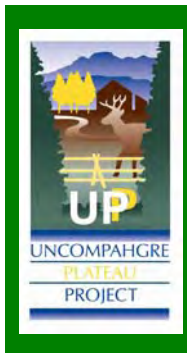
Invasive weeds have been called a 'catastrophic fire in slow-motion', capable of devastating our lands.

What can we do to stop the spread of invasive weeds?

We can all employ Best Management Practices when visiting our public lands.

What will we gain from stopping the spread of invasive weeds?

- Healthy wildlife habitat and ecosystems
- Improved recreational experiences
- Improved access to rivers, lakes and streams
- Saving tax payers' money
- Protection and preservation of your public lands for future generations



For more information
please visit at:
www.UPProject.org
or contact us at:
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Help prevent the
introduction and
spread of
invasive weeds in
western Colorado.



Employ
Best Management
Practices

when visiting our
public lands.

Invasive Weeds Prevention-Best Management Practices

Best Management Practices -Make them a part of your routine!

1. **Learn to recognize invasive weeds common to the areas where you enjoy outdoor recreational activities.**

Read information on priority invasive weeds or visit the Colorado Weed Management Association website at: www.cwma.org.

2. **Wear outer layers of clothing and footwear that are not "seed-friendly".**

When feasible, wear low-tread footwear that doesn't hold seeds or plant parts. Avoid exposing Velcro, bulky knits (wool, fleece), pants with cuffs, and other fabrics that seeds can adhere to.



3. **Inspect and clean clothing, footwear, gear and animals for seeds and plant parts before and after recreating.**

Do not clean clothing, gear or animals in or near waterways – it may promote the spread of invasive weeds downstream.

4. **Clean equipment, vehicles and trailers prior the entering public lands.**

Be sure to spray the undercarriage of all vehicles.



5. **Stay on designated trails, roads and developed areas.**

Destruction of native plants favors invasive weeds. Minimize soil disturbance; it may promote invasive weed establishment. Avoid trails that are wet or muddy.



6. **Avoid areas that appear to be infested with invasive weeds. "When in doubt, stay out!"**

The chances of transporting weed seeds increase in areas of heavy infestation.

7. **Report new infestations of invasive weeds to the appropriate office.**

Provide as exact a location as possible; take GPS coordinates, or locate the sighting on a map. Take a photo of the plant(s) if possible. Contact information:

- Montrose BLM: 970-240-5300
- Grand Junction BLM: 970-244-3000
- Forest Service Office: 970-874-6600
- County Weed Departments:
 - Montrose County: 970 -249-5216
 - Delta County: 970-872-1000
 - San Miguel County: 970-327-0399
 - Mesa County: 970-255-7120

8. **Use certified weed free forage for horses and livestock.**

The BLM and Forest Service require the use of certified weed free forage on their lands.



When possible, pasture horses and livestock in a weed-free field for several days before bringing them on public lands.

9. **Spread the word!**

Help educate others about invasive weeds and their effects on our environment, economy, and recreational opportunities.



*Thanks for doing your part!
Stay safe and enjoy our
public lands!*