

A. Best Management Practices

General BMPS for all public lands users:

EARLY DETECTION – RAPID RESPONSE

- Learn how to identify high-priority weed species.
- Report new infestations to the county weed supervisor or resource manager.
- If you find a small isolated patch of weeds, collect the seeds or flowers in a plastic bag for disposal and pull the weeds. Monitor the site periodically and repeat physical removal of the noxious weed or treat with herbicide.
- Inspect roads before maintenance to prevent the spread of weeds by equipment.
- Inspect ditch and stream banks to prevent spread of weeds downstream by running water.
- Inspect high traffic areas frequently such as trailheads, parking areas, campgrounds, corrals, water developments, or salt licks.
- Inspect bare soil or disturbed sites frequently for weeds. Re-seed these areas with an appropriate perennial plant mix.

PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF WEEDS

- Avoid the introduction of ornamental flowers that are on the Colorado invasive species list.
- Use weed free: forage for livestock, mulch for ground cover, seed mixes, gravel, fill material and topsoil.
- Avoid transporting weed seeds on clothing, pets, livestock, recreational vehicles (ATVs), vehicles, and ranch equipment.
- Clean all oil & gas, construction, fire and ranching equipment before entering the WMA.
- Confine livestock for two days in a small weed-free pasture before moving them into the WMA.
- Treat invasive species prior to implementation of construction or vegetation treatment projects.

MAINTAIN HEALTHY PLANT COMMUNITIES

- Re-seed disturbed areas immediately after disturbance ends with an appropriate perennial plant mix to slow the invasion of invasive species.
- Defer livestock grazing on re-seeded areas for at least one growing season for establishment of seedlings. Avoid overgrazing on all sites.
- Restrict travel to established roads and trails.

Spread the Word -Not the Weeds!

Noxious weeds are plants that are not native to our area. These plants have an advantage because the insects or animals that would normally control them are not found here. They are, therefore, able to spread at an alarming rate, crowding out the native vegetation. They are spread by people, animals, water, and wind.

Please help us to prevent the spread of noxious weeds by incorporating the following practices into your visits to our public lands!

- ✓ Learn how to identify high-priority weed species.
- ✓ Inspect high risk areas such as roads, stream banks, trailheads, parking areas, and campgrounds. Report new infestations to County Weed Depts. (Montrose 249-5216, Delta 234-5096, San Miguel 327-0399) or the BLM/USFS Office (240-5300).
- ✓ Use weed free forage for horses and livestock.
- ✓ Clean all vehicles, trailers and equipment before entering public lands.
- ✓ Avoid transporting weed seeds on clothing, pets, horses, recreational vehicles (ATVs) and vehicles by not traveling through areas that are highly infested with weeds.
- ✓ Restrict travel to established roads and trails.

Yellow starthistle



Leafy spurge



Yellow toadflax



Sulfur cinquefoil



Diffuse knapweed

