

Prevention of Weed Spread on Site-Disturbing Projects

*Working with landowners,
contractors and local agencies*

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Two Methods

- “The Carrot” – education, added value, save money, etc.
- Regulatory – ordinances, county General Plan, hydro project relicensing, etc.

Site-Disturbing Projects Development and Maintenance:

- Housing developments and general construction
- Road construction and improvements
- Construction of fire breaks
- Fire evacuation routes
- Hydro project and water delivery systems
- Planting agricultural crops

Prepare Guidelines

- Remember your audience!
- Separate “Best Management Practices” (BMP) for landowner, land manager, local agency or official, etc.
- Always include basic information – why should they care?

Guidelines - examples

1. Incorporate a strategy of integrated weed management into construction layout and design
2. Remove or treat seed sources and other viable reproducing plant parts that could be spread by construction disturbance.
3. Avoid moving weed-infested materials (gravel, rock and other fill materials) to weed-free locations.

Guidelines - examples

4. Identify existing noxious weeds along access roads and control them before construction equipment moves in.
5. Clean off-road equipment (power or high-pressure cleaning) of all mud, dirt, and plant parts before moving into relatively weed-free areas.

Guidelines - examples

6. Minimize the removal of vegetation during construction and maintenance
7. Use only certified weed-free straw and mulch for erosion control projects. Consider the use of weed-free fiber roll barriers or sediment logs.
8. Road maintenance programs should include monitoring and treatment for noxious weeds.

Guidelines - examples

9. Provide training to management and workers on the identification of noxious weeds, the importance of noxious weed control and measures to minimize their spread.
10. Quickly treat individual plants or small infestations before they become established, produce seed or are able to spread..

Resources – BMP and Guidelines

“Measures to Prevent the Spread of Noxious and Invasive Weeds During Construction Activities”

Univ. of Nevada Reno Cooperative Extension, Fact Sheet FS-03-59

<http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/FS03/FS0359.pdf>

“Invasive Plant Prevention Guidelines” – Center for Invasive Plant Management September 2003 - available for purchase

http://www.weedcenter.org/products_pub/prod_pub_new.html

“Best Management Practices for Land Managers” Published by Long Island Weed Management Area, available at:

<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/products/wma/li-managers.pdf>

Working with Local Agencies

- Weed identification training for agency officials and on-the-ground crews
- ...with local utility districts
 - BMP as part of easement permits (i.e. USFS permit) – expand to all lands
 - BMP now saves DOLLARS later!
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hydro project relicensing



Working with Local Agencies

- Gravel and materials inspections
 - Greater Yellowstone Area Weed Group – sharing inspection forms
 - Use your Weed Management Area partnership to “educate” materials suppliers



Working with Local Agencies

- Road Departments – train to see “hot spots” and develop monitoring plans
- County General Plan process
- Ordinances



Working with Contractors/Landscapers

- Is there an annual contractor BMP workshop or manual?
- Professional landscaper workshop or guidelines?

Working with Contractors

- Highlight “added value” of good BMP



Working with Contractors



Treated, drill seeded

Value to the buyers -

Controlling diffuse knapweed
on their ranchettes!



Used as a demonstration site

Landowners

- Prevention a part of all educational materials
- BMP guidelines – be specific!
 -improving my road.
 -starting construction on my house.
 -making my property fire safe.



Landowners

- BMP as part of permit process
i.e. erosion/grading review
- BMP as part of Fire Safe information
- Emphasize – SAVE MONEY!
- Have info available – seed sources, weed-free straw sources, etc.

Remember...

...be creative about ways to get prevention information out!

QUESTIONS?

Thank you!