

Stopping Weeds:

Guidelines for tree removal contractors

Invasive weeds cause billions of dollars in damage to parks, forests, and farmland each year. These guidelines provide best practices for avoiding the spread of invasive weeds during tree removal work. By including these simple practices into your standard operating procedures, you can help prevent the spread of invasive weeds.



Bob Case

Kevin Wright

Best Management Practices

Mandatory for public lands, strongly recommended for all lands

1: CLEAN EQUIPMENT BETWEEN SITES

- Before leaving a project site, remove dirt and plant parts from project equipment (dirt can carry seeds). Identify locations where equipment can be field-washed with a water truck. (You may be able to use hoses or air compressors at a fire station if there is one nearby.) Log field-washing locations using GPS so they can be checked in future years for weeds that may germinate.
- Inspect and clean equipment as needed at the storage yard so you can be sure that your equipment is clean before moving into a new project area.
- When practical, seeds and plant parts should be collected and incinerated or bagged and sent to a landfill.

2: CLEAN CLOTHING BETWEEN SITES

- Weed seeds stick to clothing and shoes. Hoof picks can be used to remove mud from the soles of boots.

3: AVOID CREATING CONDITIONS THAT PROMOTE WEED GROWTH

- Minimize soil disturbance when using heavy equipment to skid and pile logs or trees.
- Retain shade to the extent possible to suppress weeds that will thrive in open sunny areas.
- Retain native vegetation and topsoil as much as possible.

4: EDUCATE CREWS

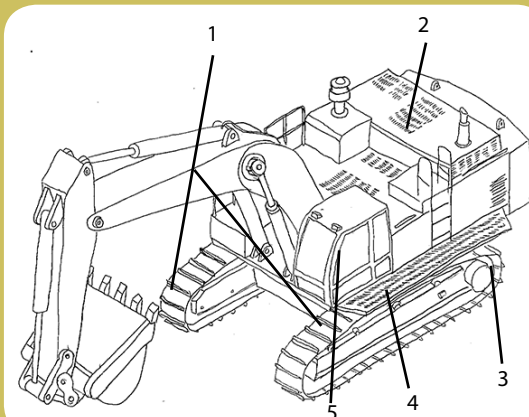
- Make sure everyone knows standard practices for cleaning clothes and equipment.
- Distribute materials for identifying weeds.

5: REPORT WEEDS IN THE FIELD

- Log the location through the online Calflora plant mapper, using their Observer Pro app on your smartphone.
- Alert the appropriate contact (see list, reverse side.)

Tracked Vehicle Problem Areas

Remove mud, dirt, twigs, and debris



1. Prioritize tracks: inside and out
2. Grills and surrounding areas
3. Inner track roller
4. On top of axles and tensioners
5. Inside the cab, under floor mat edges

Contacts for Weed Reporting

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENTS:

El Dorado and Alpine counties, LeeAnne Mila, leeanne.mila@edcgov.us

Amador County, Eric Mayberry, emayberry@amadorgov.org

Calaveras County, Kevin Wright, kwright2@co.calaveras.ca.us

Stanislaus County, Steve Logan, stevel@stancounty.com

Tuolumne County, AgCommissioner@tuolumnecounty.ca.gov

Mariposa County, Monica Nielsen, mnielsen@mariposacounty.org

Madera County, Stevie McNeill, stephanie.mcneill@madera-county.com

Fresno County, Fred Rinder, frinder@co.fresno.ca.us

NATIONAL FORESTS:

Eldorado National Forest, Matt Brown, mrbrown@fs.fed.us

Stanislaus National Forest, Margaret Willits, mwillits@fs.fed.us

Sierra National Forest, Joanna Clines, jclines@fs.fed.us

Inyo National Forest, Blake Engelhardt, bmengelhardt@fs.fed.us

NATIONAL PARKS:

Yosemite National Park, Garrett Dickman, garrett_dickman@nps.gov

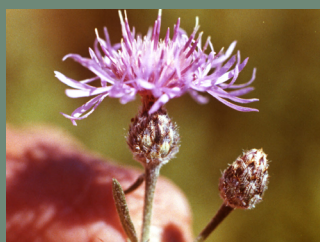
Sequoia Kings Canyon, Heyo Tjarks, heyo_tjarks@nps.gov



This machine is partially-cleaned. The plate covering the mechanism for the tracks has been removed to allow access. Crews can now remove embedded mud and plant material.



Central Sierra Priority Invasive Weed Species (partial list)



Spotted knapweed



Diffuse knapweed



Scotch broom



Spanish broom



French broom



Yellow starthistle



Medusahead



Barbed goatgrass

More Information

- "Preventing the Spread of Invasive Plants: Best Management Practices for Land Managers." California Invasive Plant Council. www.cal-ipc.org/BMPLandmanagers
- Tree Mortality Task Force www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/
- "Inspection and Cleaning Manual for Equipment and Vehicles to Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species." www.usbr.gov/mussels/prevention/docs/EquipmentInspectionandCleaningManual2010.pdf
- Priority invasive weeds for Central Sierra www.cal-ipc.org/priorityweedsCentralSierra