

Prevention of Invasive Plants – A Strategic and Collaborative Effort

Prevention is the cornerstone of an effective invasive species program.

The following are actions that are currently in place to prevent the invasion and/or the spread of invasive plants on the Mt. Hood National Forest and the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area in Oregon. Many of these actions are fully in place and operational, while others are still in transition as materials and/or procedures are finalized (e.g., some information/education materials are still in the development phase). Additional prevention measures are also being “invented” as we work collaboratively with partners and interested publics. As such, prevention is a work in progress and requires continual updates and new considerations.

- Collaborate with federal, state, county, and local agencies, Tribal governments, communities, public organizations and interested publics to develop and refine strategies for prevention and treatment across multiple ownership boundaries
- In partnership with others, develop and distribute informational materials at key locations (e.g., campgrounds, picnic areas, parking lot/staging areas, trailheads, boat launches, Visitor Centers, and District Offices). Information should include “tips” for recreation users on ways to minimize the risk of introducing or spreading invasive plants, and a contact name or agency.
- Train key Forest Service personnel how to recognize species of concern and how to take measures to reduce the risk of weed establishment and spread on national forest lands
- Conduct a risk assessment for invasive plants in NEPA planning as well as routine maintenance activities, documenting occurrence where it exists and incorporating appropriate prevention and/or treatment measures for the activity proposed
- Require appropriate contracts and permits to specify the cleaning of ‘off-road’ equipment prior to the arrival at a job site, and/or before leaving a weed infested area to reduce the risk of carrying and spreading weeds and seeds of invasive plants (e.g., timber sales, road decommissioning or maintenance, natural resource restoration activities, etc.)
- Where feasible and available, utilize weed-free plant materials (such as weed-free straw, etc.) for re-vegetation activities, erosion control, and/or wildlife forage enhancement. Communicate with state and county agencies and plant growers regarding availability of weed-free plant material sources
- Ensure that areas of soil disturbance re-vegetate promptly to minimize the risk of invasion of undesirable plants

- Inspect stockpiled gravel or rock, and on-Forest rock quarries and borrow pits for invasive plants, and if species of concern are present, treat area before material from the area is used on the Forest
- In range administration annual operating plans, specify appropriate actions and practices to minimize the invasion and/or spread of invasive plants

One example of information distributed:



INVASIVE NONNATIVE PLANTS ARE A SERIOUS THREAT
TO HEALTHY FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

SIMPLE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP
STOP THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE NONNATIVE PLANTS
(WEEDS)

1. LEARN TO IDENTIFY WEEDS. One Source:
http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/weed_weedlistcommon.shtml
2. CONTROL WEEDS WHERE YOU LIVE.
3. IF YOU'VE BEEN WALKING IN AN AREA WITH WEEDS, CHECK YOUR SOCKS, SHOES, AND PANTS FOR SEEDS AND DISPOSE OF THEM IN THE GARBAGE BEFORE LEAVING THE SITE AND BEFORE ENTERING THE NATIONAL FOREST.
4. KEEP VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT OUT OF WEED PATCHES.
5. IF YOU DID DRIVE THROUGH WEEDS, WASH YOUR VEHICLE'S UNDERCARRIAGE, RADIATOR, TIRES, AND WHEELS, BEFORE ENTERING THE NATIONAL FOREST.
6. KEEP YOUR PETS AND PACK ANIMALS OUT OF WEED PATCHES.
7. FEED PACK ANIMALS PROCESSED FOOD PELLETS BEFORE AND DURING BACKCOUNTRY TRIPS.
8. CLEAN YOUR BOAT, MOTOR, TRAILER, TACKLE, AND GEAR BEFORE LEAVING A LAKE OR RIVER INFESTED WITH AQUATIC WEEDS.
9. BE AN INFORMED GARDENER AND DON'T BUY PLANTS THAT MAY MOVE OFF YOUR PROPERTY.