

Prevention Measures from the UMPQUA NATIONAL FOREST INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

May 2003

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Prevention of noxious weeds involves detecting and ameliorating the conditions that cause or favor the presence of competing or unwanted vegetation. On the Umpqua, prevention of noxious weeds will focus on 1) educating Forest employees and public land users so that they can recognize weeds that do not yet occur within the Forest; 2) sharing information (annually or bi-annually) on noxious weed control programs with the Oregon State Department of Agriculture and Douglas County Weed Board; 3) immediately initiating eradication of newly discovered priority noxious weed species, so as to slow or eliminate their establishment; and 4) implementing the following mitigation measures and management requirements during all ground disturbing projects:

- Require all ground disturbing machinery to be washed prior to entering and leaving the Forest;
- Restrict the feeding of hay to livestock and big game animals on public lands, then monitor feeding sites for noxious weed presence;
- Require the use of certified weed free seed for all revegetation projects; and
- Revegetate disturbed sites as soon as practical using native species.

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Element 1 - Prevention of noxious weed infestations

Currently, noxious weeds are prevented by implementing project specific mitigation measures and management requirements that are designed to reduce the chance of introducing noxious weeds into the Forest. Certain field-going forest employees are educated as to how to identify noxious weeds and some public outreach does occur. However, not all projects incorporate these requirements and not all employees or public users receive noxious weed education. The desired condition is to educate a larger portion of field-going Forest employees and Forest users as to noxious weed identification and prevention, and to have the Forest Plan require that all projects incorporate standard mitigation measures and management requirements in order to prevent future infestations of noxious weeds.

Amendment to Umpqua National Forest Plan

Page IV-92, under Forest Objectives, Pest Management, add the following: 3.

Prevention of noxious weeds is the preferred strategy for control. Following prevention, early detection and treatment (using an integrated weed management strategy) will minimize the spread of noxious weeds. Established infestations will be prioritized and treated using an integrated weed management strategy as funding becomes available.