

ASSESSING THE RISK OF INTRODUCING NOXIOUS WEEDS

A risk assessment is conducted as part of the NEPA process to determine if an action may introduce or spread noxious weeds within a proposed project area. It is also used to prescribe follow-up treatments and mitigation necessary to reduce or prevent the spread of noxious weeds where the risk of noxious weed establishment is moderate or high. The primary focus of a risk assessment is on ground-disturbing or site altering projects conducted on National Forest System land.

INTRODUCTION

The noxious weed risk assessment process should be accomplished by, or closely supervised by, a person who has a good understanding of noxious weed ecology. It is an integral part of the NEPA scoping process. The attached Noxious Weed Risk Assessment form should be completed on each project or ground-disturbing activity.

RISK-ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Refer to FSM 2080, the Forest Service Noxious Weed Strategy, and the Region 5 Noxious Weed Strategy for further information on direction, policy, prevention, and possible mitigations.

NOXIOUS WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

RANGER DISTRICT: _____

DATE: _____

PROJECT NAME AND DESCRIPTION (brief description or attach)* _____

PROJECT LOCATION (legal description; attach project map)* _____

VEGETATIVE COVER TYPES (within project area)* _____

RISK FACTORS

Soil Disturbance: High _____ Moderate _____ Low _____

Travel routes to project (equipment in and out, etc.) — risk: High _____ Moderate _____ Low _____

Infestations in area: Yes _____ No _____

1. Check weed inventory: Yes _____ No _____

2. Field visit or knowledge of project area (describe): Yes _____ No _____

3. Species present

	Yes	No		Yes	No
leafy spurge			Russian knapweed		
spotted knapweed			diffuse knapweed		
yellow toadflax			dalmation toadflax		
houndstongue			Canada thistle		
musk thistle			Scotch thistle		
plumeless thistle			whitetop		
common crupina			skeleton weed		
Other:					

OVERALL RISK OF NOXIOUS WEED SPREAD: High _____ Moderate _____ Low _____

RECOMMENDED MITIGATION TO MINIMIZE RISK:

- ___ No additional mitigation required
- ___ Revegetate disturbed sites
- ___ Pretreat existing infestations within, near, or along travel routes
- ___ Monitor project area for minimum 3 years and treat new infestations
- ___ Special permit clauses
- ___ Clean equipment prior to entry
- ___ Other:

KV plan (describe recommendations)

Other (describe)

Cost (estimate cost of recommended mitigation): _____

Comments: _____

Signature _____

Unit Noxious Weed Coordinator

* Information provided by the Project Manager to the Noxious Weed Coordinator.