

**REGIONAL CLOSURE ORDER
Weed Free Forage Products Order**

**USDA FOREST SERVICE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. §551 and 36 C.F.R. Part 261, Subpart B, the following acts are prohibited on all National Forest System (NFS) lands within the Rocky Mountain Region (Region 2) of the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming (the "Restricted Area").

This Regional Order is supplemental to and does not rescind or replace those restrictions at 36 C.F.R. Part 261, Subpart A, or any Forest Supervisor Order issued under 36 C.F.R. Part 261, Subpart B. This Regional Order is necessary to prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds on NFS lands.

RESTRICTED AREA: The Restricted Area includes the following National Forests ("NF") and National Grasslands ("NGL"):

COLORADO

Arapaho & Roosevelt NF
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre,
and Gunnison NF
Routt NF
Pike & San Isabel NF
Rio Grande NF
San Juan NF
White River NF
Comanche NGL
Pawnee NGL

KANSAS

Cimarron NGL

NEBRASKA

Nebraska & Samuel R. McKelvie NF
Oglala NGL

SOUTH DAKOTA

Black Hills NF
Buffalo Gap NG
Fort Pierre NGL

WYOMING

Bighorn NF
Medicine Bow NF
Shoshone NF
Thunder Basin NGL
Black Hills NF

PROHIBITIONS: This Order prohibits the following acts in the Restricted Area:

Possessing, unloading or using any hay, hay cubes, straw, grain, or other forage or mulch product (except for feed pellets less than an inch in diameter or steam-rolled oats) without:

1. Original and current documentation that meets or exceeds the North American Weed Free Forage (NAWFF) standards, or a comparable State certification standard; and
2. Tags, twine, or other certification marking required by the product's State of origin on all individual bales, containers, sacks, etc. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(t).

EXEMPTIONS:

Pursuant to 36 CFR § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with Forest Service Permit No. FS-7700-48 (Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order) specifically exempting them from this Order. 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e)(1)
2. Any member of an organized rescue force in the performance of an official duty under emergency conditions. 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e)(4)

This Order will be in effect from 12:01 am on January 1st, 2021 and will remain in effect until December 31, 2024 or until rescinded, whichever event occurs first.

Executed in Lakewood, Colorado this ____ day of December, 2020

Patricia O'Connor
Regional Forester (Acting)
Rocky Mountain Region

A violation of the prohibitions in this Order is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both. (16 U.S.C. § 551 and 18 U.S.C §§ 3559 and 3571).