



COLORADO STATE PARKS BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



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Parks Affected: All

Weed Prevention



Post this list!

Be Informed

- Become aware of the problem, and spread the word that noxious weeds are everyone's concern.
- Learn how to identify high-priority weed species in the field so you can spot them while performing other land management activities. Learn how to distinguish native species from weeds - especially native thistles.
- Report new infestations of known weeds (A and B list) AND of those not previously found in the area (C list) to the county weed supervisor or county extension office.

Detect Weeds Early

- Periodically inspect roads to detect new weed establishment on disturbed rights-of-way.
- Periodically inspect ditch and stream banks for noxious weeds whose seeds could be spread by running water.
- Periodically inspect highly trafficked areas such as developed trailheads, parking areas, campgrounds and other heavily used sites for weed infestations.
- Pay particular attention to areas such as riparian areas and salt licks which are heavily used by livestock and wildlife.
- Be extra vigilant where gravel or fill material is brought in from elsewhere; weed seeds in this material can start new infestations, and bare soil provides an ideal environment for weed establishment.

Limit dispersal

- Don't transport flowering plants that you cannot identify.
- Avoid transporting weed seeds which are stuck on clothing, gear, pets, or livestock. Place the seeds in a plastic bag or similar container and dispose of properly.

- Avoid driving in noxious weed infested areas. Inspect vehicles for weed seeds stuck in tire treads or mud on the vehicle and prevent them from being carried to unaffected areas. Don't clean infested vehicles in weed free areas!
- Inspect maintenance or heavy equipment for weed seeds before it enters the property. Require that such equipment be cleaned first to remove weed seeds before being allowed entry. Clean equipment (especially mowers!) which has been used in weed infested areas before moving it to another area.
- Always use hay, straw, or mulch that has been certified weed free.
- Confine livestock for a day or two in a small weed-free pasture before moving them to another weed-free pasture.
- Make sure that pack animals used in back country areas are fed hay that is certified weed-free. Remove weed seeds from pack animals, before leaving an area, by brushing them thoroughly and cleaning hooves. Post signs to this effect to encourage visiting riders.
- If you find a small number of isolated noxious weeds that have no flowers or seeds, pull the weeds and leave them where you found them to dry out. If flowers or seeds are present, place the weeds in a plastic bag or similar container and dispose of properly.

Minimize disturbances

- Restrict travel to established roads and trails whenever possible.
- Don't drive through sensitive areas.
- Limit the formation of social trails and dispersed campsites.
- Avoid leaving piles of exposed soil in construction areas. Cover with plastic, and revegetate with native species as soon as possible. If possible, spread material excavated during trail construction back on the trail instead of piling it on the side.
- Avoid overgrazing, especially in sensitive areas.
- Move salt licks frequently and keep salt in a shallow container to minimize soil disturbance.

Establish and maintain native plant communities

- Re-seed drastically disturbed areas immediately after the disturbance ends. Perennial native grasses are especially valuable for re-seeding.
- Defer livestock grazing on re-seeded areas for at least one growing season to permit desirable plants to establish.
- Limit use of fertilizers when reseeding; their use may favor weeds over native perennial species.