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FOREST SERVICE MANUAL
WASHINGTON

SERIES 2000 - NATIONAL FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Amendment No. 2000-95-5

Effective November 29, 1995

POSTING NOTICE. Amendments are numbered consecutively by Title and calendar year. Post by document name. Remove entire document and replace with this amendment. Retain this transmittal as the first page of this document. The last amendment to this Title was Amendment 2000-95-4 to FSM 2080 Contents.

This amendment supersedes Amendment 2000-95-3 to FSM 2080.

<u>Document Name</u>	<u>Superseded</u>	<u>New</u>
	<u>(Number of Sheets)</u>	
2080	10	9

Digest:

This amendment is based on interim policy issued in ID 2080-94-1, notice of which was published in the Federal Register on December 6, 1993 (58 FR 64289), with request for comment. ID 2080-94-1 was superseded by Amendment No. 2000-95-3 issued August 31, 1995. Having considered the comment received, the agency is now adopting final policy to govern management of the noxious weed program by issuance of this amendment. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 216, notice of issuance of this amendment will be published in the Federal Register, along with a response to the public comments received on ID 2080-94-1.

In addition to the changes noted by specific sections, the organization of the direction has been substantively revised from that in Amendment No. 2000-95-3 for clarity and better compliance to directive system requirements.

2080.1 - Expands descriptions of laws and regulations pertaining to noxious weeds management to more accurately and completely characterize key provisions. Adds examples of noxious weed activities likely to require NEPA documentation.

Digest--Continued:

2080.02 - Revises the overarching program objective to make clear that use of an integrated weed management approach is critical to accomplishment of specific noxious weed management objectives.

2080.03 - Establishes the policy that development and implementation of a noxious weed management program at each level of the Forest Service must be done in consultation with Federal, State, and local governments and the public. Also links noxious weed program management and activities to the goals and objectives of the forest plan.

2080.43 - Delegates to the Forest Supervisor the responsibilities for developing and implementing a noxious weed program consistent with the goals and objectives identified in Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and for providing information on the status of noxious weed infestation as part of the forest plan process.

2081.03 - Adds a new policy requiring projects with a moderate to high risk of noxious weed infestations to include identified noxious weed control measures in the project decision document.

2081.2 - Revises the direction for assigning management priorities for prevention and control measures from use of a Federal classification system to the use of State, county, or local classification systems.

JACK WARD THOMAS
Chief

SERIES 2000 - NATIONAL FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
WO AMENDMENT 2000-95-5
EFFECTIVE 11/29/95

ZERO CODE 2080 - NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT

2080.1 - Authority.

1. The Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.), requires cooperation with State, local, and other Federal agencies in the application and enforcement of all laws and regulations relating to management and control of noxious weeds. The Federal Noxious Weed Act directs the Secretary of Agriculture to:

- a. Develop and coordinate a management program for control of undesirable plants which are noxious, harmful, injurious, poisonous, or toxic on Federal lands under the agency's jurisdiction,
- b. Establish and adequately fund the program,
- c. Complete and implement cooperative agreements and/or memorandums of understanding regarding the management of noxious weeds on Federal lands under the agency's jurisdiction, and
- d. Establish Integrated Weed Management to control or contain species identified and targeted under cooperative agreements and/or memorandums.

Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 222.8 acknowledges the Agency's obligation to work cooperatively in identifying noxious weed problems and developing control programs in areas where National Forest System lands are located.

2. The National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321-4346) and implementing regulations found at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 (FSM 1950; FSH 1909.15) govern environmental analysis and disclosure requirements conducted by the Forest Service on National Forest System lands for proposed noxious weed control activities, such as ground disturbing activities, herbicide application, or changes in use of resources.

3. Departmental Regulation 9500-10 (DR 9500-10) sets forth Departmental policy for the management and coordination of noxious weed activities among agencies of the Department of Agriculture and other executive agencies, organizations, and individuals. DR 9500-10 specifically establishes Integrated Pest Management (FSM 2080.5) as the preferred approach to noxious weed prevention, control, and eradication.

2080.2 - Objectives. To use an integrated weed management approach to control and contain the spread of noxious weeds on National Forest System lands and from National Forest System lands to adjacent lands. Specific objectives to be achieved through noxious weed management include:

1. Prevention of the introduction and establishment of noxious weed infestations.
2. Containment and suppression of existing noxious weed infestations.
3. Formal and informal cooperation with State agencies, local landowners, weed control districts and boards, and other Federal agencies in the management and control of noxious weeds.
4. Education and awareness of employees, users of National Forest System lands, adjacent landowners, and State agencies about noxious weed threats to native plant communities and ecosystems.

2080.3 - Policy. In consultation with Federal, State, and local government entities and the public, develop and implement a program for noxious weed management on National Forest System lands. Activities implementing the noxious weed management program must be consistent with the goals and objectives identified in Forest Land and Resource Management Plans (FSM 1910, 1920, and 1930).

2080.4 - Responsibility.

2080.41 - Washington Office Director of Range Management. The Director of Range Management is responsible for:

1. Representing the Chief on national committees and ad hoc groups concerned with noxious weed management.
2. Maintaining contact with the Forest Service Research, Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) program managers, to review current noxious weed research programs, identify additional research needs, set priorities, and help coordinate research efforts for control or prevention of noxious weeds.
3. Coordinating with other Federal agencies in the establishment, application, and use of an Integrated Weed Management approach for the control and containment of noxious weeds.
4. Providing national program leadership for the noxious weed management program through the Forest Service budget process, national program directives, and input to the Resources Planning Act (RPA) program.
5. Determining national noxious weed information needs.

6. Monitoring and reporting on regional compliance with national policy.

7. Establishing standards for noxious weed management training and continuing education.

2080.42 - Regional Forester. Regional Foresters are responsible for:

1. Appointing a Regional coordinator for the noxious weed program.

2. Maintaining a consolidated noxious weed inventory for the Region in accordance with section 2083 of this chapter.

3. Developing and implementing noxious weed management cooperative agreements or memorandums of understanding with other Federal and State agencies.

4. Offering a recurring noxious weed management regional training program.

5. Developing public information and education programs to improve awareness of noxious weeds and Integrated Weed Management.

6. Cooperating with State agencies to enforce State legislation requiring noxious weed-free forage or seed on National Forest System lands.

2080.43 - Forest Supervisor. Forest Supervisors are responsible for:

1. Appointing a Forest coordinator for the noxious weed program.

2. Developing and implementing a noxious weed management program that is consistent with the goals and objectives identified in Forest Land and Resource Management Plans (FSM 1910, 1920, and 1930).

3. Providing information on the status and threat of noxious weed infestation as part of the Forest planning process.

4. Maintaining a noxious weed inventory for the Forest in accordance with section 2083 of this chapter.

5. Offering training to employees to identify noxious weeds in and surrounding the Forest.

6. Cooperating with State agencies to enforce State legislation requiring noxious weed-free forage or seed on National Forest System lands.

7. If needed, issuing orders under the authority of 36 CFR Parts 261.50(a) and 261.58(t) to control the introduction of noxious weed seeds on National Forest System lands.

8. Enforcing closure or prohibition orders issued under 36 CFR Parts 261.50(a) and 261.58(t) and enforcing contract specifications intended to prevent and control the spread of noxious weeds.

9. Coordinating with State and county agencies and landowners in prevention, control, containment, and monitoring efforts involved with the management of noxious weeds.

10. Ensuring that contracts and permits contain appropriate clauses concerning the prevention or spread of noxious weeds.

2080.44 - District Ranger. District Rangers are responsible for:

1. Preventing the introduction and establishment, as well as providing for the containment and suppression, of noxious weeds.

2. Appointing a District coordinator for the noxious weed program.

3. Maintaining a noxious weed inventory for the District in accordance with section 2083 of this chapter.

4. Monitoring noxious weed infestations and estimating the current and potential impacts to all resources.

5. Training employees to identify noxious weeds in and surrounding the District.

6. Determining the risk of noxious weed introduction or spread as part of the NEPA process for proposed actions, especially for ground disturbing and site altering activities.

7. Cooperating with State agencies to enforce State legislation requiring noxious weed-free forage or seed on National Forest System lands.

8. Enforcing closure or prohibition orders issued under 36 CFR Parts 261.50(a) and 261.58(t) and enforcing contract specifications intended to prevent and control the spread of noxious weeds.

9. Coordinating with State and county agencies and landowners in the prevention, control, and monitoring efforts involved with the management of noxious weeds.

10. Ensuring that contracts and permits contain appropriate clauses concerning the prevention or spread of noxious weeds.

11. Maintaining the day-to-day working relationship with the local weed district or board.

2080.5 - Definitions. The following special terms are used in this chapter:

Cooperative Agreement. A written agreement between the Forest Service and a county, State, or Federal agency entered into pursuant to the Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended by section 1453 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, when there is an exchange of funds from one agency to another (FSM 1580).

Integrated Weed Management. An interdisciplinary pest management approach for selecting methods for preventing, containing, and controlling noxious weeds in coordination with other resource management activities to achieve optimum management goals and objectives. Methods include: education, preventive measures, herbicide, cultural, physical or mechanical methods, biological control agents, and general land management practices, such as manipulation of livestock or wildlife grazing strategies, that accomplish vegetation management objectives.

Memorandum of Understanding. A written agreement between the Forest Service and local, State, or Federal entities entered into pursuant to the Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended by section 1453 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, when there is no exchange of funds from one agency to another (FSM 1580).

Noxious Weed. Those plant species designated as noxious weeds by the Secretary of Agriculture or by the responsible State official. Noxious weeds generally possess one or more of the following characteristics: aggressive and difficult to manage, poisonous, toxic, parasitic, a carrier or host of serious insects or disease, and being native or new to or not common to the United States or parts thereof.

State Agency. A State department of agriculture, other State agency, or political subdivision thereof, responsible for the administration or implementation of State laws pertaining to noxious weeds, exotic, and undesirable plants.

Undesirable Plants. Plant species that are classified as undesirable, noxious, harmful, exotic, injurious, or poisonous pursuant to State or Federal laws. Species listed as threatened or endangered by the Secretary of the Interior according to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 are not classified as undesirable plants.

2081 - MANAGEMENT OF NOXIOUS WEEDS.

2081.03 - Policy. When any ground disturbing action or activity is proposed, determine the risk of introducing or spreading noxious weeds associated with the proposed action.

1. For projects having moderate to high risk of introducing or spreading noxious weeds, the project decision document must identify

noxious weed control measures that must be undertaken during project implementation.

2. Make every effort to ensure that all seed, feed, hay, and straw used on National Forest System lands is free of noxious weed seeds. (FSH 6309.12, sec. 42 and 42.1).

3. Where States have enacted legislation and have an active program to make weed-free forage available, Forest Officers shall issue orders restricting the transport of feed, hay, straw, or mulch which is not declared as weed-free, as provided in 36 CFR 261.50(a) and 261.58(t).

4. Use contract and permit clauses to prevent the introduction or spread of noxious weeds by contractors and permittees. For example, where determined to be appropriate, use clauses requiring contractors or permittees to clean their equipment prior to entering National Forest System lands.

2081.1 - Forest Planning. Manage noxious weeds on National Forest System lands to achieve the goals and objectives identified in Forest Land and Resource Management plans (FSM 1910, 1920, and 1930).

2081.2 - Prevention and Control Measures. Determine the factors which favor the establishment and spread of noxious weeds and design management practices or prescriptions to reduce the risk of infestation or spread of noxious weeds.

Where funds and other resources do not permit undertaking all desired measures, address and schedule noxious weed prevention and control in the following order:

1. First Priority: Prevent the introduction of new invaders,
2. Second Priority: Conduct early treatment of new infestations, and
3. Third Priority: Contain and control established infestations.

When assigning management priorities for prevention and control measures, utilize Noxious Weed Classification Systems developed at the State, county, or local level to provide a coordinated approach. Particular consideration should be given to emergency staging areas, trailheads, campgrounds, and gravel pits.

Ensure that environmental controls and objectives are met for threatened and endangered or other species, as specified in applicable laws, policy, and regulations for project-level noxious weed control actions, as provided in the National Environmental Policy Act process.

2082 - COOPERATION. Cooperate with State agencies, landowners, local governments, universities, and other Federal agencies to coordinate programs for the prevention and control of noxious weeds.

2082.1 - Memorandums of Understanding and Cooperative Agreements. Use a memorandum of understanding (MOU) or a cooperative agreement (FSM 1580) to outline ways of cooperating with State or other Federal agencies to prevent, contain, and control noxious weeds. Use a cooperative agreement when funds are exchanged.

Any project-level MOU or cooperative agreement must, as a minimum:

1. Describe the Integrated Weed Management System to be used to control or contain the targeted plant species or group of species,
2. Detail the means of implementing the Integrated Weed Management approach, including defining the duties of the cooperators,
3. Establish a timeframe for the initiation and completion of the tasks specified in the Integrated Weed Management approach, and
4. Specify in cooperative agreements the contributions to be made by each party.

2082.2 - Methods of Cooperation. Assist and promote cooperative efforts with other Federal, State, local, and international agencies, and universities in the following ways:

1. Assist in identifying, rearing, releasing, and distributing biological control agents in North America.
2. Formulate and implement Integrated Weed Management prescriptions and measures based on beneficial uses of noxious weeds.
3. Research and use desirable plant species that are competitive with noxious weeds.
4. Develop an interagency data base and share noxious weed inventory information.
5. Develop educational and public awareness material and handbooks.

Emphasize cooperative research that defines the ecological requirements of noxious weeds, cost-effective management strategies, and beneficial uses.

2083 - INFORMATION COLLECTION AND REPORTING. A current noxious weed inventory must be established and maintained in the Forest Service Range Management Information System (FSRAMIS), or other Nationally approved data base (FSM 2270). The inventory must include acres infested with noxious weeds, by species and location, and by Forest, Ranger District, State, and county. Report the level of infested acres as follows: low (5 percent or less canopy cover); moderate (6 - 25 percent canopy cover); and high (over 25 percent canopy cover).

Regions are to report annually to the Washington Office, the number of acres treated or retreated during the previous fiscal year using the Management Attainment Reporting (MAR) system (FSH 1909.13, sec. 38.3 and ch. 50). For acres treated biologically, report only those acres which had biological agents introduced on them during the reporting period (FSM 6550; FSH 6509.11k).

