

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

DEPARTMENTAL REGULATION		NUMBER: 9500-10
SUBJECT: Policy of Noxious Weed Management	DATE: January 18, 1990	
	OPI: Forest Service, National Forest System, Range Management	

1 PURPOSE

This regulation sets forth Departmental Policy relating to the management and coordination of noxious weed activities among agencies of the USDA and other executive agencies, organizations, and individuals. It is in furtherance of USDA responsibilities mandated by the legislation identified in Section 6a. Agencies of the Department affected by this regulation include APHIS, ARS, ASCS, CSRS, ERS, ES, FmHA, FS, OICD, SCS, and NASS.

USDA is vitally interested in an integrated pest management approach to the control and management of noxious weeds. The Department has been and will continue to remain active in developing, demonstrating, and applying the essential science, technology, and stewardship necessary to effectively manage and prevent the spread and infestation of noxious weeds. The purpose of this policy is to more fully integrate all USDA programs and activities into actions which will improve the quality and ecological conditions of crop and rangeland in the United States.

2 BACKGROUND

Noxious weeds have the potential of infesting virtually all susceptible land and water in the United States. USDA programs influence the use and management of over 400 million acres of nonfederal range, 421 million acres of nonfederal croplands, 393 million acres of nonfederal forest, 133 million acres of nonfederal pastureland, and about 60 million acres in other nonfederal land; and has the responsibility for management on more than 192 million acres of publicly owned range and forest lands.

This vast land and water base is the source of America's food and fiber and provides the economic stability to a large segment of the nation's work force. It is well documented that many of these noxious weed species have extensive and costly impacts on human health, safety, commerce, recreation, and general well-being. Noxious weeds can adversely affect food production, wilderness values, wildlife habitat, visual quality, forage production, reforestation, recreational opportunities, and land values.

3 POLICY

It is USDA policy to undertake integrated noxious weed management activities and implement programs to:

- a Protect, enhance, and wisely use terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
- b Provide, promote, and facilitate continuing research and technology developments to manage noxious weeds utilizing integrated pest management approaches.
- c Promote and facilitate the implementation of effective methods to prevent entry or establishment of noxious weeds by cooperation and coordination of the various agencies.
- d Promote and facilitate cooperation and coordination among other federal and state agencies and county weed control districts/supervisors, private organizations, and individuals in planning and implementing integrated pest management approaches to manage and control noxious weeds.
- e Provide technical, managerial, educational, and other assistance programs to landowners, land managers, operators, and other users that will encourage the adoption and use of conservation and integrated pest management practices for noxious weeds.
- f Promote and facilitate the development and demonstration of, and education about, use-oriented management strategies that reduce the

long-term dependence on noxious weed control programs.

g Provide periodic land and aquatic resource inventories compatible among agencies to identify and classify noxious weeds and noxious weed infestations.

h Promote and facilitate cooperation and coordination among

federal and state agencies, county weed control districts/supervisors,

private organizations, and individuals to determine extent and intensity of noxious weeds and short- and long-term potential economic and environmental impacts.

i Explore, promote, and encourage beneficial uses for noxious weeds.

4 ABBREVIATIONS

APHIS - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

ARS - Agricultural Research Service

ASCS - Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

CSRS -Cooperative State Research Service

ERS - Economic Research Service

ES - Extension Service

FmHA - Farmers Home Administration

FS - Forest Service

NASS - National Agricultural Statistics Service

NR&E - Natural Resources and Environment

OICD - Office of International Cooperation and Development

REA - Rural Electrification Administration

SCS - Soil Conservation Service

USDA - U.S. Department of Agriculture

5 DEFINITIONS

a Noxious weeds are those plant species designated as such by the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of the Interior, or by State law or regulation. Generally, noxious weeds will possess one or more of the characteristics of being aggressive and difficult to manage, 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.

b Integrated pest management is the consideration, evaluation, and use of alternatives available in resource management to prevent, eradicate, or mitigate noxious weeds and their impacts,

c Management of noxious weeds embodies those activities consistent with noxious weed objectives. Management activities may include efforts to eradicate, reduce, confine, or control noxious weeds through chemical mechanical, biological or pyric treatments, or other measures as appropriate.

6 RESPONSIBILITIES

a Plans of action to implement the policies of this regulation will be developed by affected agencies. Plans will be prepared in accordance with directions of the Forest and Rangelands Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (PL 93-378), as amended; the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 (PL 95-98); the Soil Conservation Act of 1935 (PL 74-46); the Great Plains Conservation Act of 1956 (PL 84-1021), as amended; the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (PL 95-514); the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (PL 94-579); the Food Security Act of 1985 (PL 99-198); Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937, Title III; the Organic Act of 1944 (PL 94-231) as amended March 15,

1976; the Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974 (PL 93-629); Carlson-Foley Act of 1968 (PL 90-583); Granger-Thye Act of 1950; Halogeton Glomeratus Control Act of 1952 (USC 1651-1656); Federal Seed Act of 1939 (7 USC 1551-1611); Rivers and Harbors Act of 1965 (33 USC 610); Federal Plant Pest Act of 1957, (7 USC, Section 150aa-ii) and other acts that may effect an agency's involvement with noxious weed management.

b The Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment will provide Department coordination, in cooperation with the other Assistant Secretaries to help implement noxious weed management responsibilities by:

- (1) Coordinating noxious weed management policies of affected USDA agencies.
- (2) Providing a forum for formulating and assessing alternative noxious weed management policies and procedures to serve the missions of the various agencies within USDA and, when requested, those of other executive agencies.
- (3) Encouraging and assisting USDA agencies to develop liaison, as needed, with other executive agencies, state agencies, county weed districts/supervisors, public interest organizations, and professional societies.
- (4) Providing the Secretary with reports or comments of noxious weed management issues under consideration, opportunities for improvement, and progress toward resolution of key concerns.

c Agency Compliance

Each Agency of the USDA will maintain its policies and program direction in compliance with this regulation. Agency heads will assure that current integrated noxious weed management program activities are delineated and that the programs of each Agency are known to the Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment.

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