

NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR PINE VIEW ESTATES

By Alice Jolene Owens

The definition of a "noxious weed" would be as follows: A weed that is considered to be harmful or destructive to living things or, to be more exact, would be an invasive species of a plant which is determined to be harmful to agriculture crops, eco systems, humans or livestock.

The Colorado Noxious Weed Act was passed in 1996 to help control noxious weeds in the state of Colorado. A noxious weed can be poisonous to livestock, can be a carrier of insects, diseases or parasites and can invade crops or native plants. Because noxious weeds can be harmful to people, wildlife, livestock and the environment: it is essential that a plan to control noxious weeds be put in place. Listed below are ways that can be used to control noxious weeds:

1. Cultural: Grazing management by controlling the overgrazing of pasture land. Methods that can be used include : Re-vegetate or re-seed whenever needed, fertilize and irrigation.

2. Biological: Organisms such as insects, diseases and grazing of animals can be used to control noxious weeds.

3. Mechanical: Alter the growing conditions of unwanted plants. Weeds can be mowed, pulled by hand, tilled with a rototiller, or can clip off the seedheads of the plant.

4. Chemical: Chemicals such as "Milestone" can be used on noxious weeds. Another chemical that can be used is "Roundup," but be aware that it can kill other things around the area. Caution should be used when using chemicals for control of noxious weeds.

The Noxious Weed Management Plan for Pine View Estates includes both prevention and mitigation methods. Prevention focuses on avoiding the accidental introduction of noxious weeds during land development. Mapping and monitoring of

any existing weeds provides the best control and elimination. Pine View Estates will utilize Integrated WEED MANAGEMENT (IWM) techniques that may include: Cultural, Biological, Mechanical and Chemical processes as needed. The following strategies should be used in building roads or in the construction phase of building homes or outbuildings:

1. Identify and eradicate small infestations of weeds
2. Monitor and evaluate in order to prevent a recurrence
3. Only use Colorado Weed-Free Hay and Forage if needed
4. Revegetate and reclaim sites that have been disturbed with appropriate native plant species
5. Do not allow the unlawful sale of invasive ornamental plants and seed packages

Information contained in the Noxious Weed Management Plan for Pine View Estates was taken from the El Paso County Colorado Noxious Weed Management Plan and the El Paso County Community Service Department Website.

Additional information on the prevention and control of Noxious Weeds can be found in the El Paso County Colorado Noxious Weed Management Plan which was endorsed by the Noxious Weed Advisory Commission May 16, 2017 and approved by the Board of County Commissioners' on December 28, 2017. Another excellent source of information, especially helpful with the identifying of noxious weeds, can be found on the El Paso County Community Service Department website.