

STAGECOACH MOUNTAIN RANCH

NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Prepared For

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1. BACKGROUND

In 1992, the Colorado state legislature adopted the Noxious Weed Act (Colorado Revised Statute Title 35 Article 5.5). In 2003 the Colorado Noxious Weed Act established a three-tiered system that ties a noxious weed species to a management requirement. The goal of this system is to help prioritize weed management and prevent a weed that is not yet a major problem from becoming one, at either the state or county level. Additionally, revisions to the Act enable County and municipal governments to implement their own localized management programs and to pursue compliance of this management plan on private lands.

1.1 STATE A, B, C LISTS, ROUTT COUNTY LIST

Under the law the state has developed three lists of noxious weeds: List A, List B, and List C. The lists are regularly updated by the State and are established based on rules set by the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

List A includes plants that are relatively rare throughout the state but are serious problems elsewhere in the West. These species must be eradicated. Routt County is home to at least five of these including: meadow knapweed (near Mad Creek), myrtle spurge (in towns), Cypress spurge (in towns), purple loosestrife (in towns), and orange hawkweed (in towns).

List B is the longest list, and potentially the most confusing. The management requirements for each of these 38 species are being determined by the state in consultation with local governments. Management requirements will be either: eradication, containment or suppression.

The List C species are those that are widespread throughout the state, and eradication or containment is not feasible on a wide scale, so suppression is the designated management requirement. It is important to note that local governments have the authority to increase management requirements as seen fit.

The Routt County list (Appendix A) is the weeds the local advisory board wants the greatest emphasis on and includes species from all three of the state noxious weed lists.

1.2 HOW A WEED MAKES A STATE OR COUNTY LIST

To be considered a noxious weed, species must meet certain criteria, and are reviewed by committees at the State and local level. The State develops its list with a committee made up of private landowners, weed management professionals, weed scientists, local governments, agricultural producers, resource specialists and environmental organizations. The county list is made from the state list, but other species can be added if needed. Local landowners make up Routt County's committee named the Noxious Weed Advisory Board and who report recommendation to the County Commissioners for final approval.

1.3 LANDOWNER RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the Landowner's duty and responsibility as a steward of the land and a good neighbor to be aware of any noxious weeds on his/her property. It is important to refer to both the Colorado State List as well as the Routt County List (Appendix A) and know the appropriate management objective for each identified weed. It is the Landowner's responsibility to develop an integrated management plan to manage any noxious weeds on his/her property. The Routt County Noxious Weed Program is available to provide technical assistance and help develop specific weed management plans for a specific property. It is important to note that no landowner can be compelled to manage his or her weeds until the county applies an equal level of management to an adjoining right-of-way.

2. INTRODUCTION

Noxious weeds are invasive plants that are not native to Colorado. They pose a serious threat to native plant populations, agriculture, wildlife, recreation and property values. Noxious weeds form dense monocultures that crowd out native and desirable plant species, robbing desired vegetation of sunlight, soil nutrients and water. This rapid expansion of noxious weeds can quickly change the landscape and native ecosystems. In Routt County noxious weeds devastate hay meadows, destroy critical wildlife habitat, poison livestock, degrade riparian areas, and saddle residents with tens of thousands of dollars in control costs.

3. AUTHORITY

3.1 COLORADO NOXIOUS WEED ACT

The Colorado Noxious Weed Act (§35-5.5-101 through 119) of the Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S 2018) and the "Permanent Rules Pertaining To The Administration and Enforcement of the Colorado Noxious Weed Act" (8CCR1203-19; both referred to hereafter as the "Colorado Noxious Weed Act" or "the Act") require the County to adopt and administer a noxious weed management plan to prevent further damage by noxious weed species designated by the State. All language definitions used within this plan shall be consistent with the Colorado Noxious Weed Act.

3.2 ROUTT COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Routt County Noxious Weed Management Plan (Routt County 2020) was reviewed and received the recommendation of the County Noxious Weed Management Advisory Board and was adopted in January 2021 by the Board of County Commissioners.

4. DESIGNATED NOXIOUS WEEDS

Under the *Colorado Noxious Weed Act*, the State Department of Agriculture has set mandatory management objectives for three classifications of weeds, also known as the A, B and C lists. Species of plants from these lists are designated for eradication¹, containment², or suppression³.

¹ Eradication means reducing the reproductive success of a noxious weed species or specified noxious weed population in largely uninfested regions to zero and permanently eliminating the species or population within a specified period of time. Once all specified weed populations are eliminated or prevented from reproducing, intensive efforts continue until the existing seed bank is exhausted.

² Containment means maintaining an intensively managed buffer zone that separates infested regions, where suppression activities prevail, from largely uninfested regions, where eradication activities prevail.

³ Suppression means reducing the vigor of noxious weed populations within an infested region, decreasing the propensity of noxious weed species to spread to surrounding lands, and mitigating the negative effects of noxious weed populations on infested lands. Suppression efforts may employ a wide variety of integrated management techniques.

In addition to the designated weed list for Routt County, the County has authority, as set forth in the "Colorado Noxious Weed Act" to enforce the law on private lands as is outlined in §35-5.5-108.5 and 35-5.5-109 C.R.S.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

Western Bionomics has conducted a noxious weed survey along the proposed alignment for the Stagecoach gondola. Weeds observed during that survey included houndstongue⁴ (*Cynoglossum officinale*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), and yellow toadflax⁴ (*Linaria vulgaris*).

A known population of leafy spurge⁴ (*Euphorbia esula*) on the Stetson parcel has been treated yearly since 2016. Treatments are ongoing for this infestation with the goal of eradicating it from the parcel.

In addition to the weeds observed along the gondola alignment, Canada thistle, houndstongue, and yellow toadflax are common on the SMR. Scattered individual plumeless thistle (*Carduus acanthoides*), musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*), and common mullein⁴ (*Verbascum thapsus*) were observed sporadically during wetland surveys that were conducted between 2022 and 2024 across the entirety of the development parcels.

SMR's strategy for containment, eradication, and/or suppression, as appropriate, of noxious weeds on the parcel will be implemented as described below:

- 1) The Stagecoach Mountain Ranch Property Owners Association (SMRPOA) shall provide education and training, including technical assistance, to private landowners on noxious weed management.
- 2) The SMRPOA shall manage noxious weeds on all Open Space parcels. The HOA shall not compel the eradication of noxious weeds on private property without first applying the same measures to any Open Space lands adjacent to the property.
- 3) The SMRPOA shall assist landowners in management of noxious weeds, including initiating and maintaining communications with landowners who are affected by list A species and list B species designated for eradication.
- 4) The SMRPOA shall map noxious weed infestations within its borders, with the goal of finding new infestations, monitoring control of noxious weeds, and to meet the requirements of the *Colorado Noxious Weed Act*.
- 5) The SMRPOA and individual private property owners shall detect and eradicate new infestations of noxious weed species, as defined by the *Colorado Noxious Weed Act*. Most weed species, if detected and managed early in the infestation cycle, can be effectively controlled.

⁴ Routt County Management Objective - Containment

**APPENDIX A – ROUTT COUNTY NOXIOUS
WEED LIST**

Routt County Designated Noxious Weeds			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Management Objective	
		Routt County	State
Dalmatian toadflax	<i>Linaria dalmatica & L. genistifolia</i>	Containment	Containment
Common mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Containment	Suppression
Curly dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Suppression	N/A
Cypress spurge	<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Eradication	Eradication
Diffuse knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	Eradication	Containment
Hoary cress/whitetop	<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Containment	Containment
Houndstongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Containment	Containment
Leafy spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Containment	Containment
Meadow knapweed	<i>Centaurea pratensis</i>	Eradication	Eradication
Myrtle spurge	<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>	Eradication	Eradication
Orange hawkweed	<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	Eradication	Eradication
Purple loosestrife	<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Eradication	Eradication
Russian knapweed	<i>Centaurea repens</i>	Eradication	Containment
Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>	Eradication	Containment
Yellow toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Containment	Containment

APPENDIX B – STATE OF COLORADO LISTS

State Listed Noxious Weeds List A ^{5, 6}	
Common Name	Scientific Name
African rue	<i>Peganum harmala</i>
Bohemian knotweed	<i>Fallopia x bohemicum</i>
Camelthorn	<i>Alhagi maurorum</i>
Common crupina	<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>
Cypress spurge	<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>
Dyer's woad	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>
Elongated mustard	<i>Brassica elongata</i>
Flowering rush	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>
Giant knotweed	<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>
Giant reed	<i>Arundo donax</i>
Giant salvinia	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>
Hairy willow-herb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>
Hydrilla	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>
Japanese knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>
Meadow knapweed	<i>Centaurea x moncktonii</i>
Mediterranean sage	<i>Salvia aethiopsis</i>
Medusahead	<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>
Myrtle spurge	<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>
Orange hawkweed	<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>
Parrotfeather	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Rush skeletonweed	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>
Squarrose knapweed	<i>Centaurea virgata</i>
Tansy ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Yellow starthistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>

⁵ Note: The State may change their designated list after this plan is adopted. The most current list is the one that applies. To find the most up-to-date list check with the Colorado Department of Agriculture: www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds

⁶ All populations of List A species in Colorado are designated by the Colorado Department of Agriculture Commissioner for eradication.

State Listed Noxious Weeds List B ⁷	
Common	Scientific
Absinth wormwood	<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>
Black henbane	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>
Bouncingbet	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>
Bull thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Chinese clematis	<i>Clematis orientalis</i>
Common tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>
Common teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>
Cutleaf teasel	<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i>
Dalmatian toadflax, broad-leaved	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>
Dalmatian toadflax, narrow-leaved	<i>Linaria genistifolia</i>
Dame's rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>
Diffuse knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>
Eurasian watermilfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>
Hoary cress	<i>Cardaria draba</i>
Houndstongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>
Jointed goatgrass	<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>
Leafy spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>
Mayweed chamomile	<i>Anthemis cotula</i>
Moth mullein	<i>Verbascum blattaria</i>
Musk thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>
Oxeye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
Perennial pepperweed	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>
Plumeless thistle	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>
Russian knapweed	<i>Rhaponticum repens</i>
Russian-olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>
Salt cedar	<i>Tamarix. ramosissima</i>
Salt cedar	<i>T. chinensis</i>
Scentless chamomile	<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>
Scotch thistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>
Scotch thistle	<i>O. tauricum</i>

⁷ List B Species are species for which the Colorado Department of Agriculture Commissioner, in consultation with the state noxious weed advisory committee, local governments, and other interested parties, develops and implements state noxious weed management plans designed to stop the continued spread of these species.

State Listed Noxious Weeds List B ⁷	
Common	Scientific
Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea stoebe L. ssp. micranthos</i>
Spotted x diffuse knapweed hybrid	<i>Centaurea x psammogena</i>
Sulfur cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla recta</i>
Wild caraway	<i>Carum carvi</i>
Yellow nutsedge	<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>
Yellow toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>
Yellow x Dalmatian toadflax hybrid	<i>Linaria vulgaris x L. dalmatica</i>

State of Colorado Noxious Weeds List C ⁸	
Common	Scientific
Bulbous bluegrass	<i>Poa bulbosa</i>
Chicory	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>
Common burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>
Common mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>
Common St. Johnswort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
Downy brome, cheatgrass	<i>Bromus tectorum</i>
Field bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>
Halogeton	<i>Halogeton glomeratus</i>
Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>
Perennial sowthistle	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>
Poison hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>
Puncturevine	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>
Quackgrass	<i>Elymus repens</i>
Redstem filaree	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>
Velvetleaf	<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i>
Wild proso millet	<i>Panicum miliaceum</i>

⁸ List C Species are species for which the Colorado Department of Agriculture Commissioner, in consultation with the state noxious weed advisory committee, local governments, and other interested parties, will develop and implement state noxious weed management plans designed to support the efforts of local governing bodies to facilitate more effective integrated weed management on private and public lands. The goal of such plans will not be to stop the continued spread of these species but to provide additional educational, research, and biological control resources to jurisdictions that choose to require management of List C species.