



Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society

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David Cobb,
IPNF Noxious Weed Treatment Project Team Leader

Delivered by email

The Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society considers noxious weeds a primary threat to sensitive native plant populations and to the successful functioning of native ecosystems. We are delighted that IPNF is updating its approach to noxious weeds. Our suggestions:

1. Analyze the successes and failures of the current approach, over its lifetime. We have long been concerned that new species were being introduced and current noxious invaders spread along human and equipment vectors but have no data on the degree and severity of the spread since the last plan was adopted.
2. Stress partnerships that further your prevention and education elements, setting out a mechanism for developing and fostering them. Noxious weeds need to be kept from the IPNF borders and the public needs to support your activities.
3. Stress monitoring current noxious weed populations and potential new ones. Integrate monitoring into your partnerships, involve volunteers and lay out an aggressive schedule for this element.
4. Give high priority to identifying and responding to new NNIP species and infestation. Flesh out this element exhaustively.
5. If legal, propose fees or involvement of permittees for permitted uses associated with weed spread (e.g. utility lines, grazing) that will help support control of noxious weeds.
6. We like the part that recommends "restoration and revegetation" after the removal of the weeds (p. 2, paragraph 3), and the planting of "competitive desirable vegetation." (P. 2 paragraph 4). However, it does not state that local natives will be used and we strongly recommend that.

We thank the IPNF for undertaking an exhaustive approach to this critical problem.

Sincerely,

Molly O'Reilly
Conservation Committee Chair