

APPENDIX G:

# DRAFT

## **Fire Program Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Invasive Weed Prevention National Park Service • Dinosaur National Monument • Colorado and Utah 1999**

**GOAL:** Fire Program Operations do not enhance opportunities for spread of invasive weeds in Dinosaur National Monument and, where possible, serve to control, limit or reduce the spread of invasive weeds.

**OBJECTIVE:** Consider the potential impacts of Fire Program Operations on invasive weed establishment and spread, with emphasis on prevention and mitigation.

These Best Management Practices (BMPs) are adapted from DRAFT *Weed Prevention Measures* developed by the Lolo National Forest, Missoula, Montana (1998). They should be followed unless the intent of the goal stated above can be met with a more effective practice.

### **INCREASE AWARENESS**

- Botanist will assist in preparation of training materials and will provide training to seasonal fire staff on invasive weed identification and weed prevention BMPs.
- Resources include *Uintah County Noxious Weeds* pocket guides, *Noxious Weeds: A Biological Wildfire* video, *Explosion in Slow Motion: Weeds on Western Lands* video, and *Leave No Weeds* laminated cards.

### **PREVENT WEED INTRODUCTION & SPREAD**

#### Pre-Incident Measures

- Provide dispatch with information on known weed infestation areas; update annually.
- To the extent possible, identify and periodically inspect potential helibase areas, staging areas, incident command posts/base camps, etc. in advance of fire incidents. Keep these areas in a weed-free condition.

#### **Fire Operations (Daily Activities and Type 5 and Type 4 Incidents)**

- Include weed risk factors and weed prevention considerations in all Wildland Fire and Prescribed Fire management actions.

- Provide weed documentation forms to be included with the Initial Attack Incident Commander, Prescribed Fire Monitor and Engine Boss kits.
- When invasive weeds have been identified on an Incident scene:
- Hose off vehicles on site if they have traveled through infested area.
- Inspect clothing for weed seeds if foot travel occurred in infested area.

#### Fire Operations (Type III through Type I Incidents)

- Include weed risk factors and weed prevention considerations in FMO, Resource Advisor, and Air Operations Branch Director duties on all incidents.
- Provide Planning Section Chief and Situation Unit Leader with a contact who is familiar with weeds in the fire area. Include a discussion of weed prevention operational practices in all fire briefings.
- Where possible, establish incident bases, fire operations staging areas, and aircraft landing zones in areas that have been inspected and are verified to be free of invasive weeds
- If placement of operations facilities in weed-infested areas cannot be avoided, mow areas of concentrated activity if weeds are not yet in seed stage. If weeds are producing seeds, designate travel routes on weed-free paths.
- Cover weed infested cargo areas and net-loading areas with tarps if weeds exist and can't be removed or avoided.
- Flag off high-risk weed infestations in areas of concentrated activity and show weeds on facility maps.
- If fire operations involve travel or work in weed infested areas, a power wash station will be staged at or near incident base and helibase. Wash all vehicles and equipment upon arrival from and departure to each incident. This includes fuel trucks and aircraft service vehicles.
- Minimize soil disturbance during fire operations, especially if creating fire lines.
- Direct field personnel to report potential conflicts between weed prevention and fire management activities.

#### **Interagency Resources**

- Clean vehicles and equipment prior to entering Dinosaur National Monument, or during check-in at incident base or staging area, prior to assignment.
- All DINO vehicles and equipment sent off the monument for fire assistance will be cleaned before returning home or immediately upon returning home.
- Smoke jumpers will inspect gear and clothing for weed seeds and plant parts before coming onto the monument and before leaving the monument.
- Provide non-monument personnel with weed identification aids.

## **Fire Rehab**

- Identify need for possible fire rehab to prevent or mitigate weed invasion during fire incident and apply for funding during the Incident.
- Replace soil and vegetation right side up when rehabing fire line.
- Require certified weed-free mulching materials used in fire rehab operations.
- Require certified weed-free native plant seed when fire rehab plans call for reseeding.
- Monitor and treat weeds at power wash sites, fire access roads, and all areas disturbed by operations activities.
- Schedule a recon approximately one year post-fire to identify weed infestations that may be moving into the burned area.

## **Fire Management Plans**

- Prescribed fire burn plans will include pre-burn invasive weed inventory and risk assessment components as well as post-burn mitigation components.
- Integrate prescribed fire and other weed management techniques to achieve best results. This may involve post-burn herbicide treatment or other practices that require careful timing.
- Include weed prevention and follow-up monitoring in all prescribed fire activities. Include in burn plans the possibility that post-burn weed treatment may be necessary.
- Implementation Plans for Wildland Fire for Resource Benefit will include considerations and mitigation measures for control of weed establishment and spread.

## **BEYOND PREVENTION**

- Utilize incident resources for weed mitigation as opportunities arise.

