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EXECUTIVE ORDER

**DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NOXIOUS WEED
MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS**

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, I, Bill Owens, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order developing and implementing noxious weed management programs.

1. Background and Need.

Noxious weeds threaten the ecological integrity of Colorado's public lands which are held in the public trust for agricultural productivity, biodiversity, recreational opportunities, scenic beauty, and other purposes. Noxious weeds continue to spread rapidly into and within Colorado resulting in negative impacts to Colorado's economy, agricultural vitality, and natural resources. Failure to manage noxious weeds on state lands and rights-of-way promotes the spread of noxious weeds to neighboring private and public lands. Failure to reduce the rate at which noxious weeds are spread through commerce, recreational travel, and other means will hamper the efforts of all landowners to manage noxious weeds successfully.

All landowners have a responsibility to plan and implement a coordinated program that utilizes a variety of integrated methods to manage noxious weeds, the purpose of which is to achieve desirable plant communities (C.R.S. 35-5.5-104). Principal departments and state agencies are required to manage noxious weeds on lands and public rights-of-way subject to their jurisdiction (C.R.S. 35-5.5-110; C.R.S. 35-5.5-112).

Principal departments and state agencies provide services to and have regulatory oversight over many landowners and businesses that have the ability to affect the rate at which noxious weeds are spread and established in Colorado. State agencies have demonstrated that cooperative relationships among public and private landowners result in the cost-effective and successful management of noxious weeds on all Colorado lands.

2. Mission and Scope.

The Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Transportation, and Colorado State University shall each designate a noxious weed coordinator from within their respective executive directors' offices within 30 days of

the execution of this order. The designated individuals shall consult with the state weed coordinator and coordinate the organization's noxious weed management efforts with the state weed coordinator. Each department and agency listed below shall:

Department of Agriculture
Division of Animal Industry
Division of Plant Industry
State Board of Stock Inspection
Department of Natural Resources
Colorado Geological Survey
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Division of Minerals and Geology
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
Division of Water Resources
Division of Wildlife
Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
Soil Conservation Board
State Board of Land Commissioners
Department of Transportation
Colorado State University
Cooperative Extension
State Forester

- A. Develop and implement reasonable integrated weed management plans and programs for lands and public rights-of-way subject to its jurisdiction within one year.
- B. Thoroughly review its operations within nine months to identify public services, programs and regulatory functions that may affect:
 1. the spread and establishment of noxious weeds,
 2. the active management of noxious weeds in Colorado, and
 3. public awareness of the negative impacts associated with noxious weeds.
- C. For each identified service, program or regulatory function, develop and implement strategies to reduce the spread and establishment of noxious weeds in Colorado, improve weed management activities on public and private lands, and increase public awareness within eighteen months;
- D. Identify staff and programs that have contributed to improved management and increased awareness of noxious weeds on both public and private lands so that their successful efforts can be emulated within 12 months by other staff and programs within the organization;
- E. Identify potential sources of internal and external funds to further expand noxious weed management efforts within three years; and

F. Cooperate with the local governing bodies of counties and municipalities as well as other public and private landowners to achieve shared weed management objectives.

3. State Coordination.

All other principal departments and state agencies shall:

- a) Seek assistance and consult with the state weed coordinator within six months to identify weed management needs and develop appropriate integrated weed management programs for their organization. Management programs shall be implemented within one year; and
- b) Send a representative to Noxious Weed Management Team meetings upon the request of the Team.

4. Duration.

This Executive Order shall remain in force until further modification or rescission by the Governor.

GIVEN under my hand and
the Executive Seal of the
State of Colorado, this 19th
day of July, 1999.

Bill Owens
Governor