

Humboldt - Toiyabe NF's Weed Free Forage Requirements



What is this new program?



Dalmatian Toadflax

On February 11, 2003 the Regional Forester for the Intermountain Region signed a special order requiring certified weed free hay on all National Forest lands within Region 4. This includes all of Nevada, Idaho, Utah, The Eastern Sierras and portions of Wyoming.

How would it affect you?

All users on national forest lands in Nevada, including recreationists, would need to pack weed free forage when going onto national forest lands.

Certifiable forage products include:

- Straw (grain and seeds)
- Alfalfa/grass hay
- Alfalfa hay
- Grain hay
- Grass hay

The Humboldt-Toiyabe N.F. will allow forage certified by any state as long as it meets the Regional Forage Certification Standards followed in Idaho, Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada or California.*

Why is there a need for weed free hay?

Noxious weeds on public lands are spreading at an alarming rate. Leafy Spurge, Spotted knapweed, Yellow starthistle and other noxious weeds are alien to the United States. There are no natural processes to keep their populations in balance. They have been designated “noxious,” harmful or injurious, by law.

Why be concerned?

- Noxious weeds interrupt visual quality, aesthetic values and functions of natural ecosystems.
- Noxious weeds can reduce forage production for livestock and wildlife, which reduces recreation and hunting quality.
- Noxious weeds displace native vegetation, in turn reducing wildlife habitat and ecosystem biodiversity and increasing erosion rates of sediment into streams.



Spotted knapweed

How are noxious weeds spread?

One way noxious weeds can be spread is through hay, straw or other forage carried onto national forest lands, where plants take root. One plant can produce thousands of seeds, which can remain viable for several years. Wind, water, wild animals, birds, livestock, vehicles, and people can all carry seeds from mature plants on to agricultural lands, private property, or to other State or Federal lands.

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Intermountain Region
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest



Nevada Department of Agriculture



Sierra County Agricultural Commission



Plumas County Agricultural

What can you do?

- Avoid setting up camp in a weed-infested area or riding stock animals or vehicles through them.
- Drive only on established roads and trails away from weed infested areas.
- When using pack animals, carry only feed that is certified weed free.
- Within 96 hours before entering the National Forest, feed livestock only food that is certified weed free.
- Remove seeds from livestock by brushing manes and tails, and cleaning hooves.
- If you find a few weeds without flowers or seeds, pull and leave them. If flowers or seeds are present, place the weeds in a plastic bag or similar container and burn them in a safe place.
- If you find a weed-infested area, let the landowner or land management agency know so they can take steps to control the infestation.



Dyers Wood



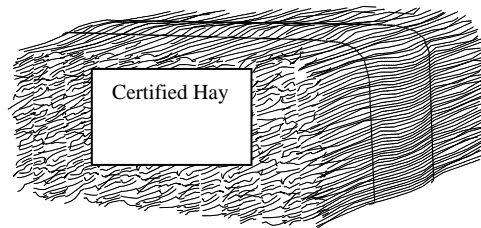
Diffuse knapweed

Where can you buy weed free hay?

The Nevada Department of Agriculture, the local California County Agriculture Commission and county extension can provide a list of growers who sell certified forage. This list is periodically updated. Copies are also available at your local Forest Service office.

How will you know if it's certified?

After a field is inspected, the producer receives a certificate of inspection. The producer or seller will provide you with certification that the forage meets state weed or weed free requirements. This certification may be in the form of tags, colored twine on the product or a transit certificate issued by the state.



* California Agriculture Inspection stations will only allow forage that meets California certification requirements to enter the state.

Where can you get more information?

Contact the following individuals, or any county weed supervisor for further information:

Nevada Department of Agriculture
Tina Mudd: 775-688-1182 ext. 291

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Brett Glover: 775-738-5171

Plumas and Sierra Counties
Agricultural Commissioner: 530-283-6365

Lassen County
Agricultural Commissioner: 530-251-8110

El Dorado and Alpine Counties
Agricultural Commissioner 530-621-5520

Mono and Inyo Counties
Agricultural Commissioner: 760-873-7860

Web pages:

www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf
<http://www.invaders.nvblm.gov>
<http://agri.state.nv.us/nwac>
<http://pi.cdfa.ca.gov/weed/wff/>

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