

# APPENDIX J

## Communications Plan

According to Mitigation Measure 3 (Alternative B), a communication plan is necessary to implement the weed management strategy proposed for the Forests and Grassland. This communication plan is provided to keep interested publics informed of weed treatment projects on the Forests and Grassland. It is also the formalization of a process that will help protect and inform chemically sensitive individuals and anyone else that may have concerns with weed treatment strategies on the Forests and Grassland. Implementation of the plan will be mandatory prior to implementing the weed treatment strategy, and will require the participation of forest service personnel, interested publics, and communities near proposed treatment areas. This plan is considered a starting point and it will be modified as necessary to assure that it is effective, up to date, and comprehensive.

*Communication Strategy Goals:* This communication plan has four goals. The primary goal is to keep interested and affected people informed about proposed weed treatment methods and locations. The second goal is to provide weed treatment information to individuals in a timely manner, so that potential effects may be mitigated. The third goal is to provide information sharing protocol so that weed treatment on the Forests and Grassland takes place with two-way communication between the Forest Service and the public. The fourth goal of the communication plan is to allow for public participation in weed treatment methods and monitoring. Because weed treatment must take place on lands belonging to various entities (e.g. private, state, federal and community), it is important to promote coordination and information sharing between all parties involved.

### Noxious Weed Management Communication Plan Objectives

Chemically sensitive people are given an opportunity each year to be informed and to provide input with regard to proposed weed management strategy, procedures, methods and locations prior to project initiation.

An adaptive two way communication process that includes meetings (as requested) and web page updates, is provided for public input and public information on weed management strategy, procedures, methods and locations.

### ACTION STRATEGIES

Actions associated with this communication plan address the Weed Management Strategy. Actions will be adjusted as necessary, and are specific to goals and objectives.

Goal	Objective	Action
<p>Keep interested and affected people, especially chemically sensitive individuals, informed about proposed weed treatment methods and locations.</p>	<p>All information on annually planned weed treatment methods, weed treatment locations and weed treatment schedules is available for public review each year.</p>	<p>Information on treatment methods, schedules and location are posted on the Forest Web Page.</p> <p>An announcement of treatments for the Boulder Ranger District will be published in the Boulder Daily Camera.</p> <p>Copies of annual work plans disclosing anticipated treatment schedules, methods, and locations are sent to affected agencies, representatives of interested groups, and individuals who request them.</p> <p>Information on treatment schedules, methods, and locations is maintained at District offices. This information includes maps showing specific locations, detailed descriptions of treatment methods, and proposed herbicide use. Districts have information available each year.</p> <p>Treated areas are posted with conspicuous signs or flagging warning of pesticide treatment and marked with the date of application.</p> <p>Information on how to contact the Forest Weed Program manager is posted year-round on the Forest's web page and updated as needed.</p> <p>Communications processes are monitored and updated as necessary to make sure that interested parties are receiving useful and timely information. This includes meeting schedules, methods, protocol schedules, and protocol.</p> <p>A treatment project telephone notification list is maintained and updated by the weed program manager.</p> <p>Telephone notifications of upcoming weed treatment projects are made to all people on the telephone list each year.</p> <p>Reasonable action is taken to insure that any person who is listed in the Colorado State Pesticide-Sensitive Registry, and who resides on property which abuts the property to be treated, is informed of planned treatment locations, dates, approximate times, methods, and types of pesticide to be used, prior to application<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>People who request post-treatment notification are informed after the treatment has occurred.</p>
	<p>Chemically sensitive people are</p>	<p>Each year the Forest Weed Program manager schedules a meeting</p>

<sup>1</sup>The applicator may meet this requirement by making not less than two attempts to notify any owner or tenant who is on the registry. Such attempts shall be made as early as practicable, but not later than twenty-four hours before the application. If attempted notification fails, and a pesticide application is necessary, the applicator shall attempt to notify the resident in person immediately prior to the application. Notice of the application and attempts at notification shall be placed on the door of the person requesting notification if all notification attempts fail.

	<p>given an opportunity to respond to proposed weed management strategy, procedures, methods and locations prior to annual project initiation.</p> <p>An adaptive two way communication process that includes meetings as requested, is provided for public input and public information on weed management strategy, procedures, methods and locations throughout the year.</p>	<p>with chemically sensitive individuals or their representative to discuss proposed weed management strategy, procedures, methods and locations.</p> <p>Forest employees available for meetings as requested.</p>
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