

Placer Mining Operators

Vegetation Guidelines, Noxious Weeds and Sensitive Plant Species

- Ensure that all outside equipment brought onto the forest is free of weed seed and propagules. This will apply to mining equipment such as suction dredges, dry washers, sluice boxes, high bankers, metal detectors, vacuums, gold pans, other hand tools, etc.
- Locate weed-free areas where project equipment can be staged prior to commencement of project activities.
- Begin project operations in non-infested areas and will restrict movement of equipment or machinery from weed-contaminated areas to non-contaminated areas.
- Avoid invasive species populations when feasible and minimize spread of invasive species during any soil disturbing activities (see attached).
- Inspect, remove, and properly dispose of weed seed and plant parts found on clothing and equipment. Seeds and plant parts need to be collected when practical and incinerated OR seeds and/or plant material caught on equipment may be bagged and thrown away.
- Rinse and inspect suction dredges, associated hoses and additional equipment that will be in contact of any creek or watershed. Remove any visible plants, animals (i.e., quagga mussels and snails), or mud before leaving any body of water in on or off the forest. Drain water from motor and any additional mining equipment before leaving the vicinity. Avoid moving weed plants from one body of water to another.
- Retain native vegetation in and around the project activity as much as possible.
 - Do not cut trees, limbs or brush; do not dig up ground cover.
 - No trees or shrubs (live or dead) will be removed or undercut in the course of this operation.
 - No riparian vegetation (i.e. cottonwoods, willows, alders, ash, sycamore, rushes & sedges, etc) will be disturbed.
 - Grass and sedge clumps will also be retained in place.

Observe buffer distances to prevent or minimize disturbance to vegetation adjacent or along creek banks.

Riparian Vegetation	Buffer radius length*
Herbaceous (e.g., grasses and forbs)	1 foot
Woody Vegetation 0-5 feet tall	3 feet
Woody Vegetation 5-15 feet tall	10 feet
Woody Vegetation 15+ feet tall	15 feet

***Distance (in feet) recommended based on vegetation height.**

- Where feasible and practical, the operator will avoid or minimize ground disturbance activities in locations of known populations of Region 3 sensitive plants (see attached list). If other populations of sensitive plant species are detected (other than those currently known to exist in the project area) the operator will follow sensitive plant species resource protection measures to minimize potential negative impacts.
- All relevant Forest Plan direction will be followed. Specific guidance is found, but not limited to, Vegetation Standards and Guidelines Std-Veg-2, Guide-Veg-2, Guide-Veg-3, Guide-Veg-4. Forest Plan can be found online: www://fs.usda.gov/prescott.