

**APPENDIX E**  
**FOREST SERVICE MANUAL 2080**  
**NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT**

**FSM 2000 – NATIONAL FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
ZERO CODE 2080 – NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT**



**FOREST SERVICE MANUAL  
NORTHERN REGION (REGION 1)  
MISSOULA, MT.**

**FSM 2000 – NATIONAL FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
ZERO CODE 2080 – NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT**

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<b>New Document(s):</b>	2080	16 Pages
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**Digest:**

	This supplement implements an Integrated Weed Management approach for management of noxious weeds on National Forest System lands in Region 1.
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## **2080.4 - Responsibility.**

Encourage weed awareness and education in employee development and training plans and orientation for both field and administrative work.

### **2080.43 - Forest Supervisor.**

Forest Supervisors are responsible for:

1. Emphasizing weed awareness and weed prevention in all fire training, especially resource advisors, fire management teams, guard school, and district orientation.
2. Adding weed awareness and prevention education to Fire Effects and Prescribed Fire training.
3. Giving helicopter managers training in weed prevention and mitigation measures.
4. Resource Advisors should provide briefings to identify operational practices to reduce weed spread.
5. Providing Field Observers with weed identification aids and striving to avoid weed infestations in fire line location.

### **2080.44 - District Rangers.**

District Rangers are responsible for:

1. Providing weed prevention briefings for helibase staff.
2. Ensuring at least one permanent staff member per District is trained and proficient in weed management.
3. Applying weed treatment and prevention on all Forest Service administrative sites including Ranger Stations, trailheads, campgrounds, pastures, interpretive and historic sites.

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# 2081 – MANAGEMENT OF NOXIOUS WEEDS.

## 2081.2 - Prevention and Control Measures.

### 1. Roads.

#### a. Required Objectives and Associated Practices.

(1) Incorporate weed prevention into road layout, design, and alternative evaluation. Environmental analysis for road construction and reconstruction will include weed risk assessment.

(2) Remove the seed source that could be picked up by passing vehicles and limit seed transport in new and reconstruction areas.

(a) Remove all mud, dirt, and plant parts from all off road equipment before moving into project area. Cleaning must occur off National Forest lands. This does not apply to service vehicles that will stay on the roadway, traveling frequently in and out of the project area.

(b) Clean all equipment prior to leaving the project site, if operating in areas infested with new invaders as determined by the Forest Weed Specialist. Reference Contract Provision C/CT 6.626.

(3) Re-establish vegetation on bare ground due to construction and reconstruction activity to minimize weed spread.

(a) Revegetate all disturbed soil, except the travel way on surfaced roads, in a manner that optimizes plant establishment for that specific site, unless ongoing disturbance at the site will prevent weed establishment. Use native material where appropriate and available. Use a seed mix that includes fast, early season species to provide quick, dense revegetation. To avoid weed contaminated seed, each lot must be tested by a certified seed laboratory against the all State noxious weed lists and documentation of the seed inspection test provided.

(b) Use local seeding guidelines for detailed procedures and appropriate mixes. Use native material where appropriate and available. Revegetation may include planting, seeding, fertilization, and weed-free mulching as indicated by local prescriptions.

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- (c) Monitor and evaluate success of revegetation in relation to project plan. Repeat as indicated by local prescriptions.
- (4) Minimize the movement of existing and new weed species caused by moving infested gravel and fill material. The borrow pit will not be used if new invaders, defined by the Forest Weed Specialist, are found on site.
- (5) Minimize sources of weed seed in areas not yet revegetated. If straw is used for road stabilization and erosion control, it must be certified weed-free or weed-seed free.
- (6) Minimize roadside sources of weed seed that could be transported to other areas during maintenance.
- (a) Look for priority weed species during road maintenance and report back to District Weed Specialist.
- (b) Do not blade roads or pull ditches where new invaders are found.
- (c) Maintain desirable roadside vegetation. If desirable vegetation is removed during blading or other ground disturbing activities, area must be revegetated according to section (3) (a), (b), (c) above.
- (d) Remove all mud, dirt, and plant parts from all off road equipment before moving into project area. Cleaning must occur off National Forest lands. (This does not apply to service vehicles that will stay on the roadway, traveling frequently in and out of the project area.)
- (e) Clean all equipment prior to leaving the project site, if operating in areas infested with new invaders, as determined by the Forest Weed Specialist. Reference Contract Provision C/CT 6.626.
- (f) Straw used for road stabilization and erosion control will be certified weed-free or weed-seed-free.
- (7) Reduce weed establishment in road obliteration/reclamation projects. Revegetate according to section (3) (a), (b), (c) above.
- b. Recommended Objectives and Associated Practices.
- (1) Retain shade to suppress weeds. Consider minimizing the removal of trees and other roadside vegetation during construction, reconstruction, and maintenance, particularly on southerly aspects.

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- (2) Consider re-establishing vegetation on bare ground due to construction and reconstruction activity to minimize weed spread. Road maintenance programs should include scheduled fertilization to maintain vigor of competitive vegetation (3-year period suggested).
  - (3) Minimize the movement of existing and new weed species caused by moving infested gravel and fill material. All gravel and borrow sources should be inspected and approved before use and transport. The source will not be used if the weeds present at the pit are not found at the site of intended use. If weeds are present, they must be treated before transport and use.
  - (4) Minimize roadside sources of weed seed that could be transported to other areas. Weed infestations should be inventoried and scheduled for treatment.
  - (5) Ensure that weed prevention and related resource protection are considered in travel management. Consider weed risk and spread factors in travel plan (road closure) decisions.
  - (6) Reduce weed establishment in road obliteration/reclamation projects. Consider treating weeds in road obliteration and reclamation projects before roads are made undriveable. Monitor and retreat as indicated by local analysis and prescription.
  - (7) Evaluate and prioritize noxious weeds along existing Forest Service access roads leading to project area and treat as indicated by local analysis and prescriptions, before construction equipment moves into project area. New road construction must be revegetated as described in Weed Prevention measure, see Roads Required Objectives and Associated Practices section (3) (a), (b), (c) above.
2. Recreation, Wilderness, Roadless Areas.
- a. Required Objectives and Associated Practices.
    - (1) Minimize transport and establishment of weeds on National Forest Service lands.
      - (a) Include environmental analysis for recreation and trail projects in weed risk assessment.
      - (b) Post and enforce statewide weed-free feed orders.
      - (c) Seed only when necessary at backcountry sites to minimize introduction of nonnative species and weeds. Reseed according to Roads (3) (a), (b), (c) above.
    - (2) Reduce weed establishment and spread from activities covered by Recreation Special Use Permits.

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(a) Include Clause R1-D4, (or subsequent approved direction), in all new and reissued recreation special use permits, authorizations, or other grants involving ground-disturbing activities. Include this provision in existing ground-disturbing authorizations, which are being amended for other reasons.

(b) Revegetate bare soil resulting from special use activity according to Roads (3) (a), (b), (c) above.

(3) Prevent weed establishment resulting from land and float trail use, construction, reconstruction and maintenance activities.

(a) Clean all equipment prior to leaving the project site, if operating in areas infested with new invaders (as determined by the Forest Weed Specialist).

b. Recommended Objectives and Associated Practices.

(1) Minimize transport and establishment of weeds on National Forest System (NFS) lands.

(a) Encourage backcountry pack and saddle stock users to feed only weed-free feed for several days prior to traveling off roads in the Forest. Before entering NFS land, animals should be brushed to remove any weed seed.

(b) Stock should be tied and/or held in the backcountry in such a way as to minimize soil disturbance and avoid loss of native/desirable vegetation.

(c) Maintain trailheads, boat launches, outfitter and public camps, airstrips, roads leading to trailheads, and other areas of concentrated public use in a weed-free condition.

(d) Motorized and/or mechanized (such as mountain bikes) trail users should inspect and clean their vehicles prior to using NFS lands.

(2) Consider reducing weed establishment and spread from activities covered by recreation, special use permits. Consider including Clause R1-D4, (or subsequent approved direction), by amending existing ground-disturbing authorizations as indicated by local prescriptions.

(3) Prevent weed establishment resulting from land and float trail use, construction, reconstruction, and maintenance activities.

(a) All trail crews should inspect, remove, and properly dispose of weed seed and plant parts found on their clothing and equipment.

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(b) Inspect and approve all gravel and borrow sources before use and transport. The source will not be used if the weeds present at the pit are not found at the site of intended use. If weeds are present, they must be treated before transport and use.

3. Cultural Resources.

Required Objectives and Associated Practices. Reduce weed establishment and spread at archeological excavations.

Revegetate bare soil resulting from cultural resource excavation activity according to the Roads (3) (a), (b), (c) section above.

4. Wildlife, Fisheries, and Botany.

Required Objectives and Associated Practices. Incorporate weed prevention into wildlife, fisheries, and botany project design.

- a. Include weed risk assessment in environmental analysis for wildlife, fish and botany projects with ground disturbing actions.
- b. Revegetate bare soil resulting from wildlife and fish project activity according to the Roads (3) (a), (b), (c) section above.
- c. Remove all mud, dirt, and plant parts from all off road equipment before moving into project area. Cleaning must occur off National Forest lands. (This does not apply to service vehicles that will stay on the roadway, traveling frequently in and out of the project area.)
- d. Clean all equipment prior to leaving the project site, if operating in areas infested with new invaders (as determined by the Forest Weed Specialist).

5. Range.

a. Required Objectives and Associated Practices.

(1) Ensure weed prevention and control are considered in management of all grazing allotments.

(a) Include weed risk assessment in environmental analysis for rangeland projects.

(b) When other plans do not already address noxious weeds, include practices and control measures in Annual Operating Plans.

(2) Minimize ground disturbance and bare soil.



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- (a) Revegetate, where applicable, bare soil from grazing activities according to the Roads (3) (a), (b), (c) section above.
- (b) Check areas of concentrated livestock use for weed establishment and treat new infestations.
- (3) Minimize transport of weed seed into and within allotments.
  - (a) Remove all mud, dirt, and plant parts from all off road equipment before moving into project area. Cleaning must occur off National Forest lands. (This does not apply to service vehicles that will stay on the roadway, traveling frequently in and out of the project area.)
  - (b) Clean all equipment prior to leaving the project site, if operating in areas infested with new invaders (as determined by the Forest Weed Specialist).
  - (c) Straw used for road stabilization and erosion control will be certified weed-free or weed-seed-free.

b. Recommended Objectives and Associated Practices.

- (1) Transport of weed seed into and within allotments should be minimized.
  - (a) Avoid driving vehicles through off-road weed infestations.
  - (b) Feed certified weed-free feed to livestock for several days prior to moving them onto the allotment to reduce the introduction of new invaders and spread of existing weed species. Consider using transitional pastures when moving animals from weed infested areas to the National Forest. (Transitional pastures are designated fenced areas that can be logistically and economically maintained.)
  - (c) Consider excluding livestock from sites with new invaders or treat new invaders in these areas before entry by livestock.
- (2) Maintain healthy desirable vegetation that is resistant to noxious weed establishment.
  - (a) Consider managing forage utilization to maintain the vigor of desirable plant species as described in the Allotment Management Plan.
  - (b) Minimize or exclude grazing on restoration areas until vegetation is well established.

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6. Timber.

a. Required Objectives and Associated Practices.

(1) Ensure that weed prevention is considered in all pre-harvest timber projects.

(a) Include weed risk assessment in environmental analysis for timber harvest projects.

(b) Remove all mud, dirt, and plant parts from all off road equipment before moving into project area. Cleaning must occur off National Forest lands. (This does not apply to service vehicles that will stay on the roadway, traveling frequently in and out of the project area.) Reference Contract Provision C/CT6.26

(c) Clean all equipment prior to leaving the project site, if operating in areas infested with new invaders (as designated by the Forest Weed Specialist). Reference Contract Provision C/CT6.261

(2) Minimize the creation of sites suitable for weed establishment. Revegetate bare soil as described in the Roads (3) (a), (b), (c) section above.

b. Recommended Objectives and Associated Practices.

(1) Ensure that weed prevention is considered in all timber projects.

(a) Consider treating weeds on roads used by timber sale purchasers. Reference Contract Provision C/CT6.26.

(b) Treat weeds on landings, skid trails and helibases that are weed infested before logging activities, where practical.

(2) Minimize the creation of sites suitable for weed establishment. Soil disturbance should be minimized to meet harvest project objectives.

(3) Consider monitoring for weeds after sale activity and treat weeds as indicated by local prescriptions.

(a) Consider trust, stewardship, or other funds to treat soil disturbance or weeds as needed after timber harvest and regeneration activities.

(b) Consider monitoring and treating weed infestations at landings and on skid trails after harvest.

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7. Minerals.

a. Required Objectives and Associated Practices.

(1) Minimize weed establishment in mining, oil and gas operations, and reclamation.

(a) Include weed risk assessment in environmental analysis for minerals and oil and gas projects.

(b) Include weed prevention measures in operation and/or reclamation plans.

(c) Retain bonds until reclamation requirements are completed.

(d) Revegetate bare soil as described in the Roads (3) (a), (b), (c) section above.

(2) Remove seed source and limit seed transport into new or existing mining and oil and gas operations. Remove all mud, dirt, and plant parts from all off road equipment before moving into project area. Cleaning must occur off National Forest lands. (This does not apply to service vehicles that will stay on the roadway, traveling frequently in and out of the project area.)

(3) Minimize weed spread caused by moving infested gravel and fill material.

(a) The borrow pit will not be used if new invaders (as defined by the Forest Weed Specialist) are found on the site.

(b) Remove all mud, dirt, and plant parts from all off road equipment before moving into project area. Cleaning must occur off National Forest lands. (This does not apply to service vehicles that will stay on the roadway, traveling frequently in and out of the project area.)

(c) Do not establish new gravel and fill material sources in areas where new invaders are present on National Forest Service lands. Where widespread weeds occur at new pit sites strip at least the top 8" and stockpile contaminated material. Treat weeds at new pits where widespread weeds are present.

b. Recommended Objectives and Associated Practices.

(1) Consider removing seed source and limiting seed transport into new or existing mining and oil and gas operations. Where applicable, treat weeds on project access routes. Reference Contract Provision C/CT6.27.

(2) Minimize weed spread caused by moving infested gravel and fill material.

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- (a) Inspect and approve all gravel and borrow sources before use and transport. The source should not be used if the weeds present at the pit are not found at the site of intended use. If weeds are present, they should be treated before transport and use.
- (b) Consider maintaining stockpiled material in a weed-free condition.
- (c) Check the area where pit material is used to ensure that no weed seeds are transported to the use site.

8. Soil and Water.

a. Required Objectives and Associated Practices.

- (1) It is required that integrated weed prevention and management be used in all soil, watershed, and stream restoration projects.
  - (a) Include weed risk assessment in environmental analysis for soil, watershed, and stream restoration projects with ground disturbing actions.
  - (b) Revegetate bare soil resulting from excavation activity according to the Roads (3) (a), (b), (c) section above.
  - (c) Remove all mud, dirt, and plant parts from all off road equipment before moving into project area. Cleaning must occur off National Forest lands. (This does not apply to service vehicles that will stay on the roadway, traveling frequently in and out of the project area.)
  - (d) Clean all equipment prior to leaving the project site, if operation in areas infested with new invaders (as designated by the Forest Weed Specialist).
  - (e) Straw used for road stabilization and erosion control will be certified weed-free or weed-seed-free.

b. Recommended Objectives and Associated Practices.

Integrate weed prevention and management in all soil, watershed, and stream restoration projects by considering treating weeds in road obliteration and reclamation projects before roads are made undriveable. Monitor and retreat as indicated by local prescriptions.

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9. Lands and Special Uses.

a. Required Objectives and Associated Practices.

(1) Incorporate weed prevention provisions in all special use permits, road use permits, and easements.

(a) Include weed risk assessment in environmental analysis for land projects with ground disturbing actions.

(b) Revegetate bare soil as described in the Roads (3) (a), (b), (c) section above, as a condition of the authorization.

(c) Include approved special use provision R1-D4, see FSH 2709.11, chapter 50, (or subsequent approved direction) in all new and reissued special use permits, authorizations, or other grants involving ground disturbing activities. Include this provision in existing ground disturbing authorizations, which are being amended for other reasons .

(d) Include noxious weed prevention and control measures as indicated by local prescriptions in new or reissued road permits or easements granted pursuant to FLPMA (P.L. 94579 0/2/76), FRTA (P.L. 88657 0/3/64) or subsequent authorities. This includes FLPMA Private and Forest Road Permits and Easements; FRTA Private and Forest Road Easements; Cost Share Easements; and Road Use (commercial haul) Permits (7730). (While the approved terms and conditions of certain permits or easements may not provide for modification, the necessary weed prevention and control provisions may be included in written plans, specifications, stipulations and /or operation and maintenance plans attached to and made a part of the authorization.)

(e) Clean all equipment prior to leaving the project site, if operating in areas infested with New Invaders (as designated by the Forest Weed Specialist).

(2) Minimize weed spread caused by moving infested gravel and fill material.

(a) Do not establish new gravel and fill material sources on National Forest Service lands in areas where new invaders are present. Where widespread weeds occur at new pit sites strip at least the top 8" and stockpile contaminated material. Treat weeds at new pits where widespread weeds are present.

(b) Remove all mud, dirt, and plant parts from all off-road equipment before moving into project area. Cleaning must occur off National Forest lands. (This does not

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apply to service vehicles that will stay on the roadway, traveling frequently in and out of the project area.)

b. Recommended Objectives and Associated Practices.

(1) Incorporate weed prevention provisions in all special use permits, road use permits and easements.

(a) Consider including special use provision R1-D4 by amending existing ground disturbing authorizations as indicated by local prescriptions.

(b) Consider including noxious weed prevention and control provisions by amending existing ground disturbing authorizations when determined to be necessary by the authorized officer. (While the approved terms and conditions of certain permits or easements may not provide for modification, the necessary weed prevention and control provisions may be included in written plans, specifications, stipulations and/or operation and maintenance plans attached to and made a part of the authorization.)

(2) Minimize weed spread caused by moving infested gravel and fill material. All gravel and borrow sources should be inspected and approved before use and transport. The source should not be used if the weeds present at the pit are not found at the site of intended use. If weeds are present, they should be treated before transport and use.

10. Fire.

a. Required Objectives and Associated Practices.

(1) Increase weed awareness among all fire personnel. Include weed risk factors and weed prevention considerations in the Resource Advisor duties on all Incident Management Teams and Fire Rehabilitation Teams during pre-fire, pre-incident training.

(2) Mitigate and reduce weed spread during wild fire activities

(a) Initiate establishment of a network of helibases, camps and staging areas that will be maintained in a noxious weed-free condition.

(b) Minimize weed spread in camps by incorporating weed prevention and containment practices such as mowing, flagging or fencing weed patches, designating weed-free travel routes and washing equipment.

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- (c) Inspect all fire going vehicles regularly to assure that undercarriages and grill works are kept weed seed free. All vehicles sent off Forest for fire assistance will be cleaned before they leave or return to their home.
- (3) Minimize weed spread during smoke jumper operations.
  - (a) Inspect, remove, and properly dispose of weed seed and plant parts found on clothing and equipment.
  - (b) Coordinate with Weed Specialist(s) to locate and/or treat practice jump areas.
- (4) Mitigate and reduce weed spread in Air Operations.
  - (a) Initiate establishment of a network of helibases that will be maintained in a noxious weed-free condition.
  - (b) Minimize weed spread at helibases by incorporating weed prevention and containment practices such as mowing, flagging or fencing weed patches, designating weed-free travel routes.
  - (c) Provide weed prevention briefings for helibase staff.
  - (d) Inspect, and if necessary clean, contract fuel and support vehicles before and after each incident when travelling off road or through weed infestations.
  - (e) Inspect and remove weed seed and plant parts from all cargo nets.
- (5) Mitigate and reduce weed spread from Logistics Operations activities.
  - (a) Look for weed-free camps, staging, drop points and parking areas.
  - (b) Regularly inspect and clean fire vehicles as necessary to assure that undercarriages and grill works are kept weed seed free.
- (6) Integrate weed prevention and management in all prescribed burning. Mitigate and reduce weed spread during prescribed fire activities.
  - (a) Include weed risk assessment in environmental analysis for prescribed fire projects.
  - (b) Coordinate with local Noxious Weed Management Specialist to utilize helibases that are maintained in a weed-free condition, whenever possible.
  - (c) All crews should inspect, remove, and properly dispose of weed seed and plant parts found on their clothing and equipment.

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(d) Add weed awareness and prevention education to Fire Effects and Prescribed Fire training.

(7) Encourage desirable vegetation during rehabilitation activities.

(a) Revegetate only erosion susceptible and high risk areas (as defined in Regional Risk Assessment Factors and Rating protocol) as described in the Roads (3) (a), (b), (c) section above.

(b) Straw used for road stabilization and erosion control will be certified weed-free or weed-seed-free.

b. Recommended Objectives and Associated Practices.

(1) Mitigate and reduce weed spread during fire activities.

(a) Initiate establishment of a network of helibases, camps, and staging areas on private land that will be maintained in a noxious weed-free condition.

(b) Consider checking and treating weeds that establish at cleaning sites after fire incidents, during rehabilitation.

(c) Emphasize Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (M.I.S.T.) to reduce soil and vegetation disturbance.

(2) Minimize weed spread during smokejumper operations. Travel through weed infested areas should be avoided or minimized.

(3) Mitigate and reduced weed spread from Logistics Operations activities. Traffic should be routed through camps to avoid weed infested areas.

(4) Integrate weed prevention and management in all prescribed burning. Mitigate and reduce weed spread during prescribed fire activities.

(a) Consider treating high risk areas (as defined in Regional Risk Assessment Factors and Rating protocol) with weed infestations (such as roads, disturbed ground) before burning and check and retreat after burning if necessary.

(b) Consider avoiding ignition and burning in high risk areas (as defined in Regional Risk Assessment Factors and Rating protocol) that cannot be treated before or after prescribed fire.

(5) Encourage desirable vegetation during rehabilitation activities.

(a) Check and treat weeds at cleaning sites and all disturbed staging areas.



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- (b) Treat weeds within the burned area as part of rehabilitation plan to reduce weed spread.
- (c) Check weed spread resulting from fire and fire suppression activities.
- (d) Consider applying for restoration funding for treatment of weed infestations within the fire area.

11. Administration.

a. Required Objectives and Associated Practices.

(1) Ensure all Forest Service employees are aware of and knowledgeable about noxious weeds.

(a) Train Line Officers in noxious weed management principles and practices.

(b) Each unit will have access to Weed Specialist at the Ranger District or Supervisor's Office.

(2) Ensure all Forest workers are reducing the chance of spreading noxious weeds. All Forest workers will inspect, remove, and properly dispose of weed seed and plant parts found on their clothing and equipment including Forest Service vehicles.

b. Recommended Objectives and Associated Practices.

Consider a reward program for weed awareness, reporting, and beating new invaders.

## **2082 - COOPERATION.**

1. Required Objectives and Associated Practices. Coordinate road maintenance activities with herbicide applications to maximize efficacy. Ensure road blading and roadside herbicide applications are coordinated chronologically to minimize herbicide use and increase effectiveness.

2. Recommended Objectives and Associated Practices. Consider providing Plans Section with weed control contact familiar with weeds in the fire area.

### **2082.2 - Methods of Cooperation.**

6. Region 1 Required Objectives and Associated Practices.

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- a. Reduce weed establishment and spread at archeological excavations. Passports In Time programs and other Cultural Resource workers shall be given weed briefings and will inspect, remove, and properly dispose of weed seed and plant parts found on their clothing and equipment.
- b. Promote weed awareness and prevention efforts among range permittees. Discuss weed awareness and prevention practices at annual permittee meetings.