

APPENDIX B3

NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Noxious Weed Management Plan and the Noxious/Invasive Weeds Risk Assessment Form (Attachment B3-1) were reviewed and approved by the BLM in January of 2008. As a point of explanation for this appendix, it should be noted that the project areas which are now separately designated as the SWIP – Southern Portion and the SWIP – Central Portion in this COM Plan were originally referred to collectively as the SWIP – Southern Portion at the time BLM approved this Noxious Weed Management Plan.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	Introduction	B3- 1
1.1	Background	B3- 1
1.2	Plan Purpose	B3- 1
1.3	Goals and Objectives	B3- 1
1.4	Project Description	B3- 2
2.0	Noxious Weed Inventory	B3- 2
2.1	State Listed Noxious Weeds	B3- 2
2.2	Inventory of Noxious Weeds within the Project Area.....	B3- 4
2.3	Weed Management Areas.....	B3- 4
3.0	Noxious Weed Management.....	B3- 5
3.1	Identification of Problem Areas	B3- 5
3.2	Preventive Measures.....	B3- 5
3.3	Treatment Methods	B3- 7
3.4	Agency Specific Requirements	B3-7
4.0	Monitoring	B3- 9
4.1	Reclamation Monitoring.....	B3- 9
4.2	Ongoing Monitoring	B3- 9
5.0	Pesticide Application, Handling, Spills, and Cleanup.....	B3-10
5.1	Pesticide Application and Handling	B3-10
5.2	Pesticide Spills and Cleanup	B3-11
5.3	Worker Safety and Spill Reporting	B3-11

Attachment B3-1 – Noxious/Invasive Weed Risk Assessment Form and Definition of Risk Factors

LIST OF TABLES

B3-1	Noxious Weed Species of Potential Concern	B3- 3
B3-2	Noxious Weed Species Found During Pre-Construction Surveys - 2006	B3- 5

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) defines Noxious Weeds as “a plant that interferes with management objectives for a given area of land at a given point in time,” and the State of Nevada defines noxious weeds as “any species of plant which is, or liable to be, detrimental or destructive and difficult to control or eradicate...” Noxious weeds are opportunistic plant species that readily flourish in disturbed areas, thereby preventing native plant species from re-establishing communities.

The format and content of this Noxious Weed Plan complies with the *Draft Noxious Weed Plan, A Plan for Integrated Weed Management, Las Vegas Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, September, 2006*, and includes a discussion on (1) the plan purpose and goals and objectives, (2) the noxious weed inventory, (3) noxious weed management practices, (4) monitoring, and (5) the use of pesticides.

1.2 Plan Purpose

The Nevada Department of Agriculture has identified noxious weeds that occur within the State of Nevada. Some of these noxious weeds have the potential to occur on the project right-of-way. This Noxious Weed Management Plan provides methods to control the potential occurrence/infestation of noxious weeds during and following construction of the SWIP-Southern Portion. It is the responsibility of the Project Proponent and/or the Construction Contractor(s), working with the Construction Inspection Compliance (CIC) Contractor, and BLM Project Manager, to ensure that noxious weeds are identified and controlled during the construction of project facilities and that all federal, state, county, and other local requirements are satisfied, with respect to noxious weeds. The control of invasive species (not classified as Noxious Weeds) is addressed in Appendix F – Right-of-Way Preparation, Rehabilitation, and Restoration Plan.

1.3 Goals And Objectives

The goal of this Noxious Weed Management Plan is to implement early detection, containment, and control of noxious weeds during project construction. Information gathered during pre-construction surveys and provided by the BLM, will be used to monitor and control the spread of noxious weeds that may pose a potential infestation threat during the construction and operation of the transmission line in areas on or adjacent to the southern portion of the SWIP. These preventative and treatment measures are described in Section 3 of the Noxious Weed Management Plan. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the prescribed control measures (Section 4 of the plan) also will be implemented during the operational phase of the transmission line.

1.4 Project Description

Great Basin Transmission, LLC (Great Basin) proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a single-circuit, overhead 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between the Harry Allen Substation, located in Dry Lake, Nevada, north to an area approximately 3 miles west of the proposed White Pine Energy Station (WPES) located approximately 34 miles north of Ely, Nevada.

Located in White Pine, Nye, Lincoln, and Clark counties, the transmission line (approximately 264 miles in length) will consist of self-supporting, steel-lattice, and steel-pole, H-frame structures placed approximately 1,200 to 1,500 feet apart. The transmission line will include a new substation west of Ely (Thirtymile Substation), where it will interconnect with the existing 345kV Falcon to Gonder line, and will interconnect into the existing Harry Allen Substation at its southern terminus. A detailed project description may be found in Section 3 of the COM Plan, and construction activities are summarized in Section 4 and Appendix A – Construction Considerations. General maintenance and operation of the project is described in Section 5 of the COM Plan.

2.0 NOXIOUS WEED INVENTORY

The noxious weed inventory for the southern portion of the SWIP included (1) the identification of weed species that are designated noxious by the State of Nevada and having the potential to occur within the area affected by the project; and (2) the gathering of information to identify specific noxious weed populations in the project area, including pre-construction surveys along the project right-of-way.

2.1 State Listed Noxious Weeds

The State of Nevada and US Department of Agriculture maintains an official list of weed species that are designated noxious for the State. The Nevada Control of Insects, Pests, and Noxious Weeds Act (Nevada Revised Statutes: Chapter 555) grants the Director of the Nevada Department of Agriculture the authority to investigate and control noxious plants. The State of Nevada has officially designated 47 weed species as noxious (Table B3-1). The following is an explanation of the categories established for noxious weeds by the Nevada Department of Agriculture. Note that these are descriptions only and that all weeds on the list will be treated equally.

Category “A”

- Weeds not found or limited in distribution throughout the state
- Actively excluded from the state and actively eradicated wherever found
- Actively eradicated from nursery premises
- Control required by the state in all infestations

Category “B”

- Weeds established in scattered populations in some counties of the state
- Actively excluded where possible
- Actively eradicated from nursery premises
- Control required by the state in areas where populations are not well-established or previously unknown to occur

Category “C”

- Weeds currently established and generally widespread in many counties of the state
- Actively eradicated from nursery premises
- Abatement at the discretion of the State Quarantine Officer

TABLE B3-1 NOXIOUS WEED SPECIES OF POTENTIAL CONCERN		
Common Name	Scientific Name	State Category
African Rue	<i>Peganum harmala</i>	A
Austrian fieldcress	<i>Rorippa austiraca</i>	A
Austrian peaweed	<i>Sphaerophysa salsula/Swainsona salsula</i>	A
Camelthorn	<i>Alhagi camelorum</i>	A
Common crupina	<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>	A
Dalmation toadflax	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>	A
Dyer’s woad	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	A
Eurasian water-milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	A
Giant reed	<i>Arundo donax</i>	A
Giant salvina	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	A
Goats rue	<i>Galega officinalis</i>	A
Hounds tongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	A
Hydrilla	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	A
Iberian star thistle	<i>Centaurea iberica</i>	A
Klamath weed	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	A
Leafy spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	A
Malta star thistle	<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>	A
Mayweed chamomile	<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	A
Mediterranean sage	<i>Salvia aethiopsis</i>	A
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria, L.virgatum and their cultivars</i>	A
Purple star thistle	<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	A
Rush skeleton weed	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	A
Sow thistle	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	A
Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea masculosa</i>	A
Squarrose star thistle	<i>Centaurea virgata Lam. Var. squarrose</i>	A
Sulfur cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla recta</i>	A
Syrian bean caper	<i>Zygophyllum fabago</i>	A
Yellow starthistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	A
Yellow toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	A
Carolina horse-nettle	<i>Solanum carolinense</i>	B
Diffuse knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	B
Medusahead	<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>	B
Musk thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	B
Russian knapweed	<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	B
Sahara mustard	<i>Brassica tournefortii</i>	B

TABLE B3-1 NOXIOUS WEED SPECIES OF POTENTIAL CONCERN		
Common Name	Scientific Name	State Category
Scotch thistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	B
White-horse thistle	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	B
Black henbane	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	C
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	C
Green fountain grass	<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	C
Hoary cress	<i>Cardaria draba</i>	C
Johnson grass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	C
Perennial pepperweed	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	C
Poison hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	C
Puncture vine	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	C
Salt cedar (tamarisk)	<i>Tamarix spp</i>	C
Water hemlock	<i>Cicuta maculate</i>	C

Source: Nevada Department of Agriculture: Noxious Weed List Internet Site:
http://agri.nv.gov/nwac/PLANT_NoXWeedList.htm

2.2 Inventory Of Noxious Weeds Within The Project Area

Pre-construction field surveys were conducted from April through June of 2006 to identify existing noxious weed infestations along the southern portion of the SWIP. The survey results are presented in the pre-construction survey report prepared for this project, *Noxious Weed Survey for the SWIP Transmission Line Corridor*, 2006, and are presented in Table B3-2.

In addition to this survey, information on noxious weed occurrences known to occur within or adjacent to the project area, including the location and extent of infestations, was provided by the BLM Ely Field Office in the form of a geographic information system data layer.

2.3 Weed Management Areas

Table B3-2 lists noxious weed infestations along the SWIP-Southern Portion that were identified from data information provided by the BLM based on past studies, or through the pre-construction field surveys that will be included in eradication programs.

The location of each area is also illustrated in Volume II of the COM Plan, Map Sets 1 and 2.

TABLE B3-2 NOXIOUS WEED SPECIES FOUND DURING PRE-CONSTRUCTION SURVEYS - 2006				
Species	Common Name	Number of Locations	State Category	Nearest Tower Number
<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Russian knapweed	1	B	385
<i>Brassica tournefortii</i>	Sahara mustard	1	B	879-880
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Hoary cress (White-top)	2	C	72
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk thistle	2	B	44, 47-48
<i>Centaurea masculosa</i>	Spotted knapweed	2	A	109
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull thistle*	4	-	245-246
<i>Tamarix spp.</i>	Salt cedar	5	C	760-761, 974

* Bull Thistle is projected to be included as a noxious weed in the State of Nevada (Brandon Vaught)

3.0 NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT

Regulatory agencies along the proposed transmission alignment, and specifically the BLM, have varying requirements for weed management. A risk assessment has been performed based on the results of the inventory of noxious weeds and using the protocol established by the Las Vegas Field Office (see Attachment B3-1 - Noxious/Invasive Weeds Risk Assessment Form). Based upon the results of this assessment, it has been determined that the risk rating for this project is low to moderate.

The management of noxious weeds will be considered throughout all stages of the project including:

- educating all construction personnel regarding the problem areas that have been identified and the importance of preventative measures and treatment methods
- specific preventative measures to prevent the spread of noxious weeds
- pre- and post-construction treatment methods to be applied to areas of noxious weed infestation

Following is a description of the measures that may be required for noxious weed management as directed by the BLM or State Quarantine Officer. Applicable measures will be agreed upon prior to the onset of any ground disturbing activities and this Noxious Weed Management Plan will be modified accordingly.

3.1 Identification Of Problem Areas

Prior to the initiation of construction activities, all construction personnel will be instructed on the importance of controlling noxious weeds. As part of start-up activities, the Construction Contractor will provide information and training regarding noxious weed management. The importance of preventing the spread of noxious weeds in areas not infested, and controlling the proliferation of weeds already present will be emphasized. Prior to construction, areas of concern previously identified will be flagged by the Construction Contractor and reviewed by the CIC. This flagging will alert construction personnel and prevent access into areas until noxious weed management control measures, as described below, have been implemented.

3.2 Preventive Measures

As part of the weed management program, the following preventative measures will be implemented to prevent the spread of noxious weeds during the construction activities, as well as during restoration and reclamation efforts. Detailed information regarding right-of-way preparation, rehabilitation, and restoration, along with the control of invasive plant species is provided in Appendix F – Right-of-Way Preparation, Rehabilitation and Restoration Plan.

The following preventative measures are to be applied on a case-by-case basis, where applicable and necessary, at the discretion of the BLM, CIC and Biological Monitors (weed specialists). Prior to ground disturbing activities, in previously identified areas, including those

known to exhibit noxious weeds (Table B3-2) a qualified weed specialist will survey the proposed disturbance area. The weed specialist working in conjunction with the BLM and CIC will identify areas where the following measures shall be implemented.

- Where feasible, construction will begin in weed-free areas before operating in weed-infested areas. All movement of construction vehicles outside of the right-of-way will be restricted to pre-designated access, contractor-acquired access, or public roads. All construction sites and access roads shall be clearly marked or flagged at the outer limits prior to the onset of any surface-disturbing activity. All personnel shall be informed that their activities must be confined within the marked or flagged areas.
- Prior to arrival at the work site, all Contractor vehicles and equipment will be cleaned using high-pressure equipment (compressed air). The cleaning activities will concentrate on tracks, feet, or tires and on the undercarriage, with special emphasis on axles, frame, cross members, motor mounts, and on underneath steps, running boards, and front bumper/brush guard assemblies. Vehicle cabs will be swept out and refuse will be disposed of in waste receptacles. The location of vehicle cleaning stations will be identified by the Construction Contractor, and reviewed by the BLM Project Manager for approval. Also, when moving from weed infested areas to other areas along the transmission line right-of-way, all construction vehicles and equipment will be cleaned using compressed air before proceeding to new locations.
- Construction personnel will inspect, remove, and dispose of weed seed and plant parts found on their clothing and equipment. Disposal methods will be approved by the BLM Project Manager.
- The Contractor, with CIC oversight, will ensure that vehicles and equipment are free of soil and debris capable of transporting noxious weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes before the vehicles and equipment are allowed use of access roads on the right-of-way.
- In areas where infestations are identified or noted, the Contractor will stockpile cleared vegetation and salvaged topsoil adjacent to the area, to eliminate the transport of soil-borne noxious weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes.
- Where necessary, during reclamation, the Contractor will return topsoil and vegetative material from infestation sites. The Contractor will use compressed air to remove seeds, roots, and rhizomes from the equipment before transport off-site. Cleaning sites will be recorded using global positioning system equipment and this information will be reported to the local contact person or agency.
- The Contractor will ensure that straw or hay bales used for sediment barrier installations or mulch distribution are obtained from state-cleared sources that are certified free of primary noxious weeds.
- Immediately following construction, the Contractor will implement the reclamation of disturbed land as outlined in Appendix F - Right-of-Way Preparation, Rehabilitation, and Restoration Plan as required. Continuing revegetation efforts will ensure adequate vegetative cover, preventing the invasion of noxious weeds. The Contractor will apply

fertilizer to reclaimed areas only, according to this restoration plan and as directed by the BLM.

3.3 Treatment Methods

The Construction Contractor and/or Project Proponent will implement noxious weed control measures in accordance with existing regulations and BLM requirements. Before construction, only pesticides that are approved by the BLM will be applied to the identified weed infestations on BLM land, to reduce the spread or proliferation of weeds (see Section 5 of the Noxious Weed Management Plan). Post-construction control measures can include one or more of the following methods (that may be implemented during restoration activities):

- Treatment methods will be based on species-specific and area-specific conditions (e.g., proximity to water or riparian areas, agricultural areas, and time of year) and will be coordinated with the BLM Project Manager. If areas are not seeded until the following spring, because of weather or scheduling constraints, all undesirable vegetation will be eradicated before seeding.
- Mechanical methods rely on equipment that can be used to mow or disc weed populations. If such a method is used in areas to be restored, subsequent seeding will be conducted to re-establish a desirable vegetative cover that will stabilize the soils and slow the potential re-invasion of noxious weeds.
- Discing or other mechanical treatments, that would disturb the soil surface within native habitats, will be avoided in favor of pesticide application, which is an effective means of reducing the size of noxious weed populations as well as preventing the establishment of new colonies.
- Seed selection will be based on site-specific conditions and the appropriate seed mix identified for those conditions, as presented in Appendix F - Right-of-Way Preparation, Rehabilitation, and Restoration Plan.
- Pesticide applications will be controlled, as described in Section 5, to minimize the impacts on the surrounding vegetation. In areas of dense infestation, a broader application will be used and a follow-up seeding program will be implemented.
- Supplemental seeding will be based on the criteria in Appendix F - Right-of-Way Preparation, Rehabilitation, and Restoration Plan, if required. The timing of subsequent re-vegetation efforts will be based on the life of the selected pesticide.

3.4 Agency Specific Requirements

The Nevada State Department of Agriculture regulates noxious weeds under NRS 555, which mandates that “every landowner or occupier, whether private, city, county, or federal shall cut, destroy, or eradicate all noxious weeds as required by the state quarantine officer.” Through the implementation of this Weed Management Plan and in conjunction with the BLM (as described

below), the project will be in compliance with NRS 555. The following is a discussion regarding BLM stipulations, and personnel and equipment requirements.

3.4.1 Bureau of Land Management Land

The *Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on Vegetation Treatment on BLM Land in Thirteen Western States* lists 19 pesticides acceptable for use on BLM lands (USDI 1991). The pesticides approved for use on the SWIP–Southern Portion will be reviewed and approved by the BLM prior to initiation of construction. Guidelines for the use of chemical control of vegetation on BLM lands are presented in the Chemical Pest Control Manual. These guidelines require submittal of a Pesticide Use Proposal which will be prepared by the Contractor and submitted to the BLM for review and approval prior to initiation of construction activities. Once approved any use of pesticides will require Pesticide Application Records (PARs) that detail the use and application. The PARs will then be submitted to the BLM in a timely manner.

The occurrence of noxious weeds within the SWIP – Southern Portion corridor will be reported to the BLM district (field) office, within whose jurisdiction the weeds occur. The appropriate weed control procedures, including target species, timing of control, and method of control, will be determined in consultation with the BLM by the Contractor, based on the procedures outlined in this Noxious Weed Plan. The Project Proponent may be able to take advantage of any existing cooperative agreements between the BLM and the counties by providing the funds required for county personnel to implement the necessary weed control procedures. If not, the Project Proponent will be responsible for providing the necessary personnel or hiring a Contractor to implement the weed control procedures with the qualifications and equipment described below.

3.4.2 Personnel Requirements

Weed management actions shall be carried out by a weed management specialist with the following qualifications:

- Training and experience in native plant taxonomy/identification
- Training and experience in field ecology and plant community mapping
- Possession of a Commercial Applicator's License for pesticides from the Nevada Department of Agriculture
- Training in weed management or Integrated Pest Management, with an emphasis in weeds
- Experience in coordination with agency and private landowners

3.4.3 Equipment Requirements

Weed management shall require the following equipment for weed control:

- Backpack sprayer
- Four-wheel drive truck and trailer
- All-terrain vehicle

- Chemical or biological supplies
- Tractor and disc, or dozer equipped with ripper (in conjunction with restoration and reclamation practices)

4.0 MONITORING

A weed management specialist, contracted by the Project Proponent, shall monitor the project and any other areas of disturbance, which are associated with the construction of this project, for a period not to exceed three years. Monitoring will be conducted biannually during the spring and fall, more specifically during the life cycle of the species identified in Table B3-2. This monitoring may coincide with the restoration monitoring identified and outlined in Appendix F – Preparation, Restoration and Rehabilitation Plan. The growing season shall be defined by the life cycles of the species identified in Table B3-2. Growing seasons will vary from year-to-year and, therefore, the length of monitoring will vary as well.

4.1 Reclamation Monitoring

During Reclamation Monitoring, the Project Proponent, or representative contractor for the Project Proponent, will initiate monitoring of previously identified affected/disturbed areas during the first spring following construction, and proceed with monitoring during subsequent intervals.

Noxious weed monitoring will occur biannually for up to three years following completion of each segment of the project. In addition, noxious weed conditions will be included in the evaluations of re-vegetation success as described in Appendix F – Right of Way Preparation, Restoration and Rehabilitation Plan. The Project Proponent will implement this schedule on BLM land crossed by the transmission line, including the Thirtymile and Harry Allen substations. The Project Proponent will document its observations following the above noted field inspections and make these monitoring reports available to the BLM and counties, as required.

Areas where the spread of a noxious weed infestation is noted, particularly in previously unaffected locations, will be further evaluated to determine if these areas require remedial action and additional treatment. The Project Proponent will identify such areas to the agencies by state, county, and milepost (or nearest transmission structure number), and will record any additional noxious weed control treatments. A report summarizing right-of-way stability, re-vegetation progress, percent cover, and weed infestation will be provided to the BLM as described in Appendix F – Right of Way Preparation, Restoration and Monitoring.

4.2 Ongoing Monitoring

The Project Proponent will consult with the BLM and counties should they have a concern pertaining to noxious weeds within their jurisdiction. The BLM also may contact the Project Proponent to report on the presence of noxious weeds. Operations personnel will be trained in the identification of predominant noxious weed populations, and the Project Proponent will control the weeds on a case-by-case basis. If determined necessary, a report on actions taken will be provided in the form of Monitoring Reports to the BLM on a predetermined schedule.

5.0 PESTICIDE APPLICATION, HANDLING, SPILLS, AND CLEANUP

5.1 Pesticide Application And Handling

The list of pesticides to be used will be reviewed and approved by the BLM and pesticide application will be based on information gathered from the Weed Districts and BLM. Before application, all required permits from the local authorities will be obtained (the Weed Districts and BLM). Permits may contain additional terms and conditions that go beyond the scope of this management plan.

A certified pesticide applicator, approved in the state of Nevada, will perform the application using BLM selected and approved pesticides in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and permit stipulations. All pesticide applications must follow United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) label instructions. Application of pesticides will be suspended when any of the following conditions exist:

- Wind velocity exceeds 6 miles per hour (mph) during application of liquids
- Wind velocity exceeds 15 mph during application of granular pesticides
- Snow or ice covers the foliage of noxious weeds
- Precipitation is occurring or is imminent

Vehicle-mounted sprayers (e.g., handgun, boom, and injector) may be used in open areas that are readily accessible by vehicle. Hand application methods (e.g., backpack spraying), that target individual plants, will be used to treat small or scattered weed populations in rough terrain. Calibration checks of equipment will be conducted at the beginning of spraying and periodically during spraying, to ensure that proper application rates are achieved.

Pesticides will be transported to the project site daily with the following provisions:

- Only the quantity needed for that day's work will be transported.
- Concentrate will be transported in approved containers only and in a manner that will prevent tipping or spilling, and in a location that is isolated from the vehicle's driving compartment, food, clothing, and safety equipment.
- Mixing will be done off-site, over a drip catching device, and at a distance greater than 200 feet from open or flowing water, wetlands, or other sensitive resources. No pesticides will be applied at these areas unless authorized by appropriate regulatory agencies.
- All pesticide equipment and containers will be inspected for leaks daily.
- Disposal of spent containers will be in accordance with the pesticide label.

5.2 Pesticide Spills And Cleanup

All reasonable precautions will be taken to avoid pesticide spills. In the event of a spill, cleanup will be immediate. Contractors will keep spill kits in their vehicles and in pesticide storage areas to allow for quick and effective response to spills. Items to be included in the spill kit are:

- protective clothing and gloves
- absorptive clay, “kitty litter” or other commercial absorbents
- plastic bags and a bucket
- shovel
- fiber brush and screw-in handle
- dust pan
- caution tape
- highway flares (use on established roads only)
- detergent

The response to a pesticides spill will vary with the size and location of the spill, but general procedures include:

- CIC and BLM notification
- traffic control
- dressing the clean-up team in protective clothing
- stopping any leaks
- containing spilled material
- cleaning up and removing spilled pesticide and contaminated absorptive material and soil
- transporting spilled pesticide and contaminated material to an authorized disposal site

5.3 Worker Safety And Spill Reporting

Pesticide contractors will be state certified to apply pesticides and obtain and have readily available copies of the appropriate material safety data sheets for the pesticides used. All pesticide spills will be reported in accordance with applicable laws and requirements. Additional information regarding the handling of hazardous materials may be found in Appendix A7 - Hazardous Materials Management Plan.

ATTACHMENT B3-1
NOXIOUS/INVASIVE WEEDS RISK ASSESSMENT FORM
and
DEFINITION OF RISK FACTORS

Directions: *This document is intended for electronic use and will be uploaded into NEPA LV. Adjust the spacing as necessary. Retain one copy of this document with your project files. Provide the LVFO Weed Coordinator with a second copy of the form and a project map which will be retained for future use. A definition for each of the two factors can be found on the next page.*

1. **Project Name:** Southwest Intertie Project - Southern Segment NEPA LV No.
2. **Date Risk Assessment was completed:** 2/8/2007
3. **Describe steps taken to complete Risk Assessment:** Read the weed management plan and weed survey report for this project. Combined with reading the SWIP – Southern Portion Environmental Assessment (EA 2007) and having traveled the length of the project corridor, this provided a good understanding of the on-the-ground situation and how it could potentially change due to infestations of noxious weeds.
4. **Project Description:** Great Basin Transmission, LLC (Great Basin) proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a single-circuit, overhead 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line. The transmission line will consist of self-supporting, steel-lattice, and steel-pole, H-frame structures placed approximately 1,200 to 1,500 feet apart. The transmission line will include a new substation west of Ely (Thirtymile Substation), where it will interconnect with the existing 345kV Falcon to Gonder line, and will tie into the existing Harry Allen Substation at its southern terminus.
5. **Project Location:** Located in White Pine, Nye, Lincoln, and Clark counties, the transmission line (approximately 264 miles in length) extends between the Harry Allen Substation, located in Dry Lake, Nevada to an area just west of the proposed White Pine Energy Station (WPES) located approximately 34 miles north of Ely, Nevada. The Thirtymile substation is to be located approximately 18 miles northwest of Ely, Nevada in White Pine County and the Harry Allen Substation is located to the north of the APEX industrial park in Clark County, Nevada.
6. **Factor 1** assesses the likelihood of noxious/invasive weed species spreading to the project area. For this project, the factor rates as Moderate, 5 at the present time. This rating was based on the following findings:
 - 1) Relatively few infestations of noxious weeds within project area. (refer to section 2.3 of Appendix B3 – Noxious Weed Management Plan for locations and number of occurrences along the right-of-way)
 - 2) Use of pre-existing access roads in the project area means that fewer roads will be constructed resulting in less soil disturbance.
 - 3) Soil disturbance will be minimal due to small overall footprint of project.

7. **Factor 2** assesses the consequences of noxious/invasive weed establishment in the project area. For this project, the factor rates as Moderate, 5. This rating was based on the following findings:

- 1) Relatively few infestations of noxious weeds exist within project area, meaning a reduced possibility of an outbreak.
- 2) Populations of native plants appear healthy and well established.
- 3) Large portions of the project area receive little human traffic, thereby potentially reducing the spread of weeds that spread due to human activities (hiking, biking, off-roading, etc.).

(Input your rationale here for this rating.)

8. **Factor 1 * Factor 2 = Risk Rating: 25, Moderate (Score and rating).**

(The Risk Rating is obtained by multiplying Factor 1 by Factor 2.)

9. Based on this risk rating, preventative management measures **are/are not** (circle one) needed for this project. Preventative management measures developed for this project are as follows: See Appendix B3 - Noxious Weed Management Plan, and Appendix F – Right-of-Way Preparation, Rehabilitation, and Restoration Plan in the COM Plan

10. Based on this risk rating, project modifications **are/are not** (circle one) needed for this project. Project modifications developed for this project are as follows.

Weed Risk Assessment completed by: Jason Corbett

Reviewed by/Date Reviewed: Everett Bartz, signed copy on file Date: 01/08/08
(Noxious Weed Coordinator)

RISK FACTORS

Factor 1

NONE, (0): Noxious/invasive weed species are not found within or are adjacent to the proposed project area. Project activity is not likely to result in the establishment of noxious/invasive weed species in the project area.

LOW, (1-3): Noxious/invasive weed species present in areas adjacent to but not within the project area. Project activities can be implemented and prevent the spread of noxious/invasive weeds into the project area.

MODERATE, (4-7): Noxious/invasive weed species located immediately adjacent to or within the project area. Project activities are likely to result in some areas becoming infested with noxious weed species even when preventative management actions are followed. Control measures are essential to prevent the spread of noxious/invasive weeds within the project area.

HIGH, (7-10): Heavy infestations of noxious/invasive weeds are located within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Project activities, even with preventative management actions, are likely to result in the establishment and spread of noxious/invasive weeds on disturbed sites throughout much of the project area.

Factor 2

LOW TO NONEXISTENT, 1-3): None. No cumulative effects expected.

MODERATE, (4-7): Possible adverse effects on site and possible expansion of infestation within the project area. Cumulative effects on native plant communities are likely, but limited.

HIGH, (7-10): Obvious adverse effects within the project area and probable expansion of noxious weed infestations to areas outside the project area. Adverse cumulative effects on native plant communities are probable.

*FACTOR 1 * FACTOR 2 = Risk Rating*

Risk Rating

NONE, (0): Proceed as planned.

LOW, (1-10): Proceed as planned. Initiate control treatment on noxious weed populations that get established in the area.

MODERATE, (11-49): Develop preventative management measures for proposed project to reduce the risk of introduction or spread of noxious weeds into the area. Preventative management measures should include modifying the project to include seeding the area to occupy disturbed sites with desirable species. Monitor area for at least 3 consecutive years and provide for control of newly established populations of noxious weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations.

HIGH, (50-100):

Project must be modified to reduce risk level through preventative management measures, including seeding with desirable species to occupy disturbed sites and controlling existing infestations of noxious weeds prior to project activity. Project must provide at least 5 consecutive years of monitoring. Projects must also provide for control of newly established populations of noxious weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations.