

Backcountry Horseman Checklist

Heading into the backcountry this fall? Here are a few things you can do to
“Defend Our Favorite Places”
from noxious weed infestations.

- ✓ Learn to **identify** noxious weeds. Some noxious weeds can be pulled but many need to be chemically treated. Many noxious weeds may be toxic to livestock. Know your weeds!
- ✓ **Clean** all vehicles and equipment. Wash off trucks and trailers with a hose, high-pressure washer, or at the car wash to eliminate any hitchhiking noxious weed seeds. Sweep out horse trailers before leaving home, where it is easier to treat any noxious weed seeds that sprout. Avoid the habit of kicking manure out of your trailer at the trailhead.
- ✓ When noxious weeds go to seed on trails you ride be certain to **groom** horses, including picking out their feet, before loading them for the next ride. Keep tack weed free and examine the cinch and lead rope to be certain they haven't picked up noxious weed seeds.
- ✓ **Feed** weed free certified hay at the trailhead and in the mountains. Feed weed free hay to stock 48-72 hours before arriving at the trail head.
- ✓ Good housekeeping starts at home. **Ensure** your own pastures are weed free, or as close to it as possible.
- ✓ If you see noxious weeds **report** them. Flag weed patches on public lands; mark them on a map, or get the GPS coordinates so you can report the area to the land management agency responsible.

Got a Smartphone? Use it to report noxious weed infestations. Get the app @
<http://apps.bugwood.org/mrwc.html>