

Finding new weed infestations and treating them aggressively to eradicate them is more cost-effective than treating established infestations.

Preventing new weed infestations it is even more effective than treating them.

How you can help prevent new weed infestations.

- Learn to recognize the major invasive weed species in the Pryors.

Before your trip:

- Clean clothing, boots and other gear of all attached weed seeds.
- If your vehicle has been driven through a weedy area, run your vehicle through a carwash before coming to the Pryors. Emphasize the undercarriage. Spend extra time and effort if there is caked mud.

Vehicles:

- Drive only on legal roads. Stay on the roadbed. Obey seasonal restrictions.

Parking:

- Move off the road only far enough that other vehicles can pass while remaining on the road.
- Park in places where there are no weeds.
- A hot muffler can ignite a fire. Park in a place free of tall dried grass.

Camping:

- Set up camp in places where there are no weeds.
- Park beside the road, within one vehicle length, and carry your camping gear to your chosen campsite.

It is legal to camp anywhere on USFS and BLM land in the Pryors. Custer National Forest regulations say that people may drive up to 300 ft. – the length of a football field - off any road in the (USFS) Pryors for “dispersed vehicle camping.” This policy threatens damage to the fragile soils and native vegetation, and contributes to the spread of noxious weeds.

After your trip:

- Inspect your gear, clothes and boots carefully. Brush off and dispose of any seeds picked up. Stow your gear clean and ready for the next trip.
- Run your vehicle through a carwash. Emphasize the undercarriage. Spend extra time and effort if there is caked mud.

We know

... vehicles introduce and disperse weed seeds.

... Weeds are being introduced and dispersed in the Pryors by vehicles.

... vehicles driven off-road disperse a greater number of weed seeds.

... vehicles, on or off-road, in muddy conditions pick up and carry a greater number of weed seeds.

... thorough washing especially of the undercarriage will clean the vehicle of weed seeds.