SKYLAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

Noxious weeds are non-native plant species which have been introduced into an environment with few, if any, natural biological controls, thus giving them a distinct competitive advantage in dominating and crowding out native plant species. They are aggressive, spread rapidly, possess a unique ability to reproduce profusely, and resist control. Noxious weeds, such as yellow toadflax, oxeye daisy, scentless chamomile, Canada thistle, adversely impact Skyland by creating problems such as reducing aesthetic value, choking out native vegetation, invading landscaped areas, invading agricultural land, decreasing property values, and other concerns.

Soil disturbance such as roads, trails, and homesites are areas in which noxious weeds may become established. In non-residential areas noxious weeds also threaten valuable wildlife habitat and other natural resources.

II. PLAN GOAL

The goal of this plan is **"TO PREVENT AND/OR CONTROL THE SPREAD OF NOXIOUS WEEDS IN SKYLAND"**

III. PLAN OBJECTIVES

A. Control and/or eradicate yellow toadflax within Skyland.

B. Control and/or eradicate oxeye daisy within Skyland.

C. Control and/or eradicate Canada thistle within Skyland.

D. Control and/or eradicate scentless chamomile within Skyland.

E. To protect native vegetation within Skyland.

F. Prevent the invasion of State and/or County listed noxious weed species within Skyland.

IV. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS - INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT (IWM)

This weed management plan encourages Integrated Weed Management (IWM). IWM is a strategy using a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach to manage noxious weeds. The purpose of integrated weed management is to achieve healthy and productive natural ecosystems through a balanced program. This program will include, but not be limited to, education, prevention measures, good stewardship and control methods.

A. IDENTIFICATION AND INVENTORY

An initial noxious weed inspection was done by the Gunnison County Weed Coordinator prior to development. Yellow toadflax, oxeye daisy, Canada thistle, and chamomile were found on the property. However, property owners/developer(s) should continue to monitor the area for other noxious weed species that may become established due to development.

B. AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

Awareness of what noxious weeds are and the problems they cause will help property owners/developer(s) understand why a long-term noxious weed program is important to Skyland. Educational materials regarding noxious weeds are available at the Gunnison Watershed Weed Commission Office, Mountain Meadow Research Center, (970) 641-4393. Property owners/developer(s) are strongly encouraged to utilize this resource to educate themselves and increase their awareness of noxious weeds within Skyland.

Information regarding State and County weed laws and those weeds required to be controlled is available through the County Weed Coordinator.

C. PREVENTION

Prevention, early detection, and eradication of new noxious weed plants are the most effective means of noxious weed management. Prevention is best accomplished by ensuring that new weed species' seed or vegetative reproductive plant parts are not introduced into Skyland. To do this, the following actions are recommended:

1. Revegetate disturbed areas such as: roadsides, pond banks, landscaped areas and trails with certified noxious weed free seed;

2. Hydromulch or certified noxious weed free forage should be used as mulch; and

3. Open space areas should also be managed for noxious weeds through good land stewardship (riparian management, etc.).

D. CONTROL METHODS

A number of control methods are available to property owners/ developer(s). The following control methods are standard components of an IWM program. While these methods may be used singularly, they are usually most effective when used in combination. The property owners/developer(s) should utilize control method(s) that best meet their needs and the needs of the site to be treated while controlling the target specie(s). These methods include:

1. PHYSICAL CONTROL

Physical control intentionally disrupts the growth of weeds through cultivation, mowing, hand pulling, flooding, and burning. All of these

measures, when used correctly, can be useful when used in conjunction with other control methods. This method of control is best suited for annuals and biennials.

2. CULTURAL CONTROL

Cultural control involves methods favoring desirable plant growth such as proper fertilization, irrigation, and seeding vigorously growing, competitive desirable plant species. Revegetation is necessary on all disturbed sites to reduce soil erosion and weed infestations and maintain water quality.

3. BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Biological control involves the release of beneficial organisms such as insects, fungi, rusts, pathogens, parasites, and diseases to diminish weed seed production, increase plant stress, and limit the expansion of underground parts of the plant's reproductive system. This control method is best suited for large infestations and/or areas where herbicides cannot be used.

4. HERBICIDE CONTROL

Herbicide control involves the application of EPA-registered herbicides that are effective on target noxious weed species based on the best available scientific facts and current technology to reduce weed infestations. This method is a tool for perennials. The root must be killed to control and/or eradicate perennials.

While herbicides are a powerful tool, it must be realized that they are just that; and should be used only as part of an Integrated Weed Management Program (IWM).

Before applying herbicides, property owners and developer(s) are strongly encouraged to attend Private Pesticide Applicator training provided by the Gunnison Watershed Weed Commission. This training combined with the careful use of herbicides according to the product label will help to ensure safe and proper use. Commercial applicators are also available for noxious weed control. Contact the Gunnison Watershed Weed Commission for a list of these applicators.

Control methods are at the discretion of the property owner/developer(s), however, the method chosen should be appropriate for the noxious weed species being controlled and the area it is growing in. County listed noxious weeds are mandated by law (C.R.S. 35-5.5, et. seq.) to be controlled. There is also a State noxious weed list.

Property owners and developer(s) should contact the County Weed Coordinator for assistance in determining the appropriate management action for the noxious weeds present. Recommendations are sight specific and species specific.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

Initially it is the responsibility of the developer to control noxious weeds within Skyland. The Homeowners Association will assume responsibility for controlling noxious weeds along subdivision roadways, and open space. Property owners will be responsible for controlling noxious weeds on their property or in cooperation with the Homeowners Association.

The Gunnison County Weed Coordinator will be available to assist the property owners/developer(s) with weed identification, weed management strategies and to provide educational materials on noxious weeds. Colorado State University Cooperative Extension can also provide educational materials on noxious weeds.

VI. MONITORING / EVALUATION

An Integrated Weed Management Program should be evaluated each year to determine whether or not the program is successful in achieving the plan goal and objectives. This will allow property owners and developers of Skyland to make appropriate changes to ensure the success of their weed management program.

Property owners/developer(s) should monitor their perspective properties in order to detect new infestations and to determine the success or failure of treatments (management actions).

Because State and/or County listed weeds (yellow toadflax, oxeye daisy, Canada thistle, and scentless chamomile) were found on the property, this area will continue to be monitored by the Gunnison County Weed Coordinator until such time that these weeds have been contained and/or eradicated.