

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL MEASURES

Practices for minimizing noxious weeds are also outlined in the erosion control best practices described in the Grading, Erosion, & Sediment Control Plan (GESD). This list summarizes weed control practices that will be implemented for this project.

- Weed control for Pathway will be addressed in areas disturbed by Pathway construction. In addition, the right-of-way will be evaluated for potential weed infestations outside of the disturbance area during construction. Post construction, the spread of noxious weeds within the right-of-way will be the responsibility of the property owner.
- Prior to construction, areas of potential concern related noxious weed spread will be identified and avoided. Clearing or blading will occur in the minimum area needed for safe and efficient construction
- Unnecessary surface disturbance will be limited. Bare ground represents an open ecological niche that allows for the establishment of undesirable species, such as noxious weeds. Disturbance footprints associated with construction activities will be limited to the extent practicable to minimize opportunities for noxious weeds.
- Topsoil will be stockpiled in the area of the disturbance, as practicable or as required by the GESD, for use during revegetation activities post-construction. This will minimize in-soil seed bank migration during restoration.
- Areas that do not require grubbing or grading for access, commonly referred to as “drive and crush,” will rebound naturally when the topsoil layer and associated root structure remain in place and have only been compressed by construction activity. These areas will be left alone and monitored post-construction to confirm successful restoration.
- Revegetation will be implemented per the GESD. Seed selection will be based on site-specific conditions and the appropriate seed mix identified for those conditions. Weed-free seed mixes will be used during revegetation. This is an Xcel Energy standard and one that can be certified by the contractor.
- Xcel Energy's noxious weed management contractor will implement noxious weed control measures in accordance with existing regulations, including the Colorado Noxious Weed Act, and Xcel Energy policy.

- The Colorado Noxious Weed Act requires all landowners - public and private - to control noxious weeds and Xcel Energy understands that existing infestations should be managed to lessen their impact on planned disturbances.
- Xcel Energy understands that Arapahoe County routinely manages the adjacent County rights-of-way to Pathway for noxious weeds.

Xcel Energy will secure and record easements required for Pathway construction prior to the start of construction on each individual parcel, and thereby will hold a recognized property interest in the land on which Pathway is proposed.