

# Why Should I Care About Invasive Weeds in the Lake Tahoe Basin?

Invasive weeds reproduce profusely by seed and root, and outcompete native and other desirable plants. Once established, weed infestations:

- > **reduce land values,**
- > **damage water quality and clarity,**
- > **contribute to soil erosion, and**
- > **degrade wildlife habitat.**

**YOU CAN HELP!**

## Recreationists



- > Invasive weeds **take over trails** and **permanently damage** meadows, wetlands, lakes and streams.
- > **Don't accidentally spread invasive weeds.** Remove plant parts and seeds from your clothing, boots, tires, vehicle undercarriages and the family dog! Dispose of them in a sealed bag in the garbage.

## Boaters and fisherman

- > Aquatic invasive weeds **clog marinas, damage fish spawning areas, and foul swimming areas.**
- > Always **inspect your boat, trailer, and boots/waders and remove plant parts, animals and mud** before going from one area or body of water to another.



## Landowners or summer homeowners



- > Invasive weeds **reduce land values** and can be **very expensive to control.**
- > Invasive weeds **reduce soil stability,** contributing to increased soil erosion.
- > **Identify and eradicate small infestations,** before they become difficult and expensive to control.

By Wendy West, University of California Cooperative Extension  
& Susan Donaldson, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

# Learn to Recognize These Invasive Weeds Threatening Lake Tahoe:

## ▼ Spotted Knapweed ▼



Look for spots  
below purple  
flower petals



## ▼ Yellow & Dalmatian Toadflaxes ▼



The snapdragon-  
like flowers have  
long spurs



## ▼ Scotch Broom ▼



Its brushy  
material poses a  
high fire hazard



## ▼ Perennial Pepperweed ▼



Its billowy  
flowers resemble  
baby's breath



## What is the Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group?

In 2002, public and private landowners concerned about the spread of invasive weeds came together to form the Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group. The bi-state, basinwide coalition coordinates weed mapping, eradication, control and educational efforts. **If you'd like to join us**, contact Chair Sue Donaldson, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, (775) 784-4848, for the date and location of the next meeting.

## Who do I contact if I find an invasive weed?

### Nevada

Douglas County Weed District  
(775) 325-9835

Washoe County Cooperative Extension  
(775) 784-4848

### California

El Dorado County Department of Agriculture  
(530) 621-5520

Placer County Department of Agriculture  
(530) 889-7372