



City of Ketchum

News Release
April 18, 2016

City Begins Noxious Weed Mitigation *Invasive Species on City Properties*

KETCHUM, Idaho -- Mitigation measures for Idaho designated noxious weeds on city properties and rights-of-way will begin this week.

Noxious weeds are invasive species, non-native to the ecosystem and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause harm. Common noxious weeds in Ketchum include Russian and Spotted knapweed, Dalmatian toadflax, and Hoary alyssum.

Mitigation will occur throughout the summer. The city's Integrated Pest Management policy allows various methods of weed mitigation including mechanical and physical (hand-pulling, mowing, etc.), cultural (re-seeding), biological (microbial and microbial organisms) and chemical (low-toxicity herbicide).

A strict public notification policy is adhered to when chemical herbicide is necessary. Posted signs indicate when and where a chemical herbicide application occurs. Professional applicators use a "spot spray" method, treating only the individual targeted plant. Blue dye indicates which plants have been treated. Once the herbicide is dry (about 20 minutes after application), it is considered non-toxic to humans and pets.

The city's "pesticide-free parks" policy prohibits the use of chemical pesticides in public parks, except in the case of infestation.

The Blaine County Noxious Weed Department can assist with identification of noxious weeds within Blaine County and provide strategies for removal on private property.

Ketchum residents who wish to hand-pull noxious weeds in the right-of-way adjacent to their property must contact participate@ketchumidaho.org for more information.

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About the City of Ketchum

The city of Ketchum is located in the Wood River Valley in south central Idaho. Founded in 1880 during the mining boom, Ketchum is now regarded as one of the most popular destinations for winter and summer visitors due to its world-class skiing, mountain biking, fishing, hiking, restaurants, art galleries and shopping. The city of Ketchum hosts the famous annual Wagon Days Parade, held on Labor Day weekend, and numerous other year-round attractions. Ketchum is home to more than 10,000 full- and part-time residents. For more information about the city of Ketchum, visit www.ketchumidaho.org.

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