

**Dixie Meadows Geothermal Exploration Project**  
**Noxious Weed Management Plan**  
**Churchill County, Nevada**

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>BLM</b>	Bureau of Land Management
<b>Ormat</b>	Ormat Technologies, Inc.

# NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN DIXIE MEADOWS GEOTHERMAL EXPLORATION PROJECT

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Ormat Technologies, Inc. (Ormat) is planning a geothermal exploration drilling program at Dixie Valley located approximately 75 miles northeast of Fallon, Nevada, on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The proposed project as described in Environmental Assessment Ormat Technologies, Inc. Dixie Meadows Geothermal Exploration Project includes the construction of 20 drill pads and associated access roads for a total disturbance of 139 acres (BLM, 2011). This Noxious Weed Management Plan is being developed in order to help control noxious weed species from becoming established in areas disturbed by this project.

Noxious weeds within Nevada are defined in the Nevada Revised Statutes 555.05 as “any species of plant which is, or is likely to be, detrimental or destructive and difficult to control or eradicate.” The Nevada Department of Agriculture Plant Industry Division provides a list of all weeds currently listed as noxious for the State of Nevada. Noxious weeds in Nevada are divided into three categories as identified below. This management plan treats all three categories equally as far as treatment when identified.

Category A weeds are currently not found or found in limited distribution throughout the state. These species are actively excluded from the state and actively eradicated. Control is required by the state on all infestations.

Category B weeds are those that are established in scattered populations in some counties of the state; actively excluded where possible, actively eradicated from nursery stock dealer premises; control required by the state in areas where populations are not well established or previously unknown to occur.

Category C weeds are species that are currently established and generally widespread in many counties of the state; actively eradicated from nursery stock dealer premises; abatement at the discretion of the state quarantine officer.

## **2.0 NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

In order to minimize the establishment of noxious weeds within the project area, Ormat would use the following environmental protection measures:

- Use certified weed-free seed mixes during revegetation of disturbed areas;
- Complete concurrent reclamation when feasible in order to minimize disturbed areas where weed species could establish;
- Revegetate growth medium and overburden stockpiles with a weed-free seed mix as soon as possible following stockpile completion;
- Restrict vehicle traffic to defined roads or overland travel routes to reduce potential mechanical transport of noxious weed seeds; and
- Wash all vehicles that are within areas of established noxious weed populations prior to leaving the site.

Along with these environmental protection measures, Ormat would conduct the weed surveys and treatment described below, as necessary.

### **2.1 NOXIOUS WEED SURVEYS**

A survey for State of Nevada noxious weed species would take place within areas disturbed by Ormat' Dixie Meadow exploration project every three years following the initial disturbance per the BLM's request. These surveys would continue until successful reclamation of disturbance has been achieved. Successful reclamation is determined through the Nevada Guidelines for Successful Revegetation for the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. Surveys would consist of walking disturbance and identifying locations of noxious weed infestations using a Trimble global positioning unit.

### **2.2 NOXIOUS WEED TREATMENT**

If noxious weed species are found within the pads and roads associated with the Dixie Meadows exploration plan, appropriate treatment for the type of species present would take place. A certified individual would complete treatment of noxious weed species.

### **3.0 REFERENCES**

Bureau of Land Management (BLM). 2011. Environmental Assessment Ormat Technologies, Inc. Dixie Meadows Geothermal Exploration Project. United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management Carson City District, Stillwater Field Office.

Nevada Department of Agriculture, Plant Industry Division. 2011. Noxious Weeds List. Available at [http://agri.nv.gov/nwac/PLANT\\_No WeedList.htm](http://agri.nv.gov/nwac/PLANT_No WeedList.htm). Accessed February 1, 2011.