

# Moose Creek Estates

## Environmental Enhancement Plan

(Land Conservation / Vegetation Enhancement / Weed and Erosion  
Control / Forestry Management)

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Created and Distributed by:  
Kokopelli Endeavors

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## **Moose Creek Estates Overview:**

Moose Creek Estates sits between Pierce Creek and Moose Creek, east of Highway 93 North, approximately 4 miles south of the Montana/Idaho border known as Lost Trail Pass. The land within the 212-acre parcel is as aesthetic as it is diversified. Although previously and recently logged, what were left standing are mostly lodge pole pine, spruce, and quaking aspen. The property is home to several different species of wildlife including moose, elk and deer and the North Fork of the Salmon River runs through the entire property.

The “saw log” timber was logged in 1992 with little thought given to environmental effects. In the late 1800’s and again in the 1930’s and 40’s there was a placer mining operation on the land. In the early 1900’s a small portion of the property cultivated to raise hay. No other historical uses are evident. Our objective with this plan is to return the land to a supreme condition that is weed free, abounding with grasses, forage, trees, fish and wildlife.

## **River Corridor Conservation:**

The West Fork, North Fork of the Salmon River, and Moose Creek converge into the North Fork on Moose Creek Estates. The North Fork River runs the length of the two and one half miles of the property. The developer is committed to protecting this river corridor from harm and excessive development. Thus, a low-density housing plan was designed with only thirty home sites available in the 200 plus acres.

A scenic/conservation easement has been formed which at this time includes approximately 90 acres of the project (see plat map). This easement will be a scenic area for the homeowners to walk, fish and be close to nature. The land in the river corridor will be environmentally enhanced using scientifically based ecological restoration and conservation methods in cooperation with the United States Forest Services, Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Idaho Fish and Game Department.

The developer is a permanent member of the Architectural & Environmental Control Committee. He has constructed a home at Moose Creek Estates. Much of his time will be spent serving as forester and grounds keeper for the scenic easement.

## Weed Elimination & Control:

The Moose Creek Estates' management recognizes that noxious weed control cannot be successfully achieved or maintained without joint cooperation between it and its neighbors. The lands immediately adjacent to Moose Creek Estates are the properties known as the Royal Elk Ranch (south), Trout Placer (to the southeast) and the remainder of the surrounding property is U.S.F.S. property. The owners and the North Fork Ranger District currently manage these lands respectively.

Within Lemhi County noxious weed infestations of Canadian Thistle, Dalmatian Toadflax, Henbane, Leafy Spurge, Musk Thistle, Rush Skeleton, Russian Knapweed, Spotted knapweed, White Top Yellow Toadflax and Dyers Wood can be found.

Infestations specific to the northern part of Lemhi County include Spotted Knapweed, Leafy Spurge, Musk Thistle, Black Henbane, Berteroa (hoary alyssum), and Dalmatian Toadflax. Sulfur Cinquefoil, Hound's-Tongue and St. John's Wort have also been identified in the area, however they are not listed as "noxious weeds".

The project has completed the ninth year of weed elimination. A trained work crew travels up and down the length of the valley spot spraying individual weeds as they sprout. Several years ago Lemhi County introduced a weevil that attacks the seed pods on thistles and prevents the seed from maturing. Now, the majority of new thistles are being controlled by the weevil. The thistles not attacked by weevil are sprayed for elimination. Very few noxious weeds can now be found at Moose Creek Estates.

Planting the cuts and fills from the road and bridge construction with a certified weed-free seed mix will take place upon completion of each phase of the work and occur at during the time of year most likely to ensure proper seed germination and growth.

Silt screening was installed will be required by all contractors performing dirt and/or bridgework to insure minimal erosion and flooding to the environment. The AECC monitors silt screens as work is being done to ensure they are functioning as intended. Required maintenance or corrective changes will be made when required. Special attention is placed on all of the riparian areas to insure a healthy biological community that will provide scenic beauty and recreation for the homeowners, as well as forage for the native wildlife.

The seed mix, trees and shrub selection are made in consultation with the Natural Resource Conservation Services, Idaho Fish and Game, U.S.F.S. and the Moose Creek Estates' management team, using technical resource materials including *Rocky Mountain Native Plants and Weeds of the West*.

### ***Prevention of weed encroachment:***

All mulches, seeds and planting materials must be accompanied by a "weed free certification" with respect to the species of concern. All materials must be in sealed containers and inspected by an authorized M.C.E. representative, prior to its use.

### ***Weed Control Costs:***

The initial replanting of cuts, fills and approaches was paid by the project as well as the first years of spraying and reseeding of scalped areas. Now, it is the responsibility of the AECC to administer the Environmental Enhancement Plan including monitoring.

Costs for this administration of the plan will be born by the lot owners and charged back as part of their annual assessment. Each year following the spring vegetative assessment field survey, a weed and seed map will be developed to indicate infestations and seed needed areas.

The Architectural AECC will coordinate and ensure enforcement of the Environmental Enhancement Plan for the Home Owner's Association. In September of each year, using data gathered from the fall vegetative assessment field survey, the AECC will provide an estimate to the H.O.A. on the cost of seeding that is necessary to be conducted that fall as well as spraying to be done in the spring.

They will also administer a contract that will be led to the contractor chosen to do seeding and spraying. All pesticide/herbicide applicators will carry a current license from the State of Idaho and be required to carry an error and omissions/professional pollution liability insurance policy.

### ***Weed Eradication Progress:***

The thistle population was mapped then eliminated by cutting and bagging all plants in the late summer of 2001. Six pickup loads of bagged, compressed thistles were removed from the property. The thistles

