

# Slow the Spread of Invasive Species



**INVASIVE SPECIES** are crowding out native flora and fauna, changing the trail riding experience.

*You and your animal can play a critical role in slowing the spread of invasive species.*

## WHAT ANIMAL-BASED RECREATIONISTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT INVASIVES

- Invasive species are nonnative plants, animals, and diseases that can outcompete native species.
- Invasive shrubs tend to reproduce and grow quickly making trails impassable. They affect wildlife shelter and food sources by reducing native plant populations which also leads to soil erosion.
- Invasive insects and diseases can kill trees.

## WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH ANIMAL-BASED RECREATIONISTS?

- Invasive plant seeds, insects, and diseases can be moved on equipment, such as mud on tires or seeds with burs on clothes, shoes, and animal coats.
- The costs of addressing the spread of invasive species are increasing, requiring more funding and more focus from volunteer groups.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Learn to recognize invasive species in your area so you can avoid riding through them.
- Be aware of seeds that stick to your clothing and to your animal's coat.
- Clean yourself and your animal, including its feet, before and after recreating.
- Take advantage of horse wash stations when available.
- Properly dispose of soil, seeds, or plant parts from cleaning.
- Minimize soil disturbance and exposure to invasive species by staying on designated trails.
- Follow the property guidelines for all waste disposal.
- Educate others about invasive species, their effects on our environment, economy, and recreational opportunities and how to limit the spread of invasive species.
- Volunteer to help control invasive species.

