



INVASIVE WEEDS

Why worry about weeds?



Weeds can invade, take over, and replace native plants.

HOW DO WEEDS TAKE OVER?

- Weeds readily grow at disturbed sites.
- They are fast-growing and prolific.
- Once established, they have long-lived seed banks.
- Some can produce huge numbers of seed.
- They spread easily by many different mechanisms.
- They have few effective natural enemies. (insects or diseases)
- They change natural ecosystems.

Invasive weeds along the Dalton Hwy.



HOW DO WEEDS GET WAY OUT HERE?

- Seeds float down waterways.
- Hitchhike on airplanes and boats (seeds on tires, clothes or freight)
- Imported hay and straw for animals
- Imported plants, seed mixes and soil
- Cars and trucks on highways
- Off highway vehicles on trails and cross-country



Yellow Toadflax



Bird Vetch



Oxeye Daisy



White Sweetclover



WHITE SWEETCLOVER (THE PEST WITH THE PRETTY NAME)

- Can spread more than 30 miles per year on rivers and streams,
- Produces huge numbers of seeds,
- Adds nitrogen to soil, altering the ecosystem in unpredictable ways,
- Invasive plants have negative impacts on natural ecosystems.

OUR CONCERNS ABOUT WHITE SWEETCLOVER IN ALASKA:

- May prevent willow growth and change the way gravel bars work.
- May kill off healthy, nutritious forage for moose and other animals.

