



Washoe County Code Compliance

Planning & Development Division
Community Services Department

Overgrown Vegetation and Weed Complaints

The City of Sparks regulates weeds and turf grass exceeding eight inches in height in plain view within the front or side yards on a property as a nuisance [SMC 7.16.010(D)(8)(a)]. Recent public reminders from the City of Sparks to its residents concerning this nuisance regulation have prompted phone calls and e-mails to Washoe County concerning overgrown weeds and vegetation on properties in the unincorporated County.

Code compliance officers with the Washoe County Community Services Department are limited by State Law and County Code to address only “excessive foliage growth” on the exterior of any foreclosed residential property [WCC Section 50.308(7)(a)]. The property must meet the State Law definition of a foreclosed property (owned by a financial institution or sold as a foreclosed property). Further, the “excessive foliage growth” must diminish the value of the residential property or of surrounding properties.

- For complaints concerning foreclosed residential properties, please contact the Department’s code compliance staff by phone at 775.328.6106 or by e-mail at code-enforcement@washoecounty.us.

The Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District or the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District will evaluate vegetation or weeds on any unincorporated County property in the context of their respective fire regulations as a potential fire hazard. The Fire Marshall for each District should be contacted directly for any complaints concerning potential fire hazards related to vegetation or weeds.

- For potential fire hazards involving overgrown vegetation or weeds, please contact:
 - Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District at 326.6006 (www.washoecounty.us/tmfpd.us/fire-prevention); or,
 - North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District at 831.0351 (Lake Tahoe basin only).

Concerns or reports about noxious or nuisance weeds on both public lands and private property may also be referred to the following:

- Department of Agriculture, 775.353.3640
- http://agri.nv.gov/Resources/Forms/Noxious_Weed_Forms
- <http://www.washoeweeds.com/reporta-weed>
- UNR Cooperative Extension at 775.784.4848 (also located at 4995 Energy Way in Reno)