RESOLUTION NO. 2012 - 063

ADOPTION OF MISSOULA COUNTY
NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN 2012

WHEREAS, Missoula County has a noxious weed plan that provides guidance in working with public and private land managers on the management of noxious weeds; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Legislature has made changes in the County Noxious Weed Management Act, Title 7, Chapter 22, Sections 7-22-2101 through 7-22-2153, Montana Codes Annotated; and

WHEREAS, a weed management plan is required as part of subdivision plans; and

WHEREAS, the management of aquatic noxious weeds has been added to the plan; and

WHEREAS, a notice of the public hearing was provided in the Missoula Independent on June 28, 2012 and July 5, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Missoula Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing on July 11, 2012, in order to give the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed updates;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Missoula Board of County Commissioners does hereby approve and adopt the Missoula County Noxious Weed Management Plan 2012, as shown in Exhibit A attached.

ADOPTED THIS 11th DAY OF JULY, 2012

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MISSOULA COUNTY

ATTEST:

Bill Carey, Chair

Debbie S. Mersel, Chief Deputy

Michele Landquist, Commissioner

Jean Curtiss, Commissioner
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Missoula County
Noxious Weed Management Plan
- Adopted 2012 -

PURPOSE and SCOPE
The Missoula County Weed Board hereby adopts the following Noxious Weed Management Plan to:
1. Comply with the County Noxious Weed Management Act, Title 7, Chapter 22, Sections 7-22-2101 through 7-22-2153, Montana Codes Annotated (see Appendix); and,
2. Provide a framework for rational and effective noxious weed management in Missoula County, Montana.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
Missoula County encompasses approximately 2600 square miles (1,664,000 acres) of western Montana. Mountainous terrain makes up 85 percent of the county. The valley floor contains three major rivers, numerous small streams and lake fills. Soils are generally alluvial sediments, glacial lakebed sediments and tertiary gravel. Annual precipitation ranges from 13 inches in the valleys to 80 inches in the mountains. Eighty-five percent of the county’s population occupies less than 4 percent of the land. Because of its mountainous terrain, the majority of the county is utilized for timber production and recreation. The narrow valley floors, once used for commercial agriculture, have been subdivided into small acreage lots better suited to recreational agriculture. Interstate, state and county roads, along with railroad and an international airport, dissect the valley floor. Numerous walking and biking trails also exist. Seventy-eight percent of the county’s land area is controlled by corporations and agencies such as federal, state, local governments, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, The Nature Conservancy, Plum Creek Timber and utility companies. The remaining 22 percent of the land area is divided among smaller companies and 108,000 residents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>ACRES</th>
<th>% of COUNTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Forest Service (FS)</td>
<td>801,557</td>
<td>47.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plum Creek Timber Lands</td>
<td>174,187</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>316,062</td>
<td>18.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Trust Land</td>
<td>105,935</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribal Land</td>
<td>93,866</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nature Conservancy</td>
<td>95,564</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT Fish, Wildlife &amp; Parks</td>
<td>38,205</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana University System</td>
<td>20,340</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureau of Land Management</td>
<td>20,870</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>13,054</td>
<td>.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Missoula</td>
<td>4,090</td>
<td>.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missoula County</td>
<td>1,681</td>
<td>.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,677,279</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DESIGNATED NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT CRITERIA
Section 7-22-2101 of the Montana County Noxious Weed Control Act defines noxious weeds as:
(a) “Noxious Weeds” or “weeds” means any exotic plant species established or that may be
introduced in the state which may render land unfit for agriculture, forestry, livestock, wildlife, or
other beneficial uses or that may harm native plant communities and that is designated:

(i) as a statewide noxious weed by rule of the department, or
(ii) as a district noxious weed by a board, following public notice of intent and
a public hearing.

The Missoula County Noxious Weed Management Plan has divided the State Noxious Weed List,
comprised of 32 weed species, into three categories. Acreage of each weed species was estimated
in May 2010.

MISSOULA COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED LIST
PRIORITY 1 WEEDS:
These noxious weeds are currently not found in Missoula County. Management criteria include
monitoring for their presence, prevention, education, mapping, and if found, eradication.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMON NAME</th>
<th>LATIN NAME</th>
<th>ACRES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eurasian watermilfoil</td>
<td><em>Myriophyllum spicatum</em></td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curlyleaf pondweed</td>
<td><em>Potamogeton crispus</em></td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotch broom</td>
<td><em>Cytisus scoparius</em></td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tansy ragwort</td>
<td><em>Senecio jacobea</em></td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow starthistle</td>
<td><em>Centaurea solstitialis</em></td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flowering rush</td>
<td><em>Butomus umbellatus</em></td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRIORITY 2 WEEDS:
These noxious weeds are small infestations, less than 100 acres, and classified as “new invaders.”
These plants have the highest priority in Missoula County to keep them from spreading.
Management criteria include prevention, education, early detection, mapping, and eradication.
Landowner groups will be organized for each new invader weed species. Priority for controlling
Knotweed complex and tamarisk will be in the riparian areas. Control of these two plants grown as
ornamentals will be voluntary by the homeowner. The Weed District will pay up to $100.00 towards
their removal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMON NAME</th>
<th>LATIN NAME</th>
<th>ACRES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dyer’s woad</td>
<td><em>Isatis tinctoria</em></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitetop</td>
<td><em>Cardaria draba</em></td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple loosestrife</td>
<td><em>Lythrum salicaria</em></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diffuse knapweed</td>
<td><em>Centaurea diffusa</em></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rush skeletonweed</td>
<td><em>Chondrilla juncea</em></td>
<td>&lt; 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian knapweed</td>
<td><em>Centaurea repens</em></td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange hawkweed</td>
<td><em>Hieracium aurantiacum</em></td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadow hawkweed</td>
<td><em>Hieracium pretense</em></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Hieracium floribundum</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Yellowflag iris | *Hieracium pilosellaides* | 100
Perennial pepperweed | *Iris pseudacorus* | 8
Blueweed | *Lepidium latifolium* | 1
Japanese Knotweed | *Echium vulgare* | 20
Tamarisk | *Polygonum cuspidatum* | 8

**PRIORITY 3 WEEDS:**
These noxious weeds are widespread infestations over 100 acres. They are managed through organized cooperative landowner groups. Scattered infestations of Priority 3 species such as leafy spurge, Dalmatian toadflax, and yellow toadflax, may be managed as Priority 2 species outside of designated, established infestations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMON NAME</th>
<th>LATIN NAME</th>
<th>ACRES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field bindweed</td>
<td><em>Convolvulus arvensis</em></td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johnsworth</td>
<td><em>Hypericum perforatum</em></td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalmatian toadflax</td>
<td><em>Linaria dalmatica</em></td>
<td>4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common tansy</td>
<td><em>Tanacetum vulgare</em></td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houndstongue</td>
<td><em>Cynoglossum officinale</em></td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tall buttercup</td>
<td><em>Ranunculus acris</em></td>
<td>7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leafy spurge</td>
<td><em>Euphorbia esula</em></td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada thistle</td>
<td><em>Cirsium arvense</em></td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxeye daisy</td>
<td><em>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</em></td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfur cinquefoil</td>
<td><em>Potentilla recta</em></td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted knapweed</td>
<td><em>Centaurea stoebe</em></td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common toadflax</td>
<td><em>Linaria vulgaris</em></td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoary alyssum</td>
<td><em>Berteroa incana</em></td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REGULATED SPECIES:**
The Montana Department of Agriculture has designated the following plants as "regulated" which means they cannot be sold or distributed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMON NAME</th>
<th>LATIN NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cheatgrass</td>
<td><em>Bromus tectorum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian olive</td>
<td><em>Elaeagnus angustifolia</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrilla</td>
<td><em>Hydrilla verticillata</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MISSION STATEMENT
To promote and maintain healthy vegetation by minimizing the ecological and economic impact of noxious weeds through public education, technology transfer, and monitoring, and by facilitating involvement of landowners and land management agencies to control the highest-priority species in our most sensitive areas. To carry out our mission, the Missoula County Weed Board emphasizes the following program areas:

- Mapping and Inventory
- Prevention
- Vegetation Management (cooperative weed management areas)
- Educational Outreach
- Research and Technology Transfer

COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT ACROSS COUNTY AND STATE LINES
Missoula County Weed District will actively promote and encourage cooperation with local, state and federal partners beyond the boundaries of Missoula County to support research and education projects that advance the management of invasive species and promote desirable vegetation in Missoula County, the state of Montana and the Northern Rocky Mountain region.

TERRESTRIAL NOXIOUS WEEDS

- MAPPING and INVENTORY -

MISSION STATEMENT: Provide up-to-date information on the distribution, movement, and impact of noxious weeds on vegetation in Missoula County, and assist public and private landowners in mapping the land they manage.

Current Mapping Programs:

- Map the extent of new invader weeds;
- Evaluate and monitor rates and patterns of spread of new invaders in Missoula County;
- Evaluate/monitor rates and patterns of spread of noxious weeds in Missoula County;
- Improve and maintain countywide geospatial database of known weed infestations for all jurisdictions of Missoula County;
- Conduct field mapping, produce weed maps, and provide mapping support for cooperating agencies and cooperative landowner groups;
- Continue mapping Priority 1 and Priority 2 weed infestations on public road right-of-ways, streams, and other vectors of spread;
- Continue mapping Priority 3 noxious weeds by section and for specific projects. Field work will determine the extent of Priority 3 weed infestations, establish containment lines for certain species, and identify areas that remain uninfected;
- Facilitate weed mapping courses for private landowners, public agencies, and commercial applicators;
- Produce weed maps for projects and programs;
• Serve as GIS data coordinator for multi-agency, multi-county or watershed mapping projects;
• Maintain maps and database of biocontrol release and monitoring sites;
• Provide general information on status of weeds and weed impacts to the general public and landowners through the Weed District website.

Need for Mapping Action:

• Develop and maintain Internet-based maps of known weed infestations;
• Develop citizen reporting and mapping system, and a network of weed rangers for new invaders;
• Help coordinate a new invader task force comprised of representatives of public agencies and landowner group representatives.

- PREVENTION -

MISSION STATEMENT: To provide leadership in identifying and controlling noxious weeds classified as “new invaders” and to implement programs to minimize the spread of existing noxious weed infestations.

Current Prevention Programs:

• Facilitate new invaders program, coordinate with “weed ranger” for treatment and encourage compliance for Missoula County’s management of Priority 2 weeds;
• Assist Public Works Department and the Montana Department of Transportation in developing and coordinating right-of-way vegetation management programs;
• Conduct field inspection and reporting for landowners involved with Noxious-Weed-Seed Free Forage program;
• Implement control programs for noxious weed infestations identified as new invaders in Missoula County, including purple loosestrife, salt cedar, yellowflag iris, orange and meadow hawkweeds, Russian knapweed, Japanese knotweed, whitetop, dyer’s woad, diffuse knapweed, perennial pepperweed, blueweed, and tamarisk;
• Require appropriate revegetation plans for proposed land development projects in Missoula County;
• Work with the Office of Planning and Grants to ensure that protective covenants, development covenants, and development agreements associated with land development require all landowners/managers to maintain their property in compliance with the Montana County Weed Control Act and the Missoula County Noxious Weed Management Plan.
• Help landowners and HOA’s working within protective covenants, development covenants, and development agreements to revegetate ground disturbances with beneficial plant species by utilizing vegetation management guidelines developed by the weed district.
• Utilize New Invaders Database to monitor management progress towards eradication.
• Maintain website’s prevention page and new invader reporting system.
Need for Prevention Action:

- Write management plans for each new invader species and for regulated species that identify infestation locations, landowner contacts, control methods, and potential funding sources;
- Identify new invaders and regulated species lists to target annually;
- Develop database for revegetation plans;
- Collaborate with other partners to develop and implement a monitoring program for new invaders.

- VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AREAS -

MISSION STATEMENT: To encourage cooperative participation with both public and private landowners within designated watersheds and provide help in applying for and administering grants to promote the growth of desirable vegetation.

Current Management Program:

- Continue to grow and improve on existing Cooperative Landowner Groups until all lands are included in an organized landowner group project;
- Facilitate Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant Program in vegetation management areas;
- Promote efficiency in achieving goals of the Missoula County grants program through annual review of results and by setting goals and priorities for its future;
- Assist landowners in the development integrated vegetation management plans;
- Assist local government agencies with developing, implementing and if needed, funding integrated vegetation management programs;
- Coordinate biological control releases, monitoring, and distribution for Missoula County and partners.

Need for Vegetation Management Action:

- Update current agreement with Montana Rail Link;
- Facilitate the formation of new cooperative landowner groups by actively targeting inactive areas and by organizing informational campaigns to encourage participation;
- Utilize the website, missoulaeduplace.org, to facilitate communication among landowners;
- Publicize success stories of landowner groups and promote accomplishments of outstanding individuals via website;
- Track vegetation management group membership using established databases;
- Develop priorities annually for county grants program;
- Seek funding sources for cooperative landowner groups;
- Update partnership agreement with Missoula County Public Works Department;
- Focus on watersheds without current landowner groups (Lolo, Ninemile, Miller Creek);
- Reach out to conservation groups working in watersheds where we wish to build landowner groups to help identify new partners and leaders;
- Continue to build on current Upper Clark Fork working group efforts.
- EDUCATION -

MISSION STATEMENT: Educate Missoula County residents to promote healthy, productive vegetation, and to control noxious weeds by cultivating their interest in the ecological and economic impacts of noxious weeds.

Current Education Programs:

- Improve public access to educational materials, programs, and information by providing them both hardcopy and digital formats on our website;
- Reach out to new audiences and keep current participants engaged in effective vegetation management by providing information in weed booths;
- Continue participation in the local school district curricula by networking with teachers, providing education materials, giving presentations to classes, leading field trips, service learning, and collaborative research/demonstration projects;
- Continue “Leave No Weeds” program for Missoula County 5th graders held each spring;
- Continue “Naturewalk Week” for 3rd graders every spring;
- Promote and disseminate “kNOweeds” curriculum for K-12 grades and train teachers on its use;
- Develop, organize, and facilitate interactive presentations, programs, and landowner tours to better engage them within cooperative landowner groups;
- Serve on various education committees;
- Provide weed ID trainings for agencies and landowners;
- Organize and attend Missoula Valley Land Manager meetings;
- Organize and facilitate Private Pesticide Applicator trainings and calibration clinics;
- Continue “Healthy Acres: A Landowner Seminar;”
- Promote quarterly newsletter “Healthy Acres;”
- Continue to distribute invasive and native plant poster series;
- Continue to implement Japanese knotweed incentive program.
- Maintain website, www.missoulaeduplace.org, as an easy-to-use source for vegetation management information and education materials.

Need for Education Action:

- Reach broader range of adult audiences by developing and disseminating information on weeds, using electronic media and database management;
- Establish educational demonstration sites;
- Promote integrated vegetation management throughout the county;
- Build better collaborative partnerships with organizations, agencies, and groups with weed management responsibilities to develop new multi-partner educational programs;
- Expand on correspondence with landowner groups via electronic media;
- Develop a small acreage class for new landowners, realtors and developers.
- RESEARCH and TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER -

MISSION STATEMENT: To identify and prioritize research needs and work with the research community to develop new technology and applications that will minimize the ecological and economic impact of noxious weeds to promote desirable vegetation.

Current Projects:

- Continue to monitor cheatgrass herbicide and revegetation research plots;
- Work with the research community on the availability and release of new root insects for toadflax and leafy spurge;
- Support development of biological controls for oxeye daisy and common tansy;
- Continue to develop the “Building Bridges” project concept by bringing researchers and land managers together to identify management-oriented research questions for Western Montana.

Need for Research Action:

- Develop and implement new “best management practices” to prevent invasion through identified routes;
- Develop land-use appropriate seeding recommendations for land managers in Western Montana;
- Establish and coordinate demonstration and research plots;
- Collect and maintain a seed inventory of noxious weeds for researchers;
- Develop and maintain a network of landowners and managers that are interested in conducting invasive species and revegetation research on their property.

AQUATIC NOXIOUS WEEDS

- MAPPING and INVENTORY -

MISSION STATEMENT: Provide up-to-date information on the distribution, movement, and impact of aquatic noxious weeds in water bodies of Missoula County.

Current Mapping Programs:

- Litoral vegetation sampling surveys of lakes and reservoirs;
- Coordinate with surrounding counties to inventory water bodies surrounding or connected to Missoula County.

Need for Mapping Action:

- Aquatic vegetation sampling of the Clark Fork, Blackfoot and Bitterroot River(s) within Missoula County;
- DEVELOPMENT -

MISSION STATEMENT: To develop an online data sharing system for monitoring/mapping done within Missoula County for volunteers and water managers; train volunteers to inventory water bodies for native and invasive aquatic vegetation; coordinate with state mapping efforts; identify sites within our water systems with the greatest risk for nonnative aquatic species introductions.

- PREVENTION -

MISSION STATEMENT: To provide leadership in identifying and controlling aquatic invasive plants and to implement programs to stop their introduction into water bodies in Missoula County.

Current Prevention Programs:

- Support local watercraft inspection stations operated by Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP);
- Working with local watershed groups throughout Western Montana to track nearby infestations of aquatic invasive plants;
- Monitoring local aquarium and aquarium supply stores for the sale of aquatic invasive plants;
- Identify high-risk lakes using FWP fishing and boating pressure data.

Need for Prevention Action:

- Develop watershed specific prevention plans for the Bitterroot, Clark Fork and Blackfoot/Chain of Lakes;
- Develop watershed specific Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) plans to prevent spread of newly found infestations to non-infested water bodies;
- Work with appropriate agencies to install permanent decontamination stations in priority areas;
- Define stakeholder roles in the prevention of aquatic invasive plants;
- Support state-wide prevention efforts.

- WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AREAS -

MISSION STATEMENT: To encourage cooperative participation of both public and private stakeholders within designated watersheds, and to help secure the necessary funding and resources to help protect healthy aquatic systems.

Current Management Program:

- Identifying and bringing together private and public stakeholders in each of the three watershed management areas;
- Assisting groups in obtaining funds for aquatic invasive species management at a local scale.
- Support and coordinate with current independent efforts of local watershed groups.
Need for Vegetation Management Action:

- Assist stakeholders in developing aquatic invasive plant management plans;
- Identify available resources and future needs for aquatic invasive plant management;
- Identify watershed level leaders to promote and coordinate volunteer efforts;
- Define stakeholder roles in the management of aquatic invasive plants.

- EDUCATION -

MISSION STATEMENT: Educate Missoula County residents to cultivate their interest in the ecological and economic impacts of aquatic invasive plants.

Current Education Programs:

- Support current independent education efforts in use by local watershed groups,
- Coordinate with roving watercraft inspection stations for the distribution of education materials to water users;
- Develop an identification guide and non-technical key for native and invasive submerged aquatic plants;
- Develop education programs for youth and adult audiences that focus on prevention, boat inspections and plant identification;
- Incorporate aquatic invasive plant information into the “Healthy Acres” Weed/Extension newsletter.

Need for Education Action:

- Work with local media for the development of stories regarding aquatic invasive plants relevant to our area;
- Utilize social media networks to reach a more diverse audience;
- Encourage local user groups (lakeshore HOA’s, sea plane groups, outfitters, etc.) to be active participants in our education programs.

- RESEARCH and TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER -

MISSION STATEMENT: To identify and prioritize research needs and work with the research community to develop new technology and applications that could minimize the ecological and economic impact of noxious weeds and promote desirable vegetation.

Current Projects:

- Sponsoring environmental-DNA work on Eurasian watermilfoil through USGS.
Need for Research Action:

- Conduct modeling efforts for potential spread of infestations through our flowing water systems from points where introduction is most probable;
- Develop a literature review that summarizes the toxicology of herbicides used to treat aquatic invasive plants.

OTHER PROJECTS

- Facilitate coordination between Weed District and Extension staff to develop space requirements and secure funding sources for a permanent office and equipment storage space.
Appendices

A. Enforcement/Compliance Policy
B. Subdivision Veg Management Plan Guidelines
C. City/County Partnership Program
D. Special Grant Reserve Program
E. Landowner Grant Program
Appendix A. Gaining Compliance in the Management of Noxious Weeds

The Missoula County Weed District views the issue of compliance as a process rather than a single action. The compliance process adopted by the county 1) takes into consideration the biological characteristics that make noxious weeds so invasive and pervasive on the landscape, 2) recognizes the obstacles faced by land managers dealing with noxious weeds and 3) works to provide land managers with the knowledge, resources and tools necessary to meet the standards of noxious weed management set in the Missoula County noxious weed management plan.

The following are a number of obstacles land managers face in dealing with noxious weeds:

> A lack of technology to effectively control most noxious weed species. In the case of spotted knapweed, it is easy to control with herbicides but comes back due to the extensive seed bank. Leafy spurge, with its extensive root system, is extremely difficult to control after its first two years of establishment.

> Private land managers cite the cost of weed control as being greater than the economic return they get from the land.

> Public land management agencies often lack commitment and funding to carry out the long-term management that noxious weeds require; however, there have been some successful models in the approaches taken by the University of Montana and the City of Missoula’s conservation lands vegetation management programs.

> Changes in land-use, development and the residential population increase in rural areas often bring people who lack the experience, knowledge and commitment to manage for healthy vegetation. The change from an agricultural community to a bedroom community also changes social structure, which in turn makes it more difficult to organize cooperative weed management projects.

The Missoula County Weed District has instituted the following programs to address these issues as part of our compliance process:

> The district gives precedence to the noxious weeds classified as Priority 1 and 2 noxious weeds (infestations less than 100 acres). The district will expend resources and organize cooperative landowner projects to control these noxious weeds.
The district will seek control of Priority 3 weeds (infestations greater than 100 acres) through the formation of cooperative vegetation management projects. These projects may be formed on a subdivision, a defined geographic area or a watershed basis. The district will assist in the formation of the project, leadership development and funding through a grant process.

The district will conduct educational programs to improve land managers' knowledge of vegetation management and noxious weed control.

The district will work with the research community to develop more environmentally sensitive, cost-effective methods of noxious weed control.

The district will work with the University Extension Service, Natural Resource and Conservation Service, Conservation District and other entities to help land managers improve their knowledge and skills in managing vegetation.

The district will pursue the legal process of compliance only as a last resort. This will only occur for Priority 1 and 2 noxious weeds as defined in the county noxious weed management plan where the district is unable to gain compliance through other means. The legal process is defined in Section 7-22-2123 MCA, Section 7-22-2124 MCA and Section 7-22-2148 MCA. The text of these section is as follows:

Section 1. Section 7-22-2123, MCA, "7-22-2123. Procedure in case of noncompliance -- notice. (1) (a) Whenever a complaint has been made or the board has reason to believe that noxious weeds described in this part are present upon a landowner's land within the district, the board shall attempt informal resolution of the complaint or alleged presence of noxious weeds by notifying the landowner by mail or telephone. If the situation is not resolved after the initial mail or telephone contact, the board may request inspection of the land by sending the request by certified mail at least 10 days after the initial contact is attempted.

(b) If the landowner has an agent for service on file with the secretary of state, the notice must be given by mail to the registered agent. The landowner or the landowner's representative shall respond to the notice within 10 days.

(c) If the board or the board's agent and the landowner or landowner's representative agree to an inspection, the board or the board's agent and the landowner or the landowner's representative shall inspect the land at an agreeable time. The inspection must occur within 10 days after the agreed-upon inspection date. If within 10 days after sending a certified letter to the address listed on the tax records for the property or the agent of service the board is unable to determine the owner of the property or the landowner objects to the inspection, the
board or the board’s agent may seek a court order to enter and inspect the land to determine if noxious weeds are present on the property.

(2) (a) (i) If the board or the board's agent finds noxious weeds on the property as a result of the inspection, the board or the board’s agent shall notify the landowner or the landowner's representative by certified mail that noxious weeds were found on the property and shall seek voluntary compliance from the landowner or landowner's representative with the district noxious weed management program.

(ii) The notice must contain the language specified in this section.

(iii) If ownership of the land is in question or the board believes it is advisable, the board or the board’s agent may also post in a conspicuous place on the property a dated order providing notice that noxious weeds have been found on the property and directing the landowner or landowner's representative to comply with the district noxious weed management program.

(b) If the board or the board's agent is unable to obtain voluntary compliance with the district noxious weed management program by the landowner or landowner's representative within 10 days after the notification or within 10 days after posting the notice under subsection (2)(a), the landowner is considered to be in noncompliance and is subject to appropriate control measures pursuant to 7-22-2124 or, at the discretion of the board of county commissioners, a civil penalty as established by the board following a public hearing after providing notice as required in 7-1-2121.

(c) (i) Within 10 days after the board has issued a notice to comply with the noxious weed management program, the landowner or landowner's representative may file a request for a hearing before the board if the landowner or landowner's representative disagrees with the noxious weed management control measures proposed to be taken by the board.

(ii) If the landowner's objection to the board's action remains after the hearing, the landowner has 10 days to appeal the board's decision to the district court having jurisdiction in the county in which the property is located.

(d) If a request for a hearing has been filed pursuant to subsection (2)(c), the board or the board’s agent may not take any action to control the noxious weeds until after the hearing and authorization from the board or the court.

(e) If the board imposes the civil penalty authorized in subsection (2)(b) and a hearing is requested in court, the penalty may be sought for each year or portion of a year during which the landowner is not in compliance with the district noxious weed management program.

(3) A landowner is considered to be in compliance if the landowner submits and the board accepts a proposal to undertake specified control measures and is remains in compliance as long as the landowner performs according to the terms of the proposal. The proposal must include a requirement that the landowner or landowner's representative notify the board as measures in the proposal are taken. If the measures proposed to be taken extend beyond the current growing season, the proposal and acceptance must be in writing.

(4) In accepting or rejecting a proposal, the board shall consider the economic impact on the landowner and the landowner's neighbors, practical biological and environmental limitations, and alternative control methods to be used.

(5) If a court issues an order approving a board's actions, the court retains jurisdiction over the matter:

(a) until the actions specified in the weed management plan or court order are complete;
(b) for the length of time specified in the order; or
(c) for 5 years if the order does not specify a time limit.
(6) The department shall provide boards with a uniform notification form that must be used
when notifying landowners of potential noncompliance with this part. The form must:
(a) list the noxious weeds found on the property;
(b) provide the legal description of the property;
(c) provide the address of the property, if available;
(d) state the fact that the presence of the weeds violates state law and that the landowner has
10 days after mailing of the notice to contact the board or its agent;
(e) provide the address and phone number for the board or its agent;
(f) notify the landowner of the landowner’s:
(i) responsibility to submit a weed management proposal; and
(ii) right to request a hearing to contest the finding of noncompliance, including the timeframe
for making the request; and
(g) specify the actions the board may take if the landowner fails to remove the weeds, including
but not limited to the anticipated costs of destroying the weeds, the 25% penalty allowed
under 7-22-2124, and the board’s intent to file a court action to impose a civil fine that may
become a lien upon the property."

Section 2. Section 7-22-2124, MCA,
"7-22-2124. Destruction of weeds by board -- court order -- deposits. (1) (a) The board
may seek a court order to enter upon the landowner’s land and institute appropriate noxious
weed control measures, which may include contracting with a commercial applicator pursuant
to subsection (1)(c)(iii), if:
(i) the landowner or the landowner's representative does not take corrective action within the
time specified in 7-22-2123(2);
(ii) a proposal is not made and accepted as provided in 7-22-2123(3); and
(iii) the board does not receive a formal objection or a request for a hearing.
(b) If the board decides to seek a civil penalty under 7-22-2123(2)(b) instead of taking the
control measures, the board shall obtain judicial approval from the court for the penalty.
(c) (i) After taking action pursuant to subsection (1)(a) or obtaining a court order and instituting
appropriate noxious weed control measures, the board shall submit a bill to the landowner that
covers the costs of the weed control measures and contains a penalty not exceeding 25% of the
total cost incurred. The bill must itemize the hours of labor, cost of material, equipment time,
legal fees, and court costs or provide an invoice from a commercial applicator if the board
contracted for weed control pursuant to subsection (1)(c)(iii). The board shall provide a copy of
the bill, including the penalty, to the county clerk and recorder.
(ii) Labor, material, and equipment used by the board in instituting appropriate noxious weed
control measures must be valued at the current rate paid for commercial management
operations in the district. The bill must reflect actual legal fees and court costs incurred by the
board. The bill submitted to the landowner under subsection (1)(b)(ii) must specify and order a
payment due date of 30 days from the date the bill is sent.
(iii) The board may enter into an agreement with a commercial applicator, as defined in 80-8-102, to destroy the weeds. The commercial applicator shall carry all insurance required by the board.

(c) All penalties collected pursuant to this section are in addition to other penalties authorized under this chapter and must be credited to a noxious weed fund created under 7-22-2141.

(2) If a landowner who received an order to take corrective action requests an injunction or stay of the corrective action in district court within 10 days of receipt of the order, the board may not institute control measures until the matter is finally resolved, except in case of an emergency. If the board declares an emergency and institutes appropriate measures to control the noxious weeds, the landowner who received the order under 7-22-2123(2)(a) is liable for costs as provided in subsection (1) of this section only to the extent determined appropriate by the board, the board of county commissioners, or the court that finally resolves the matter."

Section 3. Section 7-22-2148, MCA,
"7-22-2148. Payment of weed control expenses -- tax liability -- lien. (1) (a) The expenses incurred by the board for noxious weed control undertaken pursuant to 7-22-2124 must be paid by the county out of the noxious weed fund.

(b) If the sum to be repaid by the landowner billed under 7-22-2124 is not repaid on or before the date due, the county clerk shall certify the amount due, with the description of the land to be charged, and shall enter the amount on the assessment list of the county as a special tax on the land. If the land is exempt from general taxation for any reason, the amount due and to be repaid may be recovered by direct claim against the landowner and collected in the same manner as personal taxes.

(c) All amounts collected pursuant to subsection (1)(b) must be deposited in the noxious weed fund.

(2) If a civil penalty is imposed under 7-22-2123, the penalty is, until paid in full, a lien in the amount of the penalty on the infested parcel of the property that lies within the district and belongs to the landowner on whom the penalty was imposed."

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Appendix B.
Comprehensive Subdivision Vegetation Management Plan Guidelines

Introduction
Comprehensive Subdivision Vegetation Management Plans are intended to provide a plan for the vegetative rehabilitation and weed control for all undeveloped and planned open space areas of a subdivision, including all parks and common areas. The management plan will specify that once enough development has occurred within a subdivision to support a Homeowner’s Association (HOA), the HOA will assume responsibility for weed management in the developed parks and common areas while management of all unsold lots and to-be-developed common areas will remain the responsibility of the owner/developer. The management plan will also specify when the HOA will take over these management responsibilities (e.g. when greater than 50% of lots are sold).

Once this transfer of management has taken place, a Vegetation Management Committee shall be established to continue implementation of the plan. The committee will be composed of members from the HOA and the developer/owner. This Vegetation Management Committee should meet with the Missoula County Weed District as required to implement, review and evaluate the activities undertaken for vegetation management and to ensure the best practices to meet the goals of the plan are being used.

Implementation of the plan is the responsibility of the owner/developer, and can commence following the approval of the Missoula County Weed District.

How to use these guidelines
These guidelines are meant to 1) provide a template for the development of a comprehensive subdivision vegetation management plan and 2) serve as a source of information for developers regarding the tools/methods necessary for the management of common noxious weeds found in Missoula County. Chapter 1 covers all the components/categories that should be included in your vegetation management plan, including the introduction, a description and map of the current plant community condition and organization of your site, your management goals, your noxious weed control and revegetation actions and your plan for monitoring the plan's success. Chapters 2 and 3 are provided as references for developers to find the appropriate actions necessary to meet the management goals that are outlined in your plan for the development that is to be managed.
Comprehensive Subdivision Vegetation Management Plans
This guide to the development of a subdivision vegetation management plan is not all-inclusive regarding methods, products or techniques to control weeds and to revegetate the ground surface. Consultations with the Missoula County Weed District are highly recommended at any point, from initial planning to application to monitoring and evaluation.

1.1 Introduction
General introduction to the plan should include the general overview of the subdivision including but not limited to the following:
- Size of overall project,
- Number and size of common areas and parklands,
- The responsibilities of the owner/developer in managing invasive species,
- Conditions for the establishment of the Vegetation Management Committee in cooperation with the HOA\textsuperscript{1},
- The establishment of a fee structure to be assessed to members of the HOA for the implementation of the plan and
- The establishment of a budget for the implementation of the plan.

1.2 Current Condition and Organization of the Site (map)
It is important to properly assess the current characteristics and overall condition of your site in order to successfully organize your site in a way that optimizes those characteristics for the vegetation and uses you plan for them. Overlaying planned lots, open spaces and common areas with a map of the current vegetation (both desired and not desired) will help you choose the proper prescriptions for weed management, revegetation and development. General categories showing the existing condition, planned use and the prescription based on them is an easy and efficient way to visualize the different types of management needed across your site.

1.3 Management Plan Goals
It is important to emphasize that the rehabilitation of any disturbed land is a long-term process, without quick fixes or simple prescriptions. You should always remember that minimizing the amount of disturbance on your site will help in the maintenance of healthy plant communities and save you time and effort in the long run. Your plan should be dynamic and incorporate adaptive management that allows for the incorporation of new technologies and an evolving understanding of the biological systems of your site. The Missoula County Weed District is a great resource for the evaluation on any vegetation management plan and for any review of the plan’s goals and management results. Monitoring and analysis of management results are crucial to the success of a dynamic long-term restoration plan.

\textsuperscript{1} In subdivisions where no HOA is planned due to the absence of common areas, the vegetation management of all lots in the subdivision is to remain the responsibility of the owner/developer until lots are sold. At that time the management and management plan can then be transferred to the new owner.
Management goals should be set according to the current conditions and future organization of the subdivision that you laid out in the previous section. As stated before, management prescriptions for the current condition will be made according to the future use of a site and should typically fall into two categories: (1) Species-specific noxious weed management and (2) Revegetation specific to land condition, type and use.

**Noxious Weed Management Goals**
Your noxious weed management goals should be made based on a noxious weed survey of the property. Specific management for each species will be described in the Control Actions; at this time, describe the current levels of infestation for each species and which management tools can and will be implemented for their control. Noxious weed management goals for any property should include the following:

- Realistic management for each species found to be present in your noxious weed survey; you are not going to hand pull 40 acres of spotted knapweed or treat any species with herbicide once and eradicate it.
- Early detection of new infestations; this should include entirely new species to the site and new infestations of species already present on the site.
- Monitoring of management actions.

**Revegetation Goals**
The establishment of healthy, use/type appropriate vegetation that will minimize weed invasion is the ultimate goal for any revegetation project. In general, revegetation goals for any property should include the following:

- Avoid disturbing areas where you will not be working in the short-term in order to minimize available space for undesirable vegetation to establish
- Re-establish vegetation in disturbed areas as soon as possible to minimize erosion, decrease competition from weeds and improve survival of desired species.
- Establish species that can minimize weed invasion or re-establishment.
- Restore healthy plant communities.

**1.4 Control Actions**
Your control actions will lay out exactly how you plan to manage for existing and future invasive weeds on your site in order to meet your management goals for weed control. There are several actions that can be used in an integrated approach to weed management, and each must be considered on an area-by-area basis dependent on the species to be managed, the soil/water characteristics of the site and intended use of the area. Implementation of any of these activities should be coordinated with the Missoula County Weed District.

*Hand pulling:* This is a useful method for dealing with small infestations, or infestations within a limited area. Hand pulling is most effective on tap-rooted species such as knapweed and least effective on rhizomatous species such as leafy spurge.
Pros: Non-toxic, fun (for some people), results in education, and can be very selective in appropriate conditions.
Cons: Can result in disturbed bare ground (that provides niches for weeds), trampling of non-target species and it is labor intensive.

Mowing: This is a useful tool to reduce flowering and seed set in noxious weeds, and may be helpful in concert with other tools, especially bio-control and herbicide applications. A good example for mowing is spotted knapweed. Knapweed usually reaches full bloom in the first week of August; mowing from mid-July into early August is the most effective way to minimize seed production, which is critical in controlling knapweed.
Pros: Non-toxic (excluding CO emissions) and reduces seed production
Cons: Non-specific (also reduces seed production of non-target species that are beneficial to your site) and it does not kill your target species, only suppresses it.

Biological Control: Biocontrols are organisms such as insects that are the "natural enemies" of the pest plants. These are located in the home range of the invading plant, screened for specificity, and if approved, released onto infestations of the target weed. The goal of biocontrol programs is to reduce the pest plant density to an acceptable level, so that desirable vegetation can respond positively. Biocontrol is not intended to eradicate noxious weeds, but instead makes them less competitive with other vegetation.

Biocontrols are appropriate for addressing long-term control of large, established weed infestations of which there is little chance of eradication. Biocontrols are not appropriate for small, new infestations that can often be eliminated via hand pulling or herbicide applications.

Missoula County Weed District can provide you with sources for biocontrol agents or you can get them by collecting insects from local established populations. Release of biocontrol agents should always be coordinated with the Missoula County Weed District.
Pros: Non-toxic, offers potential of long-term control after release and it is the most species-specific of all control methods.
Cons: Some degree of ecological risk to trophic level interactions (while insects are screened to insure that they do not attack non-target plants, there is no way to screen the effect they will have on interactions between different levels of the food chain, e.g. between plants and herbivores or insects and rodents) and takes a long time to show results.

Grazing: Grazing with sheep and goats has been well documented to successfully control noxious weeds, especially spotted knapweed and leafy spurge. Grazing will not eradicate weeds, but can help maintain them at acceptable levels and can improve the efficacy of herbicide applications.
Pros: Non-toxic, can cover a large area and can help reduce fire fuels.
Cons: Dogs must be leashed during grazing season, possible erosion if animals are mismanaged, labor intensive, non-specific and possible damage to desirable native plant species.

Herbicide: Herbicides such as Tordon 22k (active ingredient picloram), Roundup (active ingredient glyphosate), Milestone (active ingredient aminopyralid) and Plateau (active ingredient imazapic) plus additional herbicides listed in the species recommendations have been used with success in Western Montana. They can be ground applied by truck, ATV, pack stock, or on foot using a backpack by a licensed/certified contractor.

No management plan should rely solely on the use of herbicides. Such a plan would ultimately result in the loss of native forb diversity and weak plant community structure. It is recommended to complement herbicide treatments with the above mentioned control options along with revegetation in order to "spread out" the treatment interval and reduce reliance on herbicides. Additionally, spot treatments are preferred to broadcast treatments when feasible in order to minimize impacts to non-target species.

Pros: High degree of invasive plant control in a short period of time, longer intervals between treatments than other methods, can be applied to more acres in a shorter period of time than other methods and minimal ground disturbance and product used.
Cons: Varying toxicity and varying degree of impact to non-target vegetation depending on rate of application and product used.

1.4 Appropriate Revegetation with Desired Species
The establishment of healthy, use/type appropriate vegetation is the most effective way to minimize weed invasion and establishment on your site in the long term. Depending on the severity of the current noxious weed infestation, actual revegetation may or may not be required. Typically, revegetation is recommended if the cover by desirable species is less than 30% at the time weed control actions are undertaken. Conditions such as soil type, annual precipitation, slope, aspect, intended use, wildlife and more can all affect the success of a revegetation effort, and have to be taken into consideration when choosing the appropriate species for a revegetation project. Drought tolerant grasses and forbs should not be used to revegetate wet riparian sites. Similarly, native bunch grasses and forbs should not be used in heavily grazed horse pastures. If native species are to be used in common areas and open space, local ecotypes should be used to preserve genetic diversity and ensure that the plants are adapted to local conditions. Other considerations for revegetation include the types of plant materials being used on the site (seeds vs. bare-root stock vs. plugs), time of planting, depth of planting and equipment.

Please refer to Chapter 2 for lists of some appropriate species for different site conditions and uses. Consult the Missoula County Weed District with questions.
1.5 Response Monitoring and Re-evaluation
Data from monitoring sections should be collected after control treatments and revegetation efforts have been carried out. This will allow for an evaluation of the changes in vegetation in response to your management efforts. These efforts will allow you to re-evaluate your strategy and allow for more adaptive management. Management plans should be reviewed as needed by the property owner/developer, the Vegetation Management Committee and the Missoula County Weed District.
Appendix C. City/County Partnership Program

POLICIES & CRITERIA

Funds are available to assist the County Road Department, County Park Board, Missoula Open Space, and other city/county departments that manage land, in the development and implementation of an integrated weed management (IWM) program.

- A matching dollar program (50/50 desirable) is directed towards establishing and maintaining a beneficial vegetation program.
- The Missoula County Weed Board has the discretion to fund a portion, all or none of a proposal.
- Proposals must be received from a representative of the organization.
- It is required that a presentation of the proposal be made to the Missoula County Weed Board.
- Reimbursement is made after the successful completion of the project.
- Successful applicants have from April 1 to December 31 to complete their project.
- All herbicide applications must be applied by a licensed and insured Commercial or Government Applicator.
- Signs must be posted at least 24 hours before and 24 hours following any herbicide application.

CRITERIA for PROPOSAL

- Degree of commitment
- In-kind contribution and dollars committed
- Severity of weed problem (State Noxious Weeds have priority)
- Number of infested acres
- Number of acres to be treated
- Benefits to the community and county
Appendix D. Special Reserve Grant Program

**SPECIAL GRANT RESERVE PROGRAM**

**POLICIES & CRITERIA**

**Mission:** The Missoula County Weed District recognizes the benefits of landowners working together to solve the issues of managing for healthy plant communities. This special fund is set aside to aid the weed district staff in helping these landowners organize weed management areas, as well as, maintain and expand current efforts.

- $10,000 was approved by the Missoula County Weed Board on June 19, 2008 for a “Special Grant Reserve.”

- This grant is budgeted annually and made available at the discretion of the Missoula County Weed District staff, for projects that exceed their approved / budgeted amount such as:
  
  Cooperative projects in WMA’s; that support MCWD’s mission
  
  Emergencies such as after fire events to include Integrated Weed Management Practices;
  
  New invaders to Missoula County or new to established Weed Management Areas (WMA’s);
  
  Weed management activities on county roads, water corridors or other areas contributing to the spread of noxious weeds;
  
  Projects which benefit watersheds, WMA’s, Counties, or Montana.

  And others

**APPLICATION**

- Must fill out an application if requesting over $500
- Landowners may request application and work with Weed District staff
- Weed District staff may initiate applications
- Applications may be accepted anytime during the year provided funds are available
- Projects will be reviewed by the Weed District Staff and presented to the Weed Board for approval, based on staff recommendations.
- Recipients may be requested to present how the funding was used to the Weed Board
- Funds will be reimbursed after the project is completed or unless otherwise approved
Appendix E. Landowner Grant Program

The MISSOULA COUNTY WEED DISTRICT offers this grant program to assist landowners in implementing their long-term integrated weed management practices.

- The focus of the program is on new invaders as listed on the State Noxious Weed List 1b or 2a, or as listed in an organized Missoula County Weed Management area (see our web site www.missoulaeduplace.org.). Spotted Knapweed is not a priority as there are biological insects dispersed and many effective herbicides.
- Groups and organized partnerships will be given priority over individual landowners. Examples of prioritized groups and partnerships include organized citizens within rural subdivisions, homeowner associations, irrigation districts, and watersheds.
- Plans using multiple integrated weed management methods, as described in the management tool section of this brochure, will be given priority.
- Landowner grants may monetarily match noxious weed trust funds for county roads in a weed management group.
- First time applicants will be given priority.
- Return applicants are encouraged to apply with a neighbor.

GENERAL INFORMATION
- Grant application must be completed by February 1.
- Grants will be awarded by April 1.
- Project must be acceptable to the entire group or by subdivision covenants, bylaws, etc.
- Reimbursement will be made after the project has been completed and all receipts and the Reimbursement Form have been submitted to the Weed District.
- Landowner must agree to the terms and provisions of the grant application.
- Landowner must agree to allow Weed District staff and/or Weed Board members to inspect their project as deemed necessary.

FUNDING
- $20,000 is available for the 2012 Grant Program
- A grant cannot exceed $500.00 per individual. Group grant funding will vary by number of participants and cost of project.
- The Weed District will refund 50% of the maximum project cost (balance to be paid by applicant.)
- Applicant can pay in the form of cash, in-kind services such as labor, or other cost-share programs excluding the Noxious Weed Trust Fund.
- Any applicant who attended weed district sponsored trainings is eligible to submit their labor costs as matching funds.
- The Weed District grant funds, combined with other grants, cannot exceed the cost of the project.
LIMITATIONS

- Only one project per person or group per year (private sector only) will be granted.
- Project must be located in Missoula County.
- Project must be completed by December 31.
- Only on-the-ground practices are eligible. No research or study projects will be granted.
- No capital items will be reimbursed (i.e., sprayer, fencing, etc.)
- No extensions will be made if funds are not expended.