

Huerfano County Noxious Weed Management Plan

Overview

Huerfano County has pursued the control, containment, and if warranted, eradication of noxious weeds within its jurisdiction since the inception of the Colorado Noxious Weed Act in 1990. Given the limited availability of staff and funding, chemical controls have proven to be the most cost effective option for control of noxious weeds within Huerfano County. Lands and climatic factors within Huerfano County vary greatly as related to the type, density, and growth of noxious weeds in any given area. Generally, species reach maturity much sooner in the eastern, lower elevations of Huerfano County, while there is somewhat of a delayed, later season maturity in areas of higher elevations and cooler temperatures in western areas of the County. These factors provide a unique challenge to noxious weed management in Huerfano County given the dramatic variations in elevation, temperature, soil type, and moisture.

Environmental Considerations

When compared to other areas, the physical nature of the lands within Huerfano County provides ideal conditions for the application of herbicides. While not present in all areas, the predominate clay soil types found in Huerfano County are conducive to limiting the potential of off target herbicide movement through the soil profile by means of leaching. The limited number of propagated farm land and riparian areas within the county limit the amount sensitive areas as well. Routine public treatment areas can generally be defined as rangeland and right of way. Biological controls have been implemented in environmentally sensitive areas as well as the use of site specific aquatic use herbicides. Huerfano County is not currently listed as having restrictions pertaining to the use of many of the most effective herbicides as our neighbors in the San Luis Valley have been subject to. Huerfano County will make every reasonable effort possible to utilize general use herbicides:

- Of the lowest practical toxicity.
- To select herbicide with the least potential to leach into groundwater sources or otherwise move off target.
- To avoid bareground situations through the use of selective broadleaf herbicides.
- During the prime stages of plant susceptibility.
- By minimizing the amount of herbicide applied through the practice of spot spraying in lieu of broadcast spraying.

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Objectives of this Plan

The primary objective of this plan is to comply with the regulations and standards set forth in the Colorado Noxious Weed Act (Colorado Revised Statutes 35-5.5). This plan provides policy and guidance to public and private landowners for noxious weed management in Huerfano County.

Policy Statement

The Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager and licensed staff will advise landowners/managers about the need for weed control within Huerfano County. Huerfano County will garner awareness of the negative impact of noxious weeds through the use of public outreach and education. On the ground efforts will only be as successful as our efforts towards public awareness and education. Landowner participation is necessary to thwart the ongoing introduction and establishment of invasive plant species within Huerfano County. When prescribing noxious weed control measures, integrated vegetation management principals will be applied in recognition of the necessity for a diverse, multi tiered approach to successful weed management. The essential elements of an integrated vegetation management may include:

- **Cultural and Mechanical Control:** First and foremost, good land management is always encouraged to prevent an invasion. The key is to create conditions favorable for desirable plants, thus increasing competition for undesirable noxious weeds. Methods include properly timed irrigation, mowing, burning, livestock grazing, plowing, and seeding. When correctly implemented, these methods are effective as control measures as well as preventive measures.
- **Biological Control:** Many noxious weeds become prolific due to the fact that they have no natural predators. The Colorado State Insectary tests insects and pathogens to control invasive species. Care is taken to be sure they will not move to native species or crops. Biological management of noxious weeds will continue to grow as more biological controls are developed. Biological controls are not a valid eradication method when used alone, but can be integrated with other methods of weed control.
- **Chemical Control:** The use of herbicides is expected to remain our most effective tool for managing noxious weeds. Due to a variety of factors, herbicides are often most effective, but can still be used in conjunction with other management methods. Huerfano County Weed Management prefers applying selective herbicides using a spot-spraying technique. Spot spraying (when compared to broadcast spraying) is more cost-effective, reduces the amount of herbicide in the environment, and prevents

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unnecessary damage to surrounding vegetation. Integrated noxious weed management calls for the sensible application of chemical herbicides. According to the policies stated previously, Huerfano County Weed Management will use chemical control methods when appropriate.

Mapping

Huerfano County will track and monitor infestations of Colorado State listed noxious weeds within its jurisdiction through the use of the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDD maps). By utilizing this system, Huerfano County will be logging data collected into the central portal for reporting invasive species in Colorado. The Colorado Department of Agriculture has adopted this system as the primary means for local governments to report the type and extent of noxious weeds within their jurisdiction.

Funding

Weed control funds have been generated locally in response to the provisions set forth by the original Colorado Noxious Weed Act of 1990, its current edition and amendments. Now, the 'ACT' provides for appropriations by the state legislature "for the purpose of funding noxious weed management projects". The Colorado Department of Agriculture is authorized to award grants from these funds to local weed control agencies. The Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager, with the consent of the County Commissioners, will apply for such grants (and others) as needed. All funds generated will be deposited into the Huerfano County "noxious weed fund" and only used for invasive species management.

Comment [CB1]: Current edition and amendments added. 1-5-18

Requirements of the Colorado Noxious Weed Act

The Colorado Noxious Weed Act (Colorado Revised Statutes 35-5.5) was originally signed into law in 1991 and amended in 1996, 2003 and thereafter as needed. Also referred to in the document as the 'ACT', it directs the Board of County Commissioners from each county in the State to adopt a Noxious Weed Management Plan for all unincorporated land within each county (CRS 35-5.5-105). The 'ACT' further directs each Board of County Commissioners to appoint a Noxious Weed Board whose power and duties are as follows:

The local Noxious Weed Board shall have the power and duty to:

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- Develop a recommended management plan for the integrated management of designated noxious weeds and recommended management criteria for noxious weeds within the area governed by the local government and or governmental entity appointing the local advisory board. The management plan shall be reviewed at regular intervals but not less often than once every three years from the date of adoption by the local advisory board. The management plan and any amendments made thereto shall be transmitted to the local governing body for approval, modification, or rejection.
- Declare noxious weeds and any state noxious weeds designated by rule to be subject to integrated management.
- Recommend to the local governing body that identified landowners be required to submit an individual integrated management plan to manage noxious weeds on their property.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture has developed rules pertaining to the 1996 'ACT'; and has adopted new rules (119-CR 5) as needed for the administration and enforcement of the 'ACT'. The most significant changes made to the 'ACT' in 2004 pertain to the classification of noxious weeds into one of several categories (C.R.S.35-5.5-108).

1. List A: rare noxious weed species that are subject to eradication wherever detected statewide in order to protect neighboring lands and the state as a whole. All populations of List A species are designated by the commissioner for eradication.

2. List B: noxious weed species for which the commissioner, in consultation with the state weed advisory committee, local governments, and other interested parties, develops and implements state noxious weed management plan designed to stop the continued spread of these species.

3. List C: noxious weed species for which the commissioner, in consultation with the state weed advisory committee, local governments, and other interested parties, will develop and implement weed management plans designed to support the efforts of local governing bodies to facilitate more effective, integrated weed management on public and private lands. The goal of such plans will not be to stop the continued spread of these species but to provide additional educational, research and biological control resources to jurisdictions that choose to require management of List C species.

The Colorado Noxious Weed Act allows for cooperative planning and plan administration among counties and municipalities. Additionally, the 'ACT' establishes the position of State Weed Coordinator in the Colorado Department of Agriculture, and creates a State Noxious Weed Management Fund. The Department of Agriculture may

Comment [CB2]: Or governmental entity. Added 1-5-18

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make special grants from this fund to local entities for the management of State noxious weeds.

Enforcement Procedure

The following shall be the standard operating procedure and overall guidelines to be followed by Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager, as related to the enforcement of the Colorado Noxious Weed Act:

1. Introduction:

Huerfano County recognizes it is in the best interest of all landowners in unincorporated Huerfano County to manage or control noxious weeds. The negative effect of noxious weeds on property values, agricultural productivity including native plants and animals is well documented. Non-native invasive species displace and compete with crops and native plants, consume water otherwise used by desirable plants and numerous agricultural, domestic and recreational uses. Many of these weeds reproduce exponentially in the absence of their natural predators while costing billions of dollars in lost agricultural crop production and livestock harm each year nationwide.

State law (CRS 35-5.5-101 et seq.) requires all landowners to manage noxious weeds on their property. Huerfano County has adopted a Noxious Weed Management Plan and noxious weeds are being aggressively managed on County road right-of-ways. Huerfano County recognizes that a combination of management techniques are necessary to any successful management plan and will apply integrated vegetation management principals towards the control, suppression, and if warranted, eradication of noxious weeds within its jurisdiction. This Plan defines and extends the responsibility of weed management to private landowners as well as State and Federal lands within the unincorporated County and establishes a grant-funded Cost Share program to assist landowners with the costs of noxious weed control as funding is available.

Public education and awareness are essential to controlling the detrimental impacts that noxious weeds inflict upon lands within Huerfano County. Technical advice and recommendations are available to private landowners that request assistance through the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager and Colorado State University Cooperative Extension. However, many landowners are either unaware that they have noxious weeds or are unconcerned. Lack of noxious weed control poses a threat to neighboring properties as weed infestations cross property lines.

2. Requirements:

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State Law allows the County to pursue control of noxious weeds on private property. This document outlines the priorities and procedures to be taken to ensure that noxious weeds are controlled on all property within Huerfano County. It is the policy of Huerfano County to implement the management of noxious weeds on private property as outlined in the following sections.

3. Implementation:

This procedure will be implemented when the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager receives a report or observes a noxious weed infestation. An initial screening of the property from public right-of-way or a neighbor's property will be made to determine if the problem is significant. After determining the validity and extent of the reported infestation, all efforts will be made by the Manager to contact and/or meet with the landowner, get permission to enter the property to identify the weeds, develop a Noxious Weed Management Plan with the landowner, and follow up on control efforts. The Manager will also inform the landowner of County Cost Share programs available to assist with the cost of controlling the weeds should funds be available. Expenditure of Cost Share Funds must be approved by the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Board, but in any case shall not be available to the landowner until a Weed Management Plan for the property is approved and costs are actually incurred by the landowner.

Comment [CB3]: Added 1-5-18

Cooperation between the landowner and the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager is essential to the proper management of noxious weeds. Cooperation by the landowner is defined as allowing the Manager or assignee entry to the property in question for inspection and post-treatment follow-up, assisting with development of a Noxious Weed Management Plan, and complying with the Noxious Weed Management Plan. The Manager will strive to work with the landowner to develop a Noxious Weed Management Plan that considers the landowner's resources, reflects Best Management Practices, and incorporates scientifically proven methods of weed management. Reduction, containment, or eradication of the weeds, depending on weed species and the specific situation, will be the desired outcome of the Noxious Weed Management Plan. If the landowner and the Manager cannot agree on a Noxious Weed Management Plan, the landowner can request an arbitration panel to determine the final Management Plan. The composition and selection of the arbitration panel is defined by State Law [C.R.S. 35-5.5-109 (4)(b)(III)] as: The arbitration panel chosen by the local governing body shall be comprised of a weed management specialist or weed scientist, a landowner of similar land in the same county, and a third panel member chosen by agreement of the first two panel members. The landowner or occupant shall be entitled to challenge any

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one member of the panel, and the local governing body shall name a new panel member from the same category. The decision of the arbitration panel shall be final.

Failure to manage the weeds according to the Noxious Weed Management Plan will be deemed as non-cooperation. State Law and the Huerfano County policies and procedures for Management of Noxious Weeds on private property will provide guidance to the Manager to ensure that the weeds are managed properly. A warrant must be obtained to enter the property to inspect and/or control the noxious weeds when a landowner refuses to cooperate. The cost of treating the weeds may be billed to the landowner. Unpaid bills may be placed as a lien on the property. Cost Share funds through Huerfano County are not available to uncooperative landowners.

When cooperation is not forthcoming from the landowner and a noxious weed infestation is present and not being managed in accordance with acceptable best management practices for noxious weeds in Huerfano County, the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager will bring the case to the Noxious Weed Board. The board will decide whether or not the case should be pursued. Upon recommendation of the Noxious Weed Board, the case will be brought to the Board of County Commissioners. The Commissioners will decide whether the Manager should proceed with enforcement of the State Law and County Procedures, and will allocate funds to pay for treatment. Should enforcement be deemed necessary, Best management practices will be determined by the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager.

4. Priorities for Implementing Action: The following situations are recognized as priorities for noxious weed management on private property:

- Properties infested with noxious weeds that threaten productive agriculture, where the landowner requests assistance or where a complaint has been filed with the Manager;
- A complaint from an adjacent neighbor or a request for assistance from the landowner that noxious weeds are infesting or have the potential to infest their non-agricultural property;
- Infestations of State List A,B and C noxious weeds or any Targeted Weeds stated in the Huerfano County Noxious Weed List for Management in Huerfano County;
- Infestations noted by the Manager or other County employees that are encroaching on county road rights-of-way, making it difficult to control or eradicate such noxious weeds on county roads.

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5. Standard Operating Procedures:

A. Purpose:

The procedures outlined herein will ensure that measures outlined in the Colorado Noxious Weed Act, CRS 35-5.5-101 et seq., for management and control of noxious weeds on private property are followed.

Comment [CB4]: Space added 1-5-18

B. Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager to follow all procedures established in CRS 35-5.5-109 before any management or control of noxious weeds is carried out on privately owned land. The manager will keep complete records of all interactions (conversations, phone calls, letters, actions taken, etc.) with landowners. Bills for the cost of control measures are to be prepared by the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager and submitted to the Huerfano County Finance Department for processing. It is the responsibility of the Manager to work with the landowner to develop a Weed Management Plan and to notify the landowner of any Cost Share Programs available for management of noxious weeds. The Manager will provide the landowner with Cost Share information if available.

Comment [CB5]: Space added 1-5-18

C. Procedures

The following procedures must be followed before noxious weed management or control can be carried out on privately owned land: (See appendix A for workflow diagram)

1. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE: When a request for assistance is received from a landowner, a site visit will be arranged to identify the weeds present. Prior to the on site visit landowners or occupants must request and complete a "Request for Assistance Form" available from the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager. Request for Assistance forms will also be available on the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Department link, within the Huerfano.us website, in PDF format. All original applications must be returned to the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Department prior to site visit. If no Huerfano County or Colorado State list noxious weeds are found, recommendations for management of non-noxious weeds will be given if necessary. If noxious weeds are found, the infestations will be recorded. A Noxious Weed Management Plan may be developed in conjunction with the landowner and an application for the Cost Share Program may be offered to the landowner.

Comment [CB6]: Section added 1-5-18

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2. COMPLAINTS: When a complaint of a noxious weed infestation is received, the following procedure shall be followed:

A) **INSPECTION:** the Manager shall verify the infestation before taking further action. The landowner shall then be notified of impending inspection of their property in the following ways:

B) If the presence of noxious weeds must be confirmed by an on-site inspection (i.e. cannot be confirmed from the right-of-way or neighboring property), the Manager or their assignee will contact the landowner by phone and certified mail to get permission to enter the property. All phone calls will be documented as to date and information given. If the landowner cannot be contacted by phone, a certified return receipt mail letter will still be sent to the landowner, stating a specific date and time for the inspection. If the landowner wishes to be present during the inspection, the date and time of the inspection shall be adjusted to accommodate them.

Comment [CB7]: Replaces Him\Her.
Added 1-5-18

C) If the presence of noxious weeds can be confirmed from the right-of-way or neighboring property, the landowner will be contacted by phone and certified return receipt mail letter to request an on-site inspection. A specific date and time for the inspection shall be given to the landowner. The letter shall ask the landowner to contact the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager to acknowledge receipt of the letter at least one (1) business day before the pending inspection.

Comment [CB8]: Title corrected.

D) The following information will be included in the Inspection letter:

- Time and date of inspection;
- Suspected noxious weed(s) present;
- Landowner's responsibility to manage noxious weeds in Huerfano County;
- Availability of Cost Share Program funding; and
- Consequences of non-cooperation. The landowner shall be given a full explanation of the importance of cooperating with the County to manage weeds on private property.

E) If no response is forthcoming from the landowner or if access to the property is denied by the landowner, an inspection warrant will be sought and all associated court costs will be assessed against the landowner, unless good cause can be demonstrated by the landowner as to why the response was not given in a timely manner,

F) All possible methods shall be engaged to determine that the actual owner of the property has been contacted. This may include contacting the Clerk and Recorder's office to see if the deed has been transferred. If the property has been transferred, the

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new owner must be informed of the weed problem before any further action can be taken.

3) NOTIFICATION: Once the Manager or their assignee has inspected the property and confirmed a noxious weed infestation on the property, the landowner shall be contacted by phone and certified return receipt mail letter to notify them of the presence of noxious weeds. The landowner shall be given the following information:

- Location of noxious weed infestations;
- Common and/or scientific names of noxious weeds found;
- Acceptable, effective control measures for the weeds;
- The stage or time of year control measures must be performed for best control;
- Any other information on Best Management Practices for the weeds of concern;
- Information on available Cost Share Programs;
- The date by which the landowner must contact the Manager to begin developing a Noxious Weed Management Plan for the property;

• Notification that within **ten (10) days** from receipt of the notification letter the landowner shall indicate whether he/she will: 1) comply with the terms of the notification; 2) acknowledge the terms of the notification and submit an acceptable alternative weed management plan and schedule for completion of the plan for compliance; or 3) request an arbitration panel to determine the final weed management plan; and

• Notification that failure to contact the Manager by the specified date indicates non-compliance by the landowner and that noxious weed management procedures will be initiated by the County. **If, after ten days with no response from the affected landowner or upon denial of access before the expiration of ten days, the inspector may seek an inspection warrant issued by a municipal, county, or district court having jurisdiction over the land. The court shall issue an inspection warrant upon presentation by the local governing body of an affidavit stating: (A) The information that gives the inspector reasonable cause to believe that any provision of this C.R.S. section 35-5.5-104.5, or section 35-5.5-108, is being or has been violated; (B) The affected landowner has failed to respond or the landowner or occupant has denied access to the inspector; and (C) A general description of the location of the affected land. (II) No affected landowner or occupant shall deny access to an authorized agent of the local governing body or the commissioner in possession of an inspection warrant.**

Comment [CB9]: Correct duration for preliminary notification, shortens to 5 days upon enforcement notice.

Comment [CB10]: Section Added for clarity of process.

C) ENFORCEMENT NOTICE:

- 1) An Enforcement Notice will be sent in the following situations:

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- When the landowner refuses to contact the Manager, refuses to grant entry to the property, refuses to develop a Noxious Weed Management Plan, or otherwise refuses to control the noxious weeds;

- Noxious weed control efforts have not been implemented within the time period specified in the Weed Management Plan developed by the Manager and the landowner;

or

- When immediate action is necessary and the landowner has not been cooperative, i.e., when the weed is in the prime stage to be controlled and any delay will either cause it to go to seed or postpone control until the following season.

2) The Enforcement Notice will be sent by certified return receipt mail and shall include:

- Location of noxious weed infestations;
- Common and/or scientific names of noxious weeds found;
- Acceptable, effective control measures for the weeds;
- The stage, time of year or specific date when control measures must be performed for best control;
- Any other information on Best Management Practices for the weeds concerned;
- Notification that the landowner has ten (10) days from receipt of the enforcement notice to either comply with control procedures or submit in writing that he/she will cooperate with the Manager to develop a Noxious Weed Management Plan; and
- Documentation of previous attempts to contact the landowner.

4) **ENFORCEMENT:** If a landowner receives an Enforcement Notice and does not contact the Manager within **five (5) days** of receiving the notice:

- The Manager will review all information pertinent to the case.
- If warranted, the Manager will bring the case to the attention of the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Board. The Huerfano County Noxious Weed Board may, if necessary, recommend the case to the Huerfano County Board of Commissioners for further action.
- The Manager shall request a right-of-entry to control the weeds from the County Commissioners at a public hearing.
- **County Commissioners have the authority to provide for and compel the management of such noxious weeds at such time, upon such notice, and in such manner as the local governing body shall prescribe by ordinance or resolution.**
- If right-of-entry is given, the Manager or their assignee may contact a designated private contractor or provide the control work.
- After control work is carried out on private property, the Manager or their assignee shall, if required review the contractor's work for completeness. The

Comment [CB11]: Changed to 5 to match C.R.S. post enforcement notice response duration.

Comment [CB12]: C.R.S. 35-5-5-109 (5)(a)(1)

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Manager's check shall depend on the weed species and control method or methods used. Given the long-term establishment that biological controls require, severe infestations may not be applicable to biological control efforts to properties under enforcement when a threat is posed to neighboring plant communities or areas.

5. BILLING: After noxious weed control measures are carried out:

- A) A bill will be prepared for the cost of control. A 20% administrative fee as permitted under CRS 35-5.5-109 will be applied in cases where enforcement measures have been carried out.
- B) The bill will be sent by certified return receipt mail.
- C) If the bill is not paid after 30 days, an assessment may be placed as a lien against each lot or tract of land, until paid, and shall have priority over all other liens except general taxes and prior special assessments. Such assessment may be certified to the County Treasurer and collected and paid in the same manner as provided for the collection of taxes. The minimum allowable lien amount is \$150.00.
- D) The Manager or their assignee will contact the Treasurer's Office for a special assessment on the property which may result in a lien on the property.
- E) Any funds collected for the management of noxious weeds on private property shall only be deposited in Huerfano County's Weed Management Fund.

6. Huerfano County Noxious Weed Cost Share Program: The County may provide a Noxious Weed Cost Share Program to assist landowners within unincorporated Huerfano County with the cost of managing noxious weeds as funding is available. The program will be administered by the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager. Allocation of funds will be only for those species listed in the Noxious Weed Management Plan or newly established "A list" category species and shall be listed as Targeted Weeds. Applications will be reviewed and approved by the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager. Funds will not be available to landowners who have had a formal complaint lodged against them and/or who fail to cooperate with the Manager.

- A. Application Process: An application may be acquired from the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager and must be complete to be considered for funding. The application must be accompanied by a recommended Noxious Weed Management Plan that has been approved by the Manager and proof of ownership, available from the Huerfano County Assessor's Office. The Manager will be available to assist landowners with developing a Noxious Weed Management Plan and templates will be available. Applications will be considered twice per year and prioritized

Comment [CB13]: Added 1-5-18

Comment [CB14]: Section added 1-5-18

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according to Huerfano County's Targeted Weeds and other criteria listed in the program documents. If all funds have been allocated for the year, the application may be considered for funding the following year or denied altogether. In the case of noxious weed species that are a high priority for control (List A species), additional budget funds may be requested from the County or other entity. However, the funding limit for any one landowner shall be designated each year and be based off of funding availability or as otherwise determined by the Huerfano County Board of Commissioners.

B. Eligibility: Landowners with noxious weeds who own or operate property on the Huerfano County Tax rolls are eligible to apply for the Cost Share Program. Lessees and other property managers must submit written approval from the landowner to participate in the Cost Share Program.

C. Reimbursement: The Cost Share Program will pay for up to 50% of the cost of herbicides, the cost of professional herbicide application, and/or mechanical control, up to a total of the designated sum per landowner per year. Other weed control related costs may be considered if appropriate documentation is provided and consistent with provisions set forth in the recommended Noxious Weed Management Plan. The noxious weeds may be treated with herbicide by the landowner or their assignee, or by a commercial applicator. **Although landowners may personally apply herbicides to the weeds or utilize any agent for application purposes, reimbursement for labor costs shall only apply to a insured, certified commercial pesticide applicator. Professional applicators must have a current and valid Qualified Supervisors license issued by the Colorado Department of Agriculture in the category relevant to the property where work will be performed. Any use of a landowner's employee for herbicide application purposes shall not be reimbursable.** Cost Share funds may be withheld if it is found that treatment was not done in accordance with the applicable Weed Management Plan or other Federal or State requirement.

Comment [CB15]: Added 1-5-18

Comment [CB16]: Emboldened and clarified.
1-5-18

D. Reasons for Disqualification or Denial: A landowner's Cost Share application may be denied in the following circumstances:

1. If the landowner has not cooperated with the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager and control of noxious weeds; priorities and procedures to the extent that a warrant for inspection was required.
2. Attempting to defraud the program in any manner.
3. Applying herbicides inconsistent with the product label.

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4. Using program materials outside of the program guidelines.
5. Failure to follow weed control recommendations as described in the Noxious Weed Management Plan.
6. Using cost-share money to control weeds other than those eligible.
7. The budget of the Cost Share Program is exhausted.
8. Failure to allow Huerfano county staff to inspect post treatment and overall success of control efforts.

E. Targeted Weeds: The following fifteen (16) weeds will receive priority for control or eradication according to the Noxious Weed Management Plan:

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Priority	Class
Leafy Spurge	(<i>Euphorbia esula</i>)	High	B
Canada Thistle	(<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)	High	B
Hoary Cress	(<i>Cardaria draba</i>)	High	B
Russian Knapweed	(<i>Acroptilon repens</i>)	High	B
Diffuse Knapweed	(<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>)	High	B
Spotted Knapweed	(<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>)	High	B
Dalmatian Toadflax	(<i>Linaria dalmatica</i> , <i>Linaria genistifolia</i>)	Moderate	B
Scotch Thistle	(<i>Onopordum acanthium</i> , <i>Onopordum tauricum</i>)	High	B
Houndstongue	(<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>)	Moderate	B
Perennial Pepperweed	(<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>)	Moderate	B
Yellow Toadflax	(<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>)	Moderate	B
Oxeye Daisy	(<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>)	Lower	B
Poison Hemlock	(<i>Conium maculatum</i>)	Lower	C
Musk Thistle	(<i>Carduus nutans</i>)	High	B
Tamarisk	(<i>Tamarix</i> , <i>chinesis</i> , <i>parviflora</i> , <i>ramosissima</i>)	Moderate	B
Russian Olive	(<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>)	Moderate	B

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7. Review of Plan

The Huerfano County Weed Management Plan shall be reviewed at regular intervals but not less than once every three years from the date of adoption to insure management goals and priorities are being met. The Huerfano County Noxious Weed Board will perform the review and submit any changes to the Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners for their review, approval, modification, or rejection.

Comment [CB17]: Verbiage added to page 4 as requested

8. Amendments to the Huerfano County Noxious Weed List

Huerfano County may declare additional noxious weeds, within its jurisdictional boundaries, after a public hearing with thirty (30) days prior notice to the public. Overall management goals must be provided.

9. Huerfano County Noxious Weed Board Policies

A) No Huerfano County Noxious Weed Board member(s) shall prescribe or enact any management or recommended action pertaining to the control, suppression or eradication of State or local list noxious weeds without the prior notification and approval of the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager and Huerfano County Board of Commissioners.

B) The Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager shall serve as the conduit of communication between the local advisory board and the duly elected Huerfano County Board of Commissioners. This shall in no way be construed as excluding board members from open communication with the Huerfano County Board of Commissioners.

C) The Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners shall have the sole and final authority to approve, modify, or reject any and all actions or decisions by the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Board.

D) Huerfano County Noxious Weed Board members will follow and comply with the standards set forth in the Huerfano County Ethics policy, sections 1.6 and 1.7, adopted on April 17 2013 or its superseding version(s), also known as the "Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners Governing Policies". While these policies are solely intended for the conduct of county commissioners, the aforementioned sections provide a comprehensive

Huerfano County Noxious Weed Management Plan

guideline for ideal overall conduct of the advisory board, its individual members, interaction with county staff, and the public in general.

E) Site specific usage and\ or type of chemical, biological, mechanical and cultural noxious weed control methodology will be determined at the sole discretion of the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager.

F) Given the quasi-judicial powers of the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Board and Board of County Commissioners, individual board members are strongly urged to conform to the Huerfano County Weed Management Plan and its management goals and objectives on lands under their control, so as to not create the perception of impropriety while enforcing control efforts on affected parties.

G) Members of the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Board must avoid any fiduciary conflict of interest or nepotism conflicts.

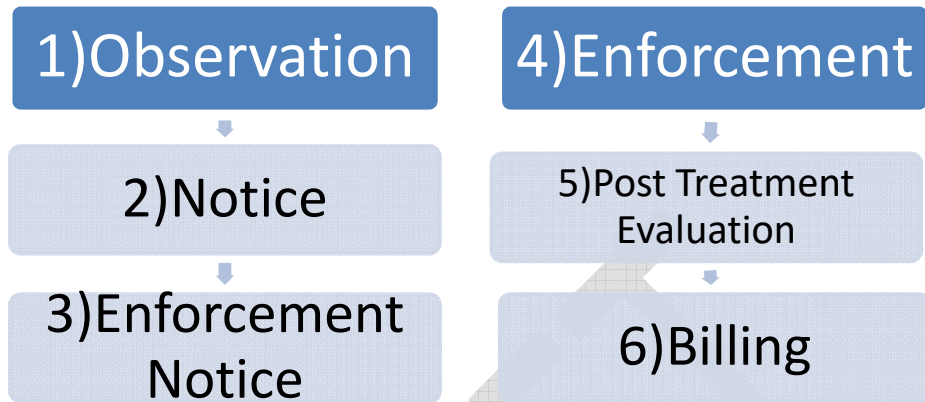
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10) COOPERATION WITH STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES

The Huerfano County Noxious Weed Department is hereby authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with state and federal agencies for the integrated management of undesirable plants within its jurisdiction upon approval by the Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners.

APPENDIX A:

Huerfano County Noxious Weed Management Plan



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