

Attachment “A”

GILPIN COUNTY WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION.

Several species of non-native plants have become a threat to the economic and environmental value of land in Gilpin County, Colorado. These plants are not indigenous to this country and have no natural predators or diseases to keep them in check. They are rapidly displacing native vegetation, causing a loss of native ecosystem stability and diversity, while affecting recreational resources. Pursuant to § 35-5.5-101, *et seq.*, C.R.S., The Colorado Noxious Weed Act, the state of Colorado has mandated that “a countywide plan must be implemented by every county to prevent further damage by these noxious weed species”. The County has appointed the Gilpin County Weed Advisory Board, contracted with Colorado State University for a noxious weed program coordinator, and has resolved to adopt a Gilpin County Weed Management Plan, for the purposes of fulfilling its responsibilities with respect to the Act and managing all of the unincorporated lands in the County with respect to noxious weeds.

II. DEFINITIONS.

- A. All language definitions used within this plan shall be consistent with the “Colorado Noxious Weed Act” §§ 35-5.5-101 C.R.S. and the “Permanent Rules Pertaining to the Administration and Enforcement of the Colorado Weed Management Act” 8 C.C.R. 1203-19.
- B. “Act” shall refer to 35-5.5-101 C.R.S. the Colorado Noxious Weed Act, as amended.
- C. “BMPs” shall refer to “best management practices,” which are techniques or policies that are recognized by science as the most efficient means of limiting or eliminating species of noxious weeds. BMPs will change over time as more scientific information has been tested on those noxious weed species.
- D. “BOCC” shall refer to the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County Colorado.
- E. “Control” shall mean to manage the populations of noxious weed species so that the population is maintained or reduced in size.
- F. “County” shall refer to the unincorporated areas of Gilpin County, Colorado.
- G. “Elimination” shall refer to the removal of seed source.

- H. "Eradication" shall mean removing the reproductive successes of noxious weed species or specified noxious weed populations in largely uninfested areas to zero and or permanently eliminating the species or populations within a specified period of time.
- I. "Containment" shall mean maintaining an intensively managed buffer zone that separates infested regions, where suppression activities prevail, from largely uninfested regions, where eradication activities prevail.
- J. "Suppression" shall mean reducing the vigor of noxious weed populations within an infested region, decreasing the propensity of noxious weed species to spread to surrounding lands, and mitigating the negative effects of noxious weed populations on infested lands. Suppression efforts may employ a wide variety of integrated management techniques.
- K. "Program Coordinator" shall refer to the Gilpin County Noxious Weed Program Coordinator.
- L. "Rules" shall refer to §§ 8 C.C.R. 1203-19 the Permanent Rules Pertaining to the Administration and Enforcement of the Colorado Weed Management Act, as amended.
- M. "Manage" shall refer to controlling weeds in accordance with applicable provisions of the Act and Rules (weeds shall be eliminated, eradicated, contained or suppressed on a species by species basis).
- N. "Plan" shall refer to the Gilpin County Weed Management Plan.
- O. "Integrated management" shall mean the planning and implementation of a coordinated program utilizing a variety of methods for managing noxious weeds, the purpose of which is to achieve specified management objectives and promote desirable plant communities. Such methods may include but are not limited to education, preventive measures, good stewardship, and the following techniques:
 - (a) "Biological management", which means the use of an organism to disrupt the growth of noxious weeds.
 - (b) "Chemical management", which means the use of herbicides or plant growth regulators to disrupt the growth of noxious weeds.
 - (c) "Cultural management", which means methodologies or management practices that favor the growth of desirable plants over noxious weeds, including maintaining an optimum fertility and plant moisture status in an area, planting at optimum density and spatial arrangement in an area, and planting species most suited to an area.
 - (d) "Mechanical management", which means methodologies or management practices that physically disrupt plant growth, including tilling, mowing, burning, flooding, mulching, hand-pulling, hoeing, and grazing.

P. "Commissioner" shall mean the commissioner of the Colorado Department of Agriculture or his or her designee.

III. STATEMENT OF GILPIN COUNTY'S WEED PROBLEM.

- A. Many acres of land in the County are already infested with weed species listed in this document. Experts in weed science estimate that the current populations increase 15 percent annually if no control measures are imposed. Such an increase in weed populations poses a serious threat to the economic value and environmental stability of the land and water in the County. Additionally, weed seed blowing from infested lands to uninfested lands represents a burden to the landowner of originally uninfested land.
- B. Gilpin County is still relatively weed-free compared to neighboring counties. The most frequent way that weeds are introduced to the County is during construction processes—often, weed seeds are brought in on infested equipment, or by contaminated fill. After establishing in these sites, the weeds spread to neighboring land.
- C. The weed problem in the County is of concern to the recreational and small landowner communities, as well as to the native plant and wildlife species. Problem areas include roadsides, open space, housing subdivisions, municipal areas, private property, state and federal lands.
- D. The BOCC has declared all noxious weeds listed below and all noxious weeds identified in the Rules to be subject to integrated management in accordance with the requirements of the these regulations, the Act and the Rules. The specific noxious weed species listed below have been identified by the BOCC to be present in the County, to be undesirable and are hereby designated to be managed in accordance with the requirements of the Act and Rules:
 - 1. List A Noxious Weeds: All 'List A' noxious weed species listed below, and any newly discovered infestation of other List A noxious weed species, shall be eliminated or eradicated in accordance with applicable provisions of the Act and Rules.

- a. Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*)

2. List B Noxious Weeds: All List B noxious weed species listed below, and any newly discovered infestation of other List B noxious weed species, shall be managed (eliminated, eradicated, contained or suppressed) in accordance with applicable provisions of the Act and Rules.

- a. Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*)
- b. Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
- c. Chinese clematis (*Clematis orientalis*)
- d. Common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)
- e. Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*)
- f. Dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)
- g. Diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*)
- h. Hoary cress (*Cardaria draba*)
- i. Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)
- j. Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*)
- k. Oxeye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*)
- l. Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*)
- m. Scentless chamomile (*Matricaria perforata*)
- n. Yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*)

3. List C Noxious Weeds: The List C noxious weed species listed below in part 'a' shall be controlled at a level in accordance with the minimum standards of List A and List B species.

- a. Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*)

Control of List C noxious weed species below will not be required, but education on control methods shall be provided.

- b. Common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*)
- c. Field Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)
- d. Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)

4. The following two weeds, while not on the State Noxious Weed list, are of concern in the County, and control may be required at a future date:

- a. Hoary alyssum (*Berteroa incana*)
- b. Small-flowered alyssum (*Alyssum minus/parviflorum*)

IV. GILPIN COUNTY WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN GOALS.

A. Management and Prevention. The primary goals of the Gilpin County Weed Management Plan are to prevent establishment of new invasive species and manage existing populations of State Rules List A, B, C and County specific noxious weeds species to prevent spread to previously uninfested areas in accordance with the requirements of the Act and Rules. In order to accomplish this goal, Gilpin County, through the Program Coordinator, will:

1. Identify areas where noxious weeds are a problem.
2. Identify methods of noxious weed control in environmentally sensitive areas; e.g. wetlands, waterways and wilderness areas.
3. Identify methods of control for subdivisions and residential areas.
4. Manage existing weed infestations to prevent spread and reduce weed density.
5. Locate and fight all new invasive species through weed awareness education and rapid response to new infestations.
6. Comply with and enforce the provisions of the Act and Rules and work within the framework of “Colorado’s Strategic Plan to Stop the Spread of Noxious Weeds.”
7. Expand biological control release sites.
8. Control undesirable plants on Gilpin County-owned properties and rights-of-way.
9. Initiate and maintain communications with landowners who are affected by List A species and populations of List B species designated for elimination or eradication by the Commissioner.
10. Provide affected landowners with technical assistance for the eradication of List A species and populations of List B species designated for elimination or eradication. Assist affected landowners in determining the “BMP” for their situation.
11. Ensure that sufficient enforcement measures are carried out, as may be necessary to ensure the elimination or eradication of List A species and populations of List B species designated for eradication by the State Weed Commissioner.

12. Provide assistance in disseminating financial resources (if any) to affected landowners and in mapping data.

13. Organize volunteers (if any) for weed management projects.

14. Provide mapping resources of affected areas for landowner, staff and public.

B. Public Education. Education is essential to the sustainable success of the Plan. The Program Coordinator will reach out to County residents through educational workshops, private consultations and newspaper articles. The BOCC, through the Program Coordinator and other government agencies, will provide this instruction to increase public awareness of the Act and the Gilpin County Weed Management Plan. Groups targeted for public education include those with agricultural interests, homeowners associations, landowners, developers, recreational groups, youth groups and schools. Workshops will be held throughout the year to provide information on the following subjects:

1. Noxious weed identification & management methods.

2. Compliance with the Act and Rules.

3. Integrated weed management.

C. Departmental Cooperation. Certain departments of Gilpin County government are in a strategic position to make positive impacts on the weed problem in Gilpin County. The Program Coordinator will identify and work with these departments to institute management practices that educate and advise of the importance of preventing the spread of and damage by noxious weeds. Examples of possible cooperative interdepartmental efforts include:

1. Working with the Public and Environmental Health Department to provide information on revegetating newly installed leach fields.

2. Working with the Community Development Department to stamp plans requiring clean equipment and fill for construction operations.

D. Intergovernmental Cooperation. Gilpin County, through its Program Coordinator, will seek to enter into needed cooperative agreements with federal, state and other local governments to manage weeds across property lines and jurisdictional boundaries. Gilpin County will also revisit and renew existing cooperative agreements with federal, state and local governments to maximize current weed control efforts within the County.

V. MANAGEMENT METHODS.

Existing integrated management techniques prescribed by the Rules will be utilized in Gilpin County's management of Rules List A and List B weeds. In addition to the requirements set forth in the Rules for the management of all List A and List B weed species, BMPs may be utilized in Gilpin County's management of any designated noxious weed for which specific Rules prescribed integrated management techniques do not exist, and also when any specified Rules prescribed integrated management technique has proven ineffective in meeting the management goal.

- A. Integrated management techniques include, but are not limited to prevention, cultural management, chemical management, biological management and mechanical management. It is to be understood that many or all of these methods may be inadequate for control as stand-alone solutions, and the use of two or more techniques may be utilized to achieve stated goals.
- B. Construction Equipment used in the county shall be free of weed seed to prevent transporting seeds to newly disturbed construction sites. Gravel and fill dirt shall be obtained from a relatively weed-free source. Revegetation of disturbed areas is to be encouraged, as this is one of the most important steps in weed control. If mulch is needed, it shall come from a certified weed-free source.

VI. ENFORCEMENT.

The control of undesirable plants shall be the responsibility of the landowner. The Program Coordinator will provide technical advice and support. Enforcement of the Gilpin County Weed Management Plan shall be in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Act, as said Act may be amended from time to time.

VII. CONCLUSION.

Many non-native species of weeds that have become established in the County are deep-rooted perennial plants that are extremely difficult to control. Eradication of these species may not always be a realistic goal. However, when new infestations are detected eradication measures shall be taken. Through a concerted cooperative effort, these plants can be managed in such a way as to prevent further disruption of the many and varied plant communities that make up this region.

To view the Colorado Noxious Weed Law:

<http://www.ag.state.co.us/CSD/Weeds/statutes/weedlaw.PDF>

For a list of all Colorado noxious weeds:

<http://www.ag.state.co.us/CSD/Weeds/statutes/weedrules.pdf>