

**LINCOLN COUNTY, MONTANA
INTEGRATED
NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

January 2014



MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Lincoln County Vegetation Management Board, are committed to the implementation of a comprehensive vegetation management program to prevent, contain, reduce, or eradicate noxious weed species and provide safe travel vectors within the boundaries of Lincoln County while protecting the native species of Montana.

LAND OWNERSHIP:

Lincoln County consists of 3,728 square miles of land. The Federal Government owns the majority of land. Lincoln County contains 1398 miles of County roads, 242 miles of State and Federal highways with approximately 15,000 acres of right-of-way in which Lincoln County Weed District is directly responsible for noxious weed management.

CLASSIFICATION OF NOXIOUS WEEDS

"Noxious weeds" or "weeds" means any exotic plant species established or that may be introduced in the state that 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.”. County Weed Control Act 2012.

In order to identify various levels of commitment toward the actual control of noxious weeds within Lincoln County, specific noxious weed species have been grouped into identified categories. **Category I - (Established); Category II - (New Invaders); Category III - (Potential Invaders).** (See Appendix A, also see Montana State Weed List Appendix D)

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Lincoln County Weed District strives for a balance in its program, which is based upon weed biology, weed ecology and infestation characteristics. Management includes the use of biological agents, mechanical, chemical and cultural methods to control noxious weeds. Wherever possible, integrated methods of noxious weed control will be practiced.

Integrated Pest Management:

The definition of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is: *The use of any and all available tools for the management of noxious weeds.*

The Goal of this Plan is to provide for an IPM program using all available methods of noxious weed management. Weed management on a site-specific basis allows land managers to evaluate the different factors, i.e. soil, topography, vegetation, water and chose the best weed control strategies for that site. Some of the basic IPM strategies include: prevention, education, elimination of small infestations, establishing competitive vegetation, vegetation management, cultivation, cultural controls, water management, grazing management, burning, mowing, hand-pulling, chemical controls, biological controls, monitoring and evaluation.

Prevention and Education

Prevention, early detection, and eradication of new invader weed species are critical components of any weed management plan. To accomplish this, a primary objective must also include education. The Lincoln County Vegetation Management Board members and District employees attend weed management educational meetings and seminars annually. The District sponsors weed awareness campaigns in Lincoln County including Libby Logger Days, the Lincoln County Fair, District open house invitations, local weed management training with the US Forest Service and

other private citizens. The District also sponsors a Private Applicator's License training in Lincoln County biannually.

Goals and Objectives

Prevent the introduction or establishment of Category III - Potential Invader noxious weeds. Common methods of introduction include: contaminated seed, feed, grain, or mulch; movement of unclean equipment or machinery from a noxious weed-contaminated area to a non-contaminated area, i.e. construction, recreation, agriculture, forestry, utility companies and tourism; animals (both domestic and wildlife) that have viable weed seed present in their digestive tract or attached to their hair or wool; spreading wild bird seed or planting ornamental seed that is contaminated with noxious weed seeds; allowing noxious weeds to reproduce seed along waterways; and using gravel, road fill or topsoil contaminated with noxious weed seed or vegetative reproductive plant parts.

Other prevention goals include:

1. Limit the spread of Category II weed species and reduce the spread of Category I weed species already established in the county.
2. Encourage restoration and/or maintenance of healthy plant communities
3. Promote cooperative educational programs among landowners, land managers, government agencies, youth and citizens of Lincoln County to include identification of established noxious weeds and potential new invader species, management and control, and restoration and/or maintenance of healthy plant communities.
4. Identifying new invader species sites through the "Bounty Program". . This program, aimed at identifying and treating weed species new to or rare in Lincoln County, enlists the help of the general public by offering cash for confirmed sightings of new or recent invaders. **See Appendix B**

Noxious Weed Identification & Mapping

Inventorying is one of the most useful components of any noxious weed management program. It is important to know "what is out there and where" in order to manage weed problems successfully.

Goal: To survey all roads sprayed by the District, and map any infestations that are of concern. The District uses global positioning (GPS) equipment and geographical information system (GIS) map programs to display weed density and weed infestations. The inventory and mapping system in Lincoln County will clearly display the current weed infestations and identify the location of new or potential invaders, show trends to assist in evaluating the program's effectiveness.

Noxious Weed Project Areas:

Special weed management project areas may be formed by cooperatives of adjacent landowners to facilitate noxious weed management. These project areas will be given priority for noxious weed control efforts by the Lincoln County Vegetation Management Board. More information about weed project areas may be obtained by calling (406) 283-2420

Cooperation among countywide landowner/ managers:

Every effort will be made to obtain cooperative agreements or Memorandums of Agreement with all major landowner/managers within Lincoln County. Cooperative agreements should be implemented in such a manner as to consistently coordinate weed management efforts with Lincoln County and among other landowners/managers.

Public Assistance

The Lincoln County Weed District strives to assist private landowners with education on noxious weeds and control measures. In addition the County Weed District has equipment that is available for the public to use and includes equipment

Special Situation Emphasis:

Gravel/sand pits and Storage areas: See Appendix C, page 8

Goal: To minimize the spread of noxious weed seed and viable weed plant parts from gravel/sand pits and storage areas within Lincoln County. The opening, closing, operation, expansion or development of any County gravel/sand pits or storage areas will require a weed plan and site inspection. This plan will be filed with the County Weed Supervisor prior to operation unless other specific arrangements have been made.

Roads and Transportation Systems:

Lincoln County Vegetation Management Board will prioritize treatment of State, Federal and County roadways annually. Roads will be treated based on priority and available funds.

Transportation of Plant Materials:

Agricultural Products:

Agricultural products should be transported or imported on a noxious weed free or noxious weed seed free basis. Further development of management strategies will be developed on an as-needed basis

Noxious weed seed free forage and livestock feeds.

Lincoln County Vegetation Management Board will assist in the organization and implementation a Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Program within Lincoln County. A list of noxious weed free forage producers in Lincoln County and Montana is available by calling 406-283-2420.

Subdivisions:

Noxious weeds and their seed are a public nuisance under Montana law and it is unlawful to permit noxious weeds to propagate within a subdivision (MCA 7-22-2101 through 2153). All new subdivisions in Lincoln County must be inspected for the presence of noxious weeds before final subdivision application approval may be issued. The Lincoln County Vegetation Management Board or its representative will perform inspections. It is the responsibility of the property owner to contact the Lincoln County Noxious Weed District, 418 Mineral Avenue, Libby, MT 59923, (406) 283-2420, to enter into a noxious weed management agreement with the Lincoln County Vegetation Management Board.

Court House Lawn: Dandelion is declared “Noxious” in the Court House Lawn.

WEED LAW ENFORCEMENT:

The Montana County Noxious Weed Control Law (**MCA 7-22-2116-2124**) made it unlawful for any person to permit noxious weeds to propagate or produce seeds on his or her land. The only exceptions to this are to follow the district's noxious weed management plan or to develop and implement a noxious weed management agreement approved by the district weed board. If noxious weeds exist on property and the landowner is not attempting to manage them, the landowner is considered to be in noncompliance with the noxious weed control law. In cases of noncompliance, after a complaint has been filed or when

the county weed board has reason to believe that noxious weeds are present on a person's land in violation of the noxious weed control law, that person must be notified by mail or telephone of the complaint.

Complaints:

Complaints are specific written accusations of noxious weed infestations. The Board will proceed within the context of the Montana Weed Control Act (MCA 7-22-2101 through 2153) and policies of the Lincoln County Weed District. In order to invoke the Montana Weed Control Act, a complaint must be filed with the District Weed Superintendent. Unsigned, anonymous, incomplete or verbal complaints are not considered reports. Reports of noxious weed infestations will be addressed depending upon priority listing of the weed, time available to research the report and other labor constraints. Report forms are available by calling (406) 283-2420.

The county weed board may request an inspection of the land within 10 days of the notification. The county weed board, or authorized agent, and the landowner, or representative, shall inspect the land to validate the complaint. If noxious weeds are found, the landowner will be notified and asked to voluntarily comply with the county weed control program.

The landowner is to be given a reasonable period of time, not less than ten days, to begin compliance measures. A written proposal may then be submitted to the county weed board outlining the control measures the landowner will complete. If the county weed board accepts this proposal, the landowner is considered to be in compliance. Under state law the county weed board shall consider the economic impact on the person and neighbors, along with biological and environmental limitations before accepting or rejecting a proposal. Alternative control measures shall also be explored when reviewing proposals.

If voluntary compliance is not initiated, notice of noncompliance must be sent by certified mail specifying:

- the nature of the complaint,
- the specific geographic location of the complaint,
- the measures to be undertaken in order to comply with the district's noxious weed management plan,
- a reasonable period of time in which compliance measures must be initiated,
- the right of the landowner to request an administrative hearing.

If corrective action is not taken and no proposal is made or accepted or a request for an administrative hearing has not been made within the time specified within the notice, if supported by the County Commissioner's, the board may enter the person's land and institute appropriate weed control measures. In this case, the landowner will be sent a bill to cover costs of the control plus a penalty of up to 10 percent of the total costs incurred. This bill must be paid within 30 days from the date sent or the county clerk will certify the amount and assess a special tax on the land. If the land for any reason is exempt from general taxation, the charges may be recovered by direct claim against the lessee and collected in the same manner as personal taxes. If the violation is on leased state lands, the lessee is responsible for controlling weeds or paying any assessment levied because of non-conformance to the law. In addition, if a person fails to obey an order from the weed board, or interferes with the weed board, they are guilty of a misdemeanor.

Before a complaint is submitted to the county commissioners or county weed board, it is strongly suggested that a reasonable effort be made to persuade the landowner to cooperate with neighbors on controlling the noxious weed problem.

PUBLIC AND WORKER SAFETY:

All Lincoln County Weed Department employees are licensed to handle and apply herbicides pursuant to Montana Department of Agriculture standards. License holders are required to attend regular training to maintain accreditation. Crews are trained to recognize sensitive areas such as waterways, gardens, sensitive plants, recreation and play areas. The use of signs to alert citizens where crews are currently working will be used and the "We Control Our Own Weeds" signs will be honored providing that the landowner has entered into an agreement with Lincoln County Weed District. For information on "We Control Our Own Weeds" program contact the Lincoln County Weed District, 418 Mineral Avenue, Libby, MT 59923, (406) 283-2420.

Worker Safety:

The District employees must attend regular safety meetings detailing all aspects of herbicide safety including: mixing, loading, application, storage, disposal, and protective clothing. Equipment is checked for safety on a daily basis. Employees are required to wear appropriate personal protective equipment while handling herbicides. All District vehicles containing herbicides carry spill kits, eyewash, clean wash water, and clean clothing.

Herbicide Application:

No herbicide will be sprayed when winds are in excess of ten miles per hour or in environmentally sensitive areas. All herbicides will be used according to label instructions.

Herbicide Storage and Disposal:

All chemicals used by the District are stored in an approved, enclosed, ventilated storage room capable of containing 110% of liquid stored in the storage room. Empty containers are triple rinsed, punctured, and then taken to the landfill. All rinse water is reused immediately in herbicide applications.

CONCLUSION:

Information and research on noxious weed biology, management, and control is constantly changing. This document is intended to describe the goals and management practices of the Lincoln County Vegetation Management Board.

Appendix A

NOXIOUS WEED LIST
LINCOLN COUNTY WEED DISTRICT
&
KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

March 26, 2008

Common Name	Latin Name	KNF Priority	State List w/ priority	County List w/ priority
Potential Invaders				
Plumeless thistle	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>	Ia		IIIa
Yellow starthistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Ia	1	IIIa
Common crupina	<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>	Ia	1	IIIa
Dyer's woad	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	Ia	2	IIIa
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria / virgatum</i>	Ia	2	IIIa
Eurasian water-milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Ia		IIIa
Tamarisk	<i>Tamarix spp.</i>	Ia	2	IIIa
Yellow Flag Iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>		3	IIIb
Flowering Rush	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>			IIIa
Hoary Alyssum	<i>Berteroa incana</i>			IIIa
New Invaders				
Bugloss	<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>	Ib		IIIa
Whitetop	<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Ib	3	IIIb
Musk thistle	<i>Carduus natans</i>	Ib		IIIb
Diffuse knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	Ib	3	I
Russian knapweed	<i>Centaurea repens</i>	Ib	3	IIIb
Dwarf snapdragon	<i>Chaenorrhinum minus</i>	Ib		IIIa
Rush skeletonweed	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	Ib	1	IIIb
Scotch thistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Ib		IIIa
Japanese knotweed	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	Ib		IIIb
Tall buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Ib	2	IIIa
Blueweed	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Ic		IIIa
Leafy spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Ic	3	IIIb
Dalmatian toadflax	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>	Ic	3	I
Yellow toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Ic		I
Tansy ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Ic	2	IIIb
Existing Infestations				
Common burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>	II		I
Absinth wormwood	<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>	II		I
Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>	II	3	I
Oxeye daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>	II	3	I
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	II	3	II
Field bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	II	3	II
Hound's-tongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	II	3	II
Orange hawkweed	<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	II	2	I
Meadow hawkweed	<i>Hieracium pratense</i>	II	2	I
St. John's-wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	II	3	I

Sulfur cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla recta</i>	II	3	I
Common tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	II	3	II
Spotted cat's-ear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	III		II
Kochia	<i>Kochia scoparia</i>	III		II
Meadow knapweed	<i>Centaurea pratensis</i>	III		IIIb
Chicory	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	III		IIIa
Scot's broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	III		IIIa
Poison hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	III		II
Scentless chamomile	<i>Matricaria maritima var. agrestis</i>	III		IIIb
Germander speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	III		IIIa
Common speedwell	<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	III		IIIa

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST DEFINITIONS:

Priority IA. (Potential Invaders) - Noxious weeds not known to exist on the Kootenai National Forest but have a high probability of causing severe economic or environmental damage. Management criteria include prevention and eradication.

Priority IB. (New Invaders) – Noxious weeds known to exist in small populations at limited sites. They have a high probability of causing severe economic or environmental damage. Management criterion is eradication.

Priority IC. (New Invaders) – Noxious weeds currently established and known to exist in medium populations at limited sites. They have a high probability of causing severe economic or environmental damage. Management criteria include containment within main body of infestation and eradication of outlier populations.

Priority II. (Existing Infestation) – Noxious weeds currently established and known to exist in large population. They have a high probability of causing environmental or economic damage. Management criteria include prioritizing areas to be treated, reduction of plant populations, and reducing the rate of spread.

Priority III. (Species of Undetermined Status) – Noxious weeds of variable status (some new, some well established). The threat is undetermined but with the potential of causing environmental or economic damage. Management criterion is to monitor known populations for trends.

STATE OF MONTANA DEFINITIONS:

Category 1. Noxious weeds that are currently established and generally widespread in many counties of the state. Management criteria includes awareness and education, containment and suppression of existing infestations and prevention of new infestations. These weeds are capable of rapid spread and render land unfit or greatly limit beneficial uses.

Category 2. Noxious weeds that have recently been introduced into the state or are rapidly spreading from their current infestations sites. These weeds are capable of rapid spread and invasion of lands, rendering lands unfit for beneficial uses. Management criteria includes awareness and education, monitoring and containment of known infestations and eradication where possible.

Category 3. Noxious weeds that have not been detected in the state or may be found only in small, scattered, localized infestations. Management criteria includes awareness and education, early detection and immediate action to eradicate infestations. These weeds are known pests in nearby states and are capable of rapid spread and render land unfit for beneficial uses.

LINCOLN COUNTY DEFINITIONS:

Category IIIa: (Potential Invaders) – Noxious weeds which are not currently known to exist within Lincoln County but have a high probability of causing severe environmental or economic degradation.

Category IIIb: (New Invaders) – include noxious weeds, in limited areas, known to exist within Lincoln County but have a high probability of causing severe environmental or economic degradation.

Category II: (Established Pests) – noxious weeds with a suspected potential of causing environmental or economic degradation and targeted for management.

Category I: (Established Pests) – include noxious weeds which are known to exist within Lincoln County in extensive acreages and have a high probability of causing environmental or economic degradation.

Appendix B

“Bounty Program”

This program, aimed at identifying and treating weed species new to or rare in Lincoln County, enlists the help of the general public by offering cash for confirmed sightings of potential or new invaders. The list of weeds that the bounty will be paid is;

Category III – (Potential Invaders):

plumeless thistle (*Carduus acanthoides*), yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), common crupina (*Crupina vulgaris*), Dyer’s woad (*Isatis tinctoria*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), and tamarisk (*Tamarix spp*).

Category II – (New Invaders):

Bugloss / blue weed (*Anchusa officinalis*), white brony (*Bryonia alba*), meadow knapweed (*Centaurea pratensis*), Russian knapweed (*Centaurea repens*), dwarf snapdragon (*Chaenorrhinum minus*), rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*), Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*), poison-hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), Scot’s broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), blueweed (*Echium vulgare*), leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), spotted cat’s-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), scentless chamomile (*Matricaria maritima var. agrestis*), Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*), Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), tall buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), and tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*).

To qualify for the bounty, the site must be at least ¼ mile from any other known infestation of that plant. Do not pull or cut the plant off, note the location and if possible mark the plant. Contact the Lincoln County Weed District, 418 Mineral Avenue, Libby, MT 59923, (406) 283-2420.

The “Bounty Program” pays \$50.00 for “Potential Invaders” and Rush Skeletonweed \$25.00 for “New Invaders” after verification of the discovery.

Appendix C

Gravel/sand pits and storage areas:

Goal: *To minimize the spread of noxious weed seed and viable weed plant parts from gravel/sand pits and storage areas within Lincoln County.*

The opening, closing, operation, expansion or development of any gravel/sand pits or storage areas within Lincoln County will require an approved weed plan and site inspection. This plan will be filed with the County Weed Supervisor prior to operation unless other specific arrangements have been made. The Lincoln County Weed District will randomly inspect operating pits to check for compliance with the filed weed plan.

Furthermore: Lincoln County will not purchase, borrow or trade sand or gravel from any vendor whose sites are not in compliance with the mandatory weed plan. Before the removal of any sand or gravel, the pit or storage area will be inspected by the County Weed Supervisor. The intent is to verify the owner of the pit is making a visible effort to control the noxious weeds within the pit area.

Montana Noxious Weed List

Effective: September 2010

<p>Priority 1A</p>	<p>These weeds are not present in Montana. Management criteria will require eradication if detected; education; and prevention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yellow starthistle (<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>)
<p>Priority 1B</p>	<p>These weeds have limited presence in Montana. Management criteria will require eradication or containment and education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dyer's woad (<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>) - Flowering rush (<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>) - Japanese knotweed complex (<i>Polygonum spp.</i>) - Purple loosestrife (<i>Lythrum spp.</i>) - Rush skeletonweed (<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>) - Eurasian watermilfoil (<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>) - Scotch broom (<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>) - Curlyleaf pondweed (<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>)
<p>Priority 2A</p>	<p>These weeds are common in isolated areas of Montana. Management criteria will require eradication or containment where less abundant. Management shall be prioritized by local weed districts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tansy ragwort (<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>) - Meadow hawkweed complex (<i>Hieracium spp.</i>) - Orange hawkweed (<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>) - Tall buttercup (<i>Ranunculus acris</i>) - Perennial pepperweed (<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>) - Yellowflag iris (<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>) - Blueweed (<i>Echium vulgare</i>) - Hoary alyssum (<i>Berteroa incana</i>)
<p>Priority 2B</p>	<p>These weeds are abundant in Montana and widespread in many counties. Management criteria will require eradication or containment where less abundant. Management shall be prioritized by local weed districts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>) - Field bindweed (<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>) - Leafy spurge (<i>Euphorbia esula</i>) - Whitetop (<i>Cardaria draba</i>) - Russian knapweed (<i>Centaurea repens</i>) - Spotted knapweed (<i>Centaurea stoebe</i> or <i>maculosa</i>) - Diffuse knapweed (<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>) - Dalmatian toadflax (<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>) - St. Johnswort (<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>) - Sulfur cinquefoil (<i>Potentilla recta</i>) - Common tansy (<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>) - Oxeye daisy (<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i> or <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>) - Houndstongue (<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>) - Yellow toadflax (<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>) - Saltcedar (<i>Tamarix spp.</i>)
<p>Priority 3</p>	<p>Regulated Plants: (NOT MONTANA LISTED NOXIOUS WEEDS)</p> <p>These regulated plants have the potential to have significant negative impacts. The plant may not be intentionally spread or sold other than as a contaminant in agricultural products. The state recommends research, education and prevention to minimize the spread of the regulated plant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cheatgrass (<i>Bromus tectorum</i>) - Hydrilla (<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>) - Russian olive (<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>)