

# Montana Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Program

## Statewide Collaboration

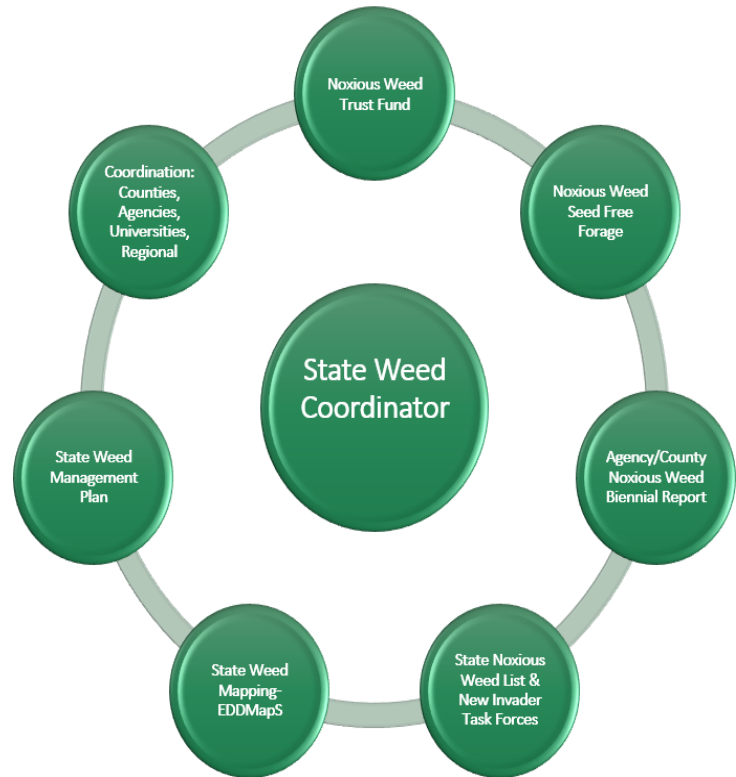
The Department of Agriculture oversees the Noxious Weed Trust Fund, the Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage program and provides several additional functions necessary to support other agencies, counties, and private citizens in implementing a strategic statewide management plan.

## Noxious Weed Trust Fund

The Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund (NWTF) grant program provides an average of over \$2 million per year to assist counties, local communities, private landowners, tribes, researchers, and educators in their efforts to solve noxious weed problems in Montana.

**ARM 4.5.101-204**

The Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council was established in 1985 and is made up of 11 voting members including the Department of Agriculture Director and 12 agency representatives. The Council represents a wide variety of Montanans who attend two annual business meetings and a five-day grant hearing held annually in March. In addition, they spend many dedicated hours reviewing Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant applications (approximately 90 applications per year). Grant funding recommendations are made by the Council to the Department of Agriculture Director for final approval.



The Noxious Weed Trust Fund provides grant funding for:

<b>County/ Reservation Grants</b>	<b>Emergency Grants</b>	<b>Local Cooperative Grants</b>	<b>Education/ Development Grants</b>	<b>Research Grants</b>
Annual grant to enhance county and tribal noxious weed programs (\$7,500/yr.)	Annual grant opportunity to assist Cooperative Weed Management Areas after extreme drought, fire, flood, or new invader (up to \$25,000/yr.)	Annual cost share opportunity for Cooperative Weed Management Areas to assist with on-the-ground control and revegetation (up to \$75,000/yr.)	Annual grants for innovative noxious weed projects that educate the public about noxious weeds and their impacts (up to \$75,000/yr.)	Annual grants for investigating new noxious weed control techniques or methods including biocontrol (up to \$75,000/yr.)

## **Funding Award History (1985 – 2018)**

<b><u>Project Type</u></b>	<b><u># of Grants</u></b>	<b><u>Grant Award</u></b>
Local Cooperative and Emergency	1,780	\$35,547,338
Research Grants	360	\$10,301,875
Education Grants	427	\$ 6,708,220
County/ Reservation Grants	1,532	\$10,503,765
Pass Through for County Weed Programs	1,008	\$ 2,000,000
<b>Total Funding (1985-2018)</b>	<b>5,107</b>	<b>\$65,061,198</b>

### **Previous Grants Awarded Include:**

#### **County/Reservation Grants**



- Salaries to assist employing a full-time weed coordinator
- Purchasing Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for crews
- Maintenance on ATVs, UTVs, trucks and trailers
- Replacing outdated, rundown equipment
- Educational materials for public events and county residents

#### **Emergency Grants (50/50 cost share)**



- Purchasing seed and seed application for revegetation following a fire, flood, or drought event
- Purchasing herbicide and herbicide application following a fire, flood, or drought event
- Hiring personnel to search and destroy new invaders; i.e. medusahead, rush skeletonweed

#### **Local Cooperative Grants (50/50 cost share)**



- On-the-ground control of noxious weeds for Cooperative Weed Management Areas
- New invader task force projects: rush skeletonweed, tansy ragwort, blueweed, tall buttercup, saltcedar, and hawkweeds
- Projects include 3-35+ landowners
- Projects range from east to west, north to south (All 56 counties have received at least one grant)
- Purchasing herbicides and herbicide application to control infestations
- Purchasing seed and seed application for revegetating highly disturbed ground
- Federal funding available for projects that include:
  - Land impacted by Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks activities: fishing access, wildlife grazing and wintering areas, or recreation areas
  - Land with 10% or more tree cover or that is adjacent to forested lands that may pose a threat to the forest
  - Land adjacent to or that includes Greater Sage Grouse core and general habitat

#### **Education and Development Grants**

- County and school biocontrol insectary projects
- State-wide biocontrol and noxious weed education coordinators



- Noxious weed awareness- Weed Identification videos, MT Ag Network spots, commercials, billboards, etc.
- Montana Adopt-A-Trailhead projects: 63 bootbrush kiosks and weed identification signs to date
- Support for the Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council (MISC)
- Weed manager trainings
- Development of noxious weed mobile apps, and identification/control guides

Research Grants

- Research and development of biological control insect agents and plant pathogens
- Revegetation and herbicide application timing impacts and effectiveness
- Prioritization of invasives for weed management
- Integrated Weed Management methods
- Cheatgrass studies: revegetation and restoration techniques
- Targeted grazing studies
- New invader impact studies



<b>Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council (Voting Members)</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Ben Thomas	MT Department of Agriculture	Council Chair
Linda Eklund		Livestock Production
Todd Wagner		Agricultural Crop Production
Jeanette Nordahl	Ponderosa Snow Warriors	Recreationist / Wildlife Group
Jim Gordon		Herbicide Dealer / Applicator
Joel Farkell	Centrol Crop Consulting; Golden Triangle Property Services	Consumer Group
Kenny Keever	MT Biological Control Working Group	Biological Research & Control
Jack Eddie		Montana Weed Control Association
Margie Edsall	Madison County Weed District	At-Large Member
Kellieann Morris	Ravalli County Weed District	Western County Representative
Brian Ostwald	Carbon County Weed District	Eastern County Representative

<b>Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council – Agency Representatives (Non-Voting)</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Tracy Sterling	Montana State University	Agriculture Experiment Station
Dan Lucas	MSU - Extension Service	Cooperative Extension Service
Adam Sieges	FWP	MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Mike Miller	MDT	MT Dept. of Transportation
Dan Dobler	DNRC	MT Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation
David Hopkins	BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Carmela Romerio	BLM	Bureau of Land Management
Vacant	BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
Steve Shelly	USDA - Forest Service	US Forest Service
Monica Pokorny	NRCS	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
John Gaskin	USDA-ARS	US Dept. of Agriculture-ARS
Gary Adams	USDA-APHIS	US Dept. of Agriculture-APHIS

## **Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Program**

**The Montana Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage (NWSFF) program provides standards, inspection procedures and training, enforcement actions, and a forage marking system (tags, labels, and twine) to enhance marketing and distribution of forage products across county, state, and national boundaries where noxious weed restrictions are in effect. ARM 4.5.301-316**

The Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Advisory Council was established in 1995 and is made up of 10 voting members including the Department of Agriculture Director. Council members represent different groups such as forage producers, guides and outfitters, weed districts, and manufacturers of cubes and pellets. The Council provides recommendations to the Director on the certification program for NWSFF. Recommendations include program rule changes, fee changes, management standards and procedures, and educational activities.

The Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage program certifies:



### **Inspectors**

Inspectors must pass an initial course and exam and recertify annually to receive an inspector card



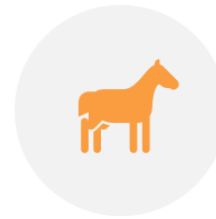
### **Producers**

Producers contact a certified inspector prior to harvest for a field inspection (7 days for hay/ 14 days for straw)



### **Products**

Round bales, small & large square bales, grain concentrates, forage cubes, processed pellets, straw wattles



### **Required?**

Certified noxious weed seed free forage is required to be used on all public lands in Montana

## **Department of Agriculture Contact Information:**

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