

Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund Overview

NOXIOUS WEED TRUST FUND

The Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant program provides funding for development and implementation of weed management programs in Montana including the research and development of innovative weed management techniques, noxious weed education, and on-the-ground control projects that provide a benefit to all Montanans. Counties, reservations, universities, non-profits, and private landowners are awarded an average of \$2.5 million annually (~200 grants/year).

NOXIOUS WEED TRUST FUND (NWTF) - FUNDING SOURCES

1985

- Establishment of the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant program.
- \$1,000,000 grant from the Montana Resource Indemnity Trust Fund (RIT).
- 1% herbicide surcharge.

1987

- \$0.50 fee on each vehicle registered in the state of Montana.

1989

- \$1.50 for each registered vehicle (supplemented with a fee on all off-highway vehicles and a portion of the gas tax from snowmobiles).

1992

- The NWTF was at \$2.5 million; the herbicide surcharge sunsetted on July 31st.

1999

- An additional \$2.25 million was added to the NWTF (Montana Department of Transportation's non-restricted highway funds).

2001

- \$100,000 from the Montana Department of Highways to each county/year (Weed Management Plan required).

2005

- NWTF cap of \$10 million and require a ¾ vote of both houses to use funds for other purposes put into law.
- \$1.50 per registered vehicle changed to 1.53% for FY06 and 1.50% for succeeding fiscal years.

2007

- General fund transfer of \$5 million to the NWTF (reach goal of \$10 million).

2013

- Administration costs limited to 12% of the total amount expended through grants and contracts in the current year. The State Weed Coordinator position was eliminated due to funding cuts.

2015

- State Weed Coordinator funded through DEQ for the biennium.
- Revised administration cost limit to 12% of the previous year's grant awards.

2017

- State Weed Coordinator position funded by increased fees for pesticide product registrations.

2019

- Revised language in the County Weed Act to include Integrated Weed Management.

LAWS & REGULATIONS

The Noxious Weed Trust Fund program operates under state statute, 80-7-801 through 821, MCA and administrative rules, 4.5.101 through 4.5.112, ARM.

NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council is appointed by the Director of the Montana Department of Agriculture and approved by the Governor. The Council is assisted by non-voting members representing various state and federal agencies, and other interested parties who provide technical input during the grant review and selection process. Visit <https://agr.mt.gov/NoxiousWeedTrustFund> for a full list of members and their associations.