



Summit County Weed Control Program Policies 2017



Prepared by:

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I. MISSION STATEMENT

To protect Summit County's natural resources from invasive non-native weeds, including new invasive species through the innovative use of partnerships, cooperative projects, community education, biological control, provisions of equipment and chemicals, mapping and inventorying, targeted enforcement, monitoring, and environmentally sound practices.

The Summit County Weed Control Program will function in accordance with Utah Code Annotated, Section 4-17-1 et. seq., "Utah Noxious Weed Act," rules promulgated by the State Department of Agriculture and Food, and Summit County Code, Title 4, Chapter 4 (attached as Exhibit A to these policies), to organize, supervise, and coordinate a noxious weed control program for Summit County.

II. INTRODUCTION

The weed problem in the County is of concern not only to the agricultural community, but to the urban, public lands, recreational and small landowner communities as well. Problem areas include roadsides, open space, residential subdivisions, municipal areas, private property, and State and Federal lands. The County is responsible for weed control efforts on all lands under their jurisdiction. The weed control crews will utilize an integrated management approach consisting of herbicide, hand pulling, cutting, biological control, mapping, monitoring, and preventative methods. It must be recognized that not every tool can be successfully used in every situation and there will be site specific needs that will require flexibility to achieve the best weed management.

The weed management program assists county residents through education and outreach programs, site visits, recommendations, sprayer loaner program, helicopter program, and is obligated to carry out enforcement procedures as outlined in Summit County Code, Title 4, Chapter 4.



III. THE WEED CONTROL BOARD

A. Powers and Duties:

The powers and duties of the Weed Control Board are found in the Summit County Code's Title 4, Chapter 4, attached as Exhibit A to these policies.

B. Meetings:

The Weed Control Board holds regular meetings each year in March, May, July, and November. These meetings shall be open to the public and noticed in accordance with the requirements of Utah Code Ann. § 52-4-101 *et. seq.* (as amended).

The purpose of the March meeting is to elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair as warranted, review, and record current problem areas, discuss and record any new infestations, discuss effective weed control efforts, discuss and coordinate County priorities with the Cooperative Weed Management Areas' ("CWMA") priorities, review management policy, and plan and organize the weed control program for the current year. The general notice of noxious weeds published by May 1 of each year is also discussed at the March meeting.

The May and July meetings are held to discuss pressing weed control issues such as new weed discoveries, weed control violations, and enforcement and review budget.

The November meeting is to inform the Weed Control Board of the activities of the Summit County Weed Department for the past weed season and to discuss possible County priorities for and with the CWMA the following year. The Annual Weed Progress Report will be presented and will include a summary of the summer's activities.



IV. MANAGEMENT POLICY GOALS

A. Management and Prevention: The primary goals of the Summit County Weed Control Program are to prevent the establishment of any and all new weed species, manage existing populations of species (detailed below) and to prevent the spread to known uninfected areas in accordance with the requirements of the law. In order to accomplish this goal the Weed Control Board, through the Weed Control Supervisor, will:

- Establish and prioritize weed management areas through GIS mapping.
- Identify areas requiring intensive management from the GIS mapping.
- Aggressively manage existing infestations to prevent their spread and reduce density.
- Establish BMP's for sensitive environmental situations.
- Assist Home Owners Associations and individual property owners in managing their weed populations.
- Provide technical and educational support to the citizens of Summit County, Municipalities, State and local organizations.
- Aggressively undertake intense management of all new invasive species through weed awareness education and rapid response.
- Manage noxious weeds on County owned properties and right-of-ways.
- 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 of Agriculture, and carry out any and all oversight necessary to ensure compliance with the Rules.
- Help municipalities and entities with boundaries and their responsibility for weeds.
- Actively pursue enforcement after all other avenues have been exhausted.



- Provide property owners who have List A and List B species with technical assistance directed at eradicating those species.

V. WEED DIVISION PRIORITIES

- A. Noxious weed education and enforcement of property owners in the county.
- B. Control of noxious weeds on County right-of-ways.
- C. Control of noxious weeds on County owned property.
- D. Mapping and monitoring areas of noxious weeds in the county.
- E. Sprayer loaner and chemical sale program.

VI. NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL

A. Publications of Noxious Weeds Notice: Before May 1 of each year, a general notice of the noxious weeds in the County must be posted in at least three public places in the County. The same notice must be published in a newspaper or other publication of general circulation within the County.

B. Categories of Noxious Weeds: For the purpose of organizing and funding management programs, the weeds are classified into five categories. The categories are:

Class 1A: Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) Watch

Common crupina

Crupina vulgaris

African rue

Pegamun harmala

Small bugloss

Anchusa arvensis

Mediterranean sage

Salvia aethiopi



Spring millet

Milium vernale

Syrian beancaper

Zygophyllum fabago

Ventenata (North African Grass)

Ventenata dubia

Plumeless thistle

Carduus acanthoides

Malta thistle

Centaurea melitensis

Camelthorn

Alhagi maurorum

Purple starthistle

Centaurea calcitrapa

Goatsrue

Galega officinalis

African mustard

Brassica tournefortii

Giant Reed

Arundo donax

Japanese knotweed

Polygonum cuspidatum

Elongated mustard

Brassica elongate

Common St. Johnswort

Hypericum perforatum

Cutleaf vipergrass

Scorzonera laciniata

Medusahead

Taeniatherum caput-medusae

Rush skeletonweed

Chondrilla juncea

Jointed goatgrass

Aegilops cylindrical

Perennial sorghum spp.

Including but not limited to

Johnson Grass (Sorghum halepense)

and Sorghum Alnum (Sorghum Alnum)



Class 1B: Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR)

<i>Garlic mustard</i>	<i>Alliaria petiolate</i>
<i>Common vipers bugloss (Blueweed)</i>	<i>Echium vulgare</i>
<i>Leafy spurge</i>	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>
<i>Purple loosestrife</i>	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
<i>Squarrose knapweed</i>	<i>Centaurea virgate</i>
<i>Yellow starthistle</i>	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>
<i>Yellow toadflax</i>	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>
<i>Diffuse knapweed</i>	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>
<i>Tamarisk (Saltcedar)</i>	<i>Tamarix ramosissima Ledeb</i>
<i>Puncturevine (Goathead)</i>	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>

Class 2: (Control)

<i>Oxeye daisy</i>	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
<i>Spotted knapweed</i>	<i>Centaurea virgate</i>
<i>Dyers woad</i>	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>
<i>Black henbane</i>	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>
<i>Dalmation toadfoax</i>	<i>Linaris dalmatica</i>
<i>Russian knapweed</i>	<i>Rhaponticum repens</i>
<i>Houndstounge</i>	<i>Cynoglossum officianale</i>
<i>Perennial Pepperweed (Tall Whitetop)</i>	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>
<i>Phragmites (Common reed)</i>	<i>Phragmites australis ssp.</i>



Hoary cress (White top)

Cardaria spp.

Canada thistle

Cirsium arvense

Poison Hemlock

Conium maculatum

Musk thistle

Carduus nutans

Scotch thistle

Onopordium acanthium

Class 3(Containment)

Quackgrass

Elymus repens

Bermudgrass

Cynodon dactylon

Field bindweed (Wild Morning Glory)

Convolvulus Arvensis

Murtle spurge (Blue spurge)

Euphorbia myrsinites

Class 4: (Prohibited)

Cogongrass (Japanese blood grass)

Imperata cylindrical

Dame's rocket

Hesperis matronalis

Scotch broom

Cytisus scoparius

Russian olive

Elaeagnus angustifolia

C. Categories of County Noxious Weeds: The following weeds have been declared County Noxious Weeds by the Summit County Council:

Scentless Chamomile

Mayweed Chamomile

Corn Chamomile

Common Burdock



D. Weed Control Fee Schedule: The fees charged by the Summit County Weed Department are found on the County-wide fee schedule available at <http://summitcounty.org/155/Weed-Division>.

E. Public Education: Education is essential to the sustainable success of the Program. The Weed Control Supervisor will reach out to County residents through educational workshops, private consultations, HOA meetings, volunteer days, educational materials and newspaper articles. Education will include:

- Noxious weed identification and biology.
- Best management and revegetation practices.
- Make Summit County residents aware of loaner program and availability of chemical sales.
- Compliance with the Act and Rules.

F. Helicopter Spraying Program: County subsidized helicopter spraying may be used to spray chemicals to control noxious weeds per the following:

- On Public or Private Property over 20 acres
 - On steep terrain or areas that are difficult to access by other means
 - On areas where dense populations of noxious weeds exist and it is more efficient and cost effective than other means
- The helicopter spraying program is not intended to eradicate other vegetation not on the noxious weed list detailed above.

The property owner is responsible to pay the cost of the chemical used to treat the noxious weeds on their property and to execute a Cost Share Application and Waiver. The County pays the cost of the helicopter and county personnel time.

G. Enforcement: Enforcement of the Summit County Weed Control Program is authorized and conducted pursuant to the Utah Noxious Weed Act and the Summit County Code, Title 4, Chapter 4. The Act states that local governments are directed to take the necessary steps to manage the noxious weeds within their jurisdiction, and provides specific authorization for local enforcement. Enforcement will be applied as a last resort.



H. Notification of Property Owners Failing To Control Weeds: Property owners or the person in possession of a piece of land may be given notice personally or by certified mail that the weeds on their property must be controlled. The notice shall include the specific actions required to control weeds on the property and a specific time frame for completion. If no action is taken to remedy the situation, the property may be considered a public nuisance.

If the owner or person in possession of the property fails to take action to control the noxious weeds within five working days after the property is declared a public nuisance, the County Weed department may, after reasonable notification, hire a spray company, without the consent of the owner or person in possession of the property, and perform any work necessary to control the weeds. Any expense incurred by the County in controlling the noxious weeds is paid by the property owner or the person in possession of the property. These charges must be paid within 90 days after receipt of the charges. If not paid within 90 days after notice of the charges, the charges become a lien against the property and are collectible with the general property taxes.

I. Noxious Weed Mapping: The goal of the noxious weed mapping program is to construct a yearly picture of noxious weed infestations in the County and to promote the sharing of noxious weed location information across jurisdictional boundaries. The mapping of noxious weeds allows the Weed Division to:

- Determine type and acres infested
- Prioritize areas of weed treatment
- Evaluate resources and implement weed management programs
- Target education and awareness
- Develop, implement, and evaluate site specific weed management plans and budget
- Detect changes in density over time
- Monitor effectiveness of treatments
- Fulfill information requests and increase public awareness
- Improve management consistency



Noxious weed mapping will be entered into the County GIS. Data will be gathered by the following means and methods:

- GPS receivers or other handheld devices will be used whenever possible
- Geo-referenced photographs will be taken whenever possible.
- Digitizing from hand draw maps
- Scanning or on-screen digitizing from photos or maps

J. County Departmental Cooperation: Certain departments within Summit County are in an excellent position to make positive impacts on the weed problem in Summit County. The Program Manager will identify and work closely with these departments and volunteer organizations to institute management practices that stress the importance of preventing the spread of, and damage by, noxious weeds on properties managed by the County.

K. Conclusion: Noxious weeds are a serious threat to our native ecosystems and must be managed. If left unchecked, these plants crowd out native vegetation, leaving nothing but a monoculture of weeds. With continued education and cooperative weed management efforts, it is possible to eradicate many of these species, but everyone must do their part. For more information about Noxious Weeds in Summit County, visit <http://summitcounty.org/155/Department-Of-Weeds>.