

### Noxious Weed

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#### Department Overview

The Noxious Weed Fund tracks the costs incurred by the Gallatin County Noxious Weed District. The Noxious Weed District is administered by the Noxious Weed Board, which is appointed by the County Commission. The Board hires a Noxious Weed Coordinator who is responsible for the control of weeds that have been identified and adopted as Noxious Weeds within Gallatin County.

The Board and its coordinator have identified four essential components of a successful County noxious weed management department. Each component of the District policy reinforces, strengthens and contributes to the success of the other components. These four components are:

- Management: The District, with the help of seasonal spray crews treat County properties for noxious weeds and assist municipalities on a critical need basis.
- Education: The District participates in many activities to provide information and technical assistance to County residents regarding noxious weed management on their property. The District participates in small acreage inspections, weed pulls, seminars, Home Owner's Association (HOA) meetings, trade shows and develop Weed Management Association (WMA) grant projects.
- Enforcement: The District contacts both private and public landowners regarding uncontrolled noxious weed infestations on their property after a formal complaint has been filed. The enforcement program focuses on complaints from previous years, new complaints and educating landowners.
- Cooperative Projects: The Weed District works with all public entities; Federal, State, County and City to coordinate noxious weed management efforts on public lands located within the County.

#### Department Goals

- Act as coordinating agency for noxious weed management with Federal, State, County and local agencies and the public.
- Manage noxious weeds on County owned properties.
- Conduct PROACTIVE program to increase public awareness and on-the-ground management of noxious weeds with small acreage landowners.
- Conduct PROACTIVE program to increase compliance with noxious weed law.

#### Recent Accomplishments

- Managed noxious weeds on 1,200 lane miles of County road, Regional Park, County Gravel Pits, Law & Justice Center, Rest Home, Fairgrounds, 6 City of Bozeman Trails & 4 City Parks.
- Continued Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grants for Bridger WMA and assisted Extension in writing the North Horseshoe Hills WMA grant which was awarded \$10,000.
- Worked with Big Sky Weed Committee to assist landowners on noxious weed management.
- 24 educational activities: weed pulls, HOA meetings, trade shows, workshops & fair.
- Completed cooperative spray projects/weed pulls with Big Sky Weed Committee, Montana State University (MSU), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), United States Forest Service (USFS), Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Gallatin Valley Land Trust, Montana Department of Transportation, Montana Rail Link, Madison County and the cities of Bozeman, Belgrade, Three Forks, Manhattan and West Yellowstone.
- Processed 40 Subdivision Weed Management and Re-Vegetation Plans, 13 subdivision MOU's, 3 Preliminary Plat Extensions, 1 Gravel Pit and 6 Gravel Pit Certifications.
- Worked in coordination with Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC) to continue the gravel pit certification program.
- Investigated complaints for violations of the Noxious Weed Law.
- Conducted annual County Weed Manager's meeting for public agencies: Meeting focused on (1) identifying cooperative treatment projects (2) Overview of agency projects from 2013 and (3) proposed agency projects for 2014.

# PUBLIC WORKS

## Noxious Weed

### Department Budget

Object of Expenditure	Actual FY 2013	Final FY 2014	Actual FY 2014	Request FY 2015	Preliminary FY 2015	Final FY 2015
Personnel	\$ 199,235	\$ 204,576	\$ 187,300	\$ 184,876	\$ 191,304	\$ 191,305
Operations	124,122	155,764	123,397	157,768	173,505	182,078
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	38,649	30,000	22,025	26,939	26,939	41,939
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 362,006</b>	<b>\$ 390,340</b>	<b>\$ 332,722</b>	<b>\$ 369,583</b>	<b>\$ 391,748</b>	<b>\$ 415,322</b>

#### Budget by Fund Group

General Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Special Revenue Funds	362,006	390,340	332,722	369,583	391,748	400,322
Debt Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Project Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enterprise Funds	-	-	-	-	-	15,000
Internal Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trust & Agency Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 362,006</b>	<b>\$ 390,340</b>	<b>\$ 332,722</b>	<b>\$ 369,583</b>	<b>\$ 391,748</b>	<b>\$ 415,322</b>

#### Funding Sources

Tax Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000
Non-Tax Revenues	318,262	309,022	309,022	284,479	291,542	291,542
Cash Reappropriated	43,744	81,318	23,700	85,104	100,206	118,780
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 362,006</b>	<b>\$ 390,340</b>	<b>\$ 332,722</b>	<b>\$ 369,583</b>	<b>\$ 391,748</b>	<b>\$ 415,322</b>

The FY 2015 Budget includes \$7,500 in Expenses anticipated for Grants received by the County for control of Noxious Weeds.

### Department Personnel

No. of Positions	FT/PT	Title	FTE 2013	FTE 2014	FTE 2015
1	Full-Time	Weed District Coordinator	1.00	1.00	1.00
1	Full-Time	Administrative Secretary I	0.79	0.75	0.75
1	Full-Time	Assistant Coordinator/Foreman	1.00	1.00	1.00
4	Seasonal	Seasonal Spray Techs			
7.00		Total Program	2.88	2.75	2.75

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### 2015 Budget Highlights

#### Personnel

- Only 4 temporary seasonal Weed Technicians were hired since we contracted out 1/3 of the County road spraying to a Commercial Applicator

#### Operations

- Maintain operations, includes \$24,310 for Noxious Weed Grant

#### Capital

- Capital Reserves \$15,000 for the future purchase of a Core Equipment Spray Truck, Enforcement Reserve \$4,939, Concrete Pad \$7,000, Core Vehicle \$15,000

### County Commission Goals/Department Response

The County Commission has established a set of overarching goals for the County government. Listed below are the goals, followed by the methods by which the District is striving to fulfill those goals.

#### Align community needs with budgetary decisions

- Purchasing based on needs of the public – sprayers, educational materials and equipment.

#### Adhere to long-term plans

- Follow current State & County Weed Management Plan – consult with agencies for effective control of Noxious Weed in Gallatin County.

#### Demonstrate exceptional Customer Service

- Manage and treat noxious weeds on County property, including road system, gravel pits, selected unimproved parks, Regional Park, Fairgrounds, Law & Justice Center, some municipal parks / trails & roadsides.
- Provide technical assistance and information to County residents.
- Provide sprayer rental program to County residents at a nominal cost.
- Resolve reports of noxious weeds located on County property within three working days.
- Initiate enforcement process on weed complaints located on private lands within five days.
- Assist municipalities with management and treatment of noxious weeds on a critical need basis.

#### Serve as a Model for Excellence in Government

- Set the “gold standard” for management of noxious weeds on government properties.
- Coordinate noxious weed management on public lands.

#### Improve communication within county government, other jurisdictions and our public

- Increase public awareness & assistance for small acreage landowners’ management of weeds.
- Increase compliance with noxious weed law.

#### Be an Employer of Choice and improve employee retention

- Provide a safe work environment.

## PUBLIC WORKS

### Noxious Weed

#### Workload Indicators / Performance Measures

<b>Workload Indicators</b>		<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Projected</b>
<b>Indicator</b>		<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>
1.	Acres of County property Weed District is responsible for	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,800
2.	Number of weed complaints filed	175	100	50	50
3.	Number of Subdivision WMP & MOU requests submitted	50	30	63	40
4.	Number of educational/informational activities requested	30	65	63	60
5.	Number of Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grants applied for	5	2	1	2
6.	Number of gravel pits requesting certification	10	5	6	6
7.	Number of "critical need" requests from municipalities	50	50	32	28
8.	Number of Cooperative Agency Projects requested	17	26	19	20
9.	Private landowners requesting cost share money	45	45	30	30
10.	Private landowners requesting rental sprayers	40	40	50	40
11.	Number of landowners requesting Landowner Maintenance Program	17	15	11	12

<b>Performance Measures</b>		<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Projected</b>
<b>Measure</b>		<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>
1.	Percentage of County Property treated for Noxious Weeds	95%	95%	95%	95%
2.	Percentage of weed complaints reviewed & processed	100%	100%	100%	100%
3.	Monitor and compliance of subdivision weed mgnt plans	80%	80%	80%	80%
4.	Control noxious weeds on county right-of-ways once a year	100%	100%	100%	100%
5.	Control noxious weeds on "other" county property yearly	90%	90%	90%	90%
6.	Response to public generated complaints on private and public lands	100%	100%	100%	100%
7.	Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grants managed by Weed District	5	4	3	1
8.	Release and monitoring of bio-control agents at various locations	19	16	12	10

### Comments

Subdivision weed management plans, preliminary plat extensions and memoranda of understanding has increased due to an upturn in the economy.

The Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grants continue to help both large and small acreage landowners implement noxious weed management strategies on their land. These grants are developed for areas where landowners are requesting additional assistance with noxious weed management. The cost share program continues to assist private landowners on a limited basis with the financial burden of noxious weed control.

Enforcement actions have declined since we require a signed written formal complaint form to pursue compliance with the noxious weed law. Decline can also be attributed to properties being treated from previous years' enforcement actions. The process is cumbersome and can take 50 days from start to finish.

The Gallatin County Weed District continues to work with Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Montana Department of Natural Resources, Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks, Montana Department of Transportation, Montana Department of Agriculture, Montana State University, Northern Rocky Mountain RC&D, Gallatin County Extension, Gallatin Conservation District, Gallatin Valley Land Trust, Big Sky Weed Committee, City of Bozeman, City of Belgrade, Town of Three Forks, and Town of West Yellowstone on cooperative noxious weed control projects in order to avoid overlap and pool resources for more effective weed control.

The rental program is a time consuming process since we have to load and unload sprayer units, educate each renter on how to use the equipment and on proper herbicide selection, and assist with weed identification. A carport has been constructed for protecting the sprayers and a hoist system to lift the sprayers has increased efficiency and safety.