NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT FY06 REPORT



Prepared by Joe Weigand Field Services Division



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following contributors invested their time and effort for accurate reporting of noxious weed management activities in their Regions and Programs:

Region 1	Region 5		
Merl Phillips	Doug Habermann		
John Grant	Cleve Schuster		
	Jay Watson		
Region 2			
Doug Frazier	Region 6		
Mike Hathaway	Dave Andrus		
Dave Dziak			
	Region 7		
Region 3	Dwayne Andrews		
Tom Greason			
Fred King	Helena HQ		
Fred Jacobowski	Shelley Juvan		
	Steve Knapp		
Region 4	Bob Walker		

Fishing Access Site photos included in this report were provided by Ariel Johnson, MDA/FWP FAS Intern.

Ray Paige

Allan Kuser

Ray Swartz

Mark Schlepp

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1		
FISCAL YEAR 2006 NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT2			
Recreational Trails and Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Programs4			
Sikes Act Project	s 5		
FAS Internship	6		
Statewide Integra	ated Noxious Weed Management Plan6		
_	anagement Advisory Committee7		
	7		
LIST OF TABLES			
Table 1:	FY06 Recreational Trails Program Grants that addressed noxious weed		
	management.		
Table 2:	FY06 OHV Program Grants that incorporated noxious weed control.		
Table 3:	FWP Sikes Act dollars spent on noxious weed control projects in FY06.		
LIST OF FIGURES			
Cover Photo:	View from Sha-Ron Fishing Access Site.		
Figure 1:	Duck Creek Fishing Access Site (Region 6). Low water at this site has		
riguic 1.	allowed Canada thistle and other weeds to invade the shoreline¢s õbareö		
	soil.		
Figure 2:	Raising public awareness of invasive species at Fishing Access Sites is a		
8	critical first step in noxious weed management.		
Figure 3:	Field Bindweed, also called Creeping Jenny, at Roche Juan FAS.		
C	Although not a state listed noxious weed, field bindweed can be a highly		
	invasive pest.		
Figure 4:	Terrestrial and aquatic invasive species can be spread at Fishing Access		
	Sites by a variety of site uses. This sign at Tucker Crossing FAS in		
	Region 2 combines general site use rules with raising public awareness		
	about noxious weeds and aquatic invasive species (lower left of photo).		
Figure 5:	By managing for healthy soils and native vegetation, such as on Wall		
	Creek WMA, noxious weed invasion can be curtailed.		
LIST OF APPENDICE	2 9		
Appendix A:	FY06 Weed Management Summary		
Appendix B:	Calendar-Year 2005 Weed Management Summary		
Appendix C:	Region 1 - FY06 Noxious Weed Management Report		
Appendix D:	Region 2 - FY06 Noxious Weed Management Report		
Appendix E:	Region 3 - FY06 Noxious Weed Management Report		
Appendix F:	Region 4 - FY06 Noxious Weed Management Report		
Appendix G:	Region 5 - FY06 Noxious Weed Management Report		
Appendix H:	Region 6 - FY06 Noxious Weed Management Report		
Appendix I:	Region 7 - FY06 Noxious Weed Management Report		
Appendix J:	Montana Weed Laws and Regulations		
Appendix K:	Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Noxious Weed Management Advisory		
	Committee Charter		

INTRODUCTION

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) owns, leases, manages, or holds in conservation easement about 610 sites across the state and is responsible for noxious weed management on approximately 362,960 acres. These sites include 35 administrative sites, 360 fisheries sites, 88 state park sites, and 127 wildlife sites.

In Fiscal Year 2006 (FY06), active integrated weed management activities took place on over 9,047 acres, and more than 200 biological control insect releases occurred on infested areas. FWP personnel also assisted counties with insect releases on lands surrounding FWP-owned or managed properties. Typically, long-term weed control success is neither a rapid nor a readily observable development, yet FWP strives for long-term success and uses available tools to manage noxious weeds.



Figure 1: Duck Creek Fishing Access Site (Region 6). Low water at this site has allowed Canada thistle and other weeds to invade the shoreline's "bare" soil.

For the majority of FWP sites, on-the-ground weed control is accomplished via contract with county weed districts or private contractors. At times, spraying is subcontracted through the counties with private contractors. To supplement contracted weed control efforts FWP utilizes about 30 employees licensed by the Department of Agriculture for herbicide application at FWP sites. FWP also has a staff member assigned statewide weed management coordination duties. This person assists managers with reporting weed management activities on FWP lands and acts as a liaison between FWP and other state agencies, county weed districts/boards, noxious weed control organizations, educators, and the general public.

Annual noxious weed control is not conducted at all FWP-managed sites. Some sites are groomed, such as mowed lawns, and do not require chemical application. Decisions are influenced by such factors as aesthetics, proximity to neighbors, potential weed transfer, and weed efforts of adjacent landowners.

Because Fishing Access Sites are inherently associated with water, using chemical herbicides has significant potential environmental ramifications. Soil type, slope, riparian vegetation, water table, and proximity to surface water can limit the use of chemicals at these sites. When possible, herbicides approved for use near water are used, but chemical applicators (regardless of employer) are often still unwilling to take on the environmental risk and associated liability. Additionally, some of these sites are remote, poorly developed, and have poor access which prohibits regularly accessing the areas with spray equipment. On these types of sites, FWP must rely heavily on biological control, a treatment method that is not always successful, and when successful, slow to result in visible improvement.

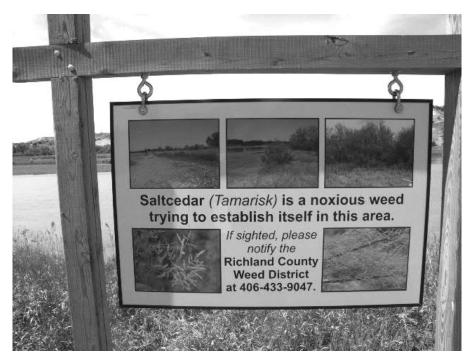


Figure 2: Raising public awareness of invasive species at Fishing Access Sites is a critical first step in noxious weed management.

FISCAL YEAR 2006 NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT

In fiscal year 2006, FWP expended more than \$348,175 for on-the-ground weed control efforts. An additional \$220,075 was spent on weed education and outreach, grants, and other weed management activities. These figures do not include personnel time and effort spent on reporting, weed plan preparation, contracts, etc. Because of the highly invasive nature of noxious weeds, FWP¢s weed control expenditures have been increasing and typically exceed proposed budgets.

In addition to FWPøs direct on-the-ground control efforts, the Department has participated in the following weed management activities:

- The Block Management Program pays approximately \$4 million annually to cooperating landowners. These payments are intended to offset hunter impacts on enrolled lands, including impacts associated with noxious weed control. Through the Block Management Program, FWP potentially influences weed control on over eight million acres of private land in Montana.
- Senate Bill 326, Section 26, authorized FWP to offer up to 5% in additional incentive payments to Block Management cooperators who agree to use those payments for specific weed management activities on lands under their control. For the 2005 (FY06) hunting season nearly all Block Management cooperators chose to receive the weed management payment. FY06 incentive payments totaled \$171,491.



Figure 3: Field Bindweed, also called Creeping Jenny, at Roche Juan FAS. Although not a state listed noxious weed field bindweed can be highly invasive.

• During the fall 2005 hunting season, FWP along with an expanding number of partners, held another õHunters Against Weeds - Weed Wash.ö The weed wash took place in Miles City on opening weekend of the antelope-hunting season. On October 6, 7, and 8, 2005, two local car wash vendors, Big Sky Car Wash and the Lube Center, accepted vouchers for car washes and KATL Radio provided live on-site coverage at no cost. Hunters and anglers who displayed a valid 2005 conservation license were eligible to receive a token for a free car wash and were encouraged to wash the undercarriage of their vehicle.

An early winter storm in the week prior to the antelope opener significantly dampened outreach and attendance at this years car wash from what had been achieved in 2004. The 135 sportsmen and women who participated in the 2005 wash received a vehicle decal to illustrate their concern about noxious weeds and willingness to help prevent their spread.

FWP hopes to see more such future cooperative efforts that include local departments of commerce, county weed districts/boards, agriculture and livestock associations, the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association, other land management agencies, and additional groups of hunters, anglers, and other recreationists.

- Fish, Wildlife and Parks submitted a grant proposal to the Montana Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Trust Fund (NWTF) grant program. The proposal sought to assist expanding efforts of the õHunters Against Weeds ó Weed Washö during the 2006 hunting season (FY07). Funds obtained through this proposal will allow for õWeed Washesö in additional communities. In addition to submitting a grant proposal, FWP was named as a cooperator in 18 of 90 (20%) proposed NWTF projects for the 2006 grant period.
- FWP extended a helping hand to Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation during development and publication of *TIPS for Fighting Weeds on Small Acreages in Montana*. The initial printing of this very informative and useful õhow to styleö guide lasted less than one month on FWP shelves. The number ordered for FY07 distribution is expected to be at least double that of the initial print order.

Recreational Trails and Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Programs

For FY06 \$1.6 million in federal funding was available through FWP for trails projects for the creation, completion, maintenance or renovation of recreational trails in Montana. The Recreational Trails Grant program requires that a weed management plan is in place for the proposed project area. Proposed projects frequently include a weed control component.

Off-Highway Vehicle Grant funds totaling \$300,000 were available through FWP for Fiscal Year 2006. Historically, most of the funded grant projects have included funding for weed education and control.

For 2006, the portion of Recreational Trail (Table 1) and Off-Highway Vehicle grants (Table 2) awarded by FWP that was used for weed control and/or inventory totaled \$27,699.

Table 1. Fiscal Year 2006 Recreational Trails Program Grants that addressed

noxious weed management.

		Grant
Project Sponsor	Project Description	Amount
Ponderosa Snow Warriors	Trail Grooming, Weed Control,	\$12,000
	Maintenance	
USDA Forest Service, Hebgen Lake	Trail Ranger Maintenance and	\$5,000
Ranger District	Weed Control	
USDA Forest Service,	Absaroka/Beartooth Wilderness	\$1,600
Livingston/Bozeman Ranger Districts	and Crazy Mountains Rangers	
Total Grants		\$18,600.00

Off-Highway Vehicle Grant funds totaling \$300,000 were available through FWP for Fiscal Year 2006. Historically, most of the grants have included funding for weed education and control.

Table 2. Fiscal Year 2006 OHV Program Grants that incorporated weed control.

	•	Grant
Project Sponsor	Project Description	Amount
USDA Forest Service, Dillon Ranger	Trail Ranger Program	
District		\$ 1,600.00
USDA Forest Service, Bitterroot	Track The Tread Trail Ranger	
Ranger District		\$ 1,600.00
USDA Forest Service, Livingston	Trail Ranger Program	
Ranger District		\$ 1,600.00
USDA Forest Service, Hebgen Lake	Trail Ranger Program	
Ranger District		\$ 1,600.00
USDA Forest Service, Madison	Trail Ranger Program	
Ranger District		\$ 1,099.00
USDA Forest Service, Rocky	Trail Ranger Program	
Mountain Ranger District	_	\$ 1,600.00
Total Grants		\$ 9,099.00

Sikes Act Projects

The Sikes Act of 1974 (Public Law 92-452) is federal legislation that allows for memoranda of understanding between state fish and wildlife agencies and federal natural resource agencies to develop a funding source and partner in projects for the restoration and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat on public lands. In 1993, FWP developed agreements with the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management to cost-share, on a 50:50 basis, for habitat restoration and improvements on public lands. On occasion, projects are funded that have a strong weed control component, which in turn improves fish and wildlife habitat.

Fiscal Year 2006 saw multiple Sikes Act Projects that were directed at noxious weed control and inventory. The projects had far reaching impacts and ranged from west of the continental divide to the South Dakota border (Table 1).

Table 3: FWP Sikes Act dollars spent on noxious weed control projects in FY06.

Project Location	Project Title	FWP Sikes Act Funding
Flathead National Forest	Cold Creek Weed Treatment	\$ 3,000.00
Gallatin National Forest	Paradise Valley Weed Treatment	\$ 4,400.00
Beaverhead ó Deerlodge National	Divide Winter Range Noxious	
Forest	Weed Control	\$ 1,250.00
	Noxious Weed Control for	
	Ekalaka Hills and Long Pines	
Custer National Forest	Big Game Winter Range	\$ 4,200.00
Total FWP Funding		\$ 12,850.00

FAS Internship

During the summer of 2004, the Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) conducted an evaluation of weed infestations on a number of Fishing Access Sites and State Parks. To follow up on this effort, FWP and MDA teamed up to fund an intern to continue the evaluation in 2005 and 2006. The purpose of this endeavor was to objectively evaluate the effectiveness of noxious weed control activities at these high public-use sites and concurrently document the current level of weed infestation.

Each summer the intern has been hired and trained through MDA. The intern worked cooperatively with FWP regional staff to identify and locate Fishing Access Sites and State Parks for evaluation. The standardized methodology and forms provided through MDAøs weed professionals provide simple and accurate evaluation of weed infestations at FWP sites visited. This valuable joint venture will continue in 2007 with the intent to carry on evaluations until trends and management recommendations can be determined.

Statewide Integrated Noxious Weed Management Plan

Since mandated in 1995 by Section 7-22-2151 of the Montana County Weed Control Act, Six-Year Weed Management Plans have been completed for FWP properties in all seven administrative regions. Because each administrative region has independently completed plans, the plans have lacked uniformity and consistency, and they are difficult to track when updates are due. As an alternative to the seven administrative regions producing individual plans every six years, FWP Field Services Division staff and regional staff are working together to produce one Statewide Noxious Weed Management Plan. The new Statewide Plan will reduce duplication of effort and produce a uniform working document. The proposed Statewide Plan will include tabbed sections for each region so that updated information, such as internal annual reports and the Biennial Reports required by MDA,

can be inserted into the document. Revision of the Statewide Plan will be facilitated by the annual and biennial reports that are inserted on a regular basis.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks land managers will be able to use this document to prioritize and direct their on-the-ground weed management. The Plan will provide the conceptual framework and clear, detailed recommendations for preventing introductions, reducing existing infestations, maintaining low noxious weed soil-seed bank levels, reducing susceptibility of Parks, FASs, and WMAs to weed establishment, and managing weed spread on those properties. It will also strengthen the existing goals and objectives of FWP land managers regarding their weed control efforts. The document will provide guidance and direction to FWP field staff while maintaining flexibility for local priorities and actions. It is not intended to be site specific. County Weed Agreements and Operations and Maintenance Plans incorporate site-specific management. However, the Statewide Plan will coordinate and direct statewide management and ensure that priorities and goals are met down to the regional and site-specific levels.

Weed Management Services (Celestine Duncan) of Helena, Montana has been contracted to produce the Statewide Integrated Noxious Weed Management Plan for FWP. Completion of the Statewide Plan is expected summer 2007.

Noxious Weed Management Advisory Committee

To facilitate coordination of the Statewide Integrated Noxious Weed Management Plan and to assist FWP statewide noxious weed management coordination by prioritizing statewide management needs, the FWP Noxious Weed Management Advisory Committee was re-initiated. This committee, originally termed the FWP Weed Program Coordination Committee, is currently assisting with Statewide Plan development and review and acting as regional liaison and contact. This committee was also responsible for the decision to go to a fiscal-year annual report format. The decision for this change was based on the fact that all other weed reporting requirements and most other agency management reports are completed on a fiscal year basis. It is expected that in the long-term, this format will reduce report preparation demands. The current Charter for this committee is provided in Appendix L.

CONCLUSION

FWP owns and manages less than one-half of one percent of all lands in Montana, yet spends over half of a million dollars annually, not including staff time, for weed management on FWP-owned and managed land. A total of nearly four million in sportsmen¢s dollars is provided annually to private landowners through the Block Management Program for use in farm and ranch operations, which may include weed management activities. In FY06, FWP paid an additional \$171,490 in Block Management Weed Incentive Payments for private land weed control. In addition to FWP funding sources, nearly one million dollars in federal trails project grant funding were provided through FWP in 2006. Federal trails projects require weed management plans to be in place and frequently include a weed control component.



Figure 4: Terrestrial and aquatic invasive species can be spread at Fishing Access Sites by a variety of site uses. This sign at Tucker Crossing FAS in Region 2 combines general site use rules with raising public awareness about noxious weeds and aquatic invasive species (lower left).

The dedication of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to control and manage noxious weeds in Montana is evident in its monetary contributions to the cause. However, it is the individual efforts of Department personnel that truly have the õon-the-groundö impact. The experience and knowledge of these individuals must be maintained within the ranks so that ground gained is not lost as veteran land managers hand over responsibility to up-and-coming managers. Expertise, coordination, and budgets must all come together to continue the Departmentos noxious weed management success.



Figure 5. By managing for healthy soils and native vegetation, such as on Wall Creek WMA, noxious weed invasion can be curtailed. (FWP Photo)

APPENDIX A

FY06 Weed Management Summary

APPENDIX B

Calendar Year 2005 Weed Management Summary

APPENDIX C

Region 1 ó FY06 Weed Management Report

APPENDIX D

Region 2 ó FY06 Weed Management Report

APPENDIX E

Region 3 ó FY06 Weed Management Report

APPENDIX F

Region 4 ó FY06 Weed Management Report

APPENDIX G

Region 5 ó FY06 Weed Management Report

APPENDIX H

Region 6 ó FY06 Weed Management Report

APPENDIX I

Region 7 ó FY06 Weed Management Report

APPENDIX J

Montana Weed Laws and Regulations

Montana Weed Laws and Regulations

(Summarized from 2005 Montana Weed Management Plan)

The first noxious weed legislation in Montana was passed in 1939. Since that time, additional laws and rules have been enacted to strengthen weed management efforts. The eight laws currently affecting weed management in Montana are summarized below and described in detail in Appendix F.

The Montana State Noxious Weed list is updated as needed and is determined by Rule of the Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) under the provisions of the Montana County Weed Control Act. Changes or additions are based on advice and recommendations from the Montana Noxious Weed List Advisory Committee. The Committee reviews requests for additions to the list received by the MDA, using established criteria, and makes recommendations to the Director of the MDA. Weeds on federal and regional weed lists are reviewed for inclusion on the Montana state list based on their potential to invade and spread within the state.

Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) administers a number of laws relating to weed management in the state.

Section 7-22-2151 of the Montana County Weed Control Act requires that any state agency controlling land within a district enter into a written agreement with the board. The agreement must specify mutual responsibilities for integrated noxious weed management on state-owned or state-controlled. The plan must include: a 6-year integrated weed management plan, to be updated biennially; a noxious weeds goals statement; and a specific plan of operations for each biennium, including a budget. Each agency is required to submit a biennial performance report to the Montana Department of Agriculture. These provisions were enacted by the 1995 Montana Legislature, and MDA is currently working with agencies and counties to facilitate implementation. State agencies with weed management responsibilities are: Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; Department of Transportation; Department of Corrections; Department of Public Health & Human Services; and the University System.

The Montana Weed Control Act (Title 80, Chapter 7 Part 7) provides for technical assistance, funding of noxious plant management programs, and embargoes. Section 80-7-712 MCA allows the Montana Department of Agriculture to obtain federal funds and disburse funds to local governments authorized to conduct noxious plant management programs. In addition, Section 80-7-720 MCA provides for the following regarding biological agents for weed control: (1) the department of agriculture is authorized to expend funds for the collection and distribution of biological agents to control leafy spurge and spotted knapweed. The project will reduce energy consumption by reducing the need for repeated chemical application. (2) The department of natural resources and conservation is authorized to administratively transfer funds to the department of agriculture for the project described in subsection (1).

The Montana Noxious Weed Seed-Free Forage Act establishes a state noxious weed seed free forage and mulch certification program used by individuals, agencies, and private corporations on public and private lands. The Montana program supports and complements the regional North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) Noxious Weed Seed-Free Forage Certification Program. This program provides forage products that are free of regionally-designated noxious weeds seeds or any injurious portions of plants and any propagating parts of plants that are capable of producing new plants.

The Montana Agricultural Seed Act lists prohibited and restricted seed levels that must be maintained in state certified seed. All state noxious weeds are included in this list.

The Montana Commercial Feed Act prohibits noxious weeds in commercial feed.

The Montana Nursery Law allows for inspection, certification, and embargo of all nursery stock for listed pests, including weeds.

The Montana Environmental Policy Act must be addressed by all MDA actions that have potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts.

The Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund Act is a grant-funding program designed to encourage local cooperative weed management programs, creative research in weed control, including the development of biological control methods, and educational programs. The MDA is responsible for weed supervisor training standards and listing of statewide noxious weeds by rule under the Montana County Weed Control Act. Revenue for the current grants program comes from interest from the \$4.76 million Trust and from the vehicle weed fee of \$1.50 per vehicle. Annual revenue from these two sources varies with current interest rates and averages between \$1.2 and \$1.7 million. In addition to the interest, the Noxious Weed Trust Fund (NWTF) receives \$101,337 annually from the Montana General Fund (these funds were redirected in 2003 from FWP general fund to the Department of Agriculture general fund), and in 2004, a grant of \$100,000 from the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Since 2001, \$830,000 annually has been provided to the NWTF from USDA Cooperative Forestry Assistance to manage weed infestations on Private, tribal and nonfederal public lands having at least 10% tree cover.

APPENDIX K

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Noxious Weed Management Advisory Committee Charter

FWP NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Statement of Need:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) owns, leases, or manages over 500 sites across the state and is responsible for noxious weed management on approximately 400,000 acres of land. Managed sites include 50 state parks, 320 fishing access sites, 109 wildlife management areas, and more than 40 administrative sites, fish hatcheries, etc.

By its nature, noxious weed management impacts a wide spectrum of public resources and recreational interests. Weed management is inherently programmatic and touches virtually every aspect of the agency in some respect. Management actions and decisions must recognize the potential for controversy and involve a broad spectrum of agency and public interests.

The Mission:

The mission of the Noxious Weed Management (NWM) Advisory Committee is to provide interdisciplinary coordination and review for noxious weed management on Department owned and managed lands.

Team Goals:

- 1) Help ensure that FWP noxious weed management is compatible with both the overall mission of FWP and the Montana Weed Management Plan.
- 2) Provide balance and consistency in the noxious weed management program by addressing the need for integrated management across Division and Administrative Region boundaries.
- 3) Be proactive in resolving controversy associated with Department noxious weed management.
- 4) Ensure that appropriate interest groups are effectively involved in the FWP noxious weed management decision process.

Team Resources:

Field Services will coordinate and provide support for NWM Advisory Committee meetings and locations, and support development of the Statewide Integrated Noxious Weed Management Plan (the Teamøs initial task). Team members are responsible for providing fiscal support for meeting attendance, including travel and lodging when necessary, and individual effort for tasks associated with completing Team goals.

Team Authority and Duration:

The Team is both advisory and decision making in nature. Due to the multi-disciplinary composition of the Team, the Team Leader seeks to maintain integrated management action across disciplines.

The Team is chartered for Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007 to ensure specific task completion. The need for the Team will be reviewed upon completion of the specific delineated tasks and may be continued with existing or new members and assignments beginning FY 2008.

Team Oversight:

The Chief of Staff and Chief of Operations shall serve as Team Sponsors. The Sponsors will act as a resource, providing policy input to the Teamøs work. The Sponsors will also provide a quick method of resolving problems or obtaining additional support.

The Field Services Division Administrator is responsible for oversight of the Team and its work. He is not a team member, but will function as the õCoachö for the group and will be responsible for the teamøs success. The Coach will serve as the interface between the Team and Sponsors to resolve problems and facilitate solutions.

Team Membership and Roles:

In recognition of the Teamøs programmatic emphasis, membership will be broad-spectrum in nature. All programs and various specific disciplines will be represented.

The Team will be composed of Helena Headquarters and Region based representatives from Communication and Education, Enforcement, Field Services, Fisheries, Legal Unit, Parks, and Wildlife. Each Division and Region will be represented by at least, but not limited to, one member. Additional membership from stakeholders is welcome and will be periodically solicited.

The Landowner/Wildlife Resource Specialist will serve as Statewide Weed Management Coordinator and the Team Leader. The Team Leader will be responsible for calling meetings, facilitating Team discussions, tracking Team tasks and accomplishments, and will also be responsible for coordination and liaison with affected work units as necessary.

Refer to the attached list for names and positions of current team members.

Team Operating Procedures:

The Team will meet as necessary to accomplish assigned tasks. The Team may establish sub-committees or individual staff assignments within the scope of their authority and resources.

The Team will make decisions by consensus when possible. If the committee cannot reach agreement, alternative points of view will be defined for resolution or decisions by higher authorities.

Specific Assignments and Expected Products:

The Noxious Weed Management Advisory Committee is expected to:

- Coordinate and facilitate development of the õFWP Statewide Integrated Noxious Weed Management Plan;ö
- 2. Act as Regional and Division representatives during development and review of the õPlan:ö
- 3. Review the õMontana Weed Management Planö and determine how well FWP is doing statewide to fulfill the stated goals and objectives (This will be critical for identifying issues that need to be addressed in the FWP Plan);
- 4. Oversee transition from a Calendar Year Weed Management Activity Report to a Fiscal Year Report (FY 2006 will need to be completed, in final form, no later than December 31, 2006 to accommodate Legislative Session. It is understood that there will be information overlap in the CY 05 Report and the FY 06 Report);
- 5. Coordinate regional reporting during completion of the FY07/08 Department of Agricultures Biennial Report that is anticipated to be due in September of 2007; and
- 6. Improve consistency in reporting forms and county agreements.

Tasks with an end product will be completed in a timely manner. The FWP Integrated Noxious Weed Management Plan will be completed by June 30, 2007. Transition from a Calendar Year Annual Report to a Fiscal Year Annual Report will be complete by November 30, 2006.

Noxious Weed Management Advisory Committee Members (As of 12/29/06):

Representing ó Position/Title
FWP Field Services ó Administrator - Retiring (Coach)
FWP Field Services ó Landowner/Wildlife Resource Specialist (Team
Leader)
FWP Wildlife ó Habitat Bureau Chief
FWP Parks ó Fishing Access Site Coordinator
FWP Communication and Education Statewide Information Officer
FWP Region 1 Wildlife ó Wildlife Area Manager
FWP Region 2 Parks ó Parks Specialist
FWP Region 2 Wildlife ó Wildlife Area Manager
FWP Region 3 Wildlife ó Wildlife Area Manager
FWP Region 4 Parks ó Maintenance Supervisor
FWP Region 5 Parks ó Regional Parks Manager
FWP Region 6 Department Administration ó Conservation Specialist
FWP Region 7 Comm. Ed. ó Regional Info. and Ed. Program Manager
Weed Management Services ó Consultant
Montana Department of Agriculture ó State Weed Coordinator
Montana Weed Control Association ó President
County Weed District Representative ó Cascade County