



**RAVALLI COUNTY WEED DISTRICT
 LANDOWNER ROADSIDE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM
 (Voluntary Agreements under §7-22-2153, MCA)**

This Landowner Roadside Maintenance Program is established by the Ravalli County Weed District (“Weed District”) to provide the following:

1. A tool to **educate** landowners in Ravalli County about the spread of noxious weeds along roads and the options for control of those noxious weeds.
2. A way to **provide** Weed District approved “Landowner Weed Maintenance Signs” to landowners adjacent to county roads who have entered into a Landowner Weed Maintenance Agreement to manage the noxious weeds along the county roads bordering or running through their land. This **alerts** spray crews that an Agreement exists under §7-22-2153, MCA. **Signs cost \$30.00 per set of two.**

WHAT ARE NOXIOUS WEEDS?

Noxious weeds are non-native plants that compete with desirable plants for nutrients and room to grow. Most noxious weeds are native to Eurasia and have likely entered North America from ship ballast, contaminated food seed, as ornamentals, or in infested hay bales. Natural and cultural controls, such as diseases and intensive grazing, have kept these plants from becoming problems in their native habitat. Since these diseases, insects, and land management practices did not migrate with the plant, noxious weeds in North America can grow virtually unhindered. Noxious weeds do not limit themselves to agricultural areas; they also invade public parks and wilderness lands, County and State roadsides, and small acreages.

Montana Noxious Weed List

	Red = Known Presents in Ravalli County
Priority 1A	<p>These weeds are not present in Montana. Management criteria will require eradication if detected; education; and prevention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yellow starthistle (<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County if found
Priority 1B	<p>These weeds have limited presence in Montana. Management criteria will require eradication or containment and education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dyer’s woad (<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County if found - Flowering rush (<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County if found - Japanese knotweed complex (<i>Polygonum spp.</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County - Purple loosestrife (<i>Lythrum spp.</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County - Rush skeletonweed (<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County - Eurasian watermilfoil (<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County if found - Scotch broom (<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County if found - Curlyleaf pondweed (<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County
Priority 2A	<p>These weeds are common in isolated areas of Montana. Management criteria will require eradication or containment where less abundant. Management shall be prioritized by local weed districts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tansy ragwort (<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County if found - Meadow hawkweed complex (<i>Hieracium spp.</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County - Orange hawkweed (<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County - Tall buttercup (<i>Ranunculus acris</i>) ~ Containment priority for Ravalli County - Perennial pepperweed (<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County if found - Yellowflag iris (<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County - Blueweed (<i>Echium vulgare</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County - Hoary alyssum (<i>Berteroa incana</i>) ~ Containment priority for Ravalli County
Priority 2B	<p>These weeds are abundant in Montana and widespread in many counties. Management criteria will require eradication or containment where less abundant.</p>

	<p>Management shall be prioritized by local weed districts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>) ~ Containment priority for Ravalli County - Field bindweed (<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>) ~ Containment priority for Ravalli County - Leafy spurge (<i>Euphorbia esula</i>) ~ Containment priority for Ravalli County - Whitetop (<i>Cardaria draba</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County - Russian knapweed (<i>Centaurea repens</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County - Spotted knapweed (<i>Centaurea stoebe</i> or <i>maculosa</i>) ~ Education priority for Ravalli County - Diffuse knapweed (<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County if found - Dalmatian toadflax (<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>) ~ Containment priority for Ravalli County - St. Johnswort (<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County - Sulfur cinquefoil (<i>Potentilla recta</i>) ~ Containment priority for Ravalli County - Common tansy (<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>) ~ Containment priority for Ravalli County - Oxeye daisy (<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i> or <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>) ~ Containment priority for Ravalli County - Houndstongue (<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>) ~ Containment priority for Ravalli County - Yellow toadflax (<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County - Saltcedar (<i>Tamarix spp.</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County
Priority 3	<p>Regulated Plants: (NOT MONTANA LISTED NOXIOUS WEEDS)</p> <p>These regulated plants have the potential to have significant negative impacts. The plant may not be intentionally spread or sold other than as a contaminant in agricultural products. The state recommends research, education and prevention to minimize the spread of the regulated plant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cheatgrass (<i>Bromus tectorum</i>) ~ Education priority for Ravalli County if found - Hydrilla (<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County if found
County Listed	<p>These weeds are in isolated areas of Ravalli County. Management criteria requires eradication or containment where less abundant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Common Bugloss (<i>anchusa officianals</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County - Field Scabious (<i>Knautia arvensis.</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County - Black Henbane (<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County - Common Teasel (<i>Dipsacus fullonum L.</i>) ~ Eradication priority for Ravalli County

Noxious weeds and the seeds of noxious weeds have been declared a common nuisance by the Montana legislature. See §7-22-2115, MCA. Noxious weeds pose a serious threat to Montana’s natural resources, and the negative effects include:

- Loss of wildlife habitat and reduced wildlife numbers.
- Reduced crop and farmland production.
- Increased soil erosion and topsoil loss.
- Diminished water quality.
- Reduced livestock grazing capacity.
- Reduced land value and sale potential.
- Diminished waterfowl and fish habitat.

To access more information about noxious weeds, including a copy of Ravalli County’s current Weed Management Plan, contact Ravalli County’s Noxious Weed Coordinator at (406) 777-5842.

NOXIOUS WEEDS AND COUNTY ROADS

Since noxious weeds are readily transported via man and machines, roadsides provide a perfect corridor from which weeds can be spread. Highways and county roads are identified as a high priority area for noxious weed control in Ravalli County. A good roadside weed control program is essential to check the spread of noxious weeds in these areas.

The Weed District has adopted the following plan for controlling noxious weeds on county road right-of-ways:

1. Spot treatment only of noxious weeds in and around populated areas.
2. Broadcast treatments, only if needed, for noxious weeds in non-populated areas where environmental considerations are taken into account.
3. Use of properly trained operators and herbicide(s) for the control of noxious weeds present.
4. Cultural management of noxious weeds in sensitive areas.

VOLUNTARY LANDOWNER ROADSIDE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS

The Weed District realizes that landowners may voluntarily seek to enter into an agreement for the management of noxious weeds along county roads bordering or running through their property, and therefore adopts this “Landowner Roadside Weed Maintenance Program” in accordance with §7-22-2153, MCA. Under this Program, any voluntary agreement must, in the Weed District Board’s judgment, provide for effective noxious weed management. The agreement must be signed by the participant and be approved by the Weed District board or presiding officer. The Weed District coordinator has drafted a voluntary agreement application form which

contains the minimum requirements for such agreements under Montana law. That form is attached to and made part of this Plan.

If a person would like to participate in a “Landowner Roadside Maintenance Agreement” he or she must fill out the attached application form and submit it to the Weed District Office for consideration. The application will either be approved as submitted, approved with conditions, or not approved. Criteria for non-approval include but are not limited to the following:

- a. The application does not propose an effective noxious weed management plan that complies with weed control laws and accepted practices.
- b. There is a prior history of noncompliance by the applicant in regard to managing noxious weeds under a previous Landowner Maintenance Program or No Spray Program.
- c. Valid noxious weed complaints have previously been filed against the applicant’s property.
- d. The application is detrimental to the County’s approved Weed Management Plan.

If a new landowner purchases the property and wants to continue an approved Landowner Noxious Weed Management Plan, that landowner must submit a new Application / Agreement for consideration by the Weed District

If an agreement is approved, the following conditions apply:

1. The responsibility for managing noxious weeds on the specified section of right-of-way is transferred from the WEED DISTRICT to the PARTICIPANT signing the agreement. The Weed District will treat noxious weeds up to the posted signs along PARTICIPANT’s property borders.
2. If the WEED DISTRICT finds that the PARTICIPANT has failed to adhere to the agreement, the BOARD shall issue an order informing the PARTICIPANT that the agreement will be void and that the responsibility for the management of noxious weeds on the right-of-way will revert to the WEED DISTRICT unless the PARTICIPANT complies with the provisions of the agreement within time period specified in the order.
3. The Weed District Board is not liable for any injuries or losses suffered by the participant in managing noxious weeds on the county road right-of way. §7-22-2153(2), MCA.



**RAVALLI COUNTY WEED DISTRICT
LANDOWNER ROADSIDE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM**

APPLICATION / AGREEMENT

This Application is submitted to the Ravalli County Weed District (WEED DISTRICT) by:

_____ (Print First Name) (Print Last Name) (Phone)

of _____ (Address) (City/State) (Zip)

herein known as PARTICIPANT, to request to voluntarily manage noxious weeds at the following location(s):

Are noxious weeds present on the PARTICIPANT’S property adjacent to the right-of-way? Yes No

If yes, the landowner is required to complete the following:

PROPOSED LANDOWNER ROADSIDE WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. List which noxious weed species and the approximate size of infestation(s) found on property. Attach a map or complete a sketch on the page provided below showing the location of noxious weeds on property.
A complete list of noxious weeds to be controlled within the right-of-way can be obtained from the Ravalli County Weed District Office and is included in this document.

2. Briefly explain which noxious weed control method(s) would be used on the above property.

Cultural / Mechanical Chemical / Herbicide Biological

Please complete the appropriate section(s) corresponding to the weed management methods selected above.

(a) Cultural/Mechanical Control:

1. Noxious Weed _____ Method _____

2. Noxious Weed _____ Method _____

3. Noxious Weed _____ Method _____

Control work to be done by: **Self** or **Contractor** Name of Contractor _____

Timing of Control Method(s):

Year	Treatment 1 Completion Date	Treatment 2 Completion Date	Treatment 3 Completion Date

(b) Chemical/Herbicide Control:

1. Noxious Weed _____ Chemical Name _____ Rate _____

2. Noxious Weed _____ Chemical Name _____ Rate _____

3. Noxious Weed _____ Chemical Name _____ Rate _____

Control work to be done by: **Self** or **Contractor** Name of Contractor _____

Timing of treatment(s):

Year	Treatment 1 Completion Date	Treatment 2 Completion Date	Treatment 3 Completion Date

(c) Biological Control:

1. Noxious Weed _____ Method _____

2. Noxious Weed _____ Method _____

3. Noxious Weed _____ Method _____

Control work to be done by: **Self** or **Contractor** Name of Contractor _____

Timing of Control Method(s):

Year	Treatment 1 Completion Date	Treatment 2 Completion Date	Treatment 3 Completion Date

3. If desired, list the reason(s) you are requesting this agreement and any special considerations or concerns you would like the Weed District to consider:

By signing this Application / Agreement, the PARTICIPANT agrees to control the noxious weeds within the boundaries described herein in accordance with the above Noxious Weed Management Plan and the requirements of the Montana County Weed Control Act. The PARTICIPANT further agrees to purchase and post signs approved by the WEED DISTRICT at the above location. Signs must be displayed in a conspicuous manner on all property lines along the road-right-of-way and must be visible from the right-lane flow of traffic.

The PARTICIPANT agrees that he or she has read the “Landowner Roadside Maintenance Program” provided with this Application / Agreement and realizes that the WEED DISTRICT is not liable for any injuries or losses suffered by the participant in managing noxious weeds on the county road right-of way under §7-22-2153(2), The PARTICIPANT is also aware that weed crews will treat noxious weeds up to the posted signs along participant’s property borders.

If approved, this Agreement is valid for three (3) years from date of approval by the Weed District. Before expiration of the three (3) year period, a new signed Application / Agreement must be submitted to the Weed District by the PARTICIPANT. The new Agreement must be approved by the Weed District before the PARTICIPANT may continue his or her Landowner Noxious Weed Management Plan. If a new Application / Agreement is not submitted by expiration of the three (3) year period, management of noxious weeds on the right-of-way will revert to the Weed District.

By October 31st of each year, the PARTICIPANT will submit a written status report to the Weed District Office. A form status report is attached to this Application / Agreement and is also available from the Weed District office or online at www.rcweeds.org. This status report verifies that the appropriate control measures have been fully implemented and completed as agreed by the PARTICIPANT. If the PARTICIPANT does not submit the written status report by October 31st the Weed District Board will issue an order informing the PARTICIPANT that management of noxious weeds on the right-of-way will be undertaken by the Weed District unless the alternative weed control is verified within thirty (30) days.

If during the term of the Agreement the WEED DISTRICT finds that the PARTICIPANT has failed to adhere to the Agreement, the BOARD shall issue an order informing the PARTICIPANT that the agreement will be void and that the responsibility for the management of noxious weeds on the right-of-way will revert to the WEED DISTRICT unless the PARTICIPANT complies with the provisions of the agreement within time period specified in the order.

BY SUBMITTING THIS APPLICATION / AGREEMENT, THE PARTICIPANT AUTHORIZES THE WEED DISTRICT TO INSPECT THE PROPERTY AS NEEDED FOR REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT.

(PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE)

(PRINT NAME)

(DATE)

WEED DISTRICT BOARD REVIEW:

AGREEMENT Approved Approved with Conditions Not Approved

Agreement No. _____

Expiration Date: _____

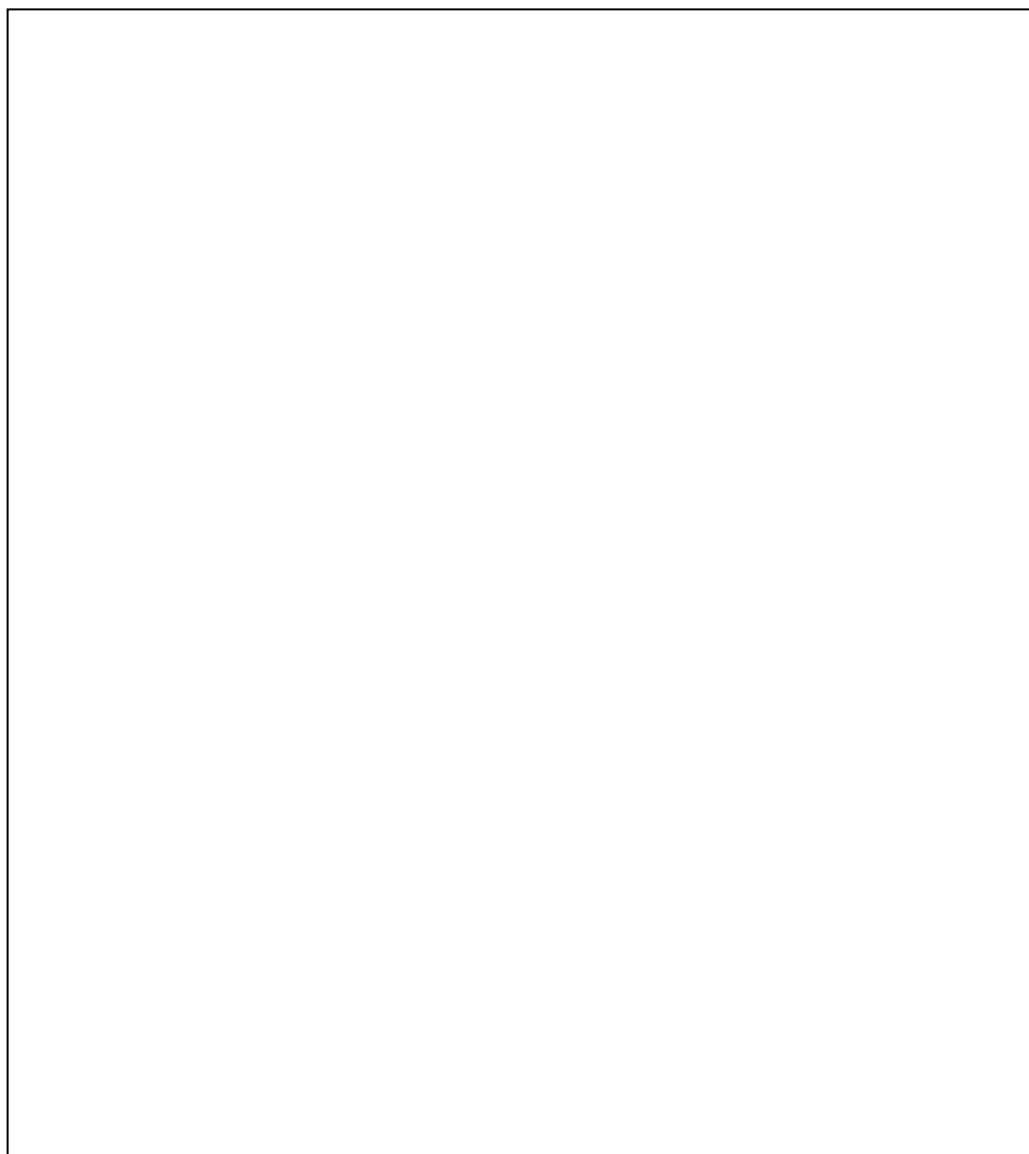
CONDITIONS:

(WEED DISTRICT CHAIR or REPRESENTATIVE)

(PRINT NAME)

(DATE)

Unless a separate map is attached, please sketch a detailed map showing location of the property and any noxious weeds present.





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STATUS REPORT
Due each year by October 31st
Submit to: Weed District Office
329 Stevensville Airport Road
Stevensville, MT 59870

This status report verifies that the appropriate control measures have been fully implemented and completed as agreed by the PARTICIPANT.

If a PARTICIPANT does not submit the written status report by October 31st, the Weed District Board will issue an order informing the PARTICIPANT that management of noxious weeds on the right-of-way will be undertaken by the Weed District unless the alternative weed control/status report is verified within thirty (30) days.

PARTICIPANT'S Name _____
Physical Address _____ City _____
Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Daytime Phone No. _____

Landowner Roadside Maintenance Agreement Number: _____
Expiration date of Agreement: _____

Do you wish to remain in the **ROADSIDE WEED MAINTENANCE** program for another year, not to extend beyond the expiration date listed above? Yes No

Have you been following the weed management plan set up particularly for your property?
Yes No

If not, what method(s) have you changed?

Are you having difficulty in controlling certain noxious weed species? Yes No

Which ones? _____

****One of the Weed District's purposes is to help you succeed with your weed management plan. Please feel free to call us at 777-5842 or set up a free land visit for an evaluation and assistance.**

(PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE)

(DATE)