

SANPETE COUNTY WEED DEPARTMENT

160 North Main St.
Manti, UT 84642

SANPETE INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The Sanpete County Weed Department has developed this plan in order to increase cooperative control of noxious weeds within Sanpete County, Utah. The County Weed Department and County Weed Board goals are in the five following areas:

1. Public relations, education, and training.
2. Weed eradication and other resource protection.
3. Fostering sound and desirable means of weed control
4. Assisting Landowners through meetings and Weed Tours.
5. Providing a communications forum with Landowners, County Weed Board, County Commissioners and all other interested weed control entities.

ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETINGS

The Sanpete County Weed Board shall initiate quarterly coordination meetings each year. All organizations concerned with weed control should be invited to have a representative in attendance. The following agencies should be invited:

Utah Department of Transportation, U.S. Forest Service, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, State Trust Lands, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, Sanpete County Extension, Denver and Rio Grand Railway, Rocky Mountain Power Corporation, Questar and Irrigation Companies.

Sanpete County personnel from the Weed Department as well as the Road Superintendent, the County Commission and the Sanpitch CWMA Representative should be in attendance. Any other interested parties or citizens should be notified of these meetings through a notice in the newspaper.

WEED MANAGEMENT GOALS

1. Prevent the introduction of noxious weed species not previously found within Sanpete County through public education, information dissemination and increasing public awareness.
2. Eradicate infestations of noxious weed species not previously found within Sanpete County.
3. Reduce the extent and density of established noxious weeds to the point that natural resource damage is within acceptable limits.
4. Implement integrated weed management systems using all appropriate weed control methods or combination of methods.

5. Improve cooperation and coordination between all weed control entities.
6. Implement the most economical and effective weed control methods.
7. Rehabilitate infested habitats to reduce the susceptibility of re-invasion.

INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT

Integrated weed management is a system for the planning and implementation of selected methods of management for preventing, eradicating, containing or controlling undesirable plant species using all available strategies and techniques. Together these strategies and techniques are economically and environmentally more effective than any single option. All control methods are available and are prescribed on species/infestation specific basis. Elements of integrated Management included in the plan are:

1. Education/awareness
2. Prevention/early detection
3. Inventory
4. Treatment (physical, chemical, cultural and biological)
5. Monitoring
6. Cultural/follow-up

EDUCATION/AWARENESS

Public education and awareness programs increase public understanding of the affects of noxious weed invasion and the variety of ways that noxious weeds can move into un-infested areas. Continuing education of weed control and agency personnel, private land owners and the general public on weed identification, resource threats, and new techniques of weed control is critical to a sustainable effort against the spread of noxious weeds. In addition to increasing detection of weed infestations, these programs can increase public acceptance of appropriate methods of weed control.

Sanpete County Weed Department public awareness projects include distribution of publications, posters and newsletters, conducting field trips and lectures, promoting area specific informational brochures, participating in local media programs, involving interested groups in weed inventory and control, and conducting weed control work days.

PREVENTION/EARLY DETECTION

This is the first line of attack against the spread of noxious weeds. It is much more cost effective to prevent weeds from establishing than to treat established infestations and to treat infestations while they are still small. Nearly all human activities on the land have the potential to introduce weeds or to spread established infestations. Precautions must be incorporated into management activities which minimize weed movement. Road construction and maintenance,

gravel hauling, range management, recreational activities, mining, wildland fire, and use of contaminated seed all have very high potential of spreading weeds.

Sanpete County Weed Department will increase weed prevention and early detection through public education programs, exchanging weed inventory information and involving interested groups in weed inventory initiatives. Cooperative exchange of information concerning best management practices to minimize the effects of resource development plans on the spread of noxious weeds.

These practices will include encouraging the use of certified weed free seed, feed grains, forage and straw for livestock, use cleansing measures to avoid livestock transportation of weed seeds, encourage cleaning of equipment and machinery before moving out of weed infested areas, and avoid use of gravel, roadfill and top soil from weed contaminated areas.

INVENTORY

A critical part of integrated weed management is an up-to-date inventory of noxious weed infestations. Inventory is necessary for determining the extent of weed problems, determining priorities for control activities, and for monitoring of the effectiveness of control methods. Standardization of inventory methods is also important for extrapolating weed inventory information across jurisdictional boundaries.

The Sanpete County Weed Department will use department employees, weed board, and landowners to expand weed inventories and mapping.

NOXIOUS WEED TREATMENT

Under the integrated weed management approach, combinations of appropriate control methods are used. This increases the effectiveness of weed control over reliance on one control method alone.

The following management techniques of noxious weed control will be considered. Development of annual work plans will identify control methods on a site specific and weed species specific basis.

1. Physical/Mechanical: The use of physical or mechanical methods of control can be effective on small infestations of annual or biannual weed species. Hand grubbing, hand pulling, mowing, tilling and burning are commonly used to interfere with weed reproduction. To be effective, treatments must be completed before seed production. Plants which have flowered must be removed from the site and destroyed.

2. Biological: Biological weed control involves the introduction and establishment of natural enemies to reduce the target weed's competitive or reproductive capacities. Insects are the most common agent released, but fungi are also used. Grazing weeds with livestock is also effective in some situations. Generally, biological control is a slow process requiring 10 to 20 years to be effective. Its purpose is not eradication, but reduction in weed density to an acceptable level. Biological controls are most effective on large, well established stands of noxious weeds.
3. Chemical: Herbicides are an effective and efficient tool for the control of noxious weeds. Herbicide application and rates are dependent upon weed species and site characteristics, non-target vegetation present, and land-use. Herbicides are an important method of control when eradication is the objective or when it is necessary to minimize weed seed production quickly such as along roads, canals, ditches, railroads and other travel corridors.
4. Cultural/Land Use: Cultural practices are activities that purposefully enhance and maintain the growth of desired vegetation. Practices that retain, enhance or introduce desirable plant species that successfully compete with exotic plant species can serve as prevention, control or follow-up to other control measures.

MONITORING

Monitoring is the repeated collection of information in a specific area to determine the effectiveness of management actions. The Sanpete County Weed Department and Weed Board will monitor noxious weeds to determine the density and rate of spread of specific weed species, the effects of noxious weeds on other resources, and the effectiveness of weed control measures.

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Authority

The Utah Noxious Weed Act (Title 4, Chapter 17, Rule R68-09) provides for the control and management of noxious weeds in Utah. Private property owners, municipalities, and state agencies are all subject to the provisions of the Utah Noxious Weed Act. Federal agencies are subject to the provisions of the Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-629) as amended in 1990 (Section 15, Management of Undesirable Plants on Federal Lands). Under the 1990 amendment to the Federal Noxious Weed Act, federal agencies are directed to enter into agreements with appropriate state and local agencies to coordinate the management of noxious weeds. All land owners/managers within the boundaries of Sanpete County are also subject to any applicable Sanpete County policies and ordinances.

Enforcement

Enforcement of the Sanpete County Weed Management Plan will be carried out through the procedures established in the Utah Noxious Weed Act. Under the Utah Noxious Weed Act, County Weed Control Boards, County Weed Supervisors and Field Representatives of the Utah Department of Agriculture's Division of Plant Industry have authority for the enforcement of the provisions of the act. The specific duties of each of these parties will be as outlined in the Handbook for County Weed Boards.

Before May 1 of each year, the county weed control board will post a general notice of the noxious weeds within the county in at least three public places in the county and publish the notice in a newspaper or other publication of general circulation on at least three occasions.

The Utah Noxious Weed Act requires that all land owners or people in possession of property be responsible for the control of noxious weeds on their property. Specific provisions of this law call for the control and prevention of the spread of noxious weeds by property owners or people in possession of property.

The Sanpete County Weed Control Board expects that all landowners and land managers take prompt action to control and prevent the spread of the noxious weeds located on their property. This action will be required each year as long as the infestation exists. Section 4-17-7 (2), (3) of the Utah Weed Act states:

(2) "If the County weed control board determines that particular property within the county requires prompt and definite attention to prevent or control noxious weeds, it shall serve the owner or the person in possession of the property, personally or by certified mail, a notice (Appendix A) specifying when and what action should be taken on the property. Methods of prevention or control may include definite systems of tillage, cropping, use of chemicals, and use of livestock."

(3) "An owner or person in possession of property, who fails to take measures to prevent and control the spread of noxious weeds in the served notice, is maintaining a public nuisance."

Individual Notice

The *Individual Notice to Control Noxious Weeds* (Appendix A) will be used by the Sanpete County Weed Board to notify property owners who have not cooperated with efforts to control noxious weeds on their property. This will serve as a formal notice to property owners declaring their property a public nuisance. A specified amount of time will be given to gain compliance with the law pertaining to the control of noxious weeds. For property owners/managers

who get served this formal notice, a penalty as determined by the Sanpete County Commissioners and Sanpete County Weed Board will be assessed.

Any property owners who fail to take action in controlling noxious weeds on their property will be served a written notice declaring their property a public nuisance as outlined above. If further action is needed, then the procedures for taking corrective action on that property will be carried out as outlined in section 4-17-8.5 of the Utah Noxious Weed Act. Section 4-17-8 (1), (2) of the Utah Noxious Weed Act, states:

(1) If the owner or person in possession of property fails to take action to control or prevent the spread of noxious weeds within five working days after they declare the property a public nuisance, the county may, after reasonable notification, enter the property without the consent of the owner or the person in possession, and perform any work necessary, consistent with sound weed prevention and control practices, to control the weeds.”

(2) “Any expense incurred by the county in controlling the noxious weeds is paid by the property owner of record or the person in possession of the property, as the case may be, within 90 days after receipt of the charges incurred by the county. If not paid within 90 days after notice of the charges, the charges become a lien against the property and are collectible by the county treasurer at the time general property taxes are collected.”

Any property owner who is served with a notice to control noxious weeds may appeal the notice through the procedures outlined in section 4-17-8.5 of the Utah Noxious Weed Act.

Hearing before County Weed board – appeal of decision to Board of County commissioners – Judicial Review:

1. Any person served with notice to control noxious weeds may request a hearing to appeal the terms of the notice before the County Weed Control Board within 10 days of receipt of such notice and may appeal the decision of the County Weed Control Board to the Board of County Commissioners.
2. Any person served with notice to control noxious weeds who has had a hearing before both the County Weed Control Board and the Board of County Commissioners, may further appeal the decision of the Board of County Commissioners by filing written notice of appeal with a Court of competent jurisdiction.

The treatment of articles capable of spreading noxious weed will be as outlined in R68-09-03 and R68-09-04 of the Rules pertaining to the Utah Noxious Weed Act.

Sanpete County Weed Department will strive to increase public awareness and education efforts concerning the impacts of noxious weeds. This will raise the level of support for Sanpete County Weed Department in enforcing noxious weed laws. This will, in turn, increase the levels of voluntary compliance by landowners and managers, actually reducing the need for enforcement actions.