

## GUNNISON BASIN WEED DISTRICT MANAGEMENT PLAN

### I. INTRODUCTION

By enacting The Colorado Weed Management Act, the Colorado General Assembly defines and declares that all the lands of the state of Colorado, whether in private or public ownership, are protected by and subject to the jurisdiction of a local government empowered to manage undesirable plants as designated by the state of Colorado and the local governing body.

The Gunnison Basin Weed District (hereinafter known as the "district") was organized according to C.R.S. 35-5.5, et. seq, the "Colorado Weed Management Act", as set forth on Exhibit "A", attached hereto and incorporated herein, which took effect on July 1, 1990.

The District covers parts of Gunnison, Hinsdale and Saguache Counties, as well as the cities and towns of Gunnison, Crested Butte, Mt. Crested Butte and Pitkin in accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement which is attached hereto as Exhibit "B" and incorporated herein. The majority of this District encompasses an entire watershed as a single basin unit due to the unique aspects and needs of noxious weed control within the District.

The District advisory commission is a 6 member commission composed of qualified representatives appointed by Gunnison, Hinsdale and Saguache Counties. The District is prepared to exercise within its boundaries public power as authorized by the law, as amended and supplemented.

Control of undesirable weeds is the responsibility of all landowners (Federal, State, County, Municipal and Private). The advisory commission will work with these landowners to help them with the control of the noxious weeds as outlined in this management plan.

### II. DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY

The District encompasses most of Gunnison County, the northern one-third of Hinsdale County and the northwestern one-third of Saguache County, comprising of approximately 2,585,464 acres including public and private land. The majority of the public lands are administered by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of Water and Power Resources, U.S. National Park Service and the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

The District includes large acreages of relatively dry, middle elevation sagebrush rangelands; more moist, upper elevation

rangelands and grazeable woodland; and irrigated pasture and hayland (predominantly cool-season, native and introduced grasses) adjacent to major streams and drainages. Overall elevation within the District ranges from approximately 7500 feet to over 13,500 feet. Average annual precipitation ranges from approximately 10 inches at Gunnison to over 40 inches at or above timberline elevations. The growing season is relatively short (40-90 days), normally extending from early June through mid-October, with winters being extremely cold.

The diversity of environments and landscapes within this area has led to a cultural diversity of land based economics, including logging, ranching, home ownership, and recreational businesses.

### III. LAND OWNERSHIP

Land Ownership within the District is distributed as follows (in acres):

Acres	Gunnison County	Saguache County	Hinsdale County	Total
Privately owned 382,148	327,520		44,257	10,371
National Park Service & Dept. of Water & Power Resources 63,056	63,056	-0-	-0-	
U.S.F.S. 1,585,495	1,118,109		312,481	154,905
BLM 520,847	273,807	110,720		136,320
State ownership 27,924	22,621		3,660	1,643
County ownership 791	600		183	8
Municipal ownership _	4,847		-0-	356
Totals 2,585,464	1,810,560	471,301	303,603	5,203

### IV. STATEMENT OF WEED PROBLEM

The weed problem within the District is considered small. All four (leafy spurge, Russian knapweed, diffuse knapweed and spotted knapweed) weeds designated as noxious, undesirable plants

have been located within the District boundaries with major areas of infestation being county and state road right-of-ways.

Gunnison County started with funding and "spot" roadside spraying in 1988. There has not been a need for band spraying in isolated road right-of-ways.

The Gunnison Basin Weed District targets the following noxious weeds for control within the District: leafy spurge, Russian knapweed, diffuse knapweed and spotted knapweed. The Gunnison Basin Weed District Commission strongly recommends that **Canada thistle** be managed with the intent of impact reduction.

Mapping of these targeted undesirable plants has been accomplished as a base line for management techniques. Updates of said mapping should be continued as funds are available. Immediate attention to early infestations of problem noxious weeds will increase the District's chance for total successful control. These infestations have the potential of reducing the economic value of land in all areas of the District. The current baseline map is attached hereto as Exhibit 'C' and incorporated herein.

Problem areas include roadsides, drainage areas, municipal areas, housing subdivisions, private property, national forests, state parks as well as other County, State and federal lands within the District. Control of undesirable plants within problem areas shall be the responsibility of these land owners.

## V. GOAL STATEMENT

The goal of this District is to aggressively control the known infestations of the named undesirable plants, to identify any new infestations that affect the economic and aesthetic value of lands within the District, to prevent the introduction, spread, and reproduction of undesirable plant species through integrated weed management techniques and to educate the community of these noxious weed problems.

### A. Itemized Long Term Goals

1. Education- promote District wide awareness of problem.
2. To control known existing infestations and to help prevent future spread of undesirable weeds along District roadways, parks and open spaces through integrated plant management techniques.
3. Update, continue with the mapping process.
4. To annually review management plan.

## VI. PLAN OF WORK

### A. Public Education

1. Provide the public with information concerning the

Colorado Weed Management Act.

2. Create an awareness regarding the origin of noxious weeds.
3. Provide information on various ways of management of noxious weeds.
4. Provide information on natural biology of targeted weeds.
5. Provide plant identification of targeted weeds.

B. Control of Noxious Weeds

1. Integrated Weed Management Techniques - the planning and implementation of a coordinated program utilizing a variety of methods for management of undesirable plants.
  - a. Prevention: through education and sound management practices.
  - b. Cultural Control: those management practices conducted to favor the growth of desirable plants over undesirable plants.
  - c. Mechanical: those management practices that physically disrupt plant growth.
  - d. Biological: the use of an organism to disrupt the growth of undesirable plants.
  - e. Chemical: the use of herbicides or plant growth regulators to disrupt the growth of undesirable plants.

C. Mapping

1. Utilize the County Extension Office, when available.
2. Utilize the Soil Conservation Service, when available.
3. Utilize the road and bridge crew, as available.
4. Through county-wide questionnaires.
5. Utilizing existing mapping systems.

D. Review

1. Take public input into consideration and to internally review management plan accordingly.
  - a. Establish record keeping system
  - b. Monitor progress of weeding management/control efforts
  - c. Evaluate effectiveness of management/control methods used
2. Determine future needs.

E. Development and Recognition of Special Management Areas

1. Delineate areas requiring intensive management.
2. Delineate areas requiring unique levels of

- management.
- a. Public water supplies
  - b. Specialty crop areas
    - c. Community project areas
    - d. Water ways
    - e. Wilderness areas

VII. **ENFORCEMENT**

It is an objective of the District that through a thorough understanding of the detrimental affects of noxious weeds that the public will control such weeds and not cause the District to enforce the law by the means as provided for in Sections 35-5.5-109 & 110 of the Colorado Weed Management Act.

VIII. **FUNDING**

Funding has been established through the Intergovernmental Agreement process to meet and carry out the goals and plans of the District to the best of its ability. This is a continuation of the County budget established in 1988 for weed control.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1992

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
GUNNISON COUNTY, COLORADO

Fred R. Field, Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Mario V. Petri, Vice Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

R.A. Santarelli, Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joanne M. Reitinger  
County Clerk and Recorder

GUNNISON BASIN WEED DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMISSION

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ted Bemis, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lucinda K.C. Lull, Secretary

Dunnison County Noxious Weed List

The following noxious weeds are mandated for control within the  
Dunnison River Watershed:

Absinth wormwood	(Artemisia absinthium)
Black henbane	(Hyoscyamus niger)
Dalmatian toadflax	(Linaria cathartica)
Came's rocket	(Hesperis matronalis)
Diffuse knapweed	(Centaurea diffusa)
Field bindweed	(Convolvulus arvensis)
Heavy cress	(Sardaria craba)
Leafy spurge	(Euphorbia esula)
Nisk thistle	(Carduus nutans)
Oxeye daisy	(Chrysanthemum leucanthemum)
Plumeless thistle	(Carduus acanthoides)
Purple loosestrife	(Lythrum salicaria)
Russian knapweed	(Centaurea repens)
Saltcedar (Tamarisk)	(Tamarix ramosissima)
Scotch thistle	(Onopordum acanthium)
Spotted knapweed	(Centaurea maculosa)
Yellow toadflax	(Linaria vulgaris)

All species on the Colorado State List A are mandated for control.  
Please look at the Colorado Department of Agriculture's web site  
at [www.CO.STATE.CO.US/CPD/WEEDS.html](http://www.CO.STATE.CO.US/CPD/WEEDS.html) for the States List A  
species.