

Management Goal Definitions

If the Landowner, Occupant or Public Agency is not sure what to do, they can...

LAPLATA COUNTY PRIORITY & ENFORCEABLE WEEDS

WEED ————— Life Cycle ————— MANAGEMENT GOAL

THESE WEEDS ARE NOT YET WIDESPREAD IN LA PLATA COUNTY.

Absinth wormwood	Annual or biennial	1
Black henbane	Annual or biennial	1
Cypress spurge	Perennial	1
Diffuse knapweed	Short Lived Perennial	1
Myrtle spurge	Perennial	1
Plumeless thistle	Biennial	1
Perennial pepperweed	Perennial	1

THESE WEEDS ARE FAIRLY COMMON IN LA PLATA COUNTY.

Bull thistle	Biennial	2
Canada thistle	Perennial	2
Musk thistle	Biennial	2
Scotch thistle	Biennial	2
Houndstongue	Biennial	2
Oxeye daisy	Perennial	2
Spotted knapweed	Short Lived Perennial	2
Yellow toadflax	Perennial	2

1. Eradicate: means reducing the reproductive success of a noxious weed species or specified noxious weed population in largely uninfested regions to zero and permanently eliminating the species or population within a specified period of time. Once all specified weed populations are eliminated or prevented from reproducing, intensive efforts continue until the existing seed bank in the soil is exhausted. Biocontrol methods are not approved for these weeds.

2. Eradicate or Management/Stepped Buffering: means applying intensive eradication efforts to satellite infestations (one acre or smaller in size) that are separated from infestations larger than one acre. For infestations larger than one acre, stepped annual buffering 50 foot wide, is acceptable as a minimum management practice.

Management/Stepped buffering: means management of the outside perimeter of a weed infestation, larger than one acre, at a minimum of 50 feet wide per year. Previous years buffers are maintained as management is stepped inward 50 feet each season. Buffer management of weeds adjacent to property lines, easements, rights-of-way, ditches, canals, streams, rivers, trails, wildlife migration routes and private and public roadways is a priority. Stepped buffer management is not approved for weeds scheduled for eradication (management goal # 1).

One Acre = approximately 209 feet X 209 feet or 43,560 sq. feet.

1. Make an appointment with the County Weed Office to develop a weed management plan.

2. If they do not agree with the management plan developed by the County Weed Office:

They can request to appear before an arbitration panel appointed by the BOCC consisting of:
a. A weed management specialist or weed scientist.
b. A landowner of similar land in La Plata County.
c. A third member chosen by agreement of the first two panel members.

Costs for the arbitration panel shall be paid by the requesting landowner or occupant. The decision of the arbitration panel shall be final.

If Landowner, occupant or public agency continues to do nothing, a court order may be obtained by the weed office to enter the property and manage the weeds as needed.

Costs for County Management:
Weeds Scheduled for Eradication (Goal #1): Cost of Management plus up to one hundred percent (100%) of inspection, eradication and other incidental costs.

Weeds Scheduled for Management (Goal #2): Cost of Management including up to twenty percent (20%) of inspection and other incidental costs.

If the bill is not paid by landowner within 30 days, a priority lien may be filed against the property.

La Plata County Weed Office Policy

All persons in La Plata County, who are active in weed management, will continue to be supported by the county weed office with the latest technical information, best management practices and financially through the county weed cost share program. It is encouraged for all citizens to report noxious weeds on county properties or county road rights-of-way by calling 382-6463.

It is county policy that any person who reports or complains of a noxious weed infestation on adjacent private or public lands shall voluntarily submit to a weed inspection on their adjacent property as well.

La Plata County will not compel the management of noxious weeds on private land without first applying the same or greater management measures to any land or rights-of-way owned or administered by the BOCC that are adjacent to the private property.

The Enforcement Process **

The Landowner is mailed either:

1. Notice of Need to Inspect Property Letter or;

2. Notice of Presence of Noxious Weed Letter. (Sec. 58-59, La Plata County Code)

The letter identifies the Noxious Weeds to be:

a. Eradicated (Goal # 1) or;

b. Managed (Goal # 2)

Specifies the best method(s) to eradicate or manage the weeds.

3. After receiving the letter, the Landowner, Occupant or Public Agency is expected to:

Weeds Scheduled for Eradication (Goal #1):

a. Begin eradication of the noxious weeds within five

(5) days or file an acceptable weed management plan* with a timetable* for completion with the weed office.

Weeds Scheduled for Management (Goal #2):

b. Begin management of the noxious weeds within ten (10) days or submit an acceptable plan* with a timetable* for completion to the weed office. Annual fifty foot buffering and stepped reduction are approved minimal management practices.

*The County Weed Manager must approve the weed management plan and timetable.

LANDOWNER AND LANDMANAGER PROTECTIONS:

The private landowner is entitled to a hearing before the undesirable plant and rodent advisory commission as to why they should not assess a tax lien on the landowner or occupant's property for the costs of management.

The state board, department, or agency owning or occupying public lands is afforded the same scheduling and hearing protections as provided to private landowners.

TITLE 35 AGRICULTURE, ARTICLE 5.5

Colorado Noxious Weed Act

<http://www.ag.state.co.us>

35-5.5-118. Civil penalties. (1)(a) Any person who violates this article or any rule adopted pursuant to this article is subject to a civil penalty, as determined by the commissioner. The penalty shall not exceed one thousand dollars per violation; except that such penalty may be doubled if it is determined that the person has violated the provision or rule more than once.

Ch. 58, Vegetation, La Plata County Code

<http://www.municode.com/resources/gateway.asp?sid=6&pid=13098>

On-line weed management information

www.lpcweeds.org

<http://www.ag.state.co.us/CSD/Weeds/Weedhome.htm>

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