

**Fremont County
Weed Advisory Board**

November 19, 2025
**Fremont County Garden Park Bldg.
Garden Park Conference Room**
*201 N. 6th Street
Canon City, CO 81212*

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Rick Romano

Board Members Present (in Person):

Rick Romano, Chairman	12/31/2027
Tom Grette	12/31/2026
Donna Landrum	12/31/2026
Paul Garrett	12/31/2025
Paul Telck	12/31/2025
Tony Telck	12/31/2026
Ed Norden	12/31/2027
John Coyle	12/31/2027
Bryan Welding	12/31/2027

Board Members Absent:

Ralph Kunselman	12/31/2026
Roy Roper	Life

Others Present (in Person):

Brittany Pierce, Fremont County Weed Management Director
Tony Carochi, Fremont County Administrator
Daniel Morse, Fremont Conservation District
Jesse Young, City of Canon City
Greg Langer, NRCS
Kelsey Story, CSU Extension
Kathy Lutz, Recording Secretary
Bryan Malek, Chaffee County Weed Management

Motion to approve agenda by Tony Telck and 2nd by Ed Norden

Minutes:

The minutes from the May 19, 2025 meeting were distributed at this meeting and via email.
Motion to approve minutes by Tony Telck and 2nd by Ed Norden

Chairman's Report:

Yellow Starthistle has reappeared on a ranch in Pueblo County in same place as a few years ago

Welcome Bryan Welding as a new board member appointed July of 2025

Bryan was the noxious weed inspector in El Paso County previously and relocated to Florence, Colorado in 2020 to work for Canon City.

Notification of board members with term expiration on December 31, 2025:

Paul Garrett handed in a letter requesting reappointment to the board for a term expiring 12/31/2028

Donna Landrum will be discontinuing her service on the board as of 12/31/2025

Honorary Lifetime Membership (non-voting) was discussed for Paul Telck for extra ordinary service and duty.

Tony Telck made the motion to appoint Paul Telck as a Life member to the Fremont County Weed Advisory Board and Ed Norder did the 2nd

All board members were in favor

This leaves two open Board positions on the Weed Advisory Board:

Donna Landrum's position with a term expiring 12/31/2026

Paul Telck's position with a term expiring 12/31/2028

The open positions will be posted on the Fremont County website

Agency Reports:

- **Commissioner's Comments**

Dwayne McFall was not present.

Tony Carochi reported on county projects:

Airport drainage project in underway.

Building Projects on East Main for Emergency Management and Search and Rescue will begin on December 3, 2025. The Fremont County Weed Management Department will have its own storage area and the Coroner's Office will have a refrigerated area as well.

County Road 67 is open again – new decking on the bridge.

Bridge number 225 will be completed in the spring.

- **BLM**

Aaron Rictor was not present but sent in a report through Brittany

BLM will be utilizing bio controls on BLM lands

- **CSU Extension/NRCS Small Acreage**

Kelsey Story reported that the Master Gardner group will be presenting a Grasshopper workshop

Rick asked if anything can be done regarding grasshoppers and Kelsey stated that management – not eradication - is the line these days

- **NRCS**

Greg Langer stated just back from 43 days of furlough

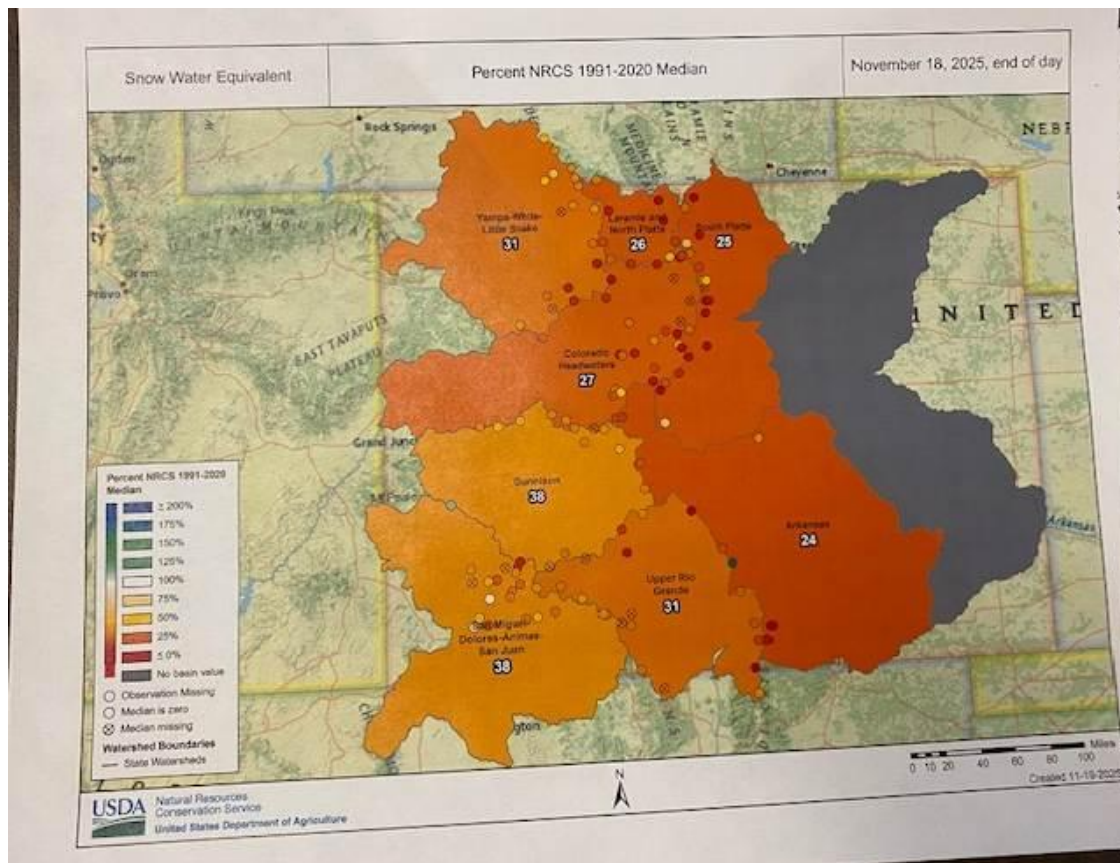
Application deadline for EQIP is pushed back to January 15th

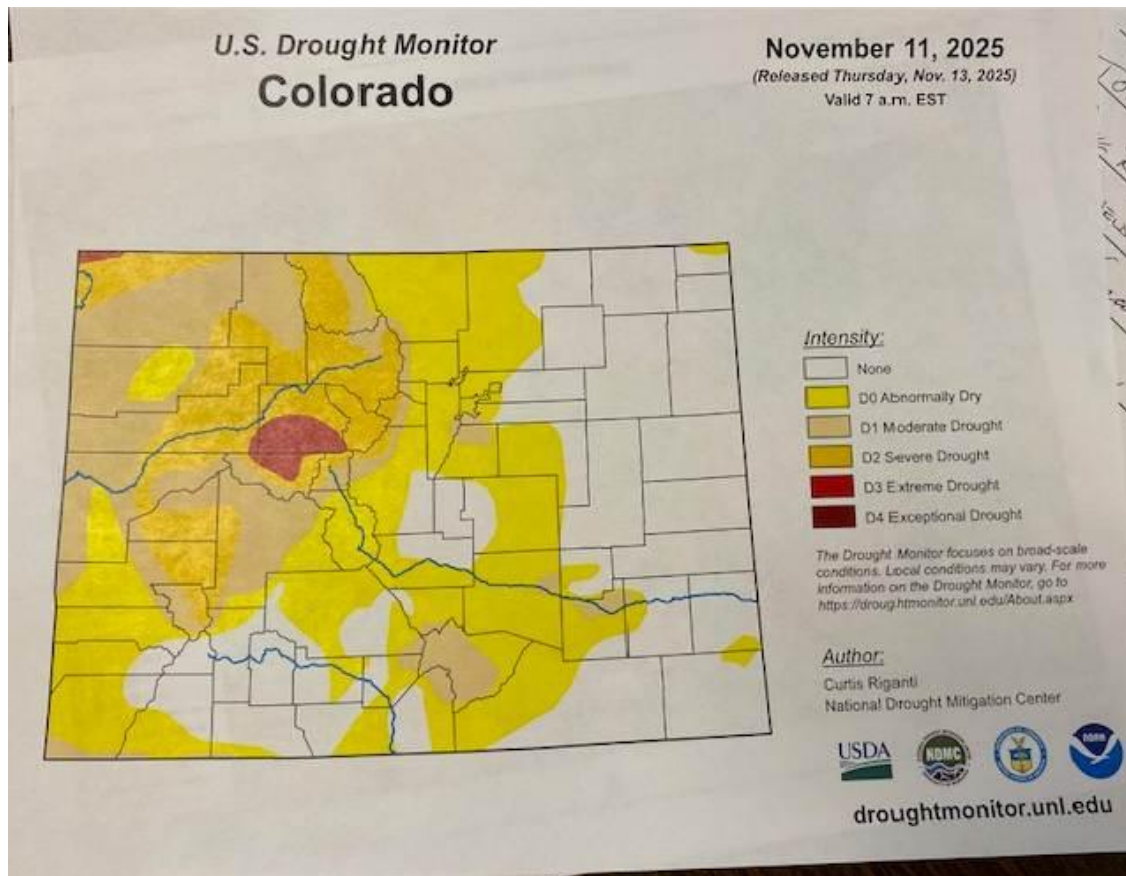
Rick inquired if a weed component is included in forestry project contracts

Greg stated that it is included if weeds are present

Irrigation projects occasionally include weed management plans

He circulated the snow pack report and the Drought Monitor report –





- **Fremont Conservation District**

Daniel Morse stated the Conservation District board voted to continue acting as the Secretary / Treasurer fiscal agent for the Upper Ark Cooperative group

Applying for portion of \$450,000 grant for 2026

The Upper Ark Cooperative is looking into hiring a 1099 position to perform plant identification, run interface with the public, and mapping

Applicator Training on February 10th at Pueblo Convention Center in coordination with Upper Ark

Thank you Brittany for presenting at the Soil Health Workshop in October

They received grant funding for workshops in 2026

The Conservation District would like to coordinate a pre-emergent workshop

Currently there is not a lobbyist for CWMA - Colorado Weed Management Association – they do have a lobbyist through the Conservation District

John Coyle had a variety of comments – he used to be a CWMA board member and is currently serving on a legislative committee

Daniel stated that as a member of the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts they can backdoor some policies to the lobbyists even though they do not have a lobbyist at CWMA

- **City of Cañon City**

Jessie Young discussed ordering preemergence for 2026 and getting ready to start spraying in February

Rick asked if preemergence deal with Whitetop

Esplanade / Rejuvra and Plateau being used

Rejuvra being used on lands that back up to BLM because can't use Esplanade there

Ed mentioned the signs that Brittany had installed last year – just what is needed for awareness

John Coyle talked about cheatgrass treatments with Rejuvra that he did in Chaffee County under the Make America Beautiful grant along county roadsides. He also mentioned that the manufacturer of Rejuvra has a grant writer on staff to assist with funding

Jessie talked about cheatgrass taking over the gorge – needing to flook up rock slides with herbicide treatments

John Coyle suggested combining Rejuvra Method and Vista to clean up noxious weeds cost effectively

- **City of Florence**

Steve Wolfe not present

- **Canon City Metropolitan Area Rec District**

Devin Everhart not present

- **Chaffee County**

Bryan Malek is the new Weed Manager for Chaffee County

Bryan suggested applying at the state level for the BIL (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) grant toward wildfire mitigation for cheatgrass treatment

Weed Director's Report:

Brittany presented her Annual Report.

A summary is included at the end of this document.

Daniel Morse inquired about private land cost share for species not on list of grant parameters
If the conservation district were to provide additional funding – would it be beneficial for her

Weed Board Member and Guest Roundtable:

Rick mentioned his observation of the popularity of common mullein

Old Business:

Priorities and Procedures Manual needs to be updated to reflect changes in County Weed Management Plan – Brittany provided a hard copy to everyone at today's meeting

Ed stated that all board members should review the document and submit updates to Brittany for discussion at the January 21, 2026 meeting

New Business:

Regulatory & Program Updates (since May 2025)

1. Local Enforcement Authority

Senate Bill 24-031, effective August 7, 2024

Key change: allows county commissioners to adopt and enforce local ordinances for noxious weed control

Penalty Range: Civil infraction of \$500 - \$1000 for violations

Relevance: Fremont County may establish or update local enforcement procedures

Source: Colorado General Assembly – SB24-031

Discussion about the county implementing a violation for Noxious Weed offense – no action

Adjournment / Next Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

The next meeting is set for Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. in the Garden Park Conference Room.

Fremont County Weed Management

~ 2025 Summary ~

Partners ...

- Private landowners and managers
- Upper Arkansas Cooperative Weed Management Area
- Fremont Conservation District
- Government Agencies (BLM, NRCS, USFS, City of Canon City, City of Florence, Fremont DOT, CDA, CSU Extension, CSFS, Custer County, Canon City Rec. District, CDOT, USFWS, HPP, CPW, DNR, SLB, Others ...)

Cooperative Projects ...

Bureau of Land Management 2025 Projects:

- Elongated Mustard—Fremont/Chaffee County - 90 acres

About the Upper Arkansas Cooperative Weed Management Area:

Formed in 1998, the UACWMA aims to manage noxious weeds on a watershed basis. The UACWMA is comprised of ten counties, seven neighboring Conservation Districts & includes county, state, and federal agencies as well as private landowner participation. The UACWMA applies for grant funding & shares resources across county boundaries to accomplish goals.

Biocontrol Releases

- ⇒ Puncturevine weevil (*microlarinus* spp.) - 4 acres
- ⇒ Leafy spurge flea beetle (*A. Flava*, *A. nigriscutis*, *A. lacertosa*, *A. czwalinae*, *Oberea erythrocephala*) - 4 acres
- ⇒ Northern tamarisk beetle (*diorhabda carinulata*) - 4 acres
- ⇒ Field bindweed mite (*aceria malherbae*) - 4 acres

The Palisade Insectary supplied biocontrol insects for treating leafy spurge, tamarisk, puncturevine, and field bindweed species in the 2025 season. These releases were introduced on private and county owned properties with the understanding that monitoring and cultivating practices may need to take place in future seasons.



Rights-of-Way and County Properties ...

- County-maintained rights-of-way
- Pathfinder Park
- Veteran's Memorial Park
- Ecology Park
- Western Fremont Park
- Airport



Education and Outreach

- Custer County Weed Presentation
- Fremont Conservation District
 - Soil Health Workshop
- NAISMA Annual Conference-Lake Tahoe
- Site Visits/Weed Management Plans
- Weed Identification Booklets & Handouts



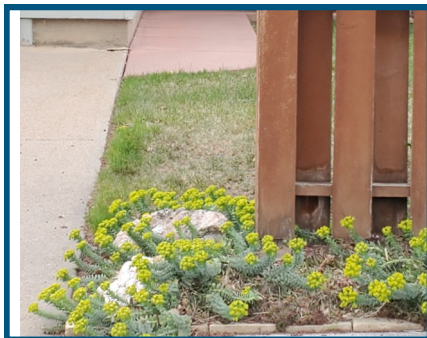
Fremont's List-A's ...



Giant Reed, Canon City



Japanese Knotweed, Canon City



Myrtle Spurge, Canon City



Elongated Mustard, Wellsville

Private Landowners ...

Cost-share through Fremont Conservation District

Colorado Department of Agriculture grant funds assisted 35 landowners in treating more than 30 acres of noxious weeds and covering over 2,000 gross acres in Fremont County!!!!



Herbicide at wholesale cost!

During 2025, CDA distributed over \$3,500 worth of herbicide ... Enough to potentially treat over 500 acres!

Acres ...

Fremont County treated 179 acres of weeds by ground and contracted 88 acres for a total of 267 acres during the 2025 season!



Acres by Mgmt. Type	Acres
List B	146
List A	90
Bareground/Other	*330
Herbicide	*214
Biocontrol	16
TOTAL	796

*Treated and target potential acres combined.

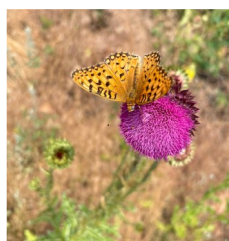
Financials ...

2025 Budget

Beginning balance \$173,300.00
 Revenues \$52,719.40
 Expenses \$139,439.81
Ending Balance \$86,579.59

2026 Estimated Budget

Beginning balance **\$86,579.59**
 Revenues \$173,500.00
 Expenses \$245,912.00
Ending Balance \$14,167.59



Thank you!!!

- Fremont County Commissioners
- Weed Advisory Board
- Fremont Conservation District
- Other Partnering Agencies