

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

Fremont County Weed Management (FCWM) offers an integrated approach to managing noxious weeds throughout Fremont County.

To ensure the best management performance of noxious weeds FCWM complies with standards and regulations set forth by the Colorado Department of Agriculture. In consideration with other standards and practices used to manage noxious weeds, FCWM will allow property land owners the option to manage noxious weeds along County rights-of-way adjoining private property in a manner consistent with the Fremont County Noxious Weed Management Plan (FCNWMP).

## **POLICY OBJECTIVE**

It is the responsibility of Fremont County Weed Management to manage noxious weeds in Fremont County along County rights-of-way and mandated through the Colorado State Noxious Weed Act. Property land owners will have the option to manage noxious weeds as indicated by the Colorado Department of Agriculture and as stated in the FCNWMP in a manner that best fits their agricultural needs or goals.

## **DEFINITIONS**

**Noxious Weeds** – Invasive species of plants deemed necessary for eradication, suppression or control as declared by the Colorado Department of Agriculture and listed under the Colorado Noxious Weed Act, CRS 35-5.5-101 et seq.,

**Integrated Pest Management** – An economical means for pest management practices used in a combination for control that reflects the least amount of hazard to humans, property and environment.

**Property Land Owner** – A taxpaying land owner residing on and owning land within the boundaries of Fremont County and/or their permitted lessee.

**Lessee** – An occupant of a property owned by another individual, having a management obligation for the property pursuant to an agreement with the property owner.

**Right-of-way** – County owned and controlled public road(s), whether through easement, right of way deed, plat or survey dedication or prescriptive use.

**MapItFast** – Mapping software used to track GPS coordinates of noxious weed infestations.

**EDDMapS** - A national web-based mapping system for documenting invasive species distribution.

## **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

### **A. Purpose**

To allow property land owners, or their lessees, to manage and control noxious weeds, along a right-of-way adjoining their property, in a manner as stated in the 'Policy Statement' in the FCNWMP, in lieu of herbicide or pesticide spraying, to better meet or address their agricultural goals.

**B. Responsibility**

It is the responsibility of Fremont County Weed Management to manage noxious weeds in Fremont County along rights-of-way as mandated by the Colorado State Noxious Weed Act. Fremont County land owners who opt into the 'Do Not Spray' listing and agree to manage weeds along rights-of-way, must do so in accordance with the FCNWMP. Land Owners shall post adequate signage as required by this Policy. It is the land owners responsibility to reapply for the 'Do Not Spray' listing annually. Failure to comply with this policy will result in immediate termination of the 'Do Not Spray' request and FCWM shall resume spraying or other operations without further notice.

**C. Procedure**

- a. *Request for 'Do Not Spray' Listing:* A request form shall be submitted and approved through FCWM on an annual basis. An approved request is valid from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year, regardless of the approval date. The request form must include information sufficient to identify the location(s) of areas to be excluded from spraying. A parcel number from the records of the county assessor is required to document the location. The form shall include land owner contact information and any other relevant information as requested by FCWM. The form shall be signed by the Property Land Owner or Lessee, indicating consent to and understanding of the provisions of this Policy.
- b. *Posting Requirements:* Properties listed under this policy shall have signage indicating right-of-way areas to be excluded from spraying for management by Property Land Owner. Signs shall be posted as soon as possible after approval and as follows:
  - i. Signs shall be posted in the vicinity of the right-of-way(s) without encroaching in the right-of-way to allow for road maintenance operations and traffic flow to continue normally.
  - ii. Signs must be posted on each end of the Property Land Owner's property. Fremont County weed treatment operations will cease at the first sign and continue immediately after the last sign posted.
  - iii. Signage must be clearly visible by approaching traffic, be at least 36 inches off the ground and free of obstruction(s) of the view.
  - iv. Signs and lettering must be large enough to view with the naked eye from at least 20 yards away.
  - v. Signs must be maintained to ensure continued visibility.
- c. *Records of Request:* Approved request forms will be kept on file with FCWM. Any monitoring or mapping of onsite visits will be kept on record as needed.
- d. *Monitoring and Mapping:* Monitoring and inspection of the rights-of-way will be conducted during the growing season as needed to ensure compliance with weed management goals. Mapping of areas using MapitFast and/or EDDMaps applications will be used to identify species type and monitoring data as needed by FCWM and/or the Department of Agriculture.

**D. Reasons for Termination**

Termination of a listing under the 'Do Not Spray' policy will occur under the following conditions:

- a. If inspection and monitoring assessment demonstrates that Property Land Owner management is not being conducted or is not producing necessary results.
- b. Noxious weeds are not being managed in a manner conducive to environmental or human health.
- c. Signage is not maintained as required.
- d. Property Land Owner or Lessee requests removal from the 'Do Not Spray' listing.

Upon termination, FCWM will continue treatment the following year as needed without notice to the Property Land Owner.

## **REFERENCES**

### **Fremont County Noxious Weed Plan**

In particular:

III. Requirements of the Noxious Weed Act

V. Policy Statement

IX. Monitoring and Mapping

### **Colorado Noxious Weed Act**

C.R.S. § 35-5.5-104

C.R.S.35-5.5-108

## **CONTACTS**

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