



the THISTLE

Park County Weed and Pest Control District

DEC. 2015

Cost Share Programs Help Take Sting Out of Thistle Control (Gib Mathers Powell Tribune)

Weed and Pest cost shares are in place via Park County Weed and Pest Board of Directors' action to assist residents of Park County in controlling noxious weeds. Having these programs in place is a way to give some of the money back to the taxpayers while assisting them in their weed control efforts, said Mary McKinney, Park County Weed and Pest Control District assistant supervisor. About half of Weed and Pest's operating costs are from tax levies. It also receives funding from various sources including federal and state grants, other grants, interest, contracts for services and sales of goods/services.

Herbicides are just one of the tools in the weed management toolbox. Treatment is dependent on many factors including life cycle and reproduction for target species, location, timing, etc. Although they may not be the first line of defense, "the proper herbicide coupled with the best adjuvant, applied at the appropriate time, may provide up to 98 percent efficacy," McKinney said. "Our cost shared herbicides are chosen for some of our toughest noxious weeds. Plants like Canada thistle, Russian knapweed, and whitetop spread via seeds and a creeping root making herbicides an effective choice for control when used in combination with other practices utilizing an integrated management strategy," McKinney said.

"The newer products we recommend are effective at very low use rates. Not because they are stronger, but because they are smarter." Treating small infestations with the correct herbicide before they become large



problems not only reduces cost of treatment, but also reduces the impact to the environment, McKinney said.

"We encourage everyone to take advantage of these programs while they are still in place and funding is available". Dealing with noxious weed species in easily accessible areas, such as irrigated land, is much easier and more cost effective than dealing with them in the backcountry. Controlling noxious weeds on our property helps in keeping them out of the millions of acres of public land available for recreational opportunities and personal enjoyment. "Ultimately it is the landowner's responsibility to control noxious weeds". However, it is our desire to help landowners have productive properties whether 1 acre or 1,000 plus acres," McKinney said.

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CURRENT HERBICIDE COST SHARE DOLLARS

- For Canada thistle and Russian knapweed there is a 75 percent cost share. This year there have been 265 participants saving those taxpayers \$39,401. Based on the number of products sold, the potential acres treated is 2,000-2,800. However, there is more Canada thistle and Russian knapweed out there, McKinney said.
- A 50 percent cost share is available for Russian olive and salt cedar. Since January there have been 39 participants. Various products are available including Crossbow, Element and Remedy. McKinney said it is harder to determine acres of shrubs treated due to application methods. The savings to taxpayers from this cost share is \$2,761.
- A 50 percent cost share is available for whitetop. Since January there have been 70 participants that purchased 357 ounces of Escort potentially treating 357 acres of whitetop. Savings to taxpayers is \$892. More people should take advantage of this offer, McKinney said. "Whitetop is a prolific seed producer and spreads very quickly via the root system. Many acres of disturbed land including fallow ag land, pastures and corrals in Park County are infested with whitetop," McKinney said.
- The cost share for fall glyphosate is \$5 per acre to qualified producers for noxious weed control up to a maximum of \$500 per producer. This new program is intended for row crops, small grains/legumes, and alfalfa. So far this year there have been 23 participants with 1,452 acres treated representing a savings of \$7,260, McKinney said.
- Cost share for sugar beet leafhopper is \$2 per acre for seed treated with poncho beta. There is no limit per acres. So far this year there has been 36 participants at a savings of \$19,690 to taxpayers, McKinney said.
- There is a 100 percent cost share for herbicide and its application for specific weeds in priority areas. As budget and timing allows Weed and Pest will undertake herbicide application for weeds in priority areas, including but not limited to Dalmatian toadflax, spotted knapweed, oxeye daisy and leafy spurge. Products used and treatments vary by species. In some instances, such as spotted knapweed, treatment may include hand pulling. Cost share for herbicide alone on these species equals \$12,710 and application cost share equals \$29,393. "A huge savings to taxpayers thanks to Weed and Pest aids," McKinney said.
- Examples of high priority areas are Park County's backcountry and areas adjacent to those lands, McKinney said.

If you have any of these species on your property, contact Weed and Pest for more information on how to be included in these programs. All cost share programs are budget dependent, on a first come first served basis. In addition to the above herbicide cost shares, other programs are available to Park County landowners including free on site surveys, *non-chemical* control recommendations, rental equipment, grasshopper control options, plant ID, and subdivision wide noxious weed spray days. Also, insecticides will be available for emerald ash borer prevention in the spring. "For more information about any of our programs, please check out Weed and Pest's Website at parkcountyweeds.org or call us @ 307-754-4521 in Powell or 307-587-8885 in Cody.



Emerald ash borer-coming soon to an ash tree near you! See our Dec. 2014 newsletter @parkcountyweeds.org for more information on this pest.