

## COUNTY PLAN FOR NOXIOUS WEED AND DECLARED PEST CONTROL

County: Custer Year: 2009

Weed and Pest Supervisor: Gordon W. Kirsch (Bill) Budget: \$234,916.00

### 1. Program Goals:

(State the major things your county board hopes to accomplish during the coming year)

A. Continue improving enforcement activities including documentation, GPS, surveying, mapping, information, education, reporting, follow-up and treatment of noxious weed and pest infestations in Custer County.

B. Initiate program for treatment, seeding with grass, test plots, monitoring and follow-up. May have assist from University of Montana.

C. Update current storage facility at the County Highway shop including new parking bays with concrete floors and containment. Chemical storage shed update with containment and concrete floors. Work with Custer County Highway Department.

D. Weed & Pest Dept. will continue noxious weed and pest control/management activities including assisting landowners with grant money in a cooperative effort with Custer County Conservation office which directly assists landowners with chemical costs. Custer County will continue provide services to assist Custer County entities with management of infestations within the County.

E. Increase staff training in chemicals, MSDS, calibration, safety and weed identification.

F. Improve inventory tracking -chemicals

G. Coordinate survey and treatment of Salt Cedar in the Cheyenne River drainage area. Grant funding has been approved as a four county program including Pennington, Custer, Lawrence and Meade. Contract work will be completed by Med-Dakota Vegetation Management Company.

H. Improve education and information dissemination by printing newspaper articles to include weekly weed identification articles and yearly article on the Weed & Pest Department. Purchase informational racks to place in communities of Buffalo Gap, Fairburn, Pringle, Dewey and Hermosa.

I. Purchase automatic GPS units for spray units and ten Garmin GPS units for landowner program to assist with noxious weed and pest mapping.

2. **Noxious weeds and/or declared pests selected for major emphasis:**

A. Weed or pest selected: Canadian Thistle # acres infested 51,000

Is the infestation general or somewhat localized? General

How many years has this weed/pest been selected for major emphasis, including This year? 7 years

Reason for selection: Ongoing infestations throughout Custer County. Canadian Thistle continues to infest the most acres in the County.

Special emphasis planned:

Custer County Weed & Pest will continue to provide spray services as well as promoting other public, commercial and private entities in attempting to manage the infestation in Custer County. The Custer County Commissioners, Conservation Office and Weed Board will continue to provide funding through grants to assist landowners with assistance in purchasing chemicals. Custer County will continue to improve mapping, GPS/GIS programs to monitor infestations. Enforcements will be monitored for compliance and improvement in reporting. Equipment will be updated as well as continued assessment for best practices in management and control. Custer County Weed & Pest will continue to monitor changes in chemical treatment and best practices. Continue to monitor Bio-sites and expand bio-control management areas.

B. Weed or pest selected: Leafy Spurge # acres infested 14,500 acres

Is the infestation general or somewhat localized? Localized to the northwest and north central areas in Custer County.

How many years has this weed/pest been selected for major emphasis, including This year? 7 years

Reason for selection:

Leafy Spurge continues to infest areas of the county north central, north west and north east.

Special emphasis planned:

Continue control methods including mechanical, chemical and biological. Custer County continues to have a viable bio-control collection site and distributed bugs to two new sites in the Pleasant Valley area. Custer County Weed & Pest will continue to provide spray services as well as promoting other public, commercial and private entities in attempting to manage the infestation in Custer County. The Custer County Commissioners, Conservation Office and Weed Board will continue to provide funding through grants to assist landowners with assistance in purchasing chemicals. Custer County will continue to improve mapping, GPS/GIS programs to monitor infestations. Enforcements will be monitored for compliance and improvement in reporting. Equipment will be updated as well as continued assessment for best practices in management and control

area. Continue to utilize collection sites for beetles and redistribute at no charge to participating landowners. Continue to monitor for changes in chemical and best practices. Continue to expand and monitor bio-sites. Have viable collection sites in Custer County and will continue to assist landowners in distribution and set-up of new sites.

### 3. **Contract/Cooperative agreements planned for the year**

#### A. Federal agencies

1. Agency: US Forest Service Agreement Type: contract Amount: \$5500.00

##### Brief description of project:

Custer County Weed & Pest provides contract services in treating infestation for private landowners leasing or adjacent to Buffalo Gap Grasslands and Black Hills National Forest area.

#### B. State

1. Agency: Department of Transportation Agreement Type: Contract  
Amount: \$32,000.00

##### Brief description of project:

Custer County will treat ROW, broadcast spray in spring and spot spraying in the fall of 2008.

2. Agency: Department of Corrections – Brady Academy/Star Academy  
Agreement Type: on call/yearly contract Amount: \$3000.00

##### Brief description of project:

Custer County treats noxious weeds in all yard areas, pastures and grounds.

3. Agency: Custer State Park Agreement Type: Contract Amount: \$4000.00

Brief description of project: Continue to treat infestations of noxious weeds in designated areas within the park.

#### C. County/Township

1. Agency: Custer County Hwy. Dept. Agreement Type: reciprocal Amount:  
\$20,000.00 – \$24,000.00\_

##### Brief description of project:

Custer County Weed & Pest will treat – broadcast spray ROW on county Hwy. system in the spring of 2009. We will also sterilize cattle guards in the spring as well as spot spraying ROW in the fall on County Hwy system.

2. Agency: Custer County School District Agreement Type: contract work  
Amount: \$2000.00

**Brief description of project:**

Custer County Weed & Pest will treat broadleaf and noxious weeds on school yards/property.

D. Other (include railroads other than state-owned)

1. Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ Agreement Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brief description of project: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ Agreement Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brief description of project: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Meetings**

No. Regular Meetings: 12 scheduled usually 7-9 held Meeting time/date: Weed & Pest meets the second Tuesday of every month at 2; 00PM at the conference room at the Hwy. shop. Other special meetings are held as needed. W&P Supervisor meets with County Commissioners once monthly or as needed and Dept. Heads once monthly.

Educational (list)

1. Forums as scheduled
2. School projects
3. Booklets distributed
4. Dept. Evaluations mailed yearly
5. Information packets mailed as requested,
6. Meet individual landowners ongoing.
7. Attend scheduled training/conferences
8. Newspaper articles – 10x yearly
9. Community Groups – Rotary Club as scheduled 2x yearly

**5. Type of control measures planned:**

Chemical:

Custer County will continue to utilize best practices in use of chemical treatments assessing trends, new options and equipment. The Weed & Pest Supervisor will continue to meet and discuss options for best treatment with chemical Rep., State Agriculture Office and any other entities to keep abreast of options.

**Cultural:**

Custer County will continue to educate the public on a variety of control management methods as an overall management project. The Dept will continue to monitor information on new practices.

Other: Custer County Weed & Pest will continue to assess and update bio-control/mechanical options. Custer County Weed & Pest will join the SISMA Association for management of new invasive species.

- 
6. **Complete the monthly calendar of events.** Use handbook Section E, entitled “Calendar of Activities” as a guide; be specific for your county's program. Use Additional pages as needed.

---

MONTH	ACTIVITY	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DATE, IF KNOWN
-------	----------	--------------------	----------------

---

01/09 - Attend scheduled training, recertification and forums, Work on enforcement data, state mapping system, annual reports, update records, assess equipment needs/updating/repairs, address complaints, assess contracts, locally noxious weed update, county plan, emergency management plan, prairie dog treatments. Gordon Kirsch and staff as assigned –ongoing.

02/09 - Attend scheduled training, recertification and forums. Work on enforcement data, state mapping system, annual reports, update records, assess equipment needs/updating/repairs, address complaints, and assess contracts, locally noxious weed update, county plan, and emergency management plan. Assist at the Stock show in Rapid City, SD. Attend the Weed Conference. Start repairs on equipment, prairie dog treatments, Gordon Kirsch and staff as assigned –ongoing.

03/09 - Attend scheduled training, recertification and forums. Work on enforcement data, state mapping system, annual reports, update records, assess equipment needs/updating/repairs, address complaints, and assess contracts, locally noxious weed update, county plan, and emergency management plan. Continue paperwork, submit names of Weed Board members –update. Continue getting equipment ready for spray season. Publish legals in local paper. Post seasonal job openings, conduct interviews, and update job postings/descriptions. Meet with chemical Representative to plan costs, orders and treatment plan. Gordon Kirsch and staff as assigned.

04/09 - Attend scheduled training, recertification and forums. Work on enforcement data, state mapping system, annual reports, update records, assess equipment needs/updating/repairs, address complaints, and assess contracts, locally noxious weed update, county plan, and emergency management plan. Press release to local newspapers. Send out voluntary control letters, gather enforcement packets and mail.

Finalize contract work. Continue to work on spray units. Assess chemical order for spring spraying. Gordon Kirsch and staff as assigned –ongoing.

05/09 - Attend scheduled training, recertification and forums. Work on enforcements, state mapping system, annual reports, update records, assess equipment needs/updating/repairs, address complaints, and assess contracts, locally noxious weed update, county plan, and emergency management plan. Begin treatment of Hoary Cress areas, cattle guards, sterilization and broadcast spraying in ROW. Begin 2009 spraying season. Meet with chemical Representative for calibration training session. Gordon Kirsch and staff as assigned –ongoing.

06/09 - Attend scheduled training, recertification and forums. Work on enforcements, state mapping system, annual reports, update records, assess equipment needs/updating/repairs, and address complaints. Follow up on enforcements/inspections for voluntary compliance. Work on 2009 budget. Continue spray season, inspections, and treatments. Gordon Kirsch and staff as assigned –ongoing.

07/09 - Attend scheduled training, recertification and forums. Work on enforcements, state mapping system, annual reports, update records, assess equipment needs/updating/repairs, and address complaints. Follow up on enforcements/inspections for voluntary compliance. Work on 2009 budget. Continue spray season, inspections, and treatments. Begin prairie dog season. Gordon Kirsch and staff as assigned –ongoing.

08/09 - Attend scheduled training, recertification and forums, Work on enforcements, state mapping system, annual reports, update records, assess equipment needs/updating/repairs, address complaints. Follow up on enforcements/inspections for voluntary compliance. Work on 2009 budget. Continue spray season, inspections, and treatments. Continue work on Booklet/distribute ongoing through the summer. Continue prairie dog season. Gordon Kirsch and staff as assigned –ongoing.

09/09 - Attend scheduled training, recertification and forums. Work on enforcements, state mapping system, annual reports, update records, assess equipment needs/updating/repairs, and address complaints. Follow up on enforcements/inspections for voluntary compliance. Work on 2009 budget. Continue spray season, inspections, and treatments. Continue prairie dog season. Start fall re treatments. Retreat ROW. Gordon Kirsch and staff as assigned –ongoing.

10/09 – Attend scheduled meetings, training, recertification and forums. Work on enforcements, state mapping system, annual reports, update records, assess equipment needs/updating/repairs, and address complaints. Follow up on enforcements/inspections for voluntary compliance. Continue spray season, inspections, and treatments. Continue prairie dog season. Start fall retreatments. Retreat ROW. Assess personnel needs – layoffs. Gordon Kirsch and staff as assigned –ongoing.

11/09 - Attend scheduled meetings, training, recertification and forums. Work on enforcements, state mapping system, annual reports, update records, assess equipment needs/updating/repairs, and address complaints. Follow up on enforcements/inspections for voluntary compliance. Continue spray season, inspections, and treatments. Continue prairie dog season. Start fall re treatments. Retreat ROW. Assess personnel needs – layoffs. Identify no compliant landowners/non-payment. Complete annual inspection report. Collect and analyze evaluations/mailling list. Distribute booklet and develop presentation to conference. Gordon Kirsch and staff as assigned –ongoing.

12/09 - Attend scheduled meetings, training, recertification and forums. Work on enforcements, state mapping system, annual reports, update records, assess equipment needs/updating/repairs, and address complaints. Follow up on enforcements/inspections for voluntary compliance. Continue spray season, inspections, and treatments. Continue prairie dog season. Start fall re treatments. Retreat ROW. Assess personnel needs – layoffs. Identify no compliant landowners/non-payment. Complete annual inspection report. Collect and analyze evaluations/mailling list. Distribute booklet and develop presentation to conference. Update records. Gordon Kirsch and staff as assigned – ongoing.

Gordon W. Kirsch \_\_\_\_\_  
Weed & Pest Supervisor

Earl Stombaugh \_\_\_\_\_  
Weed Board Chairman

Leonard Wood \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Representative/Board Member

Irv Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Board Member

Myron Eggers \_\_\_\_\_  
Board Member

Martin Mahrt \_\_\_\_\_  
Board Member