

CACHE COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

A. STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Cache County Noxious weed control program will function and enforce in accordance with the State of Utah Noxious Weed Act and Cache County code section 8:28 to organize, supervise, and coordinate a noxious weed control plan for Cache County including chemical, mechanical, and biological control practices.

B. ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETINGS

The County Weed Control Board shall hold an annual coordination meeting each year prior to the start of the weed season. All organizations concerned with weed control will be invited to have a representative in attendance including the following agencies: Utah Department of Transportation, U.S. Forest Service, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, State Trust Lands, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, Cache County Extension, Union Pacific Railroad, PacifiCorp, Dominion Energy, irrigation companies and municipalities. Cache County personnel including Vegetation Management Division staff, the Road Superintendent, and the Director of Public Works should be in attendance. Notice of the meeting shall be posted in compliance with County code and State Law.

The purpose of this meeting will be to inventory and record current problem areas, discuss and record any new infestations, discuss effective noxious weed control efforts, discuss and coordinate county priorities with the Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) priorities, and plan and organize the year's weed control program.

In addition to the annual coordination meeting, midyear meetings may be held to discuss pressing weed control issues such as new noxious weed discoveries, noxious weed law violations, and enforcement. A final meeting shall be held in the fall to inform the County Weed Board of the activities of the Vegetation Management division for the past season and to discuss possible county priorities for the CWMA the following year. The *Annual Weed Progress Report* with a summary of the results of the summer's activities shall be provided to the County Weed Board.

C. WEED CONTROL SERVICE AREA

Any individual, corporation, municipality, governmental agency, or organization owning, leasing, or controlling property within Cache County may request the services of the County Vegetation Management Division in accordance with the noxious weed control priorities established and approved by the County Weed Board and the Cache County Council. All requests for agricultural crop spraying and residential yard and/or garden spraying will be referred to commercial applicators.

Property owners are encouraged to participate in noxious weed control activities by locating, identifying, and controlling specific infestations on their individual properties. The County Vegetation Division shall conduct Noxious weed control activities where required throughout the County. In the case of weed control adjacent to organic farms, the County shall actively spray up to the property boundaries including all County road rights-of-way and easements. The responsibility to provide a "no-

spray” buffer remains on the property owner. If noxious weeds are present on organic farms, the property owner can opt to control said weeds in compliance with this policy, County code, and State law with non-chemical applications if the control is effective. However, if the property owners are unable to control weeds in an appropriate manner, the property may be declared a public nuisance in compliance with County code and the weeds controlled accordingly.

D. WEED CONTROL PRIORITIES

1. Control of noxious weeds or any plant deemed a nuisance or hazard on property within the county.
2. Control of noxious weeds on steams, drainage, and irrigation systems. Also, control of non-noxious plants which impede the water flow in irrigation systems when that control can be accomplished as part of the noxious weed application.
3. Control of noxious weeds on non-crop land areas such as rangeland, wet pastures, fence lines, vacant land, right-of-ways, easements, county road sides, etc.

E. CATEGORIES OF WEEDS

The State of Utah has an adopted noxious weed list with prioritization within Utah Administration Code R68-9. Invasive noxious weeds have been described as a raging biological wildfire-out of control, spreading rapidly, and causing enormous economic losses. Noxious weeds often reduce crop yields, and can damage watersheds, increase soil erosion, negatively impact wildland plant and animal communities, and adversely affect outdoor recreation. Ecological damage from uncontrolled noxious weed infestations can be permanent, leaving lands unable to return naturally to their pre-invasion condition. The invasive noxious weeds that are listed on the adopted State of Utah noxious weed list have been identified by the State Weed Board as a threat and can cause the impacts that have been described above, and have been categorized by classes to fit the current impact on our State. As Cache County has a unique climate, geography, and weed populations compared to the rest of the state, a Cache County specific Prioritized Noxious Weed List will be adopted annually. The County’s Prioritized Noxious Weed List is based on: existing acres of infestation, potential for weed population reduction and long term eradication, and specific targeted locations to reduce the spread of Noxious weeds to other areas (along riparian corridors, USFS boundaries, etc.). This list will be updated yearly, and used as a reference to determine which projects should be targeted with grant funds. See Appendix A for the 2022 Cache County Prioritized Noxious Weed List.

Cache County may also declare other weeds not on the State list as “County Noxious Weeds” in compliance with Utah State code 4-17-107(3a). As declared, such Noxious Weeds are placed onto the County’s prioritized list for monitoring and/or treatment. Cache County Noxious Weeds are:

- 1) Russian Salt Tree
- 2) Crack Willow

F. NOXIOUS WEED SEED RESTRICTIONS

It shall be unlawful for any individual or company to sell, offer, or expose for sale or distribute in the State of Utah any agricultural, vegetable, flower, tree and shrub seeds, or seeds for sprouting for seeding purposes which contain, either in part or in whole, any prohibited noxious weed seeds. “Prohibited” noxious weed seeds are the seeds of any plant determined by Utah Commissioner of

Agriculture and food to be injurious to public health, crops, livestock, land, or other property. (Utah Seed Law, R68-8)

G. WEED CONTROL FEE SCHEDULE

- 1) **Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) Grant Projects** – Projects where the CCVMD treats a State/County declared noxious weed and has received specific grant funding for the treatment of such. Cost of \$50.00 per acre with a **\$50.00** min. charge.
- 3) **Goatsrue Grant Projects** – Treatment of any areas infested with Goatsrue while grant funding is available. Cost of \$50.00 per acre with a **\$50.00** min. charge.
- 4) **Non-Grant Qualifying or Enforcement Work** - Labor and Equipment at fully loaded and audited rates and herbicide at full purchase price with a **\$90.00** min. charge.
- 5) **Vacant Lot Projects-** Treatment of Noxious Weed Infested Vacant lots within Municipality/County boundaries. Labor and Equipment at fully loaded and audited rates and herbicide at full purchase price.
 - The lots that will only be sprayed have a **\$90.00** min. charge.
 - The lots that will be sprayed and mowed have a **\$180.00** min. charge.

*Requests for services or contracts with Cache County Vegetation Management Division which; due to distance, terrain, special equipment/control requirements, or particular personnel needs; create expenses not anticipated in the above guidelines may be negotiated on an individual basis with the County.

Revised/updated 1/1/2023