



Marias River Watershed

NEWSLETTER

Website: www.mariasriver.com

Picture by Roger Zentzis

Volume 3, Issue 2

Quarterly Newsletter
Winter 2009

Protecting and Improving The Land and Resources

NOXIOUS WEED CATEGORIZATION CHANGES

By Tonda Moon, MT Dept of Ag Weed Specialist

The Montana Noxious Weed List is allowed by Administrative Rule from the Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA). The weed list is an ever-changing document, and is tied to the county weed law. Adherence to Montana Administrative Rule process is required to adopt weed list changes. The weed rules have been sent to the Secretary of State for filing on November 2, 2009. Rule changes will be filed with any comments on December 14.

The system of categorizing noxious weeds was determined to be inadequate to address invasive plants in Montana. The category system of listing noxious weeds in Montana was designed at the origination of the noxious weed list, and was appropriate for the few weeds addressed. Over the years, the weed list has grown, aquatic plants have been added, and needs have changed. As a result, the category system no longer points towards the environmental and economic considerations invasive plants are evaluated against. The priority classification system was developed by the MDA with the assistance of a weed listing working group. This committee is made up of professionals from the Montana Weed Control Association, geographic area representatives of the states weed districts, state and federal agencies, the Native Plant Society, and botanists and other scientific experts from the state's university system.

The restructuring of the weed list to a prioritization system will respond more readily to the variety of plants that now threaten Montana's diverse ecosystems. It also reflects the reality faced by weed districts; counties have tight budgets, and weed control efforts must be prioritized to respond to the invasive species that are the uppermost threat on a local level.

Noxious weed reclassification and the shift of existing weeds on the list from the category system to a priority system warrant no change financially. Russian olive will be listed as a regulated plant, providing for management in riparian areas, while allowing existing windbreaks and upland game habitat to remain. Listing cheatgrass as a regulated plant will acknowledge that it is a problem, and allow MDA to fund education and awareness of the invasive nature and detriment to the environment that this plant presents. As a priority 3 weed, it will not create an undue burden on Montana seed producers. The addition of new weeds to the list will have an impact on the nursery and aquarium trades, but that will be insignificant compared to the potential cost of control if these plants are allowed to continue to invade Montana unchecked. See list on the following page...

MARIAS RIVER WATERSHED EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Marias River Watershed (MRW) Education Committee has been discussing several projects for the upcoming year. Recently, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) installed two information kiosks at Sanford Park. The BOR is willing to allow the watershed group to add information to the signs. The committee has discussed erecting similar signs at other launch sites; potentially Sullivan Bridge, Moffatt Bridge, Circle Bridge, and Pugsley Bridge. General information to be placed on the signs would consist of reminders such as no cell service, respect land ownership, check seasonal flows & weather, note next public access point, and noxious weed spread prevention. Grant funds will be sought to cover cost of the signs.

Con't on Page 2

The Board & Regional Chairs:

Paul Kronebusch-Chairman
Barb Cole-CoChairman
Lawrence Bold
Roy Doore
Coo Coo Boggs
Ramsey Offerdal
John Rappold

The next regular MRW Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 5 at 1:00pm, Marias River Electric, Shelby

Conservation District Contacts:

Pondera 406-278-7611 ext. 101
Glacier 406-873-5752 ext. 101
Liberty 406-759-5778 ext. 102
Toole 406-434-5234 ext. 113
Big Sandy 406-378-2298
Hill 406-265-6792 ext. 101
Chouteau 406-622-5627 ext. 101

This newsletter was compiled and edited by Kody Farkell, PCCD Administrator

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE Con't...

The MRW is currently running a contest for a logo design. The prize for the winning design will be \$100. Submissions must be on an 8.5"x11" sheet of paper and contain no more than four colors. Deadline for submission is December 31. For more information, or to submit your entry, contact your local conservation district.

The possibility of hosting a weed pull is tentatively being planned by the MRW group as an event for alternating years in which the Marias River Basin Weed Control Assoc. does not hold their float trip and weed tour. Watch for updates next spring.

The annual meeting for the MRW is scheduled for January 26, 2010 at the Shelby Lutheran Church. Contact your local CD or watch your local papers for more information.

General Purpose	
Priority 1A	These weeds are not present in Montana. Management criteria will require eradication if detected; education; and prevention. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yellow starthistle (<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>) - Common crupina (<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>) remove
Priority 1B	These weeds have limited presence in Montana. Management criteria will require eradication or containment and education. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dyer's woad (<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>) - Flowering rush (<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>) - Japanese knotweed complex (<i>Polygonum spp.</i>) - Purple loosestrife (<i>Lythrum spp.</i>) - Rush skeletonweed (<i>Chondrilla spicatum</i>) - Eurasian watermilfoil (<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>) - Scotch broom (<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>) - Curlyleaf pondweed (<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>) add
Priority 2A	These weeds are common in isolated areas of Montana. Management criteria will require eradication or containment where less abundant. Management shall be prioritized by local weed districts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tansy ragwort (<i>Secocio jacobea</i>) - Meadow hawkweed complex (<i>Hieracium spp.</i>) - Orange hawkweed (<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>) - Tall buttercup (<i>Ranunculus acris</i>) - Perennial pepperweed (<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>) - Yellowflag iris (<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>) - Blueweed (<i>Echinum vulgare</i>) - Hoary alyssum (<i>Berteroa incana</i>)
Priority 2B	These weeds are abundant in Montana and widespread in many counties. Management criteria will require eradication or containment where less abundant. Management shall be prioritized by local weed districts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>) - Field bindweed (<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>) - Leafy spurge (<i>Euphorbia esula</i>) - Whitetop (<i>Cardiaria draba</i>) - Russian knapweed (<i>Centaurea repens</i>) - Spotted knapweed (<i>Centaurea stoebe</i> or <i>maculosa</i>) - Diffuse knapweed (<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>) - Dalmatian toadflax (<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>) - St. John's wort (<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>) - Sulfur cinquefoil (<i>Potentilla recta</i>) - Common tansy (<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>) - Oxeye daisy (<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>) - Houndstongue (<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>) - Yellow toadflax (<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>) - Saltcedar (<i>Tamarix spp.</i>)
Priority 3	Regulated Plant: (NOT MONTANA LISTED NOXIOUS WEEDS) These regulated plants have the potential to have significant negative impacts. The plant may not be intentionally spread or sold other than as a containment in agricultural products. The state recommends research, education and prevention to minimize the spread of the regulated plant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cheatgrass (<i>Bromus tectorum</i>) add - Russian olive (<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>) add - Hydrilla (<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>) add



RO removal at Sanford Park; The project was completed by DugRign Tree Trimming and B & S Tree Trimming services.