

## Additional resources

The following documents are available at [msuextension.org](http://msuextension.org) from the publications link.

- EB 159** Montana's Noxious Weeds
- EB 170** Revegetation Guidelines for Western Montana: Considering Invasive Weeds
- EB 171** Inventory and Survey Methods for Nonindigenous Plant Species
- EB 4472** Invasive Plant Prevention Guidelines
- EB 4503** Weed-free Rangelands and Wildlife Habitat

Center for Invasive Plant Management  
[weedcenter.org](http://weedcenter.org)

Montana's Statewide Noxious Weed Awareness and Education Program  
[weedawareness.org](http://weedawareness.org)

Montana Weed Control Association  
[mtweed.org](http://mtweed.org)

## People to contact

Your county weed coordinator, Extension agent, or conservation district – find them at [mtweed.org](http://mtweed.org).

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## Partners



Montana noxious weeds include (clockwise from upper left) Dalmatian toadflax, spotted knapweed, leafy spurge and saltcedar. Visit [agr.mt.gov](http://agr.mt.gov) for a complete noxious weed list.

Clockwise from upper left: Beck and Sebastian, J. Story, USDA, S. Dewey.

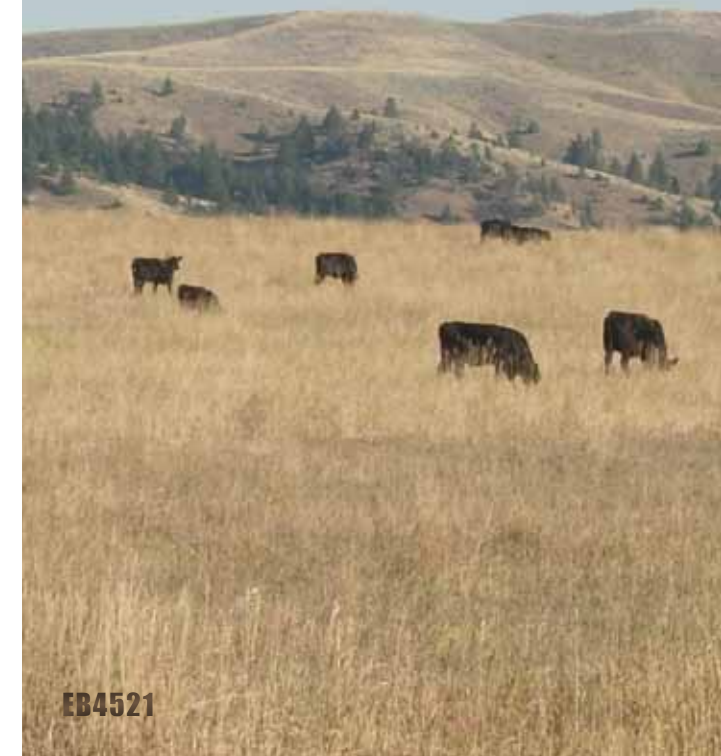
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# COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREAS



## DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREAS

Noxious weeds are exotic plants that can invade plant communities and replace native species. These plants require control under the County Weed Control Act to slow spread and mitigate harmful impacts to wildlife habitat, grazing land, and local economies. Weeds invade and damage habitat without regard to landownership boundaries.

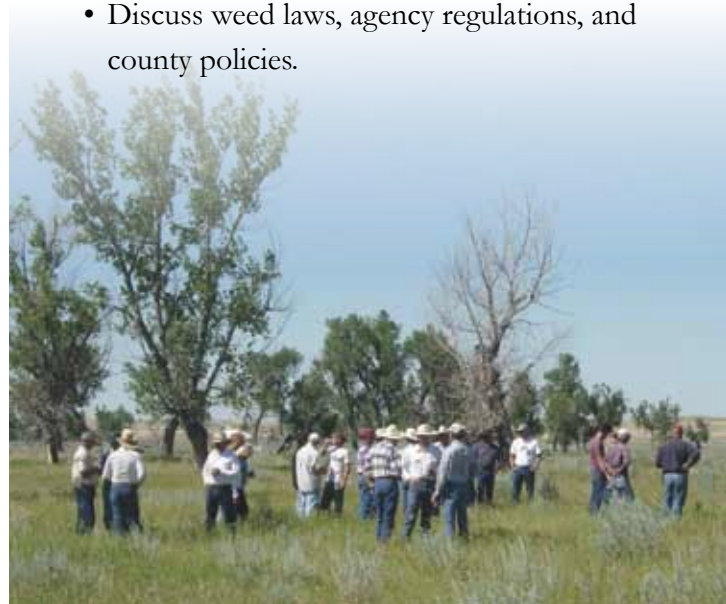
Coordinating weed management efforts across landowner boundaries with cooperative weed management areas (CWMA) can increase teamwork and the likelihood of successful weed control. This cooperative approach can also be used to prioritize prevention on weed-free ecosystems having high conservation value with the goal of keeping them that way. For example, weed prevention areas guide proactive approaches to weeds on weed-free rangelands in eastern Montana.

The purpose of this publication is to outline the steps in organizing, developing, and operating a successful CWMA. Visit the Center for Invasive Plant Management at [weedcenter.org](http://weedcenter.org) for comprehensive information on CWMA and invasive plant prevention and management.

## 1) ORGANIZE THE CWMA

Begin building support for cooperative efforts by organizing people and collecting their input.

- Talk to your neighbors about the impacts of weeds and the benefits of forming a CWMA.
- Host landowner meetings and barbecues to organize land managers and increase weed awareness. Local participation is critical to the long-term success of the CWMA.
- Contact your county weed district, Extension office, or conservation district – find them at [mtweed.org](http://mtweed.org) – and request their help to plan the CWMA with private landowners and agency representatives.
- Outline the CWMA boundaries on a map and include the known locations of weed infestations and weed-free areas.
- Identify landowner concerns and gather their input in terms of local management constraints and potential solutions.
- Discuss weed laws, agency regulations, and county policies.



## 2) DEVELOP A CWMA PLAN

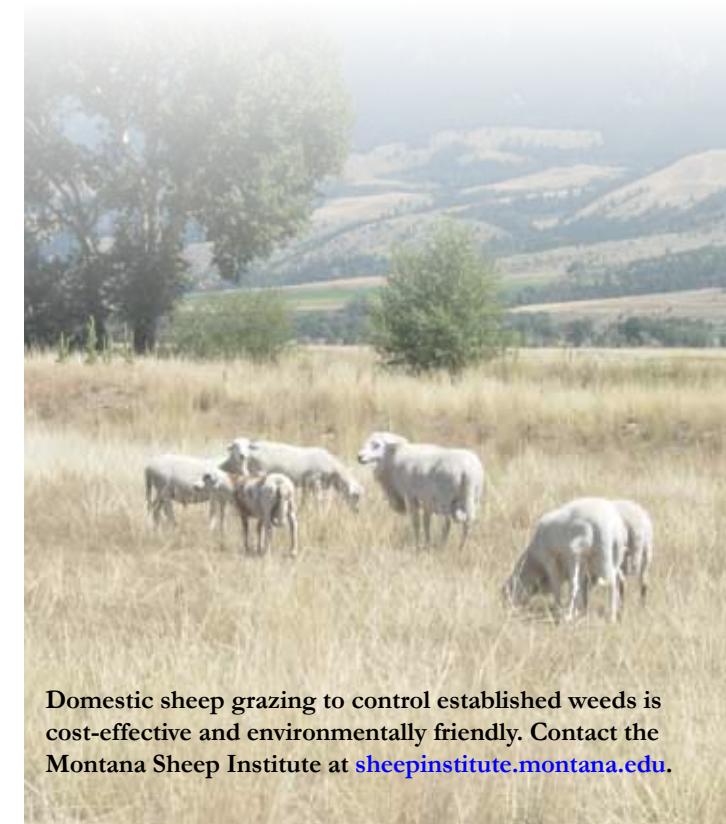
A strategic plan guides activity and establishes the criteria for CWMA operation. Develop the plan with landowner input to ensure project ownership and implementation. Key components of a strategic plan follow:

- State the purpose of the CWMA.
- Develop long-term goals and measurable objectives.
- Include maps with CWMA boundaries, weed locations, and weed-free areas.
- Describe local-level education and training programs.
- Design prevention actions.
- Develop monitoring strategies to detect and remove new weeds early.
- Set management priorities:
  - Eradication of new populations.
  - Control of established weed stands with integrated weed management methods.
- Apply for cost share funding:
  - Visit [weedcenter.org](http://weedcenter.org) for funding programs.
  - Visit [agr.mt.gov](http://agr.mt.gov) for information on the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant program. This program offers a 50:50 cost share for weed management projects.

## 3) OPERATE THE CWMA

An annual operating plan is a flexible step-by-step plan for implementing the strategic plan. Key components of an operating plan include:

- Timelines to meet objectives.
- Funding with a budget and allocation of resources to implement the strategic plan.
- A list of agencies involved with commitments to cooperate via written agreements.
- A CWMA steering committee to provide guidance.
- Evaluating the attainment of strategic plan objectives and then making annual adjustments to the operating plan.



Domestic sheep grazing to control established weeds is cost-effective and environmentally friendly. Contact the Montana Sheep Institute at [sheepinstitute.montana.edu](http://sheepinstitute.montana.edu).