



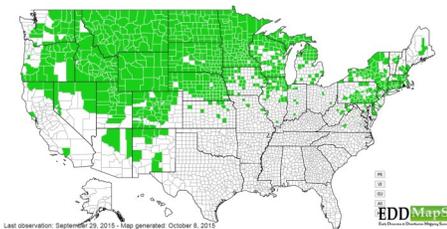
THE WEED STALKER



Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula* L.) is a perennial growing up to three feet tall that is known for its resilience and aggressiveness. Growing in nearly all soil types and habitats, leafy spurge is virtually impossible to control without the use of integrated management. With deep, spreading roots often exceeding 20 feet in depth, the plant is able to create new buds from the rootstock-so if its is pulled, mowed, burned, or cut, it will persistently come back. Its small flowers are enclosed by yellowish-green, heart-shaped paired leaves; its seed capsules disperse by literally exploding, shooting seeds up to 15 feet. The plant contains a milky latex which can cause blisters and rashes if contacted with the skin or blindness if contacted with the eyes. Leafy spurge is poisonous to cattle and other wildlife. It often spreads by waterways and in contaminated livestock feed. Leafy spurge currently infests all western states and much of the Midwest and Northeast, covering millions of acres.

~Courtesy of Wyoming Weed and Pest Council

Euphorbia esula



Leaf observation: September 29, 2015 - Map generated: October 8, 2015

EDD Maps

WHAT IS AN INVASIVE SPECIES?



Invasive species are plants, animals, or other organisms that are introduced to a given area outside their original range and cause harm in their new home. Because they have no natural enemies to limit their reproduction, they usually spread rampantly. Invasive species are recognized as one of the leading threats to biodiversity and impose enormous costs to agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and other human enterprises, as well as to human health.

- The cost to control invasive species and the damages they inflict upon property and natural resources in the U.S. is estimated at \$177 billion annually.
- Noxious weeds infest approximately 1.3 million acres of lands in Wyoming.
- Grazing losses from leafy spurge infestations in Wyoming, Montana, and the Dakotas amount to \$129 million and represent the potential loss of 1,433 jobs.

FROM THE SUPERVISOR

2015 was a very productive year for Big Horn County Weed & Pest but I know that our future success is not guaranteed, only consistently good management over a long period of time can ensure long-term success.

Big Horn County Weed and Pest staff currently consists of 5 full time employees; myself (Supervisor), Mark Christopher-son (Assistant Supervisor- Equipment), Bobbi Haley (Administrative Assistant), Garrett Anderson (Crew Foreman), and Lorraine Gonzalez (Education Assistant).

We hired 10 exceptional seasonal employees in 2015 that were able to rotate from different jobs and locations with different types of equipment with no problem.

We have a great Board of Directors, Bill Miller, Tim Beck, Dave Morris, Joe Wildman, Janalee Call, Ken Pike and June Booth,



which are fully engaged in the affairs of the Weed & Pest from attending Board meetings to reviewing strategy and in regulatory affairs.

We have a clear vision for Big Horn County Weed and Pest but as Thomas Edison said, "Vision without execution is hallucination." I feel extraordinarily privileged to work for Big Horn County Weed and Pest with such talented people. My Staff and Seasonal Employees do outstanding work every single day to execute that vision, sometimes under enormous pressure, while dealing with

an extreme number of complex business and regulatory issues.

I am privileged to continue to live and work in Big Horn County and can't wait to see what 2016 has in store for us.

Cliff Winters

For more information on Big Horn County Weed & Pest visit our website @ bhcountyweedandpest.com

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Mission Statement

Big Horn County Weed and Pest will implement an effective program for the management of noxious weeds and pests within the boundaries of Big Horn County, aiding in the protection and preservation of the land, water and resources from the degrading impact of noxious weeds. This will be by promoting and coordinating the management and control of noxious weeds and pests through integrated pest management techniques, cooperation with landowners, agencies, organizations and by providing technical expertise and educational opportunities to all within the county.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS THAT WORK FOR YOU

Big Horn County Weed and Pest District offers several cost share programs to County residents in order to assist in the spread and control of invasive species. Herbicides are available at a discounted rate to purchase. There is also the option of signing up in order to have the District apply the herbicide for Whitetop and Russian knapweed. The cost for these services include the herbicide at the discounted price and labor. Each cost share program offers discounted herbicide at different designated dates throughout the year. Those designated dates are based on when the treatment is most effective for the control of those specified species.

For more information on Weed & Pest visit our website @ bhcountyweedandpest.com



Whitetop (*Cardaria spp.*) is a deep rooted perennial which spread via an extensive, creeping root system. Whitetop, sometimes called Hoary cress, grow 10 to 24 inches high and the flowers, which are white in color, appear from early May to late June. The extensive root system make it difficult to control and are best treated when the flowers are green and in “broccoli stage” before they become white.

80% cost share on the herbicide Escort® and Telar® from April 15 thru June 30 **NON-CROP ONLY**. Application rate is 1 oz/acre or 1 gram/gallon. Escort® is available in 8 oz or 16 oz containers, Telar® in 16 oz.

Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula L.*) is a perennial, which stands erect up to three feet tall with very small flowers enclosed by yellow-green paired heart-shaped floral leaves. **Leafy spurge is poisonous to cattle.** Chemical control is most effective when applied during active growth stages. Because of it’s ability to become quickly established, early identification and control is critical. Early Detection leads to Rapid Response.

100% priority cost share on labor and herbicide that is covered by the District. Finding and identifying individual plants on a landscape scale can be very difficult. If you think you have found Leafy spurge, please call our office. **NON-CROP ONLY.**



Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) is a perennial, rhizomatous weed that often grows in moist areas. The leaves are dark green, having ragged ruffled spiny edges. They grow 2-4 feet tall or more, having pink-purple flowers. The roots are extensively creeping and produce numerous new plants each spring. Broken roots can grow new plants so plowing or rototilling will increase the population. Chemical control has been found to be the most effective. Pulling or cutting will stimulate its growth. Best time for control is after it fully emerges through to late fall before the frost.

50% cost share on the herbicide Milestone® from April 15 thru September 30 **NON-CROP ONLY**. Application rate is 6 oz /acre or 1 oz/3 gallons. Milestone® is available in 1 quart or 2 1/2 gallon containers.

Russian knapweed (*Centaurea repens L.*) is perennial, forming dense colonies by adventitious shoots. It reproduces by seeds and creeping, horizontal roots. Roots are both vertical and horizontal in the soil. The ridged stems are erect, openly branched, 18 to 36 inches tall. Leaves of newly emerging plants are toothed and covered with fine hair, giving them a blue-green color. Flowers are white to lavender. It is quite difficult to control once established, best treatment time is after flowering and before the late fall frost.

80% cost share on the herbicide Milestone® from August 1 thru November 15 **NON-CROP ONLY**. Application rate is 6 oz /acre or 1 oz/3 gallons. Milestone® is available in 1 quart or 2 1/2 gallon containers.



Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) and **Saltcedar (*Tamarix spp. L.*)** For best treatments recommended, please call our office at 307-765-2855

50% cost share on the herbicide AquaSweep® or Element 4® and Basal Bark Blue® from August 15 thru April 30 **NON-CROP ONLY**. 1:3, 1 part chemical to 3 parts oil is recommended for all types of treatment.

100% PRIORITY COST SHARE PROGRAMS

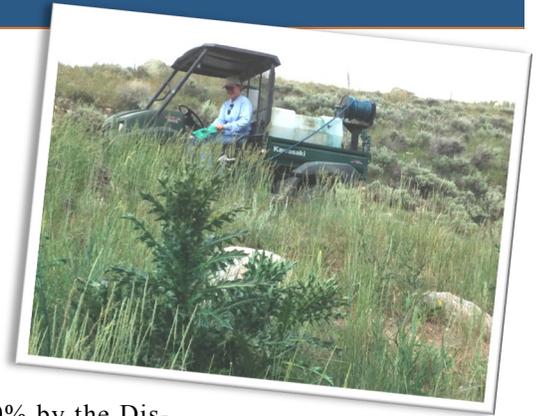
There are several priority invasive species in Big Horn County that are the main focus for the 100% cost-share program offered by Big Horn County Weed and Pest District.

The priority species are that have been treated are:

Black henbane	Musk & Bull thistle
Dalmation & Yellow toadflax	Oxeye daisy
Diffuse & Spotted knapweed	Perennial pepperweed
Houndstongue	Purple loostrife
Leafy spurge	Common burdock

The cost of controlling these priority species on Private Lands, including labor and herbicides, is

covered 100% by the District. Most of these weeds are well controlled with herbicides, however, finding and identifying individual plants on a landscape scale can be difficult. Leafy spurge was the backpacking spray crews major focus again in 2015. The majority of the cost in controlling priority species is labor, this demonstrates the importance of **EDRR** (Early Detection/ Rapid Response) practices.



IT'S WHAT WE DO...

The District contracts with County, State and Federal Agencies in the aid of control and desirably the eradication of listed noxious weeds. Weed and Pest crews spray designated areas set by individual agencies that are in need of control. Some examples of areas treated are; State Highway right-of-ways for Wyoming Department of Ag and WYDOT, Bighorn National Forest, State Lands, BLM, and Game and Fish. All entities benefit as a whole from this working relationship. Bighorn National Forest is a headwater for many creeks and streams in our county, therefore, eliminating weed populations can prevent the spread into other areas of the county.

The District has had grant funding in 2015. These grants assist in the supplementation of cost in the treatment of listed noxious weeds in Big Horn County. The Greybull

River Watershed White-top/Leafy spurge grant is



a designated '*special weed management area*' in Big Horn County. This status allows the District to secure specific funds for this watershed.

The Russian olive/Saltcedar grant is to make a concerted effort for better control in this areas adjacent to the canals. This allows landowners to remove the RO/SC of their choice on their property. We prioritize these areas in all of our management projects within Big Horn County. All of these grant funds are matched by both in-kind and county contributions.



**STOP INVASIVE SPECIES
IN YOUR TRACKS.**
PlayCleanGo.org

GET ON BOARD WITH **PlayCleanGo**

Big Horn County Weed and Pest Control District is current-

ly making best efforts to present opportunities for assistance, education and services with an emphasis on the awareness and control of Big Horn County Declared Noxious Weeds and Pests. There are several facets in which Weed and Pest strives to reach our community members, we offer many cost share programs on specified invasive species and handouts to correlate with those programs, spray day opportunities, events and availability of a variety of herbicides with best practice recommendation.

In 2015, Wyoming Weed and Pest Districts adopt-

ed a program to get the word out about helping in the spread of noxious weed seed. The **PlayCleanGo** campaign is a preventative outreach message that is meant to help elevate the issue of invasive species

on a nation-wide scale. The intent is to provide outdoor enthusiasts with a clear call to action to become attentive and accountable for helping stop the spread of invasive plants, animals, insects, and pathogens. Play Clean Go isn't just a slogan for us in Wyoming, it's a way of life, a code, an attitude that we carry throughout

our lives. Whether we are playing outdoors with our families, hiking, hunting, boating, gardening, or horseback riding, we can ALL do our part to prevent the spread of invasive species!



2016 State Educational Video Contest

Sponsored by the Wyoming Weed & Pest Council

Do you love Wyoming? Want to be part of an exciting outreach program that challenges all Wyomingites to preserve and protect our wildlife, their habitat and agricultural lands? We want your videos!

The Play Clean Go campaign is a preventative message that is meant to elevate the issue of invasive species on a nation-wide scale. It challenges outdoor enthusiasts to be attentive and accountable by helping prevent the spread and introduction of invasive plants, animals, insects & pathogens into their favorite places!

PRIZES!!!

1st Place - \$600

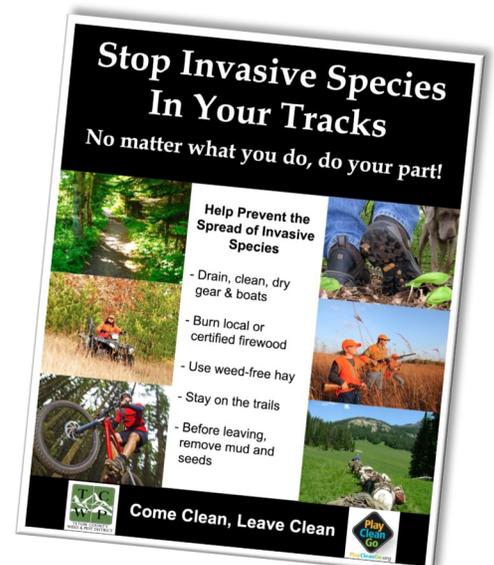
2 Runners up - \$300

Honorable Mentions - \$150

For Contest Rules and Guidelines please visit wyoweed.org



For more information on Big Horn County Weed & Pest visit our website @ bhcountyweedandpest.com





Why Does My Field Need a Weed Inspection?

The prevention of the introduction and spread of noxious and undesirable weeds is the best

method of control, and also the most cost-effective.

WEED RELEASE

The law requires that all producers obtain a 'weed release' from the District prior to cutting and moving barley, oats, wheat and/or any hay or

straw crops from the farm of origin. There is no cost to the landowner for this service.

CERIFIED FORAGE*GRAVEL*MULCH

The purpose of certifying these crops is to help prevent and slow the spread of listed noxious weeds by providing forage which is free of potential seed for transport or dispersal. This also includes gravel/borrow prior to movement. A Weed and Pest employee inspects these fields at a \$15 flat fee and offers the landowner

certified twine or tags at a 50% cost share.

Efforts are made each year to increase awareness of the importance of obtaining field inspections. Having personal contacts with our landowners is only one of the important ways Weed and Pest can learn what our county needs in the fight against our listed invasive species.

For more information on Big Horn County Weed & Pest visit our website @ bhcountyweedandpest.com



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