

Custer County Weed Advisory Board Meeting
April 4, 2018 2PM
Custer County Courthouse, Westcliffe

Notes

history of the board

weed advisory board was run by the weed manager, Garry Hall, Krumbaker and then Robin Young (CSU Extension), the board advised the manager and vice versa

Jana Rapetti in Fremont County historically partnered with Custer County and Fremont County was the primary sprayer for Custer

Jana is no longer with Fremont, and Nick Bankston is the new weed supervisor for Fremont County, though he is unable to provide ongoing spraying for Custer County because services have increased significantly in Fremont County

Custer County's weed program has been similar to the Teller-Park County model, with no in-house sprayer for private land, but instead contracted services out

When work happened in the county it was per advice of weed manager, but she set up the contractor for rights of way and private spraying

The process for identifying weed treatment areas was started by Roger and Robin who identified areas for spraying based on community input

Colorado Noxious Weed Plan, based on the Colorado Noxious Weed Act, provides detailed benchmarks for weed management activity required by each county and local municipality

County level plan describes activities in the county to be in compliance with the CO Noxious Weed Act

<http://www.cwma.org/noxweeds.html#act>

Custer County's last weed plan was done in 2015, due for review in 2018

municipalities who own the property must be responsible for treating it, and must be in compliance for treating all owned public properties before enforcement on private land is possible

Lenea Lorilla (certified private applicator) expressed interest in an herbicide applicator position in Custer County, a state certified commercial applicator license is required though is not a difficult process for an individual with rangeland/botany background

with full commercial license, eligible to work without supervision

Main goal: hire a dedicated weed manager and/or an applicator within the county

Kayla recommends bringing an herbicide applicator in house, eventually spraying can become a

revenue stream for the county when landowners are billed for services, which are still about half the cost of an average private commercial sprayer (see Chaffee County's model)

Two components:

1 Coordination of services, outreach and communication to landowners, administrative scheduling and billing for services

2 Site visits, weed ID, treatment planning, and herbicide application (seasonal)

This is a full time, seasonal job. To hire a part time applicator, part 1 above would need to be covered by another entity. In the past, this was part of the CSU Extension Agent's position. Shannon - CSU Extension agent is mandated not to be a weed manager, supportive role, but not primary

weed manager

applicator

office, cell phone, vehicle, sprayer equipment,

climate controlled storage for chemicals

Program was previously run through the extension secretary – is this still possible?

lack of qualified weed supervisors and applicators in an ongoing problem throughout Colorado and the west. Kayla Chaffee County is looking at an internship program to train qualified weed managers/applicators as a pathway to securing qualified professionals for counties in CO.

CSU Pueblo/Adams State in Alamosa may be good contact for internship/seasonal applicators

Recruit from ag and range pool

Tony Telk?

John Coyle – private applicator for hire, has worked in Custer County

Weed advisory board - Members of the weed advisory board committee must be in Custer County, majority own at least 40 acres, waiver can be a community member, participate as an advisory member not voting. Clint Smith joined. Is there a president of the weed advisory board?

Ideal timeline for treatment on the ground:

June - October, depends on the species, weather

Problematic weeds in Custer County (not exhaustive list):

leafy spurge

myrtle spurge

Canada thistle in the fall

hoary cress
hounds tongue
knapweed

Chaffee County will help with training and education/support, will locate weed maps for Custer

Custer County should re-engage with the Upper Arkansas Cooperative Weed Management Area collaborative group. Tom Flower/Shannon Auth will attend meeting on April 12, 2018 in Canon City. Kate Spinelli is also a member of the UACWMA and can provide support. Through this group, Custer County can access support as well as participate in grant writing during summer and fall 2018 to seek funds for weed management program from 2019. It may be possible to seek funds for an upstart year salary for a new applicator.

December 2018 deadline
apply for grant
state and private
noxious weed fund, department of ag allotment, award based competition

Kayla secured \$3000 for private landowner treatment for Custer County for 2018. Thanks Kayla!

Tom Flower to contact Robin Young

weed advisory to be appointed at next meeting:

April 26, 2pm, Custer County courthouse