

Distribution of the 2001 Colorado Noxious Weed Management Fund

The Colorado Noxious Weed Management Fund was created in 1996 by the Colorado Legislature, in part, to provide grants or contracts to communities, weed control districts, or other entities for the purpose of stimulating and supporting local cooperative efforts to manage noxious weeds. Organized private interests as well as public agencies may apply for moneys from the fund provided that the moneys will be utilized to further weed management efforts in the State of Colorado. For fiscal year 2001, approximately \$260,000 was available to fund management and education proposals. This year, the department received 34 management and 8 education proposals requesting a total of \$484,567 in assistance and providing a total match of \$1,443,968 (3:1 overall matching ratio).

Each proposal was evaluated by a committee of seven individuals that represent the perspectives and experiences of professionals and elected officials of Colorado government, weed science, agriculture, the environment, public natural resource management, and state and local weed management. Evaluation committee members scored the applications based on a number of factors including the nature of partnerships formed, the urgency of the problem, the projected impact of the project, and the use of sensible strategies and integrated pest management. For each application, an average score was calculated and ranked against the other applications in descending order. This ranked list provided a starting point for the committee's discussions. After careful deliberation, the evaluation committee recommended a number of projects for funding to the Agriculture Commission and the Commissioner of Agriculture.

In 2001, the Department of Agriculture will distribute approximately \$261,350 to the following 25 management and education projects of local, regional, and statewide importance. Collectively, recipients will match the state's dollars with approximately \$832,433 (3.19:1 matching ratio).

Management Projects Funded

1. Yellow Starthistle Eradication & Prevention Project (Mesa County) continues an important effort initiated in 2000 to detect and eradicate all known populations of this recent invader. Funding will enable Mesa County to hire a half-time seasonal employee to conduct detection, mapping, and eradication efforts on what is believed to be the second most extensive population (27 acres) of yellow starthistle in Colorado.

Amount Requested: \$5,450

\$5,450 allocated

2. Yellow Starthistle Eradication & Monitoring Project (Montrose County) continues an important effort initiated in 1999 to detect and eradicate all known populations of this recent invader. Funding will enable Montrose County to hire a seasonal employee to conduct detection, mapping, and eradication efforts on what is believed to be the most extensive population (150 acres) of yellow starthistle in Colorado.

Amount Requested: \$5,000

\$5,000 allocated

3. North Fork of the Cache la Poudre River WMA (Larimer County) is a community-based weed management cooperative effort initiated by public and private landowners in this watershed. This agriculturally-oriented landscape represents one of the last unfragmented Front Range grassland ecosystems and harbors significant biological resources. Funds will help landowners hire a full-time weed manager for the watershed and continue educational efforts to neighboring landowners and managers.

Amount Requested: \$25,000

\$25,000 allocated

4. Upper Arkansas River Leafy Spurge & Knapweed Control Project (Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Huerfano, Lake, Park, Pueblo, and Teller Counties) will initiate a coordinated effort to eradicate all diffuse and spotted knapweed populations in this watershed. It will also eradicate small populations of leafy spurge and Russian knapweed while containing larger patches of these two species. Funding will be used largely to defray management costs.

Amount Requested: \$31,783

\$30,000 allocated

5. Leafy Spurge Eradication Effort (Grand County) continues an important effort initiated in 2000 to detect and eradicate all known populations (61.5 acres) of leafy spurge in these headwaters of the Colorado River. Funding will defray the costs of management and monitoring.

Amount Requested: \$3,500

\$3,500 allocated

6. Purple Loosestrife Control Project (Denver Metropolitan Area) continues a coordinated management effort initiated by the Colorado Division of Wildlife to detect and control purple loosestrife, an escaped ornamental species, in the Denver vicinity. Funding will be used to hire seasonal employees to carry out management activities.

Amount Requested: \$4,000

\$4,000 allocated

7. Dillon Reservoir WMA (Summit County) will establish a weed management area centered upon the Dillon Reservoir and the private, municipal, and public recreational lands that surround it. Funding will help provide educational materials and learning opportunities to the many recreational visitors that utilize the area and help defray the costs associated with management.

Amount Requested: \$25,000

\$20,000 allocated

8. City of Steamboat Springs Program (Routt County) will initiate a long-term management effort by the city to identify and manage noxious weeds on city open space, recreational, and agricultural properties. Funding will be used to conduct initial survey and mapping efforts, purchase equipment, and contract for some initial management services.

Amount Requested: \$5,000

\$5,000 allocated

9. Garden of the Gods Program (El Paso County) will initiate a long-term management effort by Colorado Springs to manage noxious weeds in this unique natural, scenic, and recreational area. Funding will purchase equipment necessary to implement its newly developed management plan and begin an educational program about weed management for the more than 2 million local, national, and international visitors that the park attracts.

Amount Requested: \$4,000

\$4,000 allocated

10. Bear Creek Regional Park Program (El Paso County) will help to implement an integrated weed management program for a heavily used recreation park utilizing biological (grazing), chemical, cultural, and mechanical weed management techniques. Funding will be used to defray the cost of contracted grazing services.

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **\$10,000 allocated**

11. Miller Mesa Leafy Spurge Project (Ouray County) will help begin a coordinated management effort by the county and private landowners to contain one of the West Slope's most substantial leafy spurge infestations. Containing the population to the mesa top and suppressing existing core areas will reduce the opportunity for this population to expand and infest surrounding lands. Funding will be used to carry out on-the-ground control and revegetation efforts.

Amount Requested: \$25,000 **\$25,000 allocated**

12. Producer's Weed Management Project (Rio Blanco County) will provide weed management training and equipment to private landowners in the county for the purpose of increasing the quality and quantity of weed management efforts on private lands. Equipment purchased with state funding will be maintained by local conservation districts and the Upper Colorado Environmental Plant Center.

Amount Requested: \$7,000 **\$7,000 allocated**

13. Denver Weed Mapping Project (Denver County) will determine the distribution of the city and county's most important weed populations. This information will help Denver to develop a citywide noxious weed management plan to address the problem and create appropriate educational materials. Funding will be used to hire a temporary mapping specialist.

Amount Requested: \$20,000 **\$12,500 allocated**

14. Chico Basin Ranches (El Paso County) are largely state lands that are managed under long-term lease by The Nature Conservancy and private ranchers to demonstrate that well-managed livestock operations and biodiversity conservation can occur together. Funds will be used to defray the startup costs for a long-term cooperative weed management effort and the development of a local weed management area.

Amount Requested: \$7,875 **\$7,875 allocated**

15. Lincoln County Weed Management Program (Lincoln County) is starting up in 2001. As a result of renewed interest on the part of citizens and county leaders, Lincoln county has hired a county weed supervisor and will commence weed management activities this year. Funds will be used to purchase management and mapping equipment.

Amount Requested: \$25,000 **\$25,000 allocated**

16. Integrated Mullein Control (Adams County) at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal will use a variety of methods to reduce the cover of common mullein, one of the property's most significant noxious weed problems. Particular attention will be paid to the use of biocontrol agents. Funds will be used to acquire biocontrol agents and hire a seasonal employee to coordinate management and restoration efforts.

Amount Requested: \$6,300 **\$6,300 allocated**

17. Horsetooth Area Toadflax Hunt (Larimer County) funding will provide resources to map the distribution of both Dalmation and yellow toadflaxes on the public lands in the vicinity of Horsetooth Reservoir, provide educational opportunities for staff, volunteers, and visitors, and control toadflax populations.

Amount Requested: \$2,000

\$2,000 allocated

18. Homeowner Association Model Plans (Routt, Summit, and Jefferson Counties) will provide cost-share funding to three different homeowners associations in Colorado. These associations will develop a weed management plan for their communities and initiate weed control efforts in cooperation with local public weed managers.

Amount Requested: \$13,400

\$11,500 allocated

19. Grand Mesa Slopes Noxious Weed Management Partnership (Mesa County) is developing a cooperative weed management area (100 square miles) southeast of Grand Junction on the slopes of the Grand Mesa. Although many public landowners are engaged in addressing the weed problems in this area, the partnership seeks to engage more private landowners. Funds will be used to provide a cost-share program for private landowners.

Amount Requested: \$7,500

\$7,500 allocated

20. Chinese Clematis Containment Project (Clear Creek County) will help Clear Creek County develop its capacity to contain and suppress this relatively rare Colorado noxious weed. Funds will be used to develop a map of the known distribution of the species in the Clear Creek, Gilpin, and Jefferson Counties, conduct limited research on control technologies, and begin suppression.

Amount Requested: \$25,000

\$15,000 allocated

Total Expenditures for Management Projects: \$231,625

Education Projects Funded

1. Green Industry Integrated Weed Management Project (Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, and Jefferson Counties) is a cooperative endeavor between Colorado State University Cooperative Extension, GreenCO, and five front range counties. It will develop educational materials that will enable the horticultural industry to better assist their clients and the public to manage noxious weeds in urban and suburban settings. Funds will be used to print and mail printed materials.

Amount Requested: \$10,350

\$10,350 allocated

2. Cooperative Weed Management Solutions (Elbert County) will provide a small set of landowners with very intensive education and training to manage noxious weeds in challenging situations. Through a variety of teaching strategies, agricultural producers and rural homeowners will meet together to identify and resolve specific weed management problems. Funds will be used to support educational meetings and trips.

Amount Requested: \$4,250

\$4,250 allocated

3. Weed Management Educational Seminars (Boulder County) will help rural property owners to recognize their noxious weed problem(s) and then develop solutions to address these weed management challenges. Funds will be used to print educational materials for distribution to participating landowners.

Amount Requested: \$8,225

\$8,225 allocated

4. Private Landowner Weed Brochure (Montrose & Ouray Counties) is a project that will provide every private landowner in these counties with a brochure that identifies locally targeted noxious weeds, provides appropriate management strategies, and recognizes the landowner's responsibility to help meet the community's weed management objectives. Funds will be used to print the educational brochure.

Amount Requested: \$3,000

\$3,000 allocated

5. Rocky Ford High School Weed Control Project (Otero County) will provide Agricultural Education students with a hands-on opportunity to research, design, budget, and implement a weed management program for their school district. Funds will be used to purchase weed control tools and materials.

Amount Requested: \$3,900

\$3,900 allocated

Total Expenditures for Education Projects: \$29,725