

# MONTANA LOCAL COUNTY WEED ACT



STATE OF MONTANA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
PO BOX 200201  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0201  
(406) 444-5400  
[www.agr.mt.gov](http://www.agr.mt.gov)

Revised October 2011

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES DIVISION  
HELENA, MONTANA**

**TITLE 7, CHAPTER 22  
PART 21**

**COUNTY WEED CONTROL ACT**

**GREGORY H. AMES  
ADMINISTRATOR**

**RON de YONG  
DIRECTOR**

**Current as of October 2011**

**Disclaimer**

This document contains a copy of the statutes relating to the subject matter. Although every attempt is made to ensure that the information placed in this document is accurate and timely, the Department of Agriculture cannot assure the accuracy of any specific provision, and you are urged to consult the official printed versions of these publications or to contact legal counsel of your choice. All critical information should be independently verified.

The Montana Code and Constitution is at: [http://leg.state.mt.us/css/mtcode\\_const/default.asp](http://leg.state.mt.us/css/mtcode_const/default.asp).

7-22-2101. Definitions.....	2
7-22-2102. Weed management districts established.....	2
7-22-2103. District weed board -- appointment -- commissioner powers.....	3
7-22-2104. Repealed.....	3
7-22-2105. Repealed.....	3
7-22-2106. Renumbered.....	3
7-22-2107. Renumbered.....	3
7-22-2108. Renumbered.....	3
7-22-2109. Powers and duties of board.....	3
7-22-2110. Repealed.....	4
7-22-2111. Liability restrictions.....	4
7-22-2112. Information on herbicide use.....	4
7-22-2113. and 7-22-2114 reserved.....	4
7-22-2115. Noxious weeds and seeds declared nuisance.....	4
7-22-2116. Unlawful to permit noxious weeds to propagate -- notice required in sale...4	4
7-22-2117. Violations.....	5
7-22-2118. and 7-22-2119 reserved.....	5
7-22-2120. Funding -- reporting requirements -- emergency exemption.....	5
7-22-2121. Weed management program.....	5
7-22-2122. Repealed.....	6
7-22-2123. Procedure in case of noncompliance -- notice.....	6
7-22-2124. Destruction of weeds by board -- court order -- deposits.....	10
7-22-2125. Repealed.....	11
7-22-2126. Embargo.....	11
7-22-2127. Repealed.....	12
7-22-2128. and 7-22-2129 reserved.....	12
7-22-2130. Weed district coordinator training.....	12
7-22-2131. through 7-22-2140 reserved.....	12
7-22-2141. Noxious weed fund.....	12
7-22-2142. Sources of money for noxious weed fund.....	12
7-22-2143. Determination of cost of weed control program.....	13
7-22-2144. Payment of cost of weed control program.....	13
7-22-2145. Expenditures from noxious weed fund.....	13
7-22-2146. Financial assistance to persons responsible for weed control.....	14
7-22-2147. Repealed.....	14
7-22-2148. Payment of weed control expenses -- tax liability -- lien.....	15
7-22-2149. Repealed.....	15
7-22-2150. Cooperation with state and federal-aid programs.....	15
7-22-2151. Cooperative agreements.....	15
7-22-2152. Revegetation of rights-of-way and areas that have potential for noxious weed infestation.....	16
7-22-2153. Agreements for control of noxious weeds along roads -- liability of landowner who objects to weed district control measures -- penalties.....	16
7-22-2154. Public purchase or receipt of property -- weed management plan.....	17

**TITLE 7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CHAPTER 22. WEED AND PEST CONTROL  
Part 21. County Weed Control**

**7-22-2101. Definitions.** As used in this part, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Board" means a district weed board created under [7-22-2103](#).
- (2) "Commissioners" means the board of county commissioners.
- (3) "Coordinator" means the person employed by the board to conduct the district noxious weed management program and supervise other district employees.
- (4) "Department" means the department of agriculture provided for in [2-15-3001](#).
- (5) "District" means a weed management district organized under [7-22-2102](#).
- (6) "Native plant" means a plant indigenous to the state of Montana.
- (7) "Native plant community" means an assemblage of native plants occurring in a natural habitat.
- (8) (a) "Noxious weeds" or "weeds" means any exotic plant species established or that may be introduced in the state that may render land unfit for agriculture, forestry, livestock, wildlife, or other beneficial uses or that may harm native plant communities and that is designated:
  - (i) as a statewide noxious weed by rule of the department; or
  - (ii) as a district noxious weed by a board, following public notice of intent and a public hearing.
- (b) A weed designated by rule of the department as a statewide noxious weed must be considered noxious in every district of the state.
- (9) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or state or local government agency or subdivision owning, occupying, or controlling any land, easement, or right-of-way, including any county, state, or federally owned and controlled highway, drainage or irrigation ditch, spoil bank, barrow pit, or right-of-way for a canal or lateral.
- (10) "Weed management" or "control" means the planning and implementation of a coordinated program for the containment, suppression, and, where possible, eradication of noxious weeds.

**History:** (1), (2), (4), (5)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1939; Secs. 16-1702, 16-1703, 16-1704, 16-1705, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 1974; Sec. 16-1701, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1701(part), 16-1702(part), 16-1703, 16-1704, 16-1705; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 249, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 607, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 303, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 407, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 98, L. 2003.

**7-22-2102. Weed management districts established.** A weed management district shall be formed in every county of this state and shall include all the land within the boundaries of the county, except that a weed management district may include more than one county through agreement of the commissioners of the affected counties.

**History:** En. 16-1709.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 185, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 360, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1709.1; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 607, L. 1985.

**7-22-2103. District weed board -- appointment -- commissioner powers.** (1) The commissioners shall appoint a district weed board subject to the provisions of [7-1-201](#) through [7-1-203](#).

(2) Upon a recommendation from the weed board, the commissioners may appoint a weed coordinator.

(3) The commissioners shall approve, approve with revisions, or reject a weed management plan submitted pursuant to [7-22-2121](#).

**History:** En. Sec. 9, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 90, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 228, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 51, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 64, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 185, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 360, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1713(part); amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 249, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 607, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 52, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 681, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 543, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 244, L. 2011.

**7-22-2104. Repealed.** Sec. 8, Ch. 681, L. 1991.

**History:** En. Sec. 9, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 90, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 228, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 51, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 64, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 185, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 360, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1713(part); amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 249, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 607, L. 1985.

**7-22-2106. Renumbered .** [7-22-2115](#), Code Commissioner, 1985.

**7-22-2107. Renumbered .** [7-22-2116](#), Code Commissioner, 1985.

**7-22-2108. Renumbered .** [7-22-2117](#), Code Commissioner, 1985.

**7-22-2109. Powers and duties of board.** (1) In addition to any powers or duties established in the resolution creating a district weed board, the board may:

(a) supervise a coordinator and other employees and provide for their compensation;  
(b) purchase chemicals, materials, and equipment and pay other operational costs necessary for implementing an effective noxious weed management program. The costs must be paid from the noxious weed fund.

(c) determine what chemicals, materials, or equipment may be made available to persons controlling weeds on their own land. The cost for the chemicals, materials, or equipment must be paid by the person and collected as provided in this part.

(d) enter into agreements with the department for the control and eradication of any new exotic plant species not previously established in the state that may render land unfit for agriculture, forestry, livestock, wildlife, or other beneficial use if the plant species spreads or threatens to spread into the state;

(e) enter into cost-share agreements for noxious weed management;

(f) enter into agreements with commercial applicators, as defined in [80-8-102](#), for the control of noxious weeds;

(g) request legal advice and services from the county attorney; and

(h) perform other activities relating to weed management.

(2) The board shall:

- (a) administer the district's noxious weed management program;
  - (b) establish management criteria for noxious weeds on all land within the district;
- and
- (c) make all reasonable efforts to develop and implement a noxious weed management program covering all land within the district owned or administered by a federal agency.

**History:** En. Sec. 6, Ch. 607, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 543, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 203, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 407, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 244, L. 2011.

**7-22-2110. Repealed.** Sec. 3, Ch. 407, L. 2009.

**History:** En. Sec. 15, Ch. 607, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 407, L. 2001.

**7-22-2111. Liability restrictions.** A district is liable for damages caused by its use of herbicides only for an act or omission that constitutes gross negligence. The provisions of [2-9-305](#) apply to board members, coordinators, and employees of a district.

**History:** En. Sec. 1, Ch. 516, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 407, L. 2001.

**7-22-2112. Information on herbicide use.** The district must provide information on protective clothing, health hazards, and proper application techniques to mixers, loaders, and applicators of herbicides and make the information available for review by the public at the district office.

**History:** En. Sec. 2, Ch. 516, L. 1987.

**7-22-2113 through 7-22-2114 reserved.**

**7-22-2115. Noxious weeds and seeds declared nuisance.** Noxious weeds and the seed of any noxious weed are hereby declared a common nuisance.

**History:** Ap. p. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1939; Sec. 16-1702, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 1974; Sec. 16-1701, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1701(part), 16-1702(part); Sec. [7-22-2106](#), MCA 1983; redes. [7-22-2115](#) by Code Commissioner, 1985.

**7-22-2116. Unlawful to permit noxious weeds to propagate -- notice required in sale.** (1) It is unlawful for any person to permit any noxious weed to propagate or go to seed on the person's land, except that any person who adheres to the noxious weed management program of the person's weed management district or who has entered into and is in compliance with a noxious weed management agreement is considered to be in compliance with this section.

(2) When property is offered for sale, the person who owns the property shall notify the owner's agent and the purchaser of:

- (a) the existence of noxious weed infestations on the property offered for sale; and
- (b) the existence of a noxious weed management program or a noxious weed management agreement as provided in subsection (1).

**History:** En. Sec. 2, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 11, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1706; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 607, L. 1985; Sec. [7-22-2107](#), MCA 1983; redes. [7-22-2116](#) by Code Commissioner, 1985; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 407, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 313, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 244, L. 2011.

**7-22-2117. Violations.** (1) Any person who in any manner interferes with the board or its authorized agent in carrying out the provisions of this part or who refuses to obey an order or notice of the board is liable for a civil penalty in the amount of the actual cost to the board or the estimated cost of removing the noxious weeds from the impacted property in addition to any penalty imposed under [7-22-2124](#).

(2) All fines, bonds, and penalties collected under the provisions of this part must be paid to the county treasurer of each county and placed by the county treasurer into a fund to be known as the noxious weed fund.

**History:** En. Sec. 18, Ch. 195, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1722; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 249, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 607, L. 1985; Sec. [7-22-2108](#), MCA 1983; redes. [7-22-2117](#) by Code Commissioner, 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 557, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 407, L. 2001.

**7-22-2118 through 7-22-2119 reserved.**

**7-22-2120. Funding -- reporting requirements -- emergency exemption.** (1) (a) Before a district applies to the state for state or federal funding, the district shall provide the department with a weed management plan, as provided in [7-22-2121](#), and with a copy of the resolution creating the board.

(b) After the initial submission of the weed management plan, the district's weed management plan must be updated and submitted to the department every 2 years.

(c) The department may adopt rules and procedures necessary to implement this section. The rules may not impair the ability of the district to meet its responsibilities.

(2) The department may exempt a district from the requirements of subsection (1) if a noxious weed emergency is declared by the governor as provided in [80-7-815](#).

**History:** En. Sec. 1, Ch. 407, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 244, L. 2011.

**7-22-2121. Weed management program.** (1) The noxious weed management program must be based on a plan approved by the board and the commissioners.

(2) The noxious weed management plan must:

(a) specify the goals and priorities of the program;

(b) review the distribution and abundance of each noxious weed species known to occur within the district and specify the locations of new infestations and areas particularly susceptible to new infestations;

(c) specify pesticide management goals and procedures, including but not limited to water quality protection, public and worker safety, equipment selection and maintenance, and pesticide selection, application, mixing, loading, storage, and disposal; and

(d) estimate the personnel, operations, and equipment costs of the proposed program;

(e) develop a compliance plan or strategy; and

(f) incorporate cooperative agreements established pursuant to [7-22-2151](#).

(3) The board shall provide for the management of noxious weeds on all land or rights-of-way owned or controlled by a county or municipality within the district. It shall take particular precautions while managing the noxious weeds to preserve beneficial vegetation and wildlife habitat. When possible, management must include cultural, chemical, and biological methods.

(4) The board may establish special management zones within the district. The management criteria in those zones may be more or less stringent than the general management criteria for the district.

**History:** En. Sec. 15, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 90, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 228, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 68, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 360, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1719(part); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 607, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 530, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 244, L. 2011.

**7-22-2122. Repealed.** Sec. 32, Ch. 607, L. 1985.

**History:** En. Sec. 9, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 90, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 228, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 51, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 64, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 185, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 360, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1713(part).

**7-22-2123. Procedure in case of noncompliance -- notice.** (1) (a) Whenever a complaint has been made or the board has reason to believe that noxious weeds described in this part are present upon a landowner's land within the district, the board shall attempt informal resolution of the complaint or alleged presence of noxious weeds by notifying the landowner by mail or telephone. If the situation is not resolved after the initial mail or telephone contact, the board may request inspection of the land by sending the request by certified mail at least 10 days after the initial contact is attempted.

(b) If the landowner has an agent for service on file with the secretary of state, the notice must be given by mail to the registered agent. The landowner or the landowner's representative shall respond to the notice within 10 days.

(c) If the board or the board's agent and the landowner or landowner's representative agree to an inspection, the board or the board's agent and the landowner or the landowner's representative shall inspect the land at an agreeable time. The inspection must occur within 10 days after the agreed-upon inspection date. If within 10 days after sending a certified letter to the address listed on the tax records for the property or the agent of service the board is unable to determine the owner of the property or the landowner objects to the inspection, the board or the board's agent may seek a court order to enter and inspect the land to determine if noxious weeds are present on the property.

(2) (a) (i) If the board or the board's agent finds noxious weeds on the property as a result of the inspection, the board or the board's agent shall notify the landowner or the landowner's representative by certified mail that noxious weeds were found on the property and shall seek voluntary compliance from the landowner or landowner's representative with the district noxious weed management program.

(ii) The notice must contain the language specified in this section.

(iii) If ownership of the land is in question or the board believes it is advisable, the board or the board's agent may also post in a conspicuous place on the property a



dated order providing notice that noxious weeds have been found on the property and directing the landowner or landowner's representative to comply with the district noxious weed management program.

(b) If the board or the board's agent is unable to obtain voluntary compliance with the district noxious weed management program by the landowner or landowner's representative within 10 days after the notification or within 10 days after posting the notice under subsection (2)(a), the landowner is considered to be in noncompliance and is subject to appropriate control measures pursuant to [7-22-2124](#) or, at the discretion of the board of county commissioners, a civil penalty as established by the board following a public hearing after providing notice as required in [7-1-2121](#).

(c) (i) Within 10 days after the board has issued a notice to comply with the noxious weed management program, the landowner or landowner's representative may file a request for a hearing before the board if the landowner or landowner's representative disagrees with the noxious weed management control measures proposed to be taken by the board.

(ii) If the landowner's objection to the board's action remains after the hearing, the landowner has 10 days to appeal the board's decision to the district court having jurisdiction in the county in which the property is located.

(d) If a request for a hearing has been filed pursuant to subsection (2)(c), the board or the board's agent may not take any action to control the noxious weeds until after the hearing and authorization from the board or the court.

(e) If the board imposes the civil penalty authorized in subsection (2)(b) and a hearing is requested in court, the penalty may be sought for each year or portion of a year during which the landowner is not in compliance with the district noxious weed management program.

(3) A landowner is considered to be in compliance if the landowner submits and the board accepts a proposal to undertake specified control measures and remains in compliance as long as the landowner performs according to the terms of the proposal. The proposal must include a requirement that the landowner or landowner's representative notify the board as measures in the proposal are taken. If the measures proposed to be taken extend beyond the current growing season, the proposal and acceptance must be in writing.

(4) In accepting or rejecting a proposal, the board shall consider the economic impact on the landowner and the landowner's neighbors, practical biological and environmental limitations, and alternative control methods to be used.

(5) If a court issues an order approving a board's actions, the court retains jurisdiction over the matter:

(a) until the actions specified in the weed management plan or court order are complete;

(b) for the length of time specified in the order; or

(c) for 5 years if the order does not specify a time limit.

(6) The department shall provide boards with a uniform notification form that must be used when notifying landowners of potential noncompliance with this part. The form must:

(a) list the noxious weeds found on the property;

(b) provide the legal description of the property;

- (c) provide the address of the property, if available;
- (d) state the fact that the presence of the weeds violates state law and that the landowner has 10 days after mailing of the notice to contact the board or its agent;
- (e) provide the address and phone number for the board or its agent;
- (f) notify the landowner of the landowner's:
  - (i) responsibility to submit a weed management proposal; and
  - (ii) right to request a hearing to contest the finding of noncompliance, including the timeframe for making the request; and
- (g) specify the actions the board may take if the landowner fails to remove the weeds, including but not limited to the anticipated costs of destroying the weeds, the 25% penalty allowed under [7-22-2124](#), and the board's intent to file a court action to impose a civil fine that may become a lien upon the property.

**History:** (1)En. Sec. 9, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 90, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 228, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 51, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 64, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 185, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 360, L. 1974; Sec. 16-1713, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 10, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 90, L. 1941; Sec. 16-1714, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1713(part), 16-1714; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 607, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 141, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 407, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 407, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 320, L. 2011.

**7-22-2124. Destruction of weeds by board -- court order -- deposits.** (1) (a) The board may seek a court order to enter upon the landowner's land and institute appropriate noxious weed control measures, which may include contracting with a commercial applicator pursuant to subsection (1)(c)(iii), if:

(i) the landowner or the landowner's representative does not take corrective action within the time specified in [7-22-2123](#)(2);

(ii) a proposal is not made and accepted as provided in [7-22-2123](#)(3); and

(iii) the board does not receive a formal objection or a request for a hearing.

(b) If the board decides to seek a civil penalty under [7-22-2123](#)(2)(b) instead of taking the control measures, the board shall obtain judicial approval from the court for the penalty.

(c) (i) After taking action pursuant to subsection (1)(a) or obtaining a court order and instituting appropriate noxious weed control measures, the board shall submit a bill to the landowner that covers the costs of the weed control measures and contains a penalty not exceeding 25% of the total cost incurred. The bill must itemize the hours of labor, cost of material, equipment time, legal fees, and court costs or provide an invoice from a commercial applicator if the board contracted for weed control pursuant to subsection (1)(c)(iii). The board shall provide a copy of the bill, including the penalty, to the county clerk and recorder.

(ii) Labor, material, and equipment used by the board in instituting appropriate noxious weed control measures must be valued at the current rate paid for commercial management operations in the district. The bill must reflect actual legal fees and court costs incurred by the board. The bill submitted to the landowner under subsection (1)(c)(i) must specify and order a payment due date of 30 days from the date the bill is sent.

(iii) The board may enter into an agreement with a commercial applicator, as defined in [80-8-102](#), to destroy the weeds. The commercial applicator shall carry all insurance

required by the board.

(d) All penalties collected pursuant to this section are in addition to other penalties authorized under this chapter and must be credited to a noxious weed fund created under [7-22-2141](#).

(2) If a landowner who received an order to take corrective action requests an injunction or stay of the corrective action in district court within 10 days of receipt of the order, the board may not institute control measures until the matter is finally resolved, except in case of an emergency. If the board declares an emergency and institutes appropriate measures to control the noxious weeds, the landowner who received the order under [7-22-2123](#)(2)(a) is liable for costs as provided in subsection (1) of this section only to the extent determined appropriate by the board, the board of county commissioners, or the court that finally resolves the matter.

**History:** En. Sec. 11, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 90, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 228, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1715(part); amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 607, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 141, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 407, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 407, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 320, L. 2011.

**7-22-2125. Repealed.** Sec. 32, Ch. 607, L. 1985.

**History:** En. Sec. 12, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 228, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1716.

**7-22-2126. Embargo.** (1) The board may establish embargo programs to reduce the spread of noxious weeds within the district or the introduction of noxious weeds into the district.

(2) The board shall establish a special embargo program for the movement of forage, as defined in [80-7-903](#), into or out of the county. The board may implement an embargo upon confirmation of a violation, based upon complaint investigations, requests for investigation by the department, or through county investigations, if the forage has not been certified by the state and is being sold as noxious weed seed free, as defined in [80-7-903](#).

(3) A person in possession of the forage that is not in compliance with Title 80, chapter 7, part 9, may not transport or dispose of the forage as noxious weed seed free that is subject to embargo until written permission is obtained from the board. If the forage that is subject to embargo meets the requirements of the state certification program and the department verifies compliance with the program, the board shall release the embargo. The forage may also be released if the board:

(a) verifies the guaranteed delivery back to the original producer, as defined in [80-7-903](#);

(b) approves burning or disposal of the forage; or

(c) approves other alternatives.

(4) The board shall report all embargoes issued and the final resolution of an embargo imposed pursuant to a violation of Title 80, chapter 7, part 9, to the department within 48 hours.

(5) The person in possession of forage subject to embargo shall comply with the conditions approved by the board within 30 days. If resolution is not accomplished, the board may condemn the forage and implement through its employees the conditions in this section. If the board proceeds with correction of these conditions after 30 days, all

actual expenses incurred and documented by the board are payable by the producer unless the person in possession of the forage also has an interest in the forage.

**History:** En. Sec. 3, Ch. 195, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1707; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 607, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 521, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 313, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 244, L. 2011.

**7-22-2127. Repealed.** Sec. 32, Ch. 607, L. 1985.

**History:** En. Sec. 14, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 228, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1718.

**7-22-2128 through 7-22-2129 reserved.**

**7-22-2130. Weed district coordinator training.** Within the limitations of available funds, the board shall ensure that the weed district coordinator obtains training to properly implement the noxious weed management program described in [7-22-2121](#). The department shall specify through rulemaking the level and type of training necessary to fulfill this requirement.

**History:** En. Sec. 1, Ch. 530, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 407, L. 2001.

**7-22-2131 through 7-22-2140 reserved.**

**7-22-2141. Noxious weed fund.** (1) The commissioners shall create a noxious weed fund to be used only for purposes authorized by this part.

(2) The fund must be maintained by the county treasurer in accordance with [7-6-2111](#).

**History:** En. Sec. 13, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 90, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 228, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 63, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1717(part); amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 607, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 244, L. 2011.

**7-22-2142. Sources of money for noxious weed fund.** (1) The commissioners may provide sufficient money in the noxious weed fund for the board to fulfill its duties, as specified in [7-22-2109](#), by:

(a) appropriating money from any source in an amount not less than \$100,000 or an amount equivalent to 1.6 mills levied upon the taxable value of all property; and

(b) subject to [15-10-420](#) and at any time fixed by law for levy and assessment of taxes, levying a tax of not less than 1.6 mills on the taxable value of all taxable property in the county. The tax levied under this subsection must be identified on the assessment as the tax that will be used for noxious weed control.

(2) The proceeds of the noxious weed control tax or other contribution must be used solely for the purpose of managing noxious weeds in the county and must be deposited in the noxious weed fund.

(3) Any proceeds from work or chemical sales must revert to the noxious weed fund and must be available for reuse within that fiscal year or any subsequent year.

(4) The commissioners may accept any private, state, or federal gifts, grants, contracts, or other funds to aid in the management of noxious weeds within the district.

These funds must be placed in the noxious weed fund.

(5) Subject to [15-10-420](#), the commissioners may impose a tax for weed control within a special management zone as provided in [7-22-2121](#)(4). For the purposes of imposing the tax, the special management zone boundaries must be established by the board and approved by a majority of the voters within the special management zone. Pursuant to an election held in accordance with [15-10-425](#), the amount of the tax must be approved by a majority of the voters within the special management zone, and approval of the zone and the tax may occur simultaneously. Revenue received from a special management zone tax must be spent on weed management projects within the boundaries of the special management zone.

**History:** En. Sec. 13, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 90, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 228, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 63, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1717(part); amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 607, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 530, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 584, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 407, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 495, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 72, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 313, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 128, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 244, L. 2011.

**7-22-2143. Determination of cost of weed control program.** Based on the board's recommendations, the commissioners shall determine and fix the cost of the control of noxious weeds in the district, whether the same be performed by the individual landowners or by the board.

**History:** En. Sec. 16, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 90, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 228, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1720(part); amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 607, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 530, L. 1991.

**7-22-2144. Payment of cost of weed control program.** The total cost of weed control within the district must be paid from the noxious weed fund. The cost of controlling weeds growing along the right-of-way of a state or federal highway must, upon the presentation by the board of a verified account of the expenses incurred, be paid from the state highway fund in compliance with [7-14-2132](#) and any agreement between the board and the department of transportation. Costs attributed to other lands within the district must be assessed to and collected from the responsible person as set forth in [7-22-2124](#).

**History:** En. Sec. 15, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 90, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 228, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 68, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 360, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1719(part); amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 607, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 51, L. 1999.

**7-22-2145. Expenditures from noxious weed fund.** (1) The noxious weed fund must be expended by the commissioners at the time and in the manner as is recommended by the board to secure the control of noxious weeds.

(2) Warrants upon the fund must be drawn by the board. Warrants may not be drawn except upon claims duly itemized by the claimant, except payroll claims that must be itemized and certified by the board, and each claim must be presented to the commissioners for approval before the warrant is countersigned by the commissioners.

**History:** En. Sec. 13, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 90, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 228, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 63, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1717(part); amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 607, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 530, L. 1991.

**7-22-2146. Financial assistance to persons responsible for weed control.** (1) The commissioners, upon recommendation of the board, may establish a cost-share program for the control of noxious weeds. The board shall develop rules and procedures for the administration of the cost-share program. These procedures may include the cost-share rate or amount and for what purposes cost-share funds may be used.

(2) (a) Any person may voluntarily enter into a cost-share agreement for the management of noxious weeds on the person's property. The coordinator shall draft a cost-share agreement in cooperation with the person. The agreement must, in the board's judgment, provide for effective weed management.

(b) The agreement must specify:

(i) costs that must be paid from the noxious weed fund;

(ii) costs that must be paid by the person;

(iii) a location-specific weed management plan that must be followed by the person; and

(iv) reporting requirements of the person to the board.

(c) The cost-share agreement must be signed by the person and, upon approval of the board, by the presiding officer.

(3) The agreement must contain a statement disclaiming any liability of the board for any injuries or losses suffered by the person in managing noxious weeds under a cost-share agreement. If the board later finds that the person has failed to abide by the terms of the agreement, all cost-share payments and agreements must be canceled and the provisions of [7-22-2124](#) apply to that person.

(4) (a) When under the terms of any voluntary agreement, whether entered into pursuant to [7-22-2123](#) or otherwise, or under any cost-share agreement entered pursuant to this section a person incurs any obligation for materials or services provided by the board, the board shall submit a bill to the person, itemizing hours of labor, material, and equipment time. The bill must specify and order a payment due date not less than 30 days from the date the bill is sent.

(b) A copy of the bill must be submitted by the board to the county clerk and recorder. If the sum to be repaid by the person billed is not repaid on or before the date due, the county clerk and recorder shall certify the amount not repaid, with the description of the land to be charged, and shall enter the sum on the assessment list as a special tax on the land, to be collected in the manner provided in [7-22-2148](#).

**History:** En. Sec. 16, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 90, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 228, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1720(part); amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 607, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 407, L. 2001.

**7-22-2147. Repealed.** Sec. 32, Ch. 607, L. 1985.

**History:** En. Sec. 16, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 90, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 228, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1720(part).

**7-22-2148. Payment of weed control expenses -- tax liability -- lien.** (1) (a) The expenses incurred by the board for noxious weed control undertaken pursuant to [7-22-2124](#) must be paid by the county out of the noxious weed fund.

(b) If the sum to be repaid by the landowner billed under [7-22-2124](#) is not repaid on or before the date due, the county clerk shall certify the amount due, with the description of the land to be charged, and shall enter the amount on the assessment list of the county as a special tax on the land. If the land is exempt from general taxation for any reason, the amount due and to be repaid may be recovered by direct claim against the landowner and collected in the same manner as personal taxes.

(c) All amounts collected pursuant to subsection (1)(b) must be deposited in the noxious weed fund.

(2) If a civil penalty is imposed under [7-22-2123](#), the penalty is, until paid in full, a lien in the amount of the penalty on the infested parcel of the property that lies within the district and belongs to the landowner on whom the penalty was imposed.

**History:** En. Sec. 11, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 90, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 228, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1715(part); amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 249, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 607, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 530, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 320, L. 2011.

**7-22-2149. Repealed.** Sec. 5, Ch. 313, L. 2007.

**History:** En. Sec. 11, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 90, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 228, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1715(part).

**7-22-2150. Cooperation with state and federal-aid programs.** The board may cooperate with any state or federal-aid program that becomes available if the district complies with [7-22-2120](#). Under a plan of cooperation, the direction of the program must be under the direct supervision of the board of the district in which the program operates.

**History:** En. Sec. 17, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 228, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1721; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 607, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 407, L. 2001.

**7-22-2151. Cooperative agreements.** (1) A state agency that controls land within a district, including the department of transportation; the department of fish, wildlife, and parks; the department of corrections; the department of natural resources and conservation; and the university system, shall enter into a written agreement with the board. The agreement must specify mutual responsibilities for integrated noxious weed management on state-owned or state-controlled land within the district. The agreement must include the following:

- (a) an integrated noxious weed management plan, which must be updated biennially;
- (b) a noxious weed management goals statement;
- (c) a specific plan of operations for the biennium, including a budget to implement the plan; and
- (d) a provision requiring a biennial performance report by the board to the state weed coordinator in the department of agriculture, on a form to be provided by the state weed coordinator, regarding the success of the plan.

(2) The board and the governing body of each incorporated municipality within the district shall enter into a written agreement and shall cooperatively plan for the management of noxious weeds within the boundaries of the municipality. The board may implement management procedures described in the plan within the boundaries of the municipality for noxious weeds only. Control of nuisance weeds within the municipality remains the responsibility of the governing body of the municipality, as specified in [7-22-4101](#).

(3) A board may develop and carry out its noxious weed management program in cooperation with boards of other districts, with state and federal governments and their agencies, or with any person within the district. The board may enter into cooperative agreements with any of these parties.

(4) Each agency or entity listed in subsection (1) shall submit a statement or summary of all noxious weed actions that are subject to the agreement required under subsection (1) to the state weed coordinator and shall post a copy of the statement or summary on a state electronic access system.

**History:** En. Sec. 10, Ch. 607, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 519, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 407, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 313, L. 2007.

**7-22-2152. Revegetation of rights-of-way and areas that have potential for noxious weed infestation.** (1) Any person or state agency proposing a mine, a major facility under Title 75, chapter 20, an electric, communication, gas, or liquid transmission line, a solid waste facility, a highway or road, a subdivision, a commercial, industrial, or government development, or any other development that needs state or local approval and that results in the potential for noxious weed infestation within a district shall notify the board at least 15 days prior to the activity.

(2) Whenever any person or agency constructs a road, an irrigation or drainage ditch, a pipeline, an electric, communication, gas, or liquid transmission line, or any other development on an easement or right-of-way, the board shall require that the areas be seeded, planted, or otherwise managed to reestablish a cover of beneficial plants.

(3) (a) The person or agency committing the action shall submit to the board a written plan specifying the methods to be used to accomplish revegetation at least 15 days prior to the activity. The plan must describe the time and method of seeding, fertilization practices, recommended plant species, use of weed-free seed, and the weed management procedures to be used.

(b) The plan is subject to approval by the board, which may require revisions to bring the revegetation plan into compliance with the district weed management plan. The activity for which notice is given may not occur until the plan is approved by the board and signed by the presiding officer of the board and by the person or a representative of the agency responsible for the action. The signed plan constitutes a binding agreement between the board and the person or agency. The plan must be approved, with revisions if necessary, within 10 days of receipt by the board.

**History:** En. Sec. 11, Ch. 607, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 407, L. 2001.



**7-22-2153. Agreements for control of noxious weeds along roads -- liability of landowner who objects to weed district control measures -- penalties.** (1) The board may enter into an agreement with a landowner that allows the landowner to manage noxious weeds along a state or county highway or road that borders or bisects the landowner's property.

(2) The agreement must be signed by the landowner and the board's presiding officer. An agreement involving a state highway right-of-way must also be signed by a representative of the department of transportation.

(3) The agreement must contain a statement disclaiming any liability of the board and, if applicable, the department of transportation for any injuries or losses suffered by the landowner or anyone acting on behalf of the landowner in managing noxious weeds pursuant to the agreement. The signed agreement transfers responsibility for managing noxious weeds on the specified section of right-of-way from the board to the landowner who signed the agreement.

(4) If the landowner violates the agreement, the board shall issue an order informing the landowner that the agreement will be void and that responsibility for the management of noxious weeds on the right-of-way will revert to the board unless the landowner complies with the agreement within a specified time period.

(5) (a) If a landowner objects to weed control measures along a state or county highway or road that borders or bisects the landowner's property and does not enter into an agreement pursuant to this section and if the board finds that the person has failed to provide alternative weed control, the board shall issue an order informing the landowner that the management of noxious weeds on the right-of-way will be undertaken by the board unless the landowner provides to the board an acceptable plan of alternative weed control within 30 days.

(b) Failing to provide alternative weed control pursuant to subsection (5)(a) is a misdemeanor. Upon conviction, an offender shall be sentenced pursuant to [46-18-212](#) and assessed the costs of weed control provided by the board. A second or subsequent conviction is punishable by a fine of not less than \$500 or more than \$2,000, plus the costs of weed control provided by the board.

**History:** En. Sec. 12, Ch. 607, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 433, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 407, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 244, L. 2011.

**7-22-2154. Public purchase or receipt of property -- weed management plan.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (4), prior to the purchase of real property with public funds or the receipt of real property by a nonfederal public entity, the purchaser or grantee shall have the property inspected by the county weed management district. The county weed management district's report regarding the property must be filed with the purchaser or grantee. The costs associated with the inspection must be borne by the seller or grantor.

(2) If the report indicates that there are noxious weeds present on the property, the purchaser, seller, grantee, or grantor shall develop a noxious weed management agreement to ensure compliance with the district noxious weed management program. However, unless the parties agree otherwise, a seller or grantor is obligated by a noxious weed agreement only until the property sale or transfer is completed. Except as provided in subsection (4), the weed management agreement must be incorporated into

the purchase agreement.

(3) The provisions of this section do not apply to:

(a) the state acquisition or disposition of a public right-of-way pursuant to Title 60, chapter 4; or

(b) lands sold or purchased through land banking pursuant to [77-2-361](#) through [77-2-367](#).

(4) If a transfer of property will occur during the winter months when the ability to identify noxious weeds is significantly reduced by snow cover, the purchaser, seller, grantee, or grantor may request a 6-month extension for completion of the inspection and any noxious weed management agreement that may be required. If, upon inspection, it is determined that a noxious weed management agreement is necessary, unless otherwise agreed by the parties, the purchaser or grantee is responsible for implementing the provisions of that agreement.

**History:** En. Sec. 1, Ch. 395, L. 2005.