



WEED BOARD MEETING

February 8, 2022

Tuesday-7:00pm

Weed Control Office: 25 West Front Street

Members Present :

Mark Kambich, Doug Butori, Scott Haeffner, and Frank Butori

Members Absent:

Greg Ebner

Others Present :

John Moodry, Julie Montoya, Lucas Phillips, Paul Peterson, and Vanna Boccadori

MINUTES

1. Approval of January 4,2022, Minutes :

Scott Haeffner made a motion to approve January 4, 2022, minutes, Frank Butori seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

2. Public Comment:

None

3. Federal and State Management Updates :

❖ United States Forest Service:

- Lucas Phillips with USFS reported on the following:
 - **Crew:**
 - Only had a crew of one last year
 - This year they are in the hiring process for a full crew of five.
 - **Spray Days** :
 - Had a spray day at Fleecer last year
 - Scheduled a spray day this year for Fleecer and High Rye
 - Fleecer: June 29th - meet at east entrance
 - High Rye: June 30th - meet at old Post Office
 - **Aerial Spray Project** :
 - Sprayed in 2017 & 2019
 - Successful timing with spraying
 - **Montana Native Plant Society:**
 - Local Chapter adopted a trailhead
 - Pipestone Pass Trailhead
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- #### **❖ Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks:**
- Vanna Boccadori with FWP reported on the following:
 - **Noxious Weed Inventory:**
 - MFWP through contract with the Big Hole Watershed Committee back in 2019 conducted a noxious weed inventory of portions of Mt Haggin and Fleecer Wildlife Management areas that were within the Upper Clark Fork Watershed.
 - The result of this effort and the recommendations for long-term management has been documented in Mt. Haggin/Fleecer WMA Noxious Weed Baseline Report and 10 -year Management Plan.
 - Based on the recommendation from the 2019 inventory, MFWP partnered with the Beaverhead-Deer Lodge National Forest to implement the High Rye Biocontrol Cooperative Project designed to treat those noxious weed infestations identified on MFWP property and to map and treat similar infestations of noxious weeds on adjacent federal land administered by the BDNF.

➤ **Test Plots:**

- Knapweed test plots were established on October 6, 2020, by Stuart Jennings and Vanna Boccadori.
 - The plots are located along the German Gulch entrance road to Mt. Haggin WMA on the keyhole parcel of the WMA.
 - Seven plots were established – 6 that received treatment and 1 control plot. Each plot received a different treatment.
 - Photos for each test plot were taken at the time of establishment, along with ensuing annual photos and vegetation composition readings.

➤ **Nutrafix:**

- Nutrafix is an innovative and patented fertilizer product formulated to restore micronutrient availability to perennial rangeland plants and to increase soil organic matter by promoting the growth of long-lived and deep-rooted perennial grasses.
 - Can be applied wet or dry, with or without seed.
 - Used the Nutrafix on knapweed test plots, results have been good.
- Spread Days on Fleecer and Mt. Haggin
 - Going to use Nutrafix with a hand spreader this year instead of herbicide in the areas where they are concerned about the areas that were burned too hot over the years.

❖ Paul Peterson – FWP WMA Supervisor reported on the following:

- Paul advised he just started this position last June.

➤ **Aerial Spraying :**

- 3-year Aerial Spray Plan at Fleecer
 - East entrance
 - Going to put together a whole lot more Nutrafix test sites.
 - Some test plots over a year have shown a 96% kill using Nutrafix.

➤ **Crew:**

- Has a plan to hire a crew for Butte and a crew for Bozeman
 - Butte crew would take care of Mt. Haggin/Fleecer Spraying
 - Waiting on funding

4. Progress Report :

John Moodry reported on the following:

- Chris Chebul mailed out his survey letter/questionnaire regarding the noxious weeds on the right-of-way of the Union Pacific Railroad.
 - Sent to landowners whose property abuts the Union Pacific Railroad line in Butte-Silver Bow County.
 - Requesting feedback and input regarding the noxious weed proliferation on the right-of-way to help our efforts to assess and mitigate the problem.

6. Next Meeting Date :

- March 1, 2022 @ 7:00pm

