

# Southwestern Area

## Spring 2010 News Letter



### SW Area Weed District Coordinators

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County**  
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Jack Eddie 683-3790

**Broadwater County**  
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**Butte/Silver Bow County**  
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**Gallatin County**  
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**Jefferson County**  
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Karen Laitala 846-3348

## BEAVERHEAD COUNTY

Its twenty-two degrees outside and I am writing a spring article for this newsletter! This time of year gives us a chance to take a deep breath and get ready for what sometimes seems like another marathon called summer. The last few months have been filled with grant writing, trainings, and final reports from last years spray season.

The twenty ten spray season is looking positive for Beaverhead County. We are planning on having 14 summer employees; there will be 4 crews of 2 people, 1 office assistant, and 1 fill-in rotating position. The last few years this fill-in-position has worked

well for us because we can usually keep a full or near full crew running all season. The individual is on call and when we need an extra person to fill a truck he is willing and ready to come to work, We are also returning 11 out of our 14 employees. With only three new employees we should be able to hit the ground running! Beaverhead County has a few projects for 2010 including; the NRCS Red Rock Watershed EQIP Project, Beaverhead River Weed Project, Big Hole River Weed Project, The Montana Dyer's Wood Cooperative Project, as well as the Yellow Starthistle Eradication

Project. All projects except the EQIP are dependent upon grant funding through the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund , and the Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust. If funding is received for the projects a load of work will be done in the respective areas. The Yellow Starthistle Project has been designed to strategically monitor and search for any further plants. If you didn't know, Yellow Starthistle was found in Beaverhead County last Summer!

We hope everyone has wintered well and is ready for the 2010 season.!

Amber Burch, Assistant Coordinator

## BROADWATER COUNTY

The Broadwater County Weed District has been especially busy this year with grant writing. Many hours of research, paperwork and meetings make up the average grant writing process. A grant application was submitted for possible funding through the Missouri River RAC (Resource Advisory Committee) funds. The grant

was co-written with Mia Whitfield from the school and full funding was awarded for a mapping and weed treatment grant in the Elkhorn Mountain Range. RAC dollars are a result of a process using a county's title 2 funds. Three proposed grants were delivered into the hands of RMEF (Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation).

One was co-written with David Nunn with the Townsend Ranger District. All three were awarded funding for a total of approximately \$90,000. Two other grants were submitted to the Noxious Weed Trust Fund and the hearings were on March 4th in Helena.

Cont'd on pg 4

TELL ME THIS  
WON'T HAPPEN TO  
US!!!!!!!

### "I CAN HEAR JUST FINE!"

Three retirees, each with a hearing loss, were playing golf one fine March day. One remarked to the other. "Windy, isn't it?" "No," the second man replied, "it's Thursday." And the third man chimed in, "So am I. Let's have a beer".

### LOST IN THE DARNDDEST PLACES

An elderly Floridian called 911 on her cell phone to report that her car has been broken into. She is hysterical as she explains her situation to the dispatcher: "They've stolen the stereo, the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator!" she cried. The dispatcher said, "Stay calm. An officer is on the way."

A few minutes later, the officer radios in, "Disregard." He says. "She got in the back-seat by mistake".

### SENIOR DRIVING

As a senior citizen was driving down the freeway, his car phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him, "Herman, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on interstate 77. Please be careful!" "Heck", said Herman, "It's not just one car. It's hundreds of them!"

# Jefferson County

By: Stephanie Blasnek

If you're ever in doubt about when the new weed season "officially" begins, look no further than the time and dated stamp on your voice mail. When you start getting messages on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, you know the season has begun! Several folks have stopped in or phoned wanting to get a jump start on spraying their weeds in this warmer weather we've been experiencing, though the District hasn't even de-winterized their tanks yet! Guess the good news is that people are aware of the weed situation on their property and are eager to do something about it. Glad time spent educating people through classes and literature pays off!

The Whitehall office underwent remodeling in February, as part of a building-wide project. Fresh paint and new carpet were installed in February, lending a definite "air" of the changing seasons.

This year, the District submitted two grant proposals to the NWTF: one as a continuing grant from last year targeting ranchlands infested with Dalmatian toadflax and leafy purple in the Boulder valley, The second focuses on weed control on the

Jefferson Canal south of Whitehall. We are eager to hear from the council that they have decided to fund us!

The end of April brings the 4th Annual Jefferson River rally in Whitehall. The River Rally is a fundraising event for the Jefferson River Watershed Council and is geared toward educating the public about environmental issues that impact the watershed and also provides opportunity for community gathering. The district will have a table set up there again this year but Stephanie has yet to come up with something super creative and interesting to enchant newcomers to the Wonderful World of Noxious Weeds. (You may direct any suggestions to the Whitehall office!)

In the meantime, the District is making some equipment upgrades, including the purchase of a really great truck suiting our needs that Sam was fortunate to find with only 22,000 miles on it.. We have our sights on using it for small spray operations on county property. It will take over many of the duties previous held by the little red Dodge so often used by Stephanie and our summer Tech. Speaking of which, the

District's summer tech position long held by Nelson Godbolt will be coming available this summer while he looks to a future career with the armed services. The district has put up job notices at Montana's universities hoping to find a qualified applicant, though Nelson will be hard to equal! He will be missed.

The District has received a request from a subdivision in the Montana City area to collaborate with the home owner's association in controlling noxious weeds in open areas and vacant lots. The District may assist on a spray day to help things go faster. Additionally, the District is putting out booklets for each season on how to best manage land and weeds at that time of year

Have a great season



DRIVING

Two elderly women were out driving in a large car-both could barely see over the dashboard. As they were cruising along, they came to an intersection. The stoplight was red, but they just went on through. The woman in the passenger seat thought to herself "I must be losing it. I could have sworn we just went through a red light." After a few more minutes, they came to another intersection and the light was red again. Again, they went right through. The woman in the passenger seat was almost sure that the light had been red but was really concerned that she was losing it. She was getting nervous. At the next intersection, sure enough, the light was red and they went on through. So she turned to the other woman and said, "Mildred, did you know that we just ran through three red lights in a row? You could have killed us both!" Mildred turned to her and said, "Oh, crap, am I driving?"

TELL ME THIS  
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US!!!!!!!

# Non-compliance Does Work

By John Moodry

After a nearly five year campaign to have enforcement of the Butte-Silver Bow local nuisance vegetation ordinance transferred from the Public Works Director to the Weed Control Board. The board hired an enforcement officer in January 2008 and started enforcement of an ordinance that has been on the books since 1984. During the first growing season of 2008 the Weed Department notified 425 landowners with noxious and nuisance vegetation. Sixty-nine of the 425 notified 425 had non-compliance work completed by the Butte-Silver Bow Weed Department. The Weed Board heard 14 appeals and up-held all of the procedures enforced under the ordinance. One landowner appealed the process to the Council of Commissioners and the commission up-held the Weed Boards action. We had one landowner take the appeal process all the way to District Court and tested both the local ordinance and the Montana County Weed Act. The Appellant appealed the amount of assessed fees, costs, fines and penalties against them by the Weed Board. The Court upheld the charges mainly do to the fact that the charges are written in the BSB ordinance. The landowner claimed that the Weed Board violated both their constitutional rights under the Montana Constitution and the Constitution of the United States of America by failing to follow proper notification procedures. The landowner felt that the Weed board needed to notify them each time their property was out of compliance before taking action. The Weed Board notified the landowner first with a letter known as the "good guy letter" by regular mail and the 15 days later notified the landowner with certified non-compliance letter with their intent and a time frame for completion. Thirty days after the date of intended completion the Weed Department contacted the property owner and notified them the land was still out of compliance. After ten days the weed staff entered the property and brought it into compliance. The landowner contested that they had done some work on the property prior to the intended completion date and thus the Weed Board needed to notify them again that their property was out of compliance before doing any work. As many others know the District Court process is extremely time consuming and stressful. This case started in August 2008 and the final appeal and application for writ of prohibition was in total a great win for the weed districts of Montana because the judgment upheld both the local ordinance and the Montana County Weed Act. The Court did feel that notice of weed violations should not extend into subsequent growing seasons or in the event of future violations after proper remediation. This means we should send proper notification in each growing season that a property is found to be in non-compliance. The over whelming paper trail created by our process helped the Court with its decision. All I have to say is document, document, document and take pictures. The Appellant had until August 1st 2009 to file their appeal to the Montana Supreme County and that date has now past thank God I don't think I could take another year of this court stuff. The non-compliance process is not good for all situations but it is a very effective tool when you follow the procedure by the letter of the law. Butte Silver Bow Weed Department now has 745 properties in the urban area in it's non-compliance program and we are seeing 80% volunteer compliance. If any of you are driving through Butte Silver Bow please take a look around to see what we have accomplished in our short seasons of enforcement.

The MWCA is looking for photos for the 2011 MWCA Scenic Calendar. If you would be interested in submitting photos, here is the criteria this year:

- Photos should be scenic in nature and locations need to be **in Montana**
- Please don't include people, telephone poles or wires, roads, or anything that might detract from the scene
- We are **not** looking for wildlife photos
- We are looking for photos that depict all seasons in Montana
- Photos must be in electronic format, must be high resolution (300 DPI or better) and preferably converted to RGB format if you have that capability

**Photographer must be an MWCA member to submit photos for consideration** (you can go to [www.mtweed.org](http://www.mtweed.org) if you wish to join to partake in this process)

- Each photo needs to be submitted with photographer's name we are asking for a more specific location and the county the photo is in. (**For example: Becky Kington, Moonlight Basin, Madison County**)

Photos need to be submitted by May 1<sup>st</sup>. The MWCA Education Committee will select photos after that date. 14 photos are needed for this calendar, again depicting seasons and the diversity of Montana. Winners will receive 25 calendars for each photo chosen for the calendar and of course name recognition in the calendar. Photos can be emailed to [becky.kington@mtweed.org](mailto:becky.kington@mtweed.org) (if they are high resolution, please only send 3 or less at a time) or CD's with digital photos can be mailed to M.W.C.A. P.O. Box 315, Twin Bridges, MT 59754. Contact Becky if you have any questions.

### **Broadwater Cont'd**

Both grants received full funding. The Weed District will also be administering a grant written by the Elkhorn Working Group that received funding through the RAC as well. All grants that were funded are for the spraying and/or mapping of noxious weeds on private lands in Broadwater County. For the grant match, landowners must contribute actual dollars or in some instances matching costs through labor and equipment. Since all proposed grants received funding, spray days are being scheduled and landowner preparation meetings are being coordinated.

At the end of March, the Weed District teamed up with the Broadwater County Conservation District to co-host the Conservation District's annual Banquet. The event was a huge success. Over one hundred people were fed either a prime rib or salmon dinner for the low cost of \$12 per person. Marni Thompson with the Natural Resources Conservation Services was the guest speaker and talked about how they taught cattle to eat noxious weeds like Spotted knapweed, Canada thistle and Leafy spurge. A raffle was held and prizes ranged from gift certificates to overnight stays in Forest Service cabins. We would like to thank Murdocks, Townsend and Lincoln Ranger Districts, Department of Agriculture, and many of the Townsend's local businesses for their generous donations. Proceeds from both the raffle and the dinner totaled approximately \$1,600. These funds were donated to the Farm Bureau Scholarship fund for graduation seniors this year.

This spring and summer we will be working with the counties of Gallatin and Jefferson to do some preparation and then later mapping of the Jefferson River. Our hope is the work performed this summer will help give us a pretty close estimate as to what the total cost of mapping the rest of the river as well as the start of the Missouri River will be. The Weed District will also work with other agencies to host a 6th grade conservation field trip. The kids will learn a wide array of things like fish monitoring, GPS, noxious weed characteristics, range management, and how aquifers work.

Until next time, as spring turns into summer, I encourage anyone to stop by and ask questions or just to say hi.

Pam Converse, Coordinator  
Broadwater County

# MWCA News & Updates

## New Use For Windex

*I haven't checked  
Snoops.com to see  
if this actually  
works or not,  
but they say,*

*If you get a sudden  
URGE to run  
around naked, you  
should spray win-  
dex all over your  
body first.*



*It will keep you  
from  
STREAKING!!*

*Baahahaha*



Hi SW MWCA members! As I write this, the last of our most recent, and most significant snow storm, is melting into the ground. With a little sunshine, the plants should pop up and unfortunately, that will include weeds! Are you all ready for weed season? It has been such a busy spring and I feel like I've lived out of a suitcase for the past month! But some great things have been going on.

In recent months, we presented at the MT Dept of Ag Trust Fund hearings and were successful in securing our weed ID book grant. Those updated books will be done and ready for distribution here at the end of April. We had our spring board of directors' meeting in Bozeman where some key changes were discussed, including the approval of a new registration fee for the annual conference from \$150 to \$175 and instead of one spring weed manager training, we are holding two in the next two years; one in the east and one in the west. For more information on the details of that meeting, please go to [mtweed.org](http://mtweed.org) to view the unofficial minutes. We held a fantastic spring weed manager training in Helena the last week in March. It was three days, and we had over 60 attend a training packed full of information. The Weed Times will have more information on that. We have been planning our annual conference and discussing ways to include more landowners in our organization via webinars, a significant leap into new technology. I attended meetings for the Statewide Awareness and Education Campaign, for the MWCA SW Commercial Applicator Training, for the SW Area Council joint meeting with Headwaters RC &D Weed Committee, the Western Area Council Aquatic Summit and MT Dept. Of Transportation weed meeting in Helena. Lots of trainings and meetings going on before the summer season hits!

Over the next few months we will be putting together our 2011 scenic calendar, working with MDA to coordinate efforts to form a committee to review and revise the county weed act and plan for a invasives weed summit to be held October 20th & 21st. We are excited to be working on the information of an MWCA Youth Chapter with the Whitehall War on Weeds program leading the charge and we've had a requests from some western commercial applicators to form an events, news and updates on our website when you can. We are very up-to-speed on all weed-related events in Montana, and we have a TON of information at this site for everyone from the new landowner to the seasoned agency weed manager. Diana and I are always looking for input, suggestions, ideas to help us be a better organization for you! As always, we are looking for your success stories in the invasives realm and any articles and/or photos you may have for publication would be appreciated. We are also looking for great photos from our members of the 32 state-listed-weeds in all seasons, at all stages. We hope this summer treats you well. I was told by the weather guru from the National Weather Service in Great Falls that the long term weather prediction is for a wet and cold late spring and early summer then it is supposed to be hot and dry-perfect for creating fuels for fires. Let's hope that isn't the case.

Until next time, please stay in touch at [www.mtweed.org](http://www.mtweed.org).

## Cooperation Is The Key To Success

What makes for a productive and successful weed management program? COOPERATION!

It is when neighboring landowners, state and federal agencies as well as the county work together towards the same goals that success can truly be achieved. Each year more people come to recognize what can happen when there is a collaborative effort in their approach to weed management. In most cases these cooperative efforts are borne with a simple visit across the fence. Soon the question arises, what about the state piece that borders you, or the federal land? Who do you call? What person should you contact? There's so many people and resources available that it can be over whelming, and in many cases has the ability to halt a project before it even starts for those reasons. One solution is to contact the coordinator from your local weed district. In most cases this person is already dealing with these agencies. They have a good a working relationship established in most cases, and are always excited about helping to build a special management zone.

With these special management zones, financial

and technical support for weed management programs is a possibility. If there is a strong cooperative base among private landowners in an area, the weed districts can in most cases formalize these partnerships and pursue funding. The Department of Agriculture is one institute that has financial aid, and is willing to award financial help for the management of noxious weeds. Through their grant program, weed districts can submit an application on behalf of the cooperators for financial aid to help offset costs for their management programs. These applications are made in the hope of offering the cooperators, as well as agencies working together, the stronger the chances of being successful. And so many times it starts with a conversation over the fence. Neighbors talking to neighbors.



If you are interested in having that conversation, why not give us a call at (406) 842-5595 or 5596 for Madison County and ask for Margie or Janie.

## Greetings from Gallatin County

It has been very busy this winter and keeps getting busier as we approach the spring/summer season. During the winter, the Gallatin County Weed District submitted two NWTF grants. The first one titled "Rocky Creek WMA" is located in the Bozeman Pass area on both sides of I-90 from Bear Canyon Exit to the Gallatin/Park County line and we asked for \$11,848 in grant funds. The second one titled "Hebgan Basin WMA" is located in the West Yellowstone area and we asked for \$23,219 in funding. The Gallatin County Weed District held their annual Weed Summit in February. Agency personnel from Gallatin County as well as other areas attended. Cooperative agency projects that were proposed included:

- MDT Highway 187 on the north side of Hebgan Lake,
- Orange hawkweed project with USFS near West Yellowstone
- FWP Cherry Rivers FAS
- DNRC property at intersection of Amsterdam and Linney Roads
- Headwaters Trail System
- Three Forks Ponds
- MSU Ft. Ellis property off Kelly Canyon Rd
- Madison River Mapping Project with Trout Unlimited/Center for Aquatic Nuisance Species/Madison River Foundation
- Jefferson River Mapping Project with Broadwater County and Jefferson County Big Sky Weed Committee/Trout Unlimited Weed Pull.

The Federal stimulus funding that was awarded to us has been well spent. There are two new insulated overhead doors on the truck bay, we have a new furnace, and the shop is insulated. Hopefully we will no longer have to worry about frozen pipes. We are in the process of getting estimates for upgrades for the lighting, however the new insulation is bright white and it is not as dark in the shop as we thought it would be.

The Weed District is in the process of hiring an Assistant Coordinator/Crew Foreman. This Position is tentative since we are having budget Issues once again.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer!

John & Rosemary

## MADISON/BEAVERHEAD SPRAY DAYS.....

### Monthly Gun Raffle Winners:

**January:** Savage 93R17FSS .17HMR - [Frank Goddard](#)

**February:** Ruger 77 204Ruger - [Marty Mendenhall](#)

**March:** Savage MKII .22LR - [Suzanne Beauchaine](#)

**April:** Remington 870 28 gage - [Doug Bruha](#)

**May:** Savage 16FXP3 .223

**June:** Browning 325WSM X-Bolt

**July:** Savage 7mm08

**August:** Savage 243

**September:** Browning 300WSM X-Bolt

**October:** Remington 870 12 gage

**November:** Savage 22-250

**December:** Browning 270WSM X-Bolt

### Madison County

- June 1-3 Crew Training Alder , MT
- June 8 V.C. /N.C. Heritage Coop
- June Fairgrounds work day
- June 9 Burma/Pennington
- June 10 Burma/Pennington
- June 14 Toledo Mine
- June 15 Hollowtop
- June 19 Ruby Weed Day
- June 21 Melrose/Camp Cr
- June 29 South Boulder
- July 6 Glen
- July 7 Cataract Lake

### Beaverhead County

- June 1-3 Crew Training, Alder, MT
- June 7 Gallagher Cr
- June 9 Burma Rd
- June 10 Lima Dam
- June 12 Wise River
- June 15 Maiden Rock
- June 16 Bureau of Reclamation
- June 18 Wise River Company
- June 19 Ruby Weed Day
- June 21 Melrose
- June 22 Blacktail Ridge Rd
- June 23 Montana/Idaho
- June 24 Big Sheep Cr,
- June 26 Argenta
- June 29 Lima
- July 1 Wisdom
- July 8 Wisdom/Ravalli
- July 10 Beaverhead Co. Weed Day
- July 17 Wise River Weed Pull
- July 20 Medicine Lodge
- July 21 Melrose
- July 22 Monida
- July 24 Grasshopper
- July 31 Argenta
- August 7 Dyce Cr.
- August 14 Bureau of Reclamation
- August 18 Wisdom
- September 8 Wise River