

2017 Policy Statements

Guidelines & Legislative Priorities

MONTANA
WEED CONTROL
ASSOCIATION



Working together to strengthen and support noxious weed management efforts in Montana.

The Montana Weed Control Association is a charitable nonprofit organization. This association has been around since the early 1960's and currently has over 850 members. The MWCA is the lead organization in Montana for noxious weed education and networking.

www.mtweed.org

At our website you will find noxious weed identification, management tools, information regarding noxious weeds and events in Montana. One MWCA goal is to promote and foster long-term, ecologically based, integrated noxious weed management programs throughout Montana. This is achieved through education, research and networking.

MWCA Office

PO Box 315
Twin Bridges, MT 59754
Fax 888 - 664-4153

Becky Kington, Executive Director
406 - 925 - 0708
becky.kington@mtweed.org

2017 Public Policy Committee Chair
Kellieann Morris
(406) 552-8555
kmorris@rc.mt.gov

This publication is produced by the Montana Weed Control Association.

Montana Weed Control Association

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MWCA Public Policies

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MWCA's Policy Statement & Legislative Resolution Process

Policy recommendations are developed through democratic processes that, on approval of the Board of Directors, set policy to guide MWCA activities and programs.

The resolution policy process is as follows:

1. October 1: Distribution of resolution and policy statement submission format examples, explanations, and guidelines
2. November 1: Deadline for submission of policy statements and resolutions by members of the board and the general membership. If submitted after November 1, they may or may not be acted upon in the upcoming legislative session.
3. November 25: The public policy committee and executive committee will review each submitted proposal to ensure it meets with the MWCA mission and conforms to the format of either a policy statement or resolution. The core public policy and executive committees will then approve or disapprove the resolution.

The public policy committee and the executive committee, while able to make superficial changes to submitted resolutions in the form of formatting alterations, grammatical and typographical corrects, cannot make substantive changes to proposals submitted by members. All substantive changes made by the public policy committee and the executive committee that may alter the outcome or original intent of a proposal, must first be approved by the entity that submitted the resolution.

4. December 1: Ballots are mailed sent to members. Resolutions will be included with board of director positions and proposed bylaw changes.
5. December 21: Ballots are due back to MWCA. If resolutions pass the membership vote, they become

public policy on January 1 of the following calendar year.

6. January 1: MWCA Public Policy Manual will be updated and available for distribution. It will also be posted on the MWCA website.

7. Newly approved policy statements are added to existing policy statements unless amendments are specifically made to policy statements previously passed by the general membership.

What are MWCA Policy Statements?

The Montana Weed Control Association (MWCA) is a 501 (c)3 non-profit, that was founded over 50 years ago. Today, the MWCA works to strengthen and support noxious weed management efforts in Montana and to anticipate the changing and complex challenges facing Montana's weed districts, farmers and ranchers, and all Montana landowners.

MWCA provides weed managers with research, training, technical support and services, advocates policies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of weed management and non-compliance practices, and monitors legislative policy issues of concern to MWCA's members. MWCA also strives to work with state agencies, county weed coordinators, and other stakeholders to shape public policy.

MWCA strives to provide commissioners, weed coordinators, elected officials, and government agencies with the relevant information and up to date data to make informed public policy decisions that will assist in furthering the goals of the MWCA.

The Montana Weed Control Association's policy statements function as a set of guiding principles for the organization when it comes to issues that arise in the realm of public policy. The policy statements contained herein have been identified by MWCA members as issues of importance and approved by the general membership of the association.

Our legislative process is structured around the participation and involvement of all coordinators and members. These policies have been passed by the MWCA Public Policy Committee, approved by the Executive Board, and voted on by the general membership, as such these policies represent the views of the majority of MWCA's members and reflect the consensus of the MWCA membership on these important issues.

The policy resolutions contained herein are duly adopted, "Montana Weed Control Association Policy Statements", effective January 2014-2016.

What are MWCA Resolutions?

A MWCA Resolution is a written motion, proposed by either a member of MWCA for review and approval by the policy committee and the executive committee that is intended to guide the organizations actions in relation to specific legislative and policy issues. Resolutions may also be proposed directly from the members of either the public policy committee or the executive committee.

All proposed motions are subject to approval by the public policy and executive committee. All approved resolutions will be presented to the membership on the annual ballot to be voted on, along with board of director positions, proposed bylaw changes, and proposed policy statements.

Final approval of MWCA resolutions will delineate what legislation the organization pursues in the legislative session and delineates the organizations policy position on specific issues that may arise in the interim. Upon final approval legislation is drafted and reviewed by the MWCA public policy committee and the executive committee.

MWCA will pursue legislation that improves the ability of county weed coordinators to effectively conduct weed management and non compliance in their areas, as well as policies that will assist in coordination between county and local elected officials, landowners, and agency's and the execution

of the county's weed management plan. The association will oppose legislation that it determines will be a detriment to these goals.

MWCA Public Policy Timeline

1. October 1: Distribution of resolution and policy statement submission format examples, explanations, and guidelines
2. November 1: Deadline for submission of policy statements and resolutions by members of the board and the general membership. If submitted after November 1, they may or may not be acted upon in the upcoming legislative session.
3. November 25: Deadline for the Public Policy Committee to review and revise all policy statements and resolutions.
4. December 1: Ballots are mailed sent to members. Resolutions will be included with board of director positions and proposed bylaw changes.
5. December 21: Ballots are due back to MWCA. If resolutions pass the membership vote, they become public policy on January 1 of the following calendar year.
6. January 1: MWCA Public Policy Manual will be updated and available for distribution. It will also be posted on the MWCA website.

Policy Statements

Section 1: Weed Management

1. MWCA supports noxious weed management efforts in Montana.
2. MWCA recognizes the importance of a noxious weed law as a benefit to the state as a management tool.

3. MWCA supports legislative efforts to strengthen and support the Montana Local County Weed Act.

4. MWCA recognizes that the 56 county weed districts and Montana tribes are the cornerstone of Montana's weed program through the Montana Local County Weed Management Act, as the entities that establish management criteria for noxious weeds on all lands within their districts and implement and enforce the Montana County Weed Control Act,

5. MWCA supports the State of Montana's continuous use of a Noxious Weed Management Plan that provides guidance to county weed districts in conducting weed education and awareness programs, in the development of cooperative agreements and Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs), in coordinating weed management activities within and among the counties and in monitoring noxious weed infestations on private and public lands,

6. MWCA believes that The Montana Noxious Weed Management Plan is correct in its claim that funding levels in counties across the state are inadequate to meet current noxious weed management needs

7. MWCA recognizes that the development of long-term, stable and adequate funding for county weed districts is the number one program need

Section 2: Funding

1. MWCA supports additional noxious weed funding to local, state and federal agencies.

2. MWCA acknowledges that any funding allocated towards noxious weed management benefits the State of Montana, Noxious Weed Trust Fund Act and the Montana Weed Control Association.

3. MWCA supports efforts to increase financial

support to county weed district programs and Montana tribes, and promote the effective use of those funds towards active weed management, as each program deems appropriate.

4. MWCA actively supports legislative and other efforts to increase financial support for county weed districts, reservations, and programs to manage weeds across the state.

5. MWCA supports efforts to increase general fund dollars to the Montana Department of Agriculture for purposes of enhancing weed management efforts and programs.

Section 3: Noxious Weed Trust Fund

1. The Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant program has provided funding to local weed projects across Montana and all 56 counties and Montana tribes in Montana have benefited from the funds within the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant program.

2. MWCA supports actions that will increase funding provided to the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant Program.

3. MWCA opposes actions that would reduce funding to the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant program. Section 4: Weed Seed Free Forage Program

Section 4: Weed Seed Free Forage Program

1. MWCA supports the noxious weed seed free forage and noxious weed free seed.

2. MWCA recommends the use of certified, noxious weed seed free forage.

3. MWCA recommends the use of certified, noxious weed-free seed for reclamation efforts.

Section 5: Education

1. MWCA supports noxious weed and invasion ecology education at all levels in Montana: grades K-12 and higher education.
2. MWCA supports the execution of noxious weed education as delineated in the goal and priorities of the Montana State Weed Plan and the Noxious Weed Trust Fund Act.
3. MWCA encourages teachers and professors to include/insert noxious weed and invasion ecology education at all levels in Montana education while maintaining academic freedom and not unduly burdening educators with added programs.
4. Montana Weed Control Association supports legislation and programs that promote quality noxious weed and invasion ecology education at all levels in Montana.

Section 6: Research

1. MWCA supports scientifically sound research into biology, ecology and management of weeds.
2. MWCA supports research that aids in the effective control and management of noxious weeds.
3. MWCA recognizes that noxious weeds are a detriment to Montana's agriculture industry, have a detrimental effect on Montana's landscapes, and also negatively impact the Montana economy.
4. MWCA believes there is a need to improve the ability to manage noxious weeds and research contributes to furthering the effectiveness and efficiency of weed management efforts.
5. MWCA supports research of noxious weeds and control methods for noxious weeds in an effort to improving the management of noxious weeds.

6. MWCA supports scientifically sound research into biology, ecology and management of weeds.

Section 7: Land Use & Development

1. MWCA recognizes that weed management is of the utmost importance on all land in Montana, including state, federal, and privately owned land.

2. MWCA supports the establishment of weed management plans on newly acquired state properties.

3. MWCA supports the designation of management funds for the specific purpose of noxious weed management on newly acquired state property.

Section 8: Invasive Species Management

1. MWCA supports the formation of an Invasive Species Advisory Council (ISAC) that brings together representatives in a collaborative environment to focus their efforts towards the common goal of protecting Montana from invasive species.

2. MWCA believes that such an all-taxa advisory council would aid in improving Montana's eligibility for federal funds for invasive species management.

Section 8: Invasive Species Management

1. MWCA supports the formation of an Invasive Species Advisory Council (ISAC) that brings together representatives in a collaborative environment to focus their efforts towards the common goal of protecting Montana from invasive species.

2. MWCA believes that such an all-taxa advisory council would aid in improving Montana's eligibility for federal funds for invasive species management.

3. MWCA firmly believes that in order for an all-taxa Invasive Species Advisory Council to have lasting integrity, the members should include a

diverse group of stakeholders with a vested interest in the preservation of Montana's natural resources.

4. MWCA believes that the establishment of an Invasive Species Advisory Council would not only align Montana more closely with our neighboring states in terms of how we manage our invasive species, but would establish a foundation from which future management decisions can be analyzed, discussed, and acted upon accordingly.

Resolutions

2014 MWCA RESOLUTION 01

TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING RECEIVED BY COUNTY WEED DISTRICTS AND RESERVATIONS BY INCREASING THE PERCENTAGE OF GENERAL FUND DOLLARS FROM VEHICLE FEE COLLECTIONS TRANSFERRED TO THE NOXIOUS WEED STATE SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT AS PROVIDED FOR IN MCA 80-7-816 FROM 1.5% TO 2.5% IN MCA 15-1-122

To ensure adequate funding for county weed districts and reservations to enhance their terrestrial noxious weed management programs

Whereas, the percentage of vehicle fee revenue as provided for in MCA 80-7-816 has not increased since 1989; and

Whereas, the amount of funding provided to each county weed district and reservation for the purposes of enhancing the noxious weed program is currently \$7,500 per noxious weed management district; and

Whereas, costs associated with weed control and the implementation of county weed management plans are continually increasing; and

Whereas, the increase from 1.5% to 2.5% would result in an additional \$1,000,000, or approximately

\$15,000 per county/reservation in additional funds to focus on fighting terrestrial noxious weeds; and

Whereas, the need for and cost of noxious weed control has increased; and

Whereas, a greater percentage of vehicle registration fee revenue would not increase vehicle license fees,

Whereas, increasing the percentage of aggregate vehicle license registration fee revenue that is designated to fight noxious weeds will increase on the ground resources for noxious weed management;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Montana Weed Control Association will seek to increase the percentage of the vehicle fee that is delineated for the purposes of noxious weed management from 1.5% to 2.5%.

Sponsor: Becky Kington

Passed by MWCA Board 9/16/2014

Adopted by Membership on 12/21/2014



Can you name this noxious weed?

MWCA believes noxious weeds are Montana's greatest environmental threat. They alter ecosystems, displace fish and wildlife and ruin viewsheds and property values. Learn more at www.mtweed.org.

2017 MWCA Executive Committee

President Amber Burch
406-925-1346
aburch@beaverheadcounty.org

Vice President Jill Allen
406 - 225-4165
jallen@jeffersoncounty-mt.gov

Past President Kellieann Morris
406-552-8555
kmorris@rc.mt.gov

Treasurer Clay Petersen
(406) 787-5312
roosweed@nemont.net

Appointed MWCA Core Public Policy Committee:

Kellieann Morris (chair), Becky Kington, Dan Dobler, Pam Converse, Amber Burch, Jill Allen, John Moodry, Amy Adler, Dave Burch, Jesse Scott and Karen Laitala.