

2025 Annual Report



KEEP
WYOMING WILD
& BEAUTIFUL

Dear Reader,

Fremont County Weed and Pest District's 2025 annual report summarizes activities, challenges, and accomplishments. Despite significant financial and operational pressures, the district remained committed to delivering effective weed and pest management services protecting Fremont County's land health and resources.

The past year brought both challenges and significant milestones for the district. We mourned the loss of Sollie Cadman. Sollie dedicated 25 years of service to the Weed and Pest Board, including many years as Chairman and served on the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council Executive Board, with two terms as its President. His leadership and commitment left a lasting impact on weed and pest management in Wyoming.

We recognized important professional achievements, Olivia Maxwell and Shanon Stockwell earned their Certified Supervisor certification, meeting Wyoming's standards for weed and pest district supervision. We celebrated Mike Wille's 35 year career in weed and pest management, including 20 years with Fremont County and 15 years with Washakie County, reflecting a lifetime of public service.

Operationally, the district navigated significant fiscal challenges resulting from 2025 legislative property tax reductions and declining mineral revenue, as well as delays in federal funding that affected the timing and scope of some projects. For the current fiscal year, mill levy revenue declined by approximately \$293,000, or 17 percent, from the previous year. In response, the district reduced reserves, applied reductions in cost-sharing, increased labor rates for agency work, implemented a salary freeze, and reduced overtime.

Despite these constraints, the district met its goals and achieved important management successes. Landowners received nearly \$900,000 in direct cost-share assistance for weed and pest management, and nearly 21,000 acres of invasive and noxious weeds were treated, strengthening local economic and ecological resources. The district was also awarded a major grant from the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, leveraging funds to support approximately 50,000 acres of cheatgrass management along the Wind River Range front. These combined efforts reduce wildfire risk while improving the health of the foothill landscape.

Sincerely,



Aaron Foster





FCWP Total Budget
\$3,531,088



FCWP Total Cost-Share dollars
\$897,872



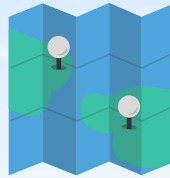
**Customer Visits to
 Herbicide Warehouses**
920



Total Acres of Weeds Treated
20,647



**On-site
 Landowner Consultations**
125+



Acres Covered
90,641



**Educational publications and
 outreach events**
35



New Invasive Species Found
0



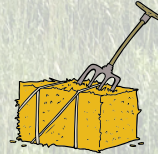
FCWP Seasonal Staff
29



Aerial Weed Control Acres
14,114



FCWP Full-time Staff
11



Acres of Certified forage:
5,291



New Biocontrol Releases
7



Certified Gravel Pits:
18

Total Agency Program Costs - Partners and Programs

Our partners pay for a large percentage of work done on lands they administer or own, allowing FCWP to utilize a greater portion of the mill levy as a cost-share incentive to local taxpayers.



Total Acres Treated: 25 acres
Total Labor Hours: 520 hrs
Total Travel Time: 98 hrs
Total Cost: \$ 49,669



Total Acres Treated: 3,967 acres
Total Labor Hours: 771 hrs
Total Travel Time: 289 hrs
Total Cost: \$182,052



Total Acres Treated: 924 acres
Total Labor Hours: 464 hrs
Total Travel Time: 172 hrs
Total Cost: \$97,017



Total Acres Treated: 1510 acres
Total Labor Hours: 210 hrs
Total Travel Time: 78 hrs
Total Cost: \$96,153



Total Acres Treated: 7,423 acres
Total Labor Hours: 1,553 hrs
Total Travel Time: 518 hrs
Total Cost: \$611,840.72

Total Agency Program Costs - Partners and Programs cont...

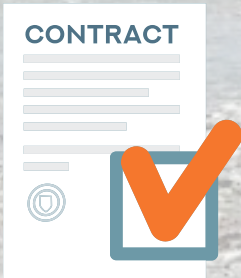
Private Lands - General Noxious Weed Control Programs

FCWP labor, travel, and herbicide for work controlling noxious weeds on private lands, irrigation companies formed by private water user groups, as well as over the counter cost-share on herbicide purchases by private landowners.



Total Acres Treated: 2,571 acres
Total Labor Hours: 1,479 hrs
Total Travel Time: 493 hrs
Total Cost: \$456,108

Private Lands - Special Management Programs



Total Acres Treated: 2,140 acres
Total Labor Hours: 1,427 hrs
Total Travel Time: 604 hrs
Total Cost: \$217,866



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Total Acres Treated: 222 acres
Total Labor Hours: 468 hrs
Total Travel Time: 165 hrs
Total Cost: \$40,574

Total Agency Program Costs - Partners and Programs cont...

Vegetation Management



Total Miles of Hwy: 1,000 mi
Total Acres Treated: 1,517 acres
Total Labor Hours: 218 hrs
Total Travel Time: 97 hrs
Total Cost: \$ 60,644

Noxious Weed Control (Paid for through WY Dept. of Ag.)



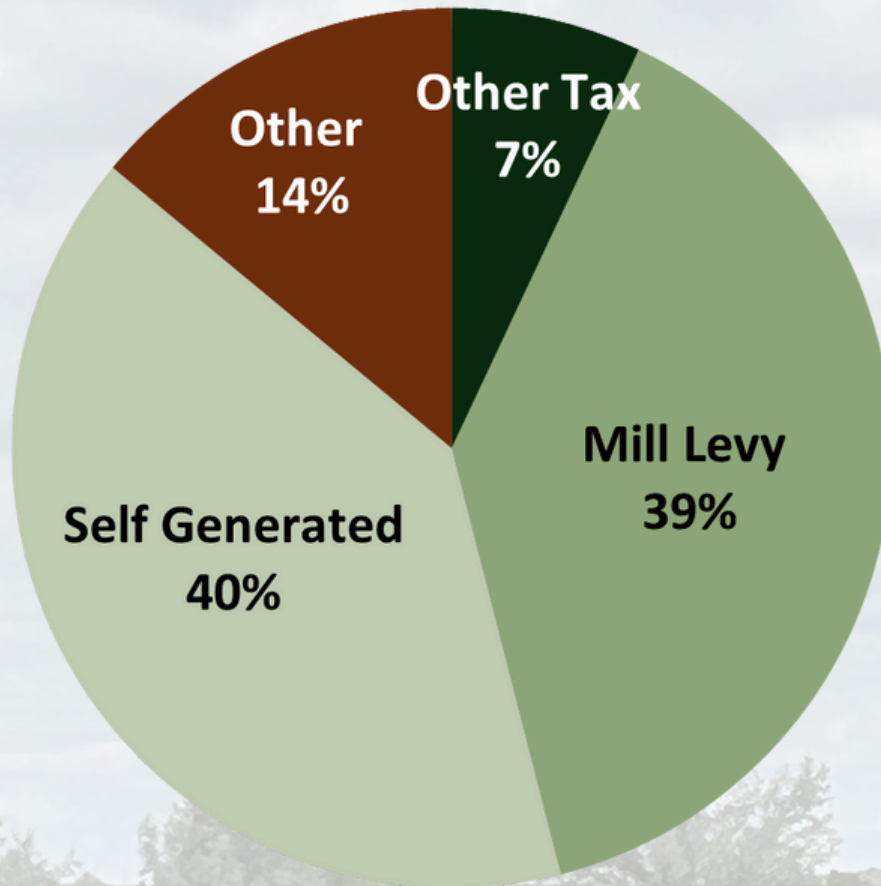
Total Miles of Hwy: 1,000 mi
Total Acres Treated: 52 acres
Total Labor Hours: 546 hrs
Total Travel Time: 132 hrs
Total Cost: \$38,904

Irrigation District Noxious Weed Control



Total Acres Treated: 311 acres
Total Labor Hours: 870 hrs
Total Travel Time: 97 hrs
Total Cost: \$76,733

FCWP Budgeted Revenue - \$3,531,088



Mill Levy: The tax money allocated to each weed and pest district throughout the state, authorized by the WY Weed and Pest Act of 1973. This money is generated through local property taxes.

Self Generated: Agency contracts, herbicide sales, etc.

Other Tax: A small portion of tax money collected from vehicle license plates.

Other: Value of Herbicide Inventory, Accounts Receivable, and Available Cash on Hand at fiscal year end.

The following are FCWP District cost-share amounts



Herbicide cost at wholesale value for BLM Lands within the Government Draw Aerial Project:

Total FCWP District Cost: \$12,186



FCWP offers a funding match to BIA funds:

Total FCWP District Cost: \$159,498



FCWP Provides a funding match for general noxious weed control to WGFD.

Total FCWP District Cost: \$25,914



FCWP Provides a funding match to the Irrigation Districts.

Total FCWP District Cost: \$26,849



Fremont County
WYOMING

FCWP absorbs 100% of the cost of weed control on Fremont County owned land, including county roads. Some non-noxious weed control is offered to the County in exchange for the use of the courthouse office facilities in Lander.

Total FCWP District Cost: \$45,624



Herbicide cost at wholesale value for State Lands within the Government Draw and Wind River Front Cheatgrass Aerial Projects:

Total FCWP District Cost: \$11,636

The following are FCWP District cost-share amounts cont..



FCWP costs from program expenses that exceed WYDOT's allowable charge amounts for hourly and per acre charge rates.

Total FCWP District Cost: \$1,898



FCWP provides a cost-share to the public for general noxious and High Priority weed control on private lands within Fremont County.

Total FCWP District Cost: \$192,025



FCWP offers an additional cost-share to landowners enrolled in Special Management Programs.

Total FCWP District Cost: \$134,995



FCWP provides a cost-share reimbursement for participating herbicide retailers in Fremont County.

Total FCWP District Cost: \$103,456



FCWP provides a cost reimbursement program for cities and towns that have implemented noxious weed control programs within their jurisdictions.

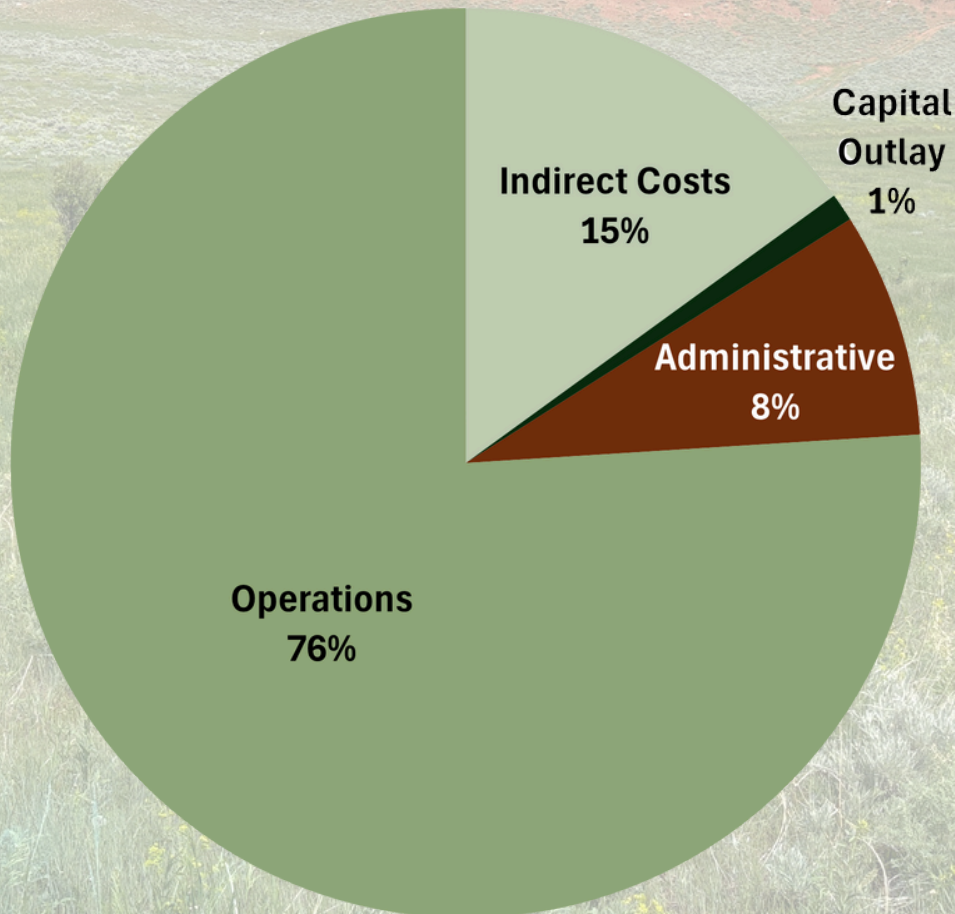
Total FCWP District Cost: \$183,792



FCWP Share Program Expenses for 2025
(General Noxious and SMP):

Total FCWP District Cost: \$897,872

FCWP Budgeted Expense - \$3,531,088



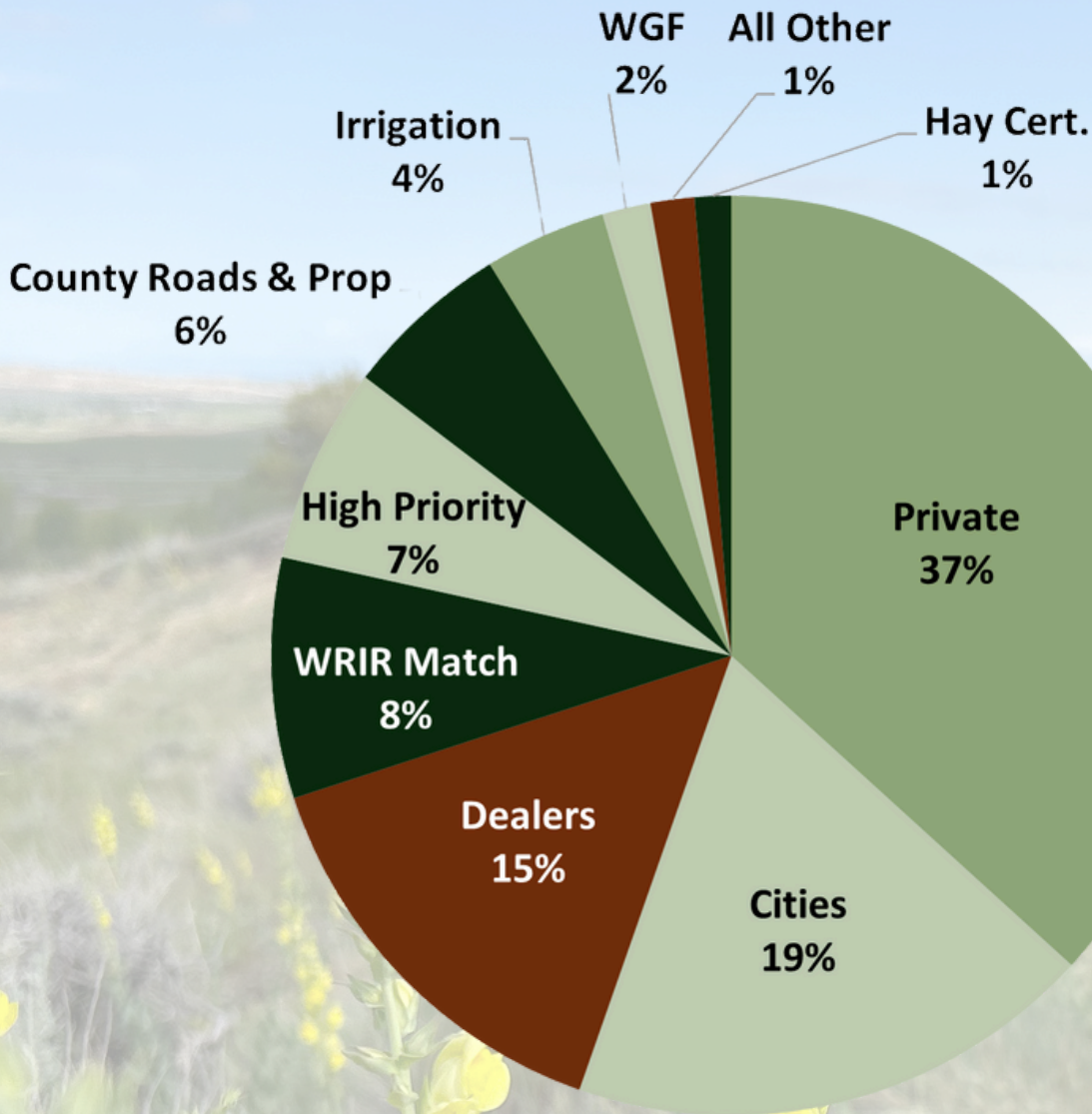
Operations: Herbicide purchases, program cost-shares, staff wages, spray equipment, etc.

Indirect Costs: Property and Liability Insurance, payroll costs like health care and social security, etc.

Capital Outlay: Vehicle purchases, building improvements, large equipment purchases, etc.

Administrative: Staff wages, board expenses, outreach costs, accounting fees, office supplies, etc.

Direct Cost-Share FY 26 Budget - \$940,200



Cost-share programs provide FCWP funds to cities and towns, local herbicide dealer cooperatives, agency matches, herbicide cost-share to landowners, and free services like hay certification, on-site consultation, mapping, high priority weed control, and county road spraying. These are the budgeted amounts for the 2026 fiscal year.

2025-2029 Special Management Programs

Any landowner within Fremont County is eligible to enroll in SMPs as long as eligible weed species are found on their lands. The 2025-2029 SMP has expanded to incorporate four additional weed species to the list. Labor cost-share availability was also adjusted in order to fund the additional four species to the program. The goal of these changes is to provide cost-share dollars to more landowners throughout Fremont County, whose lands may be directly impacted by noxious weeds other than leafy spurge and Russian knapweed, which were previously the only species eligible for SMP cost-shares in Fremont County.

Countywide SMP:

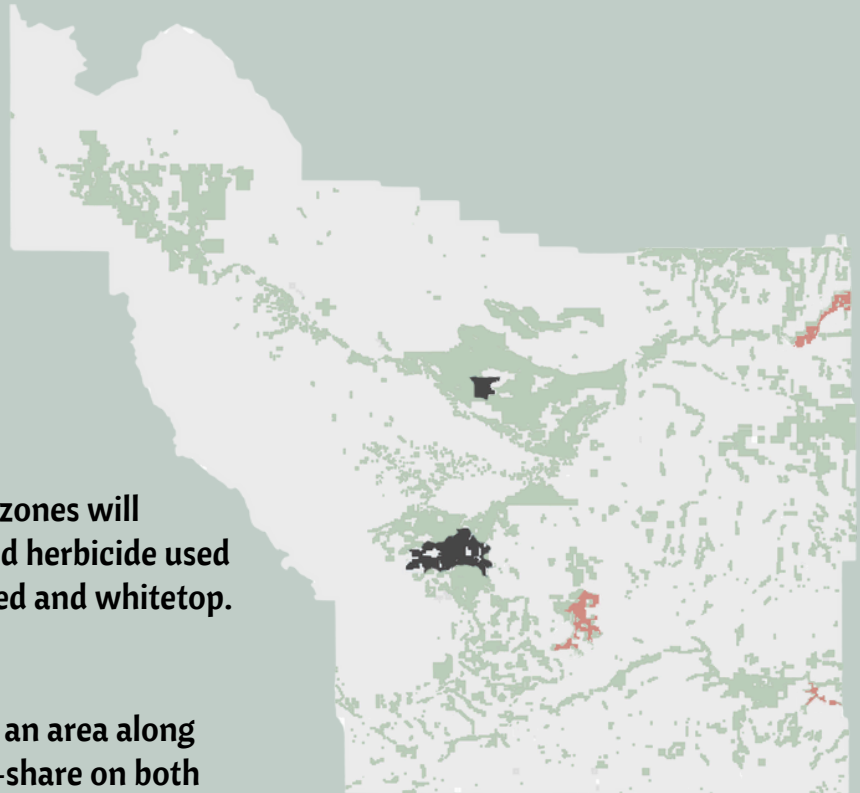
For leafy spurge, Russian knapweed, houndstongue and whitetop anywhere in the county on enrolled private lands, FCWP provides 80% cost-share on herbicide only, with exceptions being listed below.

Badwater, Beaver Creek, Sweetwater Management Zones SMP:

SMP enrolled landowners in these three zones will receive 80% cost-share on both labor and herbicide used to control leafy spurge, Russian knapweed and whitetop.

Focused Areas SMP:

Dalmatian toadflax is well established in an area along Squaw Creek. FCWP provides 80% cost-share on both labor and herbicide. Baby's breath is well established in the Ocean Lake area, so an 80% cost-share on labor and herbicide is offered there as well. Outside of these two areas, Dalmatian toadflax and baby's breath are treated as high priority with no cost to the landowner.



Currently, 478 private landowners are enrolled in one or more of the SMP's.

SMP Species

Whitetop



Dalmatian toadflax



Russian knapweed



Baby's breath



Houndstongue



Leafy spurge

Lander Operations



Lander crews dedicated their time across a diverse mix of private, federal, state, and tribal lands. With changes to the Special Management Program, they increased their efforts to control Dalmatian toadflax and worked to decrease current densities of leafy spurge, Russian knapweed, whitetop, and perennial pepperweed.

Over the past decade, the FCWP board had been proactively budgeting for the possible acquisition of an adjacent property to the current FCWP Lander warehouse with a goal of providing a healthier work environment and storing expensive equipment indoors during winter. Prior to the acquisition, staff offices were located in the building where herbicide is stored, which has been a longtime concern. The new building provides office space and equipment storage, while the original warehouse continues to house herbicides, spray equipment and related parts, and remains the herbicide sales area.

Riverton Operations

The Riverton Crews had a busy season tackling weeds in cooperation with many agencies, organizations, and landowners. With a fresh realignment of District assignments, Riverton was able to streamline staffing and expand its reach. This meant more boots on the ground in the Lysite/Lost Cabin area, where crews focused on leafy spurge in the Badwater Drainage. Over 30 acres were treated — a big jump from previous years. This increase came from improved presence, not expanding weeds.

The dry season brought at least one silver lining: fewer weed acres along State Highways (55 acres) and irrigation projects (Midvale: 90 acres, BIA: 102 acres). Meanwhile, interest in tackling cheatgrass and Russian olives continued to grow throughout the community.

A highlight for the Riverton crew was welcoming Shanon Stockwell, who brought energy, enthusiasm, and fresh ideas. She coordinated cross-training days with the EDRR and drone crews, helping everyone expand their skills. And although we were sad to see her go, we wish Shanon all the best as she heads off to pursue a new career opportunity managing different invasive species in a different state.



TheDubois/Crowheart Area

began with a delay in Federal funding but crews dedicated their time to treating canal systems, county roads, Game & Fish Lands and received positive feedback. When Federal funds were obtained, BIA roads were treated including a surprise leafy spurge plant on Wilderness Road!

A well-attended weed and native species public tour was held in July in the Mason Draw area. Many plants were identified and discussed in this delicate and important ecosystem.



Seth Hoyt treating a monoculture of cheatgrass adjacent to Bull Lake Road



Bob Shellard backpack spraying Canada thistle within a burn scar caused by last season's Pack Trail Fire



Bob Finley inspecting one of the 12 hay fields he completed during the season totaling 631 acres and 915 tons of certified weed free hay

EDRR and High Priority Programs

Early Detection, and Rapid Response is a critical component in limiting the establishment of invasive weed populations. EDRR increases the likelihood that localized invasive populations will be found, contained, and eradicated before they become widely established. The FCWP High Priority Program offers 100% cost-share to private landowners. The program consists of surveying, identifying, mapping, and treating noxious invasive weeds in areas where infestations are small, remote, and can be successfully contained before the infestation grows larger or spreads to uninfested areas through seed dispersal.



The crew beelining to the truck after a rewarding day zig-zagging for weeds on the Wiggins Fork of the Wind River.



The EDRR crew has broadened their search for noxious weeds. While the workload continues to grow, sites that have been consistently treated year after year now show fewer weeds, requiring less time and fewer gallons to manage. At times, the crew hikes for miles without treating any weeds - an encouraging sign that those sites are free of invasive species.

FCWP Spray Drone Program



FCWP Program Managers, a’Lisa Hoffmann and Shanon Stockwell, earned their Part 107 Drone License Certification, enabling them to operate the FCWP Hyllo AG-130. Equipped with this expertise and advanced technology, the team can treat noxious weed infestations efficiently and with consistent coverage in areas that pose terrain challenges. The third drone season, supported by a seasonal Drone Intern I position, was successful in applications ranging from Ocean Lake to Red Canyon. By covering so much from the air, the drones freed ground crews to take on other important projects.



Shanon Stockwell operating the DJI drone used to take monitoring photos



a’Lisa Hoffmann leading a workshop for the Wyoming Youth in STEM Conference, on the usefulness of drones in mapping and managing invasive species

The FCWP Rights-of-Way Program

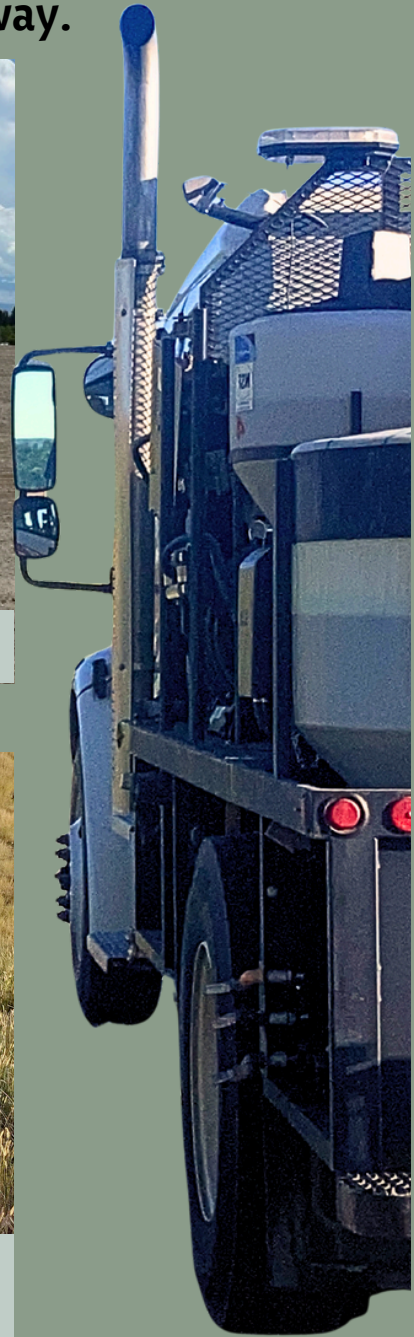
The long-term commitment and annual treatments keep even the most resilient noxious weeds off rights-of-way.



Cody Thrasher revving up UTV safety training for seasonal crews



Spray crew utilizing handguns to treat whitetop where the boom truck can't reach along many hundreds of miles of public roads



FCWP Crews

Utilize backpacks, mechanical tools and wheeled vehicles equipped with handgun and boom sprayers (and now drones!) to treat noxious weeds on private, BLM, USFS, State, BIA, and BOR lands.



Craig Johnson removing Russian olive at the shop



Crew prioritizing teamwork

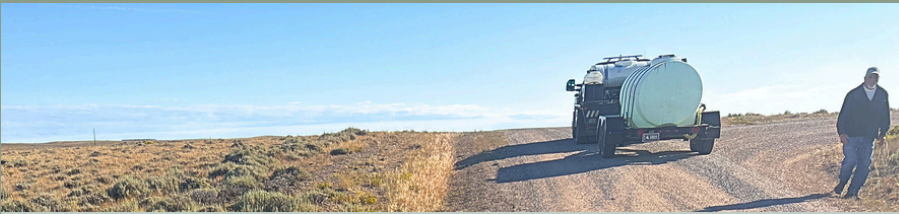


EDRR crew and Riverton crew combining forces to tackle more weeds





The Lander crew treating leafy spurge with handgun spray trucks



Thousands of miles of roads treated with UTV handguns and truck booms



Emma Winn deadheading Scotch thistle before one plant becomes thousands



The EDRR crew and horseback contractors cover 20 miles of river to contain oxeye daisy at the source



Biological Agent Weed Control Program

The season held a record number of sites visited that have not been monitored in recent years. Many of these sites confirm the establishment of agent releases, including *Ceutorhynchus litura*, a biological agent for Canada thistle. This fall, we identified a location to hopefully create an insectary for *Jaapiella ivannikovi*, a Russian knapweed biocontrol agent. If the insectary takes, it will make collections and releases to other locations more efficient. Biocontrols like these offer another tool to help manage noxious weeds in Fremont County and beyond.

The release of *Jaapiella ivannikovi* is expected to slow the rate of spread of Russian knapweed by reducing seed production and to reduce Russian knapweed biomass in existing infestations.



Cody Thrasher observed 40 sites for Russian knapweed in 2025 with nearly 50% establishment.



Abby McWilliams, Seasonal Intern II, holding Russian knapweed with galls caused by *Jaapiella ivannikovi*

The Bus

Approximately 4 miles northwest of Lander, along Baldwin Creek Road, sits a state land parcel informally known as “The Bus.” The area is heavily infested with invasive leafy spurge and cheatgrass and is a point source for high priority Dalmatian toadflax and houndstongue. Due to these concerns, FCWP and partnering agencies have spent the past several years implementing weed management strategies. Efforts are ongoing; however, over the past few years we have seen a drastic improvement in landscape health.



637 total acres of aerial, horsepack, and crew treatments



Leafy spurge - Before



Leafy spurge - After

Grant Funds: \$21,020

FCWP cost-shares: \$21,020

Private Landowners and Lessee: \$4,925

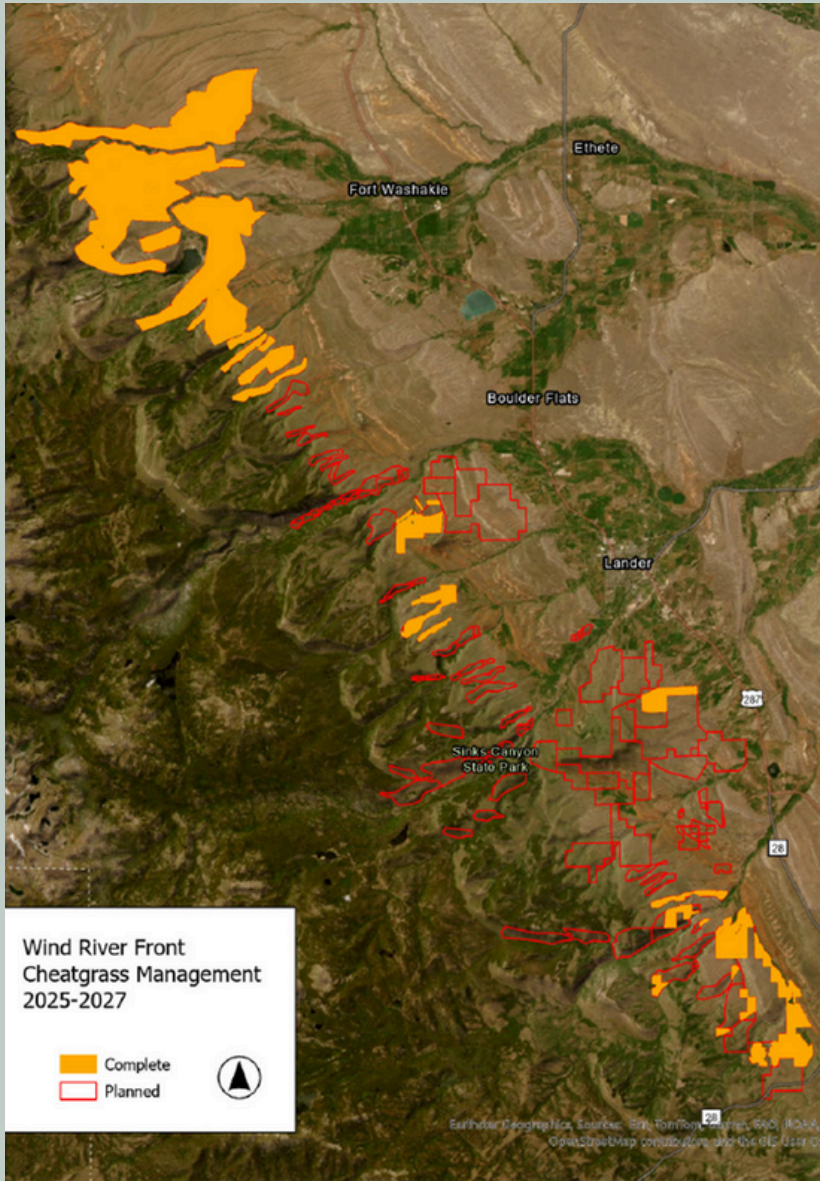
Bureau of Land Management: \$16,309

Total: \$66,483.38

Weed Management Goals:

- Contain and reduce populations of Dalmatian toadflax and houndstongue to limit seed production and spread.
- Improve the health of land infested with leafy spurge and cheatgrass.
- Reduce the risk of weeds spread from roads, borders, and recreational trails.
- Address long-standing public concerns about land health in this area.

Wind River Front Cheatgrass Project



Governor Mark Gordon has called for a coordinated, statewide effort to control invasive annual grasses (IAG) in Wyoming. In response, and with legislative funding in place, FCWP is coordinating a \$3.5 million cheatgrass management project along the Wind River Mountain front. Targeting cheatgrass infestations on rangelands reduces wildfire risk and improves land health, benefiting wildlife and livestock by relieving resource competition and allowing desirable perennial species to recover.

The project links several existing efforts, including projects on the south slopes of Sinks Canyon and Red Canyon that emphasize post-fire restoration and wildlife habitat improvement, as well as the Washakie Park project on the Wind River Indian Reservation. With additional support from partner agencies and the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resources Trust, the project aims to improve land health across approximately 45 miles of the Wind River Range front—from Bull Lake Reservoir to the east end of Red Canyon at Highway 28—directly benefiting roughly 50,000 acres of cheatgrass-infested terrain.

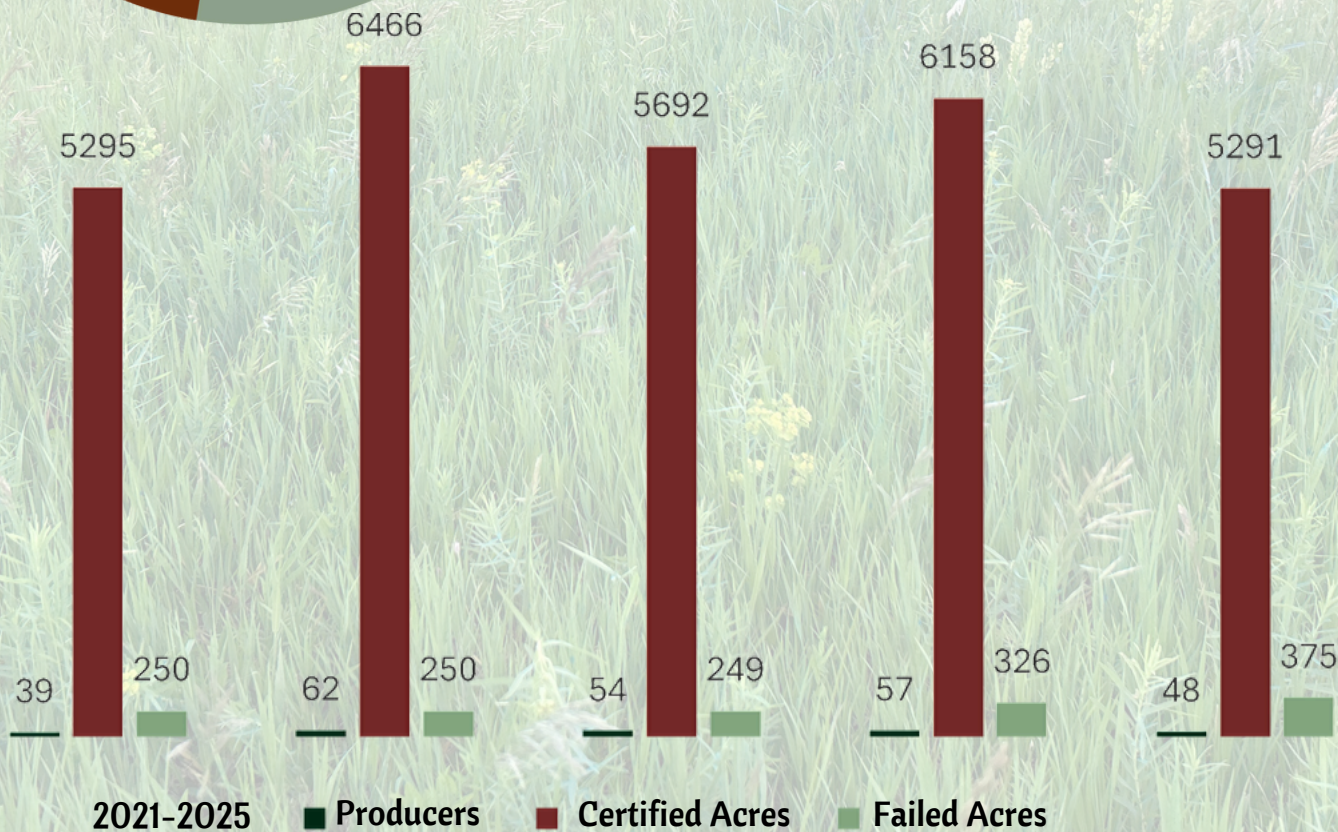
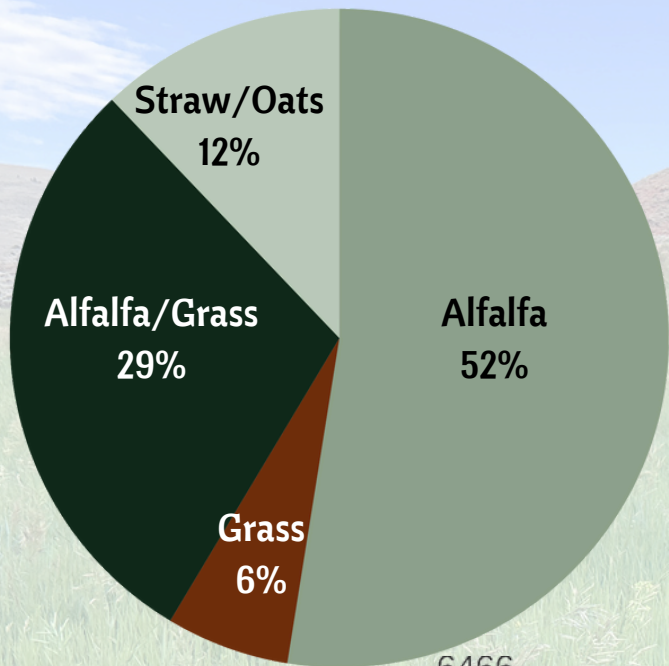
Cheatgrass senescence in purple provides striking contrast to the desirable perennial green grass in this photo from the project area.



To date, more than 20,000 acres have been treated using Rejuvra, an innovative herbicide that provides effective control of annual grasses for at least four years while having minimal impact on non-target plant species. Although treatment costs exceed \$70 per acre, grant funding has allowed the initial application to be provided at no cost to private landowners and on state lands. Long-term success, however, requires a landscape-scale approach to limit reinfestation driven by wildlife movement and other vectors. Research suggests cheatgrass seed viability is generally less than ten years, with most germination occurring within the first three years. A follow-up treatment within four to five years is expected to significantly reduce the remaining viable seed bank while allowing desirable perennial vegetation to build resistance.

Certified Forage Program

The 2025 Weed Free Forage season began strong, with producers starting first cuttings in early June. Hot temperatures and limited water delayed second cuttings. Third cuttings were minimal due to irrigation ending in early September. Overall, 5,291 acres were certified across Crowheart, Dubois, Lander, and Riverton. Roughly 375 acres failed due to noxious weeds, most commonly Canada thistle.



A Weed on the Radar

A notable concern for local hay producers and users was brought to our attention. Lanceleaf sage (*Salvia reflexa*), a nitrate-accumulating plant that is toxic to livestock and is suspected in the 2023 deaths of more than 100 cattle that consumed contaminated hay. While poisoning is rare, the plant can be deadly when present in high amounts.



Lanceleaf sage (*Salvia reflexa*)



PAWMA Russian Olive Removal

The Russian olive program began in 2019 with a focus of reducing infestations in the Squaw and Baldwin Creek drainages. In 2025, 12 private landowners participated resulting in 15 acres of Russian olive trees removed from riparian areas in the Baldwin Creek drainage. The program is funded through partnerships with WY State Forestry, LOR Foundation, FCWP, State Allocation Grants, WGF, and private landowner contributions.



Bob Shellard, Cody Thrasher, and Craig Johnson working alongside private contractors to remove Russian olive along the ditch at the Pioneer Museum, improving site conditions and allowing native vegetation to better access available resources.

PAWMA Noxious Weed Pull at Sinks Canyon

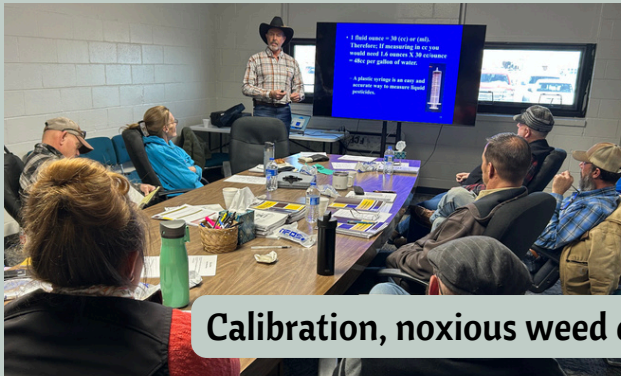
Local volunteers teamed up with partners from WGF, Wyoming State Parks, USFS, BLM, Wyoming State Lands, and FCWP staff for a weed-busting day in Sinks Canyon State Park. Together, they chopped and bagged 65 pounds of houndstongue and spotted knapweed from the campground and the new Sunnyside Trail. After all that hard work, everyone got to kick back and enjoy a well-earned lunch, generously sponsored by Sinks Canyon WILD.



FCWP... always learning, collaborating and improving!



Building partnerships through community events



Calibration, noxious weed education & private applicator training



Aerial treatment



Consultations



Monitoring



Public speaking and outreach events



Before & After Treatment Success



Oxeye daisy 2023



Oxeye daisy 2025



Black henbane 2024



Black henbane 2025



How can you take action?

WYLD Watch is WWPC's Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) initiative. This important strategy uses various methods to find new invasive species. When a new infestation is detected, we respond quickly. Responding fast is key to preventing invasive species from becoming established and widespread.

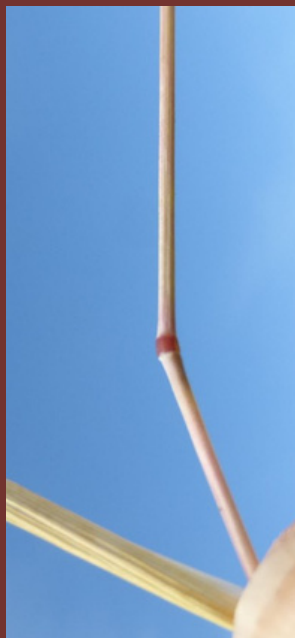
Early identification helps to stop harmful intruders before they spread and cause lasting damage, ensuring that Wyoming remains a beautiful and pristine environment for outdoor enthusiasts and landowners.

You can play a key role in helping to keep Wyoming Wild & Beautiful. Look for invasive species, find anything that seems out of place and report it immediately to your local Weed & Pest office. You can also report with EDDmapS or Survey123.

The Weed & Pest Council offers money to those who have reported new weeds not yet established in the district.



Be on the lookout for *Ventenata dubia*, an invasive annual grass that has not been found in Fremont County



Awards and Recognitions



District Supervisor Aaron Foster received the Everett Johnson Award for his exceptional weed and pest management work and contributions to the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council. He was also honored by NAISMA for his long-standing leadership in advancing biological control efforts in Wyoming. His mentorship is widely respected among invasive species managers nationwide.

Olivia Maxwell and Shanon Stockwell earned their Certified District Supervisor certificate at the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council Conference. This certification takes two years to accomplish and is required for leadership positions within the Wyoming Weed and Pest.



Mike Wille has dedicated 35 years to combating invasive weeds in Fremont County. He led a major Russian olive control program for the Bureau of Reclamation, secured multiple SAC grants for priority species projects, and served on numerous WWPC committees. Mike has been a consistent mentor to seasonal staff and continues to support weed managers statewide through the Wyoming Weed and Pest Management Association. Fremont County is grateful for his long-standing leadership and service.

FCWP Services



Outreach and educational materials

The FCWP office has lots of free literature, and our staff is always happy to give presentations at your venue!



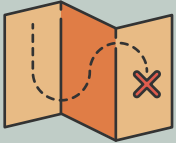
Herbicide recommendations and cost-share programs

FCWP offers a 40% cost-share to landowners in Fremont County who are managing a WY State Designated or Fremont County Declared noxious weed.



Site consultation and Weed Management Plans

Our staff will visit your site and develop an integrated weed management plan that aligns with your land use goals.



Surveying and mapping your property for invasive species

We will conduct a noxious weed inventory of your lands and build a map and management plan for you.



Sprayer rentals and sprayer calibration

FCWP offers a few different types of rental sprayers. Sprayers are rented on a per/day basis. FCWP will calibrate any landowner's sprayer for free.



Hay and Straw Certification

FCWP is the provider for Certified Weed Free Forage Certifications. Our staff will offer weed management strategies to help you achieve a weed-free forage crop.



Gravel Pit Certification

FCWP is the provider for Certified Weed Free Gravel Certifications. Our staff will offer weed management strategies to help you achieve a weed-free gravel pit.

FCWP Staff

Aaron Foster, District Supervisor
Penny Sauer, Bookkeeper-Office Manager
Renee Meyer, Bookkeeper-Admin. Assist.
Mike Wille, Assistant Supervisor-Riverton
Bob Finley, Assistant Supervisor-Dubois
Bob Shellard, Assistant Supervisor-Lander
Cody Thrasher, Program Manager
Shanon Stockwell, Program Manager
Olivia Maxwell, Program Manager
Craig Johnson, Program Manager
a'Lisa Hoffmann, GIS/Drone Specialist

FCWP Board Members

Amy Anderson, Chairman
Rio Stafford, Vice-Chairman
Daryn Fegler, Treasurer
Mark Hogan, Board Member
Tiffany Hartpence, Board Member
Nancy Pieropan, Board Member



"Like" us on Facebook!

Farewells & Welcomes

The FCWP Board and staff will sorely miss long time board member **Sollie Cadman**. Sollie passed on April 11. Sollie's impact within the Wyoming Weed & Pest will be embraced for decades to come.

The FCWP says goodbye to **Shanon Stockwell**, Riverton Program Manager. We wish Shanon the best of luck in her future endeavors, and we are thrilled that she is continuing in invasive species management.

The FCWP staff and Board of Directors would like to thank and say goodbye to Board Member, **Tiffany Hartpence**. We wish her the very best. Thank you for your service.

FCWP Office:

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