



**FREMONT COUNTY WEED AND PEST CONTROL DISTRICT**  
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### **EDRR: Catching the Spark**

#### **Why is EDRR important?**

Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) targets small, newly emerging infestations making it far easier and cheaper to eradicate than large, established ones. EDRR protects rangelands, agricultural production, wildlife habitat, and recreation by ensuring localized populations are found, contained, and possibly eradicated before they spread. By acting early, Fremont County Weed and Pest (FCWP) avoids long-term ecological and economic damage. It's the difference between extinguishing a spark and battling wildfire; the sooner you catch it, the easier and more affordable it is to put out.

#### **What Does the EDRR Program Cost Taxpayers?**

The EDRR program operates at an annual cost of approximately \$150,000. Roughly one-third of this funding is provided through the FCWP mill levy, which allows private landowners to receive treatment of high priority species at **no cost**. The remaining two-thirds are covered through partnership agreements with cooperating agencies.



#### **FCWP's EDRR Success**

FCWP has successfully removed numerous high priority invasive plant infestations county-wide. Once treated, these sites are monitored annually to ensure they remain weed-free, an essential step in preventing re-establishment.

One of FCWP's most notable ongoing EDRR projects is the containment of oxeye daisy in the Wiggins Fork drainage of the Wind River. The source of this infestation was likely contaminated hay in Forest Service designated wilderness, which spread down the Wiggins Fork drainage into the East Fork drainage of the Wind River.

As a decade long project, spray crews annually hike ~17 miles of this drainage searching for any oxeye daisy. The terrain is challenging but is some of the most valuable regarding wildlife habitat, recreation, and cattle grazing during late summer. Crews work with private landowners and agency partners to maintain access and awareness of this very invasive plant.



2025 crew tracks and an average day backpack spraying oxeye daisy

2023 oxeye daisy pre-treatment on private land



2025 oxeye daisy post-treatment on private land



While treating oxeye daisy, FCWP also identified and removed first-year infestations of spotted knapweed, Dalmatian toadflax and common tansy before they became established. As of 2025, none of these high priority species were found in the drainage.

Downstream, Wyoming Game and Fish Department produces hundreds of acres of hay that support wildlife feeding grounds in other counties. FCWP's annual monitoring and "weed-free" certification program has prevented oxeye daisy and other high priority species from entering these hayfields or spreading to the Big Wind River.

FCWP's success is the direct result of consistent funding, strong coordinated partnerships, and dedicated boots-on-the-ground operations that stop invasive species before they become costly, landscape-scale problems. Continued investment in EDRR helps ensure that Wyoming's rangelands, waterways, and agricultural lands remain productive, resilient, and economically secure for generations to come.

Dalmatian toadflax

