

EXECUTIVE ORDER

ESTABLISHING THE MONTANA NOXIOUS WEED SUMMIT ADVISORY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, noxious weeds pose a major threat to Montana's economy and environment; and

WHEREAS, noxious weeds have infested over 8.2 million acres in the state, degrading the productivity and biological diversity of ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Montana Weed Management Plan is to strengthen, support, and coordinate private, county, state, and federal weed management efforts, and promote implementation of ecologically-based noxious weed management programs; and

WHEREAS, a broad based commitment, policy direction, and framework are needed for Montana to monitor the effectiveness of the statewide weed management plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Brian Schweitzer, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me by the laws and Constitution of the State of Montana, do hereby establish the Montana Noxious Weed Summit Advisory Council.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Advisory Council is to:

- A. provide advice to the Governor on weed management policies that affect Montana;
- B. promote weed management principles and practices consistent with current science;
- C. promote integrated weed management practices to meet weed management objectives.

II DUTIES

To that end the Advisory Council shall:

- A. review and, when appropriate, make recommendations to the Montana Department of Agriculture to update the Montana Weed Management Plan; and
- B. provide recommendations to the Governor related to noxious weed management in Montana, including but not limited to;

1. promoting coordination and cooperative partnerships among private, county, state and federal entities;
2. promoting coordination of programs, policies, and resources to maximize opportunities and minimize duplication of effort;
3. facilitating the exchange of noxious weed management information; and
4. reviewing and establishing guidelines for private, county, state, and federal land managers to develop weed management plans consistent with state and national strategies.

III COMPOSITION

The Advisory Council shall consist of 12 members, appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor, as follows:

- A. one Governor representative (who shall serve as chair or appoint a chair from the Advisory Council membership);
- B. one Montana Weed Control Association representative;
- C. one County Weed District representative;
- D. one Montana Department of Agriculture representative;
- E. one Federal agency representative;
- F. one State agency representative;
- G. one Montana Association of County Officials representative;
- H. one Montana State University Extension Agent representative;
- I. one Montana State University Agricultural Experiment Station representative;
- J. one Irrigation District representative;
- K. one Tribal representative; and
- L. one Crop Protection Product Industry representative.

IV ADMINISTERING AGENCY

The Advisory Council shall be attached to the Montana Department of Agriculture for administrative purposes. The Department shall assist the Advisory Council by providing staff and other resources and information as warranted or requested. The Director of the Department or her designee shall be the liaison between the Governor and the Advisory Council.


V COMPENSATION

Advisory Council members eligible for compensation under § 2-15-122 (5), MCA, shall be compensated by the Department of Agriculture, at \$25 for each day actually and necessarily engaged in the performance of Advisory Council duties. All members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses pursuant to § 2-15-122(5), MCA.

VI DURATION

The Advisory Council shall exist for a period of two years from the effective date of this Executive Order, and shall automatically renew every two years unless otherwise ordered by a subsequent Executive Order. This Order is effective immediately.

GIVEN under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Montana this ^{26th} 10 day of July in the year Two Thousand and Five, A.D.


Brian Schweitzer, Governor

Attest:


Brad Johnson, Secretary of State