



2020 Annual Report

Gunnison County Weed Management Program

Our Role: The Gunnison County Weed Management Program coordinates and promotes integrated noxious weed management in the Gunnison Basin in compliance with the Colorado Noxious Weed Act, provides contracted weed management services for federal, state, county and municipal agency partners, provides landowner education and consultation on plant ecology and habitat restoration, certifies local weed-free hay for agricultural producers and implements and inspects reclamation projects.

Resilience in an Unusual Year

One of the driving goals of the Gunnison County Weed Management Program is to promote and assist long-term resilience within the ecosystems and plant communities of the Gunnison Basin. Resilience, defined as the capacity to respond to a disturbance by resisting damage and recovering quickly, took on a broader and more personal meaning for our Program in 2020. Throughout our field season, the challenges presented by COVID-19's repeated surges in Gunnison County required ongoing resilience of our Program's staff in order to ensure we met our productivity goals for promoting ecosystem health, while also keeping the health and safety of co-workers, agency partners and community members as our top priority.

Throughout the year, each member of our Program's staff proudly and steadfastly stepped up to meet the disturbance of 2020's pandemic with resilience by carefully and thoughtfully abiding by County and State public health directives and recommendations. We cancelled planned community education and outreach events, postponed gatherings of the Gunnison Basin Weed Commission, straddled staff schedules, adjusted plans of work, modified our office layout in order to ensure social distancing, adhered to a strict mask-wearing policy in our office, monitored our health daily before coming to work and agreed, as both co-workers and friends, to be entirely open and transparent with each other about any safety concerns or health issues that arose throughout the year.

Meanwhile, the demands of managing noxious weeds on public lands, assisting Gunnison County landowners in meeting their land management goals, and coordinating efforts with our agency partners and colleagues throughout the Basin continued. As the "2020 Highlights" in the next column demonstrate, despite this year's challenges, we still managed to achieve an extremely productive year, exceeding integrated weed management goals, incorporating roadside mowing into our Program's demanding summer schedule, safely providing science-based consultation and service to Gunnison Basin residents and hitting all of our budgetary targets.

Turns out, the year's challenges also fortuitously revealed new opportunities, practices and strategies that will serve us well into the future, improving our approaches toward both safety and productivity. The pandemic and the challenges it brought have ultimately forced our Program to become more agile, safety-minded and creative in meeting our objectives for serving the lands and citizens of the Gunnison Basin. We hope this year's Annual Report serves not only as a record of our Program's accomplishments in 2020, but also as an invitation to share your thoughts about how we can better serve you—please let us know!

Jon Mugglestone, Bradley Wigginton
& Jason Evanko



2020 Highlights

- 2077 acres of public lands and rights of way monitored for noxious weeds, and 85.58 infested acres treated
- \$7,620 in CO Dept. of Ag grant funding was used to leverage \$11,987 worth of contracted weed monitoring & treatments on 695 acres of private lands
- Phone, web-based and socially-distanced in-person consultations and education with over 175 citizens, elected officials, agency staff and businesses
- Produced public education video on sprayer calibration and herbicide mixing, posted on Gunnison County website
- Four certified weed-free hay inspections completed for local hay producers, for a total of 350 acres certified
- Re-seeding completed on Gunnison County's Whetstone Parcel and in GuSg habitat on Sapinero Mesa in cooperation with BLM
- 36 Reclamation Permit inspections completed -100% of outstanding permits due for inspection in 2020
- Incorporated roadside mowing into our integrated weed management toolbox, contributing 151 hours to Public Works' roadside mowing efforts

State-Listed Noxious Weed Control

Of 2077 acres monitored for state-listed noxious weeds during the 2020 field season (May 7—November 10), 85.58 infested acres were identified and treated using chemical, mechanical and cultural control methods. Treatment locations, herbicide acreages, hours worked and cooperators' annual monetary contributions were as follows. Weed Management Program staff are licensed by the CO Dept. of Ag. For additional details about any of these treatments please contact the Weed Management Program.

Cooperator	Treatment Site	Acres	Cooperator	Treatment Site	Acres	Cooperator	Treatment Site	Acres	
NPS (\$5,900)	NPS Hwy. Pulloffs	0.10	Town of CB (\$12,913)	Streets & Alleys, Big Mine		Gunnison Cty. (continued)	CR 14	0.01	
	Elk Creek	0.57		Park, Trails & Open			CR 16 & 19	0.09	
	Red Creek	0.04		Spaces, Gravel Pit, Slate/			CR 17 & Waterline	1.29	
	East Elk Creek	0.26		Cypress Annexation	5.39		CR 18	0.26	
	Pine Creek	0.34		Total Acres	5.39		CR 20	0.37	
	CONE Island	1.26		Hours Worked	133.0		CR 21	0.95	
	Ponderosa CG	0.03		Town of Mt. CB (\$14,707)	Rec. Path, Street ROW's,			CR 24	0.57
	Total Acres	2.60			Town Hall, Pavillion, Park,			CR 25	1.77
Hours Worked	50.0	Water & Sanitation	3.92		CR 26		0.33		
USFS (\$6,000)	Marshall Pass	0.55	Total Acres		3.92		CR 32/Wetlands	0.52	
	Slate/ Wash. Gulch	0.34	Hours Worked		129.5	CR 38/Subdivisions	1.79		
	Taylor & Spring Ck.	0.31	Saguache Cty. (\$3,055)		CR 14PP	0.44	CR 40	0.06	
	Los Pinos	0.04			CR 6YY & 6UU	0.76	CR 42/Landfill	0.37	
	Brush Creek	0.27			CR WW13 & UU13	0.09	CR 43	0.09	
	Lost Canyon	0.03		Total Acres	1.29	CR 44	0.06		
	Coal Creek	0.52		Hours Worked	33.0	CR 45	0.16		
	Rainbow Lake	0.09		BLM (\$13,133)	Alpine Loop	0.33	CR 46	0.28	
	Whitepine/Waunita	0.13			BLM 3045/3146	0.16	CR 48/Castle Mtn.	1.37	
	Cement Creek	0.01			BLM 3808	0.12	CR 49	0.31	
Red Creek	0.11	BLM 3010	0.35		CR 56	0.03			
Total Acres	2.40	BLM 3106	0.12		CR 58	0.03			
Hours Worked	64.5	BLM 3115	0.16		CR 62	0.09			
CPW (\$1,500)	Gunnison SWA	1.38	BLM 60/3105		0.12	CR 75	0.09		
	Sapinero SWA	0.31	BLM 3070/3159		0.32	CR 317	1.43		
	Van Tuyl SWA	0.06	BLM 3061		0.48	CR 76/771	2.36		
	Total Acres	1.75	BLM 3038/3065		2.71	CR 720	0.02		
	Hours Worked	24.5	BLM 3183/3186	0.09	CR 721	0.05			
	CDOT (\$29,000)	SH 114	1.79	BLM 3054-3058	0.12	CR 727	0.14		
		SH 133	4.10	BLM 3110	0.11	CR 730	3.25		
		SH 135	4.29	BLM 3015/3016	0.21	CR 734	1.38		
SH 92		1.19	BLM 3076/3080	0.18	CR 737	1.27			
US 50		4.57	BLM 3012	2.22	CR 738/BC Parcel	0.53			
SH 149		1.55	BLM 723	0.11	CR 740/Allen HS	0.22			
Total Acres		17.49	BLM 3104	0.22	CR 742 & 744	1.54			
Hours Worked		236.0	BLM 726	0.40	CR 743	0.06			
Hinsdale Cty. (\$1,880)		CR 30, 33, 20,50	0.74	BLM 3104-3106	1.84	CR 749	0.17		
		Total Acres	0.74	BLM 3099	0.25	CR 813	0.19		
	Hours Worked	22.0	BLM 724	0.15	CR 818	0.29			
	Town of Pitkin (\$353)	Streets/Alleys	0.15	Total Acres	10.77	CR 858	0.23		
		Total Acres	0.15	Hours Worked	184.5	CR 864/Gravel Pit	2.46		
		Hours Worked	3.0	Gunnison Cty. (\$131,716)	CR 2 & 77	0.01	CR 887	0.76	
		City of Gunnison (\$1,410)	ROW's, Trails, Water			Marble Area Roads	3.00	CR 888	0.35
			Treatment Plant, Rec.			CR 6	0.44	Basin Industrial Park	0.57
Center			2.29		CR 7	0.09	Dos Rios Subdivision/ Shavano Dr.	0.18	
Total Acres			2.29		CR 8	0.19	Fairgrounds/Airport/Pub. Safety	0.34	
Hours Worked			36.5		CR 9	0.04	Hartman Rocks Front Side	0.61	
Town of Gunnison (\$1,410)	ROW's, Trails, Water				CR 10/North Valley	0.39	Riverbend Subdivision	0.12	
	Treatment Plant, Rec.				CR 11	0.04	Thornton/ North Elk Md. Subdivision	0.20	
	Center		2.29		CR 12/Gravel Pits	2.00	GC Shop Crested Butte/ Baxter TH	0.25	
	Total Acres	2.29				Meridian Lake Subdivision	0.06		
	Hours Worked	36.5			Whitewater Park & Shady Island	0.23			
					Town of Somerset/GC Shop	0.27			
					Smith Hill Rd.	0.09			
					Alpine Meadows Subdivision	0.08			
				Total Acres	36.79				
				Hours Worked	643.5				

Looking Ahead to 2021: Your Input is Valued!

The Gunnison County Weed Management Program welcomes feedback from all Gunnison Basin residents. As planning for the 2021 field season begins, we would greatly value your input. Please take a few minutes to consider any or all of the following questions and send your replies to the Weed Management Program at: jmugglestone@gunnisoncounty.org or bwiggington@gunnisoncounty.org

1. During the 2020 field season, did the efforts of the Gunnison County Weed Management Program meet your needs and/or expectations? How can we better serve you during the 2021 field season?
2. Are there specific areas in the Gunnison Basin that you think require additional attention as weed control efforts are carried out in 2021?
3. How can the Weed Management Program most effectively reach out to citizens of the Gunnison Basin to raise awareness about noxious weeds and their control?
4. Do you have any suggestions for improving Gunnison County's Reclamation Permit application and/or inspection processes?
5. Other than the goals for 2021 listed in the column to the right, are there any other priorities that you would suggest the Weed Management Program consider?
6. Please share any other thoughts, suggestions or ideas you think the Weed Management Program should consider.

Thank-you very much for your time and for sharing your thoughts. Your ideas and suggestions are valued and will be carefully considered. We look forward to serving you in 2021!



2021 Goals

- Work with partners to set goals, find funding and implement a large-scale cheatgrass management project that further expands the Weed Management Program's reach beyond roadsides and rights of way
- Secure grant funding that will support continued financial assistance and educational outreach to private landowners
- Seek funding to continue the integration of re-vegetation into weed management projects, with priority focus on GuSg habitats
- Identify opportunities to increase "front-end" assistance to Gunnison County Reclamation Permit applicants in order to ensure successful re-vegetation and noxious weed control prior to post-construction reclamation inspections
- Continue ongoing and long-term Basin-wide weed inventory using EDDMaps West in order to contribute data to CO Dept. of Agriculture's state-wide data collection goals
- Re-convene in-person Gunnison Basin Weed Commission meetings as soon as health regulations and recommendations allow
- Expand post-treatment monitoring of weed management and re-vegetation activities to better inform management approaches
- Work with County GIS to identify and find funding for mapping technology that will automate and increase our noxious weed mapping capabilities without detracting from time doing field work
- Upgrade spray equipment to ensure ongoing precision of herbicide applications and safety of applicators
- Continue to assist hay producers with certification of weed-free forage in partnership with CO Dept. of Agriculture
- Stay healthy, accident-free and safety-focused, as we did in 2020

**Contact Us: Gunnison County Weed Management Program, 725 South 10th St., Unit B, Gunnison, CO 81230
Phone: (970) 641-4393 , On the web at: http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/public_works_weed_district.html**