CHAPTER 58 VEGETATION [1]

Contents:

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

ARTICLE II. UNDESIRABLE PLANT MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT [2]

FOOTNOTE(S):

--- (1) ----

Cross reference— Buildings and building regulations, ch. 18; public places, ch. 38.

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Contents:

Effective on: 11/27/2006

ARTICLE II. UNDESIRABLE PLANT MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT [2]

Contents:

DIVISION 1. GENERALLY

DIVISION 2. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT [3]

DIVISION 3. WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOOTNOTE(S):

---- (2) ----

Editor's note—Res. No. 2006-43, § 1, adopted November 27, 2006, repealed and reenacted article II, §§ 58-31, 58-32, 58-101—58-110, which pertained to <u>undesirable plants management</u>, and derived from Res. No. 1992-93, § 1, adopted <u>May</u> 27, 1992; Res. No. 1993-21, § 1, adopted May 18, 1993, and Res. No. 1997-62, § 2, adopted October 14, 1997.

Cross reference— Undesirable plant and rodent advisory commission, § 2-646 et seq.

State Law reference— Undesirable plant management advisory commission, C.R.S. § 35-5.5-107.

DIVISION 1. GENERALLY

Contents:

Sec. 58-31. Definitions.

Sec. 58-32. Duty to manage undesirable plants, landowner's responsibility.

Sec. 58-33. Local priority weed list.

Sec. 58-34. Designation of additional undesirable plants.

Sec. 58-35. Review of the annual county weed management plan.

Sec. 58-36. Importation and cultivation.

Sec. 58-31. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, <u>shall</u> have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Advisory commission means the individuals appointed by the board of county commissioners to the county undesirable plant and rodent advisory commission to advise on matters of noxious weed program direction.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

BOCC means the board of county commissioners of La Plata County, Colorado.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Alien plant means a plant species which is not indigenous to the state.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Colorado Noxious Weed Act means the provisions contained in C.R.S. §§ 3.5-5.5-101 et seq.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Commissioner means the commissioner of the Colorado Department of Agriculture or his or her designee.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Department means the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Federal agency means each agency, bureau or department of the federal government responsible for administering or managing federal land.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Federal land manager means the federal agency having jurisdiction over any federal land affected by the provisions of this article.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Integrated management means the planning and implementation of a coordinated program utilizing a variety of methods for management of noxious weeds, the purpose of which is to achieve specified management objectives and promote desirable plant communities. Such methods may include, but are not limited to education, preventive measures, good stewardship, and the following integrated management techniques:

I. Biological management, which means the use of an organism to disrupt the growth of noxious weeds.

- II. Chemical management, which means the use of herbicides or plant growth regulators to disrupt the growth of noxious weeds.
- III. Cultural management, which means methodologies or management practices that favor the growth of desirable plants over noxious weeds, including maintaining an optimum fertility and plant moisture status in an area, planting at optimum density and spatial arrangement in an area, and planting species most suited to an area.
- IV. Mechanical management, which means methodologies or management practices that physically disrupt plant growth, including tilling, mowing, burning, flooding, mulching, hand-pulling, hoeing, and grazing.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Landowner means any owner of record of federal, tribal, state, county, municipal, or private land and includes an owner of any easement, right-of-way or estate in the land.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

6/4/2018

Local noxious weed means any plant, indigenous or exotic, of local importance that has been declared a noxious weed by the BOCC.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Management means any activity that prevents a plant from establishing, reproducing, or dispersing itself.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Management objective means the specific, desired result of integrated management efforts and includes:

- I. Eradication, which means reducing the reproductive success of a noxious weed species or specified noxious weed population in largely uninfested regions to zero and permanently eliminating the species or population within a specified period of time. Once all specified weed populations are eliminated or prevented from reproducing, intensive efforts continue until the existing seed bank is exhausted.
- II. Containment, which means maintaining an intensively managed buffer zone that separates infested regions, where suppression activities prevail, from largely uninfested regions, where eradication activities prevail.
- III. Suppression, which means reducing the vigor of noxious weed populations within an infested region, decreasing the propensity of noxious weed species to spread to surrounding lands, and mitigating the negative effects of noxious weed populations on infested lands. Suppression efforts may employ a wide variety of integrated management techniques.
- IV. Restoration, which means the removal of noxious weed species and reestablishment of desirable plant communities on lands of significant environmental or agricultural value in order to help restore or maintain said value.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Management plan means the La Plata County Weed Management and Enforcement Plan as developed by the advisory commission and adopted by the BOCC.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Native plant means a plant species which is indigenous to the state.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Noxious weed means an alien plant or parts of an alien plant that have been designated by rule by the commissioner or the department as being noxious or any plant that has been declared a local noxious weed by the BOCC, and which meets one or more of the following criteria:

- I. It aggressively invades or is detrimental to economic crops or native plant communities;
- II. It is poisonous to livestock;
- III. It is a carrier of detrimental insects, diseases or parasites; or
- IV. The direct or indirect effect of the presence of this plant is detrimental to the environmentally sound management of natural or agricultural ecosystems.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Person or occupant means an individual, partnership, corporation, association or federal, state or local government or agency thereof owning, occupying or controlling any land, easement or right-of-way, including any city, county, state or federally owned and controlled highway, drainage or irrigation ditch, spoil bank, borrow pit, gas and oil pipeline, high voltage electrical transmission line, or right-of-way for a canal or lateral.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Plant growth regulator means a substance used for controlling or modifying plant growth processes without appreciable phytotoxic effect at the dosage applied.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

State noxious weed means any noxious weed identified by the commissioner or the department by rule pursuant to the terms and provisions of the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. Such weeds may be referred to herein as "state A list," "state B list" or "state C list" weeds depending upon their designation as such by the commissioner pursuant to the terms of C.R.S. § 35-5.5-108.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Undesirable plant means a noxious plant species that is designated as undesirable by this article, the commissioner or by the BOCC.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

A list weeds shall mean all populations of noxious weeds in the county that are designated for eradication, either by the commissioner pursuant to the terms of C.R.S. § 35-5.5-108 or by local designation by the BOCC.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

B list weeds shall mean all populations of noxious weeds in the county that are designated for required management, either by the commissioner pursuant to the terms of C.R.S. § 35-5.5-108 or by local designation by the BOCC.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

C list weeds shall mean all populations of noxious weeds in the county that are designated for recommended management, either by the commissioner pursuant to the terms of C.R.S. § 35-5.5-108 or by local designation by the BOCC.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Undesirable plant management means the planning and implementation of an integrated program to manage undesirable plant species.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Weed means any undesirable plant.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Weed office means the La Plata County weed office.

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Sec. 58-32. Duty to manage undesirable plants, landowner's responsibility.

It is the duty of all <u>persons</u> to <u>use</u> integrated methods to manage and prevent the spread of all <u>noxious</u> <u>weeds</u> if the plants are likely to be ecologically destructive or aesthetically or materially damaging to neighboring lands.

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Sec. 58-33. Local priority weed list.

The <u>BOCC</u>, after consultation with the <u>advisory commission</u>, <u>may</u> elevate the status of any state B list <u>noxious weed</u> or state C list noxious weed that is located within the <u>county</u> from the state B or C lists to that of an A or B list <u>weed</u> as deemed necessary. The BOCC, after consultation with the advisory commission, may also at any time apply to the <u>commissioner</u> for a waiver of compliance with an eradication designation set forth by the commissioner for any particular state A list noxious weed or state B list noxious weed designated for eradication in the county, pursuant to the terms of C.R.S. § 35-5.5-108.5(3)(c). If such a waiver is approved, the noxious weed in question shall be reclassified as either a B or C list weed as may be determined by the BOCC.

(Res. No. 2006-43, §§ 1(Annex A), 3, 11-27-2006, Res. No. 2017-33, 10-24-17)

Sec. 58-34. Designation of additional undesirable plants.

The BOCC may designate additional undesirable plants or weeds not otherwise designated as state noxious weeds for eradication or management within the county pursuant to the terms of C.R.S. § 35-5.5-108(3), after a public hearing with 30 days prior notice to the public.

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Sec. 58-35. Review of the annual county weed management plan.

The advisory commission has, pursuant to the direction of the BOCC, originally developed the management plan, and will review such management plan on an annual basis for any desirable changes or adjustments to such plan and shall report to the BOCC on such basis with any recommended changes or adjustments. As part of such review, the advisory commission will review the list of noxious weeds to consider additional weeds and to prioritize control efforts. The management plan must be renewed and approved by the BOCC not less than once every three years, but nothing shall prevent the BOCC from approving any interim changes or adjustments to the management plan in any interim years. The weed office shall maintain the management plan and the priority weed list and make them available to the general public.

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Sec. 58-36. Importation and cultivation.

Persons are prohibited from importing seeds, propagative plant parts or live plants and cultivating any noxious weed within the county, and any such person doing so shall be fully prosecutable pursuant to the terms of C.R.S. § 35-5.5-104.5.

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

DIVISION 2. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT [3]

Contents:

Sec. 58-56. Administering agency.

Sec. 58-57. Advisory commission.

Sec. 58-58. Identification and inspection of noxious weeds—Methods of identification.

Sec. 58-59. Notice of presence of noxious weeds—Notice letter.

Sec. 58-60. Duty to consult.

Sec. 58-61. Eradication and management of weeds—Landowner, occupant or public agency response.

Sec. 58-62. Enforcement—Direct action by county to manage weeds.

Sec. 58-63. Restrictions.

Sec. 58-64. Assessment of costs for treatment and eradication of noxious weeds—Private lands.

Sec. 58-65. Recoverable costs/method of collection—Management.

Sec. 58-66. Recoverable costs/method of collection—Eradication of list a species.

Sec. 58-67. Landowner or occupant protest.

Sec. 58-68. Assessment of costs—Hearing.

Sec. 58-69. Limitations.

Sec. 58-70. Recoverable costs/method of collection—Public lands.

Sec. 58-71. Scheduling and hearing.

Sec. 58-72. Miscellaneous—Additional provisions.

Sec. 58-73. Cooperation with federal and state agencies.

Sec. 58-74. Public nuisance—Abatement.

58-75 - 58-100 Reserved

Sec. 58-56. Administering agency.

The BOCC shall provide for the administration and enforcement of the management plan authorized by this article through the use of agents, delegates or employees, and may hire additional staff or provide for the performance of all or part of the management plan through outside contract. The primary duty and responsibility of administering the management plan is hereby delegated to the weed office, and the Weed Office shall be the BOCC's primary agent in enforcement and administration thereof. Any agent, delegate, employee, staff or contractor applying or recommending the use of chemical control methods shall be licensed by the Department for such application or recommendation. Costs associated with administering or enforcing the management plan shall be paid from the general fund of the county.

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Sec. 58-57. Advisory commission.

The BOCC has appointed the advisory commission from landowners and operators living within the county boundaries as provided in sections 2-646 et seq., and the advisory commission shall have all of the authority and powers set forth therein as well as all of the authority and powers set forth in C.R.S. § 35-5.5-107. The BOCC shall be entitled to appoint ex-officio members, as in their sole discretion they shall determine.

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Sec. 58-58. Identification and inspection of noxious weeds—Methods of identification.

I. Private and public lands.

- A. The weed office, acting as agent, delegate, or staff of the BOCC, shall have the right to enter upon any premises, lands, or places whether public or private, during reasonable business hours for the purpose of inspecting for the existence of noxious weed infestations, when at least one of the following has occurred:
 - 1. The landowner or occupant has requested an inspection;
 - 2. A neighboring landowner or occupant has reported a suspected noxious weed infestation and requested an inspection;
 - 3. An authorized agent of the BOCC has made a visual inspection from a public right-of-way or area and has reason to believe that a noxious weed infestation exists; or
 - 4. A weed office agent has inspected a current aerial satellite map of the property and determined there is reason to believe that a noxious weed infestation exists.
- II. Where entry onto private premises is required to investigate the existence of noxious weeds, on-site inspections may be scheduled at any reasonable time upon the landowner or occupant's consent. No

entry onto such lands shall be permitted unless one of the following occurs:

- A. Verbal permission to inspect the property is granted by the landowner or occupant of said property, or
- B. Such landowner or occupant is notified of such pending inspection by certified mail at least ten days prior to such inspection. If after notification landowner or occupant fails to respond within ten days to the request to inspect the premises or otherwise denies access to the inspector, the inspector may seek an inspection warrant issued by a municipal, <u>county</u> or district court having jurisdiction over the land pursuant to the provisions of C.R.S. §§ 35-5.5-109(2)(b) or 35-5.5-108.5(5)(b)(I).

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Sec. 58-59. Notice of presence of noxious weeds—Notice letter.

I. Private lands.

- A. Upon a discovery of the presence of noxious weeds on private premises, the weed office, acting as agent, delegate, or staff of the BOCC has the authority to notify the landowner or occupant of the presence of noxious weeds. The Notice from the Weed Office includes the following:
 - 1. The property inspection date;
 - 2. The landowner and/or occupant of record;
 - 3. The property tax ID number or legal description of the property, and/or aerial map;
 - 4. The noxious weeds to be managed;
 - 5. If the noxious weeds are weeds designated for eradication pursuant to designation as list A weeds, identification of eradication as the required management objective;
 - 6. Advisement to the landowner or occupant to commence either eradication of the noxious weeds within five days or <u>management</u> of the noxious weeds within ten days after receipt of notice or submit an acceptable plan and schedule for the completion of the plan for compliance;
 - 7. Identification of the integrated weed management techniques presented by the <u>commissioner</u> for eradication or the best available <u>control</u> methods of <u>integrated</u> management;
 - 8. The options of notice compliance;
 - 9. The consequences for non-compliance with the notice, an offer of weed office consultation in management plan development, and notice of landowner and/or occupant's right to request a hearing before the arbitration panel;
 - 10. Statement that weed office will seek an inspection warrant (right of entry) from the municipal, county or district court having jurisdiction over the land, to enter property and manage identified noxious weeds unless landowner and/or occupant complies with notice, submits an acceptable plan and schedule for completion of the plan or submits a written request for a hearing before the arbitration panel within ten days.
- II. Public lands.
 - A. The weed office, acting as agent, delegate, or staff of the BOCC, may give notice to any state board, department, or agency that administers or supervises state lands within the county, to manage noxious weeds on its land and naming them.
 - B. Such notice shall specify the best available method(s) of integrated management and will include the same information as itemized in subsection (I).

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Sec. 58-60. Duty to consult.

Where possible, the weed office shall consult with the affected landowner, occupant, state board, department or agency in the development of a plan for the management of noxious weeds on the premises or lands.

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Sec. 58-61. Eradication and management of weeds—Landowner, occupant or public agency response.

A landowner, occupant or state board, department or agency receiving notification of the presence of noxious weeds pursuant to section 58-59 shall respond within a reasonable time after receipt thereof, but in no event to exceed five days if eradication is ordered and ten days if management is ordered, by any of the following:

- I. Complying with the terms of the notification.
- II. Acknowledging the terms of the notification and submitting an acceptable plan and schedule for the completion of the plan for compliance.
- III. If only management is ordered, requesting an arbitration panel to determine the final <u>management plan</u>. The panel shall be selected by the BOCC, through its delegates, agents, and employees, and shall include:
 - A. A weed management specialist or weed scientist;
 - B. A landowner of similar land in the county; and
 - C. A third member chosen by agreement of the first two panel members.
 - D. The landowner or occupant is entitled to challenge any one member of the panel, and the BOCC, through its delegates, agents and employees shall name a new panel member from the same category.

Costs for the arbitration panel shall be paid by the requesting landowner or occupant. The decision of the arbitration panel shall be final.

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Sec. 58-62. Enforcement—Direct action by county to manage weeds.

In the event that the landowner, occupant or state board, department or agency fails to comply with any notice to eradicate or manage the identified weeds or implement the plan developed by the arbitration panel, the weed office shall provide for and compel the eradication or management of such weeds in any manner deemed necessary by the weed office and in compliance with the provisions of C.R.S. §§ 35-5-108.5, 35-5.5-109(5) or 35-5-110(3).

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Sec. 58-63. Restrictions.

No eradication or management of noxious weeds on private property shall occur without applying the same or greater management measures to any land or rights-of-way owned or administered by the <u>BOCC</u> that are adjacent to the private property.

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Sec. 58-64. Assessment of costs for treatment and eradication of noxious weeds—Private lands.

If the BOCC, or its agents and employees, provide for and/or compel the management or eradication of noxious weeds on private lands, the BOCC is entitled to recover certain costs.

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Sec. 58-65. Recoverable costs/method of collection—Management.

- I. If the <u>BOCC</u> compels and provides for the <u>management</u> of <u>noxious weeds</u> pursuant to the provisions of C.R.S. § 35-5-109, the BOCC is entitled to assess the whole cost thereof, including up to 20 percent for inspection and other incidental costs in connection therewith, upon the <u>lot</u> or tract of land where the noxious weeds are located.
- II. Such assessment shall be a lien against each lot or tract of land until paid and shall have priority over all other liens except general taxes and prior special assessments.
- III. Such assessment may be certified to the county treasurer for the collection of taxes.
- IV. Any funds collected shall be deposited in the BOCC's weed fund or any similar fund.

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Sec. 58-66. Recoverable costs/method of collection—Eradication of list a species.

- I. If the BOCC compels and provides for the eradication of <u>noxious weeds</u> pursuant to their classification as list A weeds, the BOCC is entitled to assess the whole cost of eradicating such weeds, including up to percentof inspection, eradication and other incidental costs in connection therewith, upon the lot or tract of land where the noxious weeds are located.
- II. Such assessment shall be a lien against each lot or tract of land until paid and shall have priority over all other liens except general taxes and prior special assessments.
- III. Such assessment may be certified to the county treasurer for the collection of taxes.
- IV. Any funds collected shall be deposited in the BOCC's weed fund or any similar fund.

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Sec. 58-67. Landowner or occupant protest.

- I. The weed office shall send a "Payment Notice/Potential Lien Assessment" letter by certified and regular mail to the landowner or occupant prior to any assessment on landowner or occupant's property.
- II. Landowner or occupant shall be given 30 days from the date on the payment notice/potential lien assessment letter to respond.
 - A. In the event landowner or occupant fails to respond to the letter within the prescribed 30 days, the weed office shall assess a lien on landowner or occupant's property and may certify such lien with the county treasurer.
 - B. If the landowner or occupant responds within the prescribed 30 days and disputes the amount of the assessment, he or she is entitled to be heard before the county <u>undesirable plant</u> and rodent <u>advisory</u> commission as to his or her concerns.

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Sec. 58-68. Assessment of costs—Hearing.

I. The landowner or occupant, or an attorney on his or her behalf, will be allowed to present testimony to the advisory commission as to why they should not assess a tax lien on landowner or occupant's property for the costs outlined in the payment notice/potential lien assessment letter.

6/4/2018

- II. A member of the <u>weed office</u> will need to be present at the hearing to provide evidence favoring the imposition of a tax lien on landowner or occupant's property.
- III. The weed office must show that prior to compelling the <u>management</u> of <u>noxious weeds</u> on landowner and/or occupant's property the weed office applied the same or greater management measures to any land or rights-of-way owned or administered by the <u>BOCC</u> that are adjacent to the private property pursuant to section 58-63.
- IV. The weed office must show that the level of management called for in the notice or the management plan developed by the arbitration panel has been successfully achieved pursuant to section 58-69.
- V. The advisory commission may either grant or deny the lien assessment or continue the matter to a subsequent date certain.
- VI. If the advisory commission grants the lien assessment, the resolution for certification of assessed costs as granted by the BOCC is filed with the county treasurer's office.

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Sec. 58-69. Limitations.

The advisory commission shall not assess the cost of providing for or compelling the management of noxious weeds on private property until the level of management called for in the notice or the management plan developed by the arbitration panel has been completed.

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Sec. 58-70. Recoverable costs/method of collection—Public lands.

- I. Any expenses incurred by the <u>BOCC</u> in the undertaking of the eradication or <u>management</u> of <u>noxious</u> <u>weeds</u> on public lands <u>shall</u> be a proper charge against such state <u>board</u>, <u>department</u>, or agency that has jurisdiction over the lands.
- II. An agreement for the reimbursement of such expenses shall be reached within two weeks after the date such an expense is submitted to such state board, department or agency, such agreement to be set forth in writing.
- III. If an agreement is not reached or the charge is not immediately paid, such charge shall be submitted to the controller, who shall treat such amount as an encumbrance on the budget of the state board, department or agency involved or such charge may be recovered in any court with jurisdiction over such lands.

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Sec. 58-71. Scheduling and hearing.

The state <u>board</u>, <u>department</u>, or agency owning or occupying said public lands is afforded the same scheduling and hearing protections as provided to <u>landowners</u> or occupants of private lands under sections 58-67 and 58-68.

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Sec. 58-72. Miscellaneous—Additional provisions.

I. The BOCC, through its delegates, agents, and employees, shall have the right to enter upon any premises, lands or places, whether public or private, during reasonable business hours for the purposes of

ensuring compliance with any of the above requirements concerning <u>noxious weed</u> <u>management</u> and any other local requirements.

- II. No agent, employee, or delegate of the BOCC shall have a civil cause of <u>action</u> against a <u>landowner</u> or occupant for personal injury or property damage incurred while on public or private land for purposes consistent with the above requirements except when the landowner or occupant willfully or deliberately caused such damages.
- III. It shall be the duty of the BOCC to confirm that all public roads, <u>public highways</u>, public rights-of-way, and any <u>easements</u> appurtenant thereto, under its jurisdiction, are in compliance with C.R.S. §§ 35-5.5-101, et seq., and any <u>violations</u> thereof shall be the financial responsibility of the appropriate local governing body or state board, department, or agency.

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Sec. 58-73. Cooperation with federal and state agencies.

The <u>BOCC may</u> enter into cooperative agreements with federal, tribal, municipal and state agencies for the integrated management of undesirable plants within their respective territorial jurisdictions.

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

Effective on: 11/27/2006

Sec. 58-74. Public nuisance—Abatement.

All <u>undesirable plants</u> at any and all stages thereof, their carriers, and any and all premises, plants and things infested or exposed to infestation may be declared to be a public nuisance by the <u>BOCC</u>. Once declared, such nuisances shall be subject to all laws and remedies relating to the prevention and abatement of nuisances. The BOCC, in a summary manner or otherwise, may take such action, including removal and destruction, with reference to such nuisance as in its discretion appears necessary. The remedies of this section shall be in addition to all other remedies provided by law.

(Res. No. 2006-43, § 1(Annex A), 11-27-2006)

FOOTNOTE(S):

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Cross reference— Administration, ch. 2.

State Law reference— Undesirable plant management advisory commission, C.R.S. § 35-5.5-107.

Effective on: 11/27/2006

58-75 - 58-100

DIVISION 3. WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Contents:

DIVISION 3. WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sec. 58-101 Weed Management Plan

Sec. 58-102 Definitions

Sec. 58-103 Introduction

Sec. 58-104 Goals of the La Plata County Weed Office and Weed Managememt Plan Sec. 58-105 Objectives of the La Plata County Weed Office Sec. 58-106 Integrated Weed Management Plans Sec. 58-107 Priority Management Areas Sec. 58-108 Methods of Control Sec. 58-109 Other Sec. 58-110 Enforcement Sec. 58-111 Attachments

Sec. 58-101 Weed Management Plan

This Plan shall be known and referred to as the "La Plata County Weed Management and Enforcement Plan" and shall be effective throughout the unincorporated areas of La Plata County.

(Res. No. 2017-35, 10-24-17) Effective on: 10/24/2017

Sec.58-102 Definitions

See Sec. 58-31 of the La Plata County Code.

Effective on: 10/24/2017

Sec.58-103 Introduction

The Colorado Noxious Weed Act (CRS 35-5.5-101, et. seq.) is designed to ensure that all the lands of the State of Colorado, whether in public or private ownership, be protected by and subject to the jurisdiction of a local government empowered to manage undesirable plants as designated by the State of Colorado and the local governing body. Certain undesirable plants constitute a present threat to the continued economic and environmental value of the lands of the State and if present in any area of the State, must be managed.

This Weed Management Plan represents a coordinated effort of the La Plata County Weed Office (Weed Office) and the La Plata County Undesirable Plant and Rodent Advisory Commission (Advisory Commission) to develop and oversee a comprehensive management plan for the control of noxious weeds in La Plata County. The Advisory Commission will review the plan at regular intervals as set forth in Section 58-35 of the La Plata County code.

This plan further recognizes that because the spread of noxious weeds can largely be attributed to the movement of seed and plant parts on motor vehicles, noxious weeds are becoming an increasing maintenance problem on highway right-of-ways in the state. As a result, local cooperative efforts have been undertaken to proceed with noxious weed management. The plan also recognizes that the changes brought about by extended drought due to climate changes will stress native plant life and weed infestation issues will continue to increase.

This plan is designed in accordance with the statutory provisions of the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. The provisions of this plan do not interpret, apply, or incorporate any provisions of the Colorado Pest Control District Act, codified at C.R.S. § 35-5-101, et seq.

(Res. No. 2017-35, 10-24-17)

Effective on: 10/24/2017

Sec.58-104 Goals of the La Plata County Weed Office and Weed Management Plan

The Goals of the La Plata County Weed Office and Weed Management Plan are to:

- I. Work toward (1) eradication of List A species and (2) control of population of List B species through eradication or management, and (3) encourage voluntary treatments of list C species as such lists are designated by the state of Colorado and by the Board of County Commissioners. (see Attachment A for Lists)
- II. Provide education and awareness to local governing bodies and affected landowners;
- III. Provide continued research, inventory and mapping of weed spread or control efforts.
- IV. Treat and maintain weeds within County owned parcels, along County roads and in County rights of way;
- V. Work collaboratively with county, regional and state efforts;
- VI. Provide information, technical assistance and assistance in the development and implementation of weed management plans to include but not be limited to:
 - A. Preventative measures
 - B. Control techniques
 - C. Revegetation
 - D. Rehabilitation techniques

Effective on: 10/24/2017

Sec. 58-105 Objectives of the La Plata County Weed Office

Sec. 58-105.1 Eradication and Control

- I. Continually update La Plata County list A and B weeds list accordingly with the state noxious weed lists. A local governing body may adopt eradication, containment, or suppression standards that are more stringent than the standards adopted by the (state) commissioner (35-5.5-108). Certain state list B weeds that are rare in the County may be elevated to County List A status in order to better eradicate before widespread infestation occurs.
- II. Focus on identifying and locating County List A noxious weeds and pursue eradication efforts with enforcement actions if necessary (Sec. 58-58 through 58-74)
- III. Continually monitor County List B populations with the goal of containment if possible and reduction over time.
- IV. When deemed necessary, and according the Colorado Noxious Weed Act and La Plata County Code, enforcement will be utilized to protect neighboring parcels and decrease the spread of List A or List B weeds. See sections 58-58 through 58-74 of the La Plata County Code.

Sec. 58-105.2 Education and Awareness.

- I. Education should be the first step in weed management and implementation plans.
- II. Educate the public on the state mandated weed law (the Colorado Noxious Weed Act) and the state's mandate that La Plata County act to manage, and sometimes to eradicate, certain noxious weeds so designated by the Department.
- III. Educate and make the public aware of the State of Colorado A, B and C weed species, and additional weeds designated for management by the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC).
- IV. The weed office shall act as a reference or source of reliable up to date weed management techniques, including detailed proper use of herbicide products in an correct, effective, safe and environmentally sound method.

- V. Provide educational materials, both in print and on-line, workshops, lectures, site visits, and personal consultation weed management and up to date technical information.
- VI. Colorado State University Cooperative Extension (sometimes hereinafter referred to as "CSU Extension") will partner with the weed office and the La Plata County Advisory Commission in communicating to the public broad, efficient, and cost effective weed management programs.
- VII. Raise public awareness that noxious weeds disrupt intended land use and degrade the environment;
- /III. Raise public awareness that the county has limited funds with which to control noxious weeds (subject to limited availability);
- IX. Assist landowners and private enterprise in preparing integrated weed management plans;
- X. Produce periodic press releases on weed management;
- XI. Advise individual producers and landowners on developing weed management plans (WMP);
- XII. Provide pesticide certification workshops;
- (III. Develop and implement test plots demonstrating effective weed management techniques and recommendations.

Sec. 58-105.3 Research, Inventory and Mapping

- I. Continue mapping of noxious weeds countywide and compiling of information in cooperation with other agencies, specifically working with the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) on updating required weed species on an annual basis.
- II. Noxious weed surveys and maps shall be provided for any land owners within the County who request them.
- III. A map showing the parcel and noxious weed infestations will be provided when sending out notice letters.
- IV. Maintain up to date GIS inventory of noxious weeds throughout the county using the most current mapping technology and methods. County roads should be mapped as well to monitor changes in infestations. Mapping data will be available for the public upon request.
- V. Maintain a reference library and internet links of related materials for management of designated and noxious weeds. Material will be available in both paper form and on the weed office website.

Sec. 58-105.4 Treat and maintain weeds within County owned parcels, along County roads and in County rights of way.

Supervise the application of weed control on county property and rights-of-way within the county.

Sec. 58-105.5 Work collaboratively with County, regional and state efforts.

La Plata County shall encourage participation in Cooperative Weed Management Areas otherwise known as CWMA's. The purpose of a CWMA is to unite people and resources in specific geographical areas to manage conditions and problematic noxious weeds. The formation of CWMA's additionally provides an organized structure for which funds and grants can be obtained for the purpose of weed management. CWMA's can benefit homeowners associations, specific watersheds which encompass areas like the Upper Pine Vallecito Lake or larger areas such as the 5.5 million acre San Juan Mountains Cooperative Weed Management Area (SJMCWMA).

Sec. 58-105.6 Provide Technical Assistance

The La Plata County Weed Office Manager and staff shall provide personal consultations on weed management and up to date technical information and assistance. They will offer consultation to individuals, groups, governing bodies and organizations in person in the office or in the field on site as necessary.

(Res. No. 2017-35, 10/24/17)

Effective on: 10/24/2017

Sec. 58-106 Integrated Weed Management Plans

- I. C.R.S. § 35-5.5-104 requires all persons to use integrated methods (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "IM") to manage noxious weeds if the weeds are likely to be materially damaging to the land of neighboring landowners. It is the intent of the BoCC to implement a coordinated program of integrated management. The purpose of integrated management is to achieve healthy and productive natural and agricultural ecosystems through a balanced program. This program will include, but not be limited to, education, prevention measures, good stewardship and control methods.
- II. Integrated management is a strategy using a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach to plant management. By viewing a problem in its entirety, one is better able to design a management plan that is safe, cost effective and gets results, without unreasonable damage to natural controls and the environment. An IM approach to weed management includes choosing from a variety of available weed control strategies and predicting their long term effects.
- III. The major weed control tactics to be considered in an IM program are:
 - A. Education should be considered the number one priority (e.g., plant identification, life cycles, mapping infestations).
 - B. Prevention (e.g., eliminate undesirable plant seed dispersal, irrigation management, soil fertility, range management and minimizing disturbances to the landscape).
 - C. Mechanical and physical (e.g., cutting, mowing, burning, cultivation and cross fencing).
 - D. Cultural (e.g., crop rotation, rehabilitation by the establishment of competitive crops, grasses and mulching).
 - E. Biological (e.g., grazing, predators, parasites and pathogens).
 - F. Chemical (e.g., weed oils, nonselective and selective herbicides, and plant growth regulators).
- IV. While these tactics can be used singularly, they are usually most effective when used in combination. Once it is determined why the weeds are occurring in the first place, strategies can be developed not only to reduce existing weed populations and change the size of infestations, but also to prevent future weed problems.
- V. The A, B and C Weed Lists annexed hereto and made a part hereof as Attachment A shall be utilized in the administration of the Management Plan pursuant to Chapter 58 of the La Plata County Code.

(Res. No. 2017-35, 10-24-17)

Effective on: 10/24/2017

Sec. 58-107 Priority Management Areas

Infestations adjacent to property lines, easements, rights-of-way, ditches, canals, streams, rivers, trails, wildlife migration routes and private and public roadways: Buffering is suggested for each growing season and applied to the entire perimeter of the infestation at a minimum of fifty feet wide at the proper timing in order to prevent seed formation and root spread. Annual stepped in buffering, in addition to maintaining previous buffers, and reduction management shall be recommended.

(Res. No. 2017-35, 10-24-17)

Effective on: 10/24/2017

Sec. 58-108 Methods of Control

- I. The La Plata County Weed Manager and staff will provide information and technical assistance and consultation and assistance implementing weed management techniques and plans to include but not be limited to:
 - A. preventative measures
 - B. control techniques
 - C. revegetation
 - D. rehabilitation techniques

Sec. 58-108.1 Prevention:

- I. The first priority is to prevent the introduction of any noxious weed to any area not previously infested.
- II. Many of the most common weed problems occur in response to disturbed soils. Disturbances can result from a number of conditions including overgrazed pastures, overused turf, clear cut woodlands, pipeline construction and energy/gravel development, improperly maintained road edges, and land development. Land management practices that minimize soil disturbance are invaluable in prevention and control of undesirable plant species.
- III. Educate the public how viable seeds or propagating plant parts may spread by mechanical means. All equipment should be cleaned when leaving all infested areas to prevent contaminating rights-of-way and the next area entered. Practical solutions to accomplish this will be explored with industry professionals and findings will be published in written form and placed on the internet.
- IV. Gravel pits will be inspected once a year by the county weed manager to insure that these areas are not vectors for large scale noxious weed dispersal.
- V. It is recommended that noxious weed-free certified seed is used in all applications. Feed containing viable noxious weed seeds should not be purchased, transported, or used: Since designated weeds will set seed prior to normal harvest dates, crops need to be treated if they are to be moved from the infested area.
- VI. Also to be considered is whether once seed has reached maturity, it can remain viable for years. During this time, it can re-infest the same area long after the weed problem appears to have been solved, or it can be transported to other areas. This can occur naturally by wind and water or mechanically by movement of vehicles or equipment. Seeds are also transported great distances by domestic animals and wildlife.
- VII. Small, isolated patches of weeds should be prioritized and eliminated as soon as possible to prevent a larger, more expensive problem later in the future.

Sec. 108.2 Mechanical control.

Mechanical control includes cultivation, mowing, hand pulling, tilling and burning. All of these measures, *when used and timed correctly*, can be of great help when used in conjunction with another type of control. When used alone on perennial plants, they rarely have a positive long-range effect due to the extensive underground root system. It may, in fact, make the problem worse through spreading seed or plant parts and by eliminating the desirable competitive species on site. These measures are much more effective with annuals and biennial plants if done before seeding occurs.

Sec. 58-108.3 Cultural control:

Cultural management of weeds includes methodologies or management practices that favor the growth of desirable plants over noxious weeds, including maintaining an optimum fertility and plant moisture status in an area, planting at optimum density and spatial arrangement in an area, and planting species most suited to an area. (CRS § 35-5.5 103 (9)(c)).

Other examples of increasing field conditions such that weeds are less likely to become established and/or increase in number are crop rotation, avoiding overgrazing of pastures or rangeland, use of beneficial animal or insects and using cover crops or other well-adapted competitive forage species.

Sec. 58-108.4 Biological control.

- I. Biological control is the control of undesirable plants through the use of living organisms. The organism may be an insect, plant, pathogen or livestock, such as sheep, goats or cattle.
- II. Recent programs have shown that livestock can be valuable in controlling many weed species, if managed correctly. This is especially true in instances of large infestations of annual and biennial weeds and in environmentally sensitive areas. The use of grazing on perineal species is largely ineffective. Animals must be contained onto infested areas for duration that is long enough to eliminate noxious weeds. When moving livestock from such an infested area for biological control, care should be taken to prevent transportation of seeds to a clean area. If possible, when applicable, livestock should be quarantined for five days to allow all seed to pass through the digestive track. Seed may also need to be removed from the animals' hair, wool and hooves.
- III. Several species of insects are available for noxious weed management. They may be purchased by individuals to be used as part of an integrated plan. Evidence shows that there is limited success with this type of control. Use of insects is thought to be more of a long term suppression technique rather than short term eradication. For more information contact: the Colorado Department of Agriculture Insectary in Palisade, Colorado.
- IV. New research and development in bacteria, fungus and pathogens have shown promising results in decreasing infestations overtime. The county will continue to keep up to date in these techniques and educate the public on their uses and effectiveness. The use of test plots can further increase the knowledge and capacity of these measures to gain local insight that can be used for the county's own weed treatment program.

Sec. 108.5 Chemical control.

- I. The weed office shall act as a reference or source of reliable up to date of weed management techniques, including detailed proper use of herbicide products in an correct, effective, safe and environmentally sound method.
- II. All chemical application must be done according to the label for each individual product.
- III. The choice of chemicals and application rates that are used should be according to the product label. The applicator of herbicide must realize the importance of using the right product, at the right time to make treatment most effective. Calibration of spraying equipment is the most accurate way of determining the right rate of herbicide. Products that are volatile are not recommended. So herbicide can kill trees or lead to manure that can kill garden plants. Consultation with a county employee with a "Qualified Supervisor" license is the best resource for up to date, reliable herbicide information.
- IV. When herbicides are used at a diluted rate on plants, they can survive and reproduce. The new generations are now resistant to that chemical formulation and will become much harder to kill in the future. The County weed office must follow and recommend techniques that prevent herbicide resistance. This can be implemented by calibrating sprayers and requiring treatments that kill all weeds that are spraying. The public must be informed of the risks and dangers of resistance as well.
- V. While chemicals are a powerful tool, it must be realized that they are just a tool and must be used only as a part of an integrated management plan.

The focus of this plan is excerpted from the Colorado Weed Management Act, C.R.S. § 35-5.5-101 et seq.

(Res. No. 2017-35, 10-24-17)

Effective on: 10/24/2017

Sec. 58-109 Other

109.1 Containment and Buffering Strategies

I. Management and Buffering Strategies: All landowners and land managers with county listed weed species will be required to implement the following management strategies:

A. Infestations of one acre or less:

- 1. Isolated small populations: Intensive best management practices applied with eradication goals in mind. Prevent seed formation and root spread on an annual basis.
- 2. Satellite populations proximate to larger populations: Intensive best management practices applied with eradication, containment, and reduction goals in mind. Prevent seed formation and root spread on an annual basis.
- B. Larger populations of more than one acre:
 - 1. Using effective, best management practices, apply containment and perimeter buffering management practices at a minimum of fifty feet wide each growing season. Prevent seed formation and root spread on an annual basis.
 - 2. Continue weed management in the year-one fifty-foot buffer zone. Perimeter buffering management practices shall be stepped inward toward the center of the infestation at a minimum of fifty feet wide each season thereafter until the desired goals of the weed management plan have been met.

109.2 Treating in or around ditch areas

I. Colorado requires a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit through the Clean Water Act for applications in or near water. Use of products shall comply with State and Federal law and product labels.

The State of Colorado NPDES Advisory Committee has recommended a clarification in the definition of ditches. Ditches are now divided into wet ditches and dry ditches in Colorado.

A. Dry Ditch Treatments:

La Plata County Contractors will treat only dry ditches; therefore a NPDES Permit will not be required.

B. Wet Ditch Treatments:

If it is further determined that certain wet ditches need to be treated for target weeds, a special work order will be issued before any treatments occur. Exact wet treatment footage will be noted and submitted with the treatment data. Only EPA registered aquatic labeled products will be applied in wet ditches. Treatment thresholds of twenty (20) linear miles shall not be exceeded annually, therefore eliminating the requirement for a NPDES permit.

(Res. No. 2017-35, 10-24-17)

Effective on: 10/24/2017

Sec. 58-110 Enforcement

See Sec. 58-58 through 58-74 of the La Plata County Code.

(Res. No. 2017-35, 10-24-17)

Effective on: 10/24/2017

Sec. 58-111

ATTACHMENT INDEX

ATTACHMENT A

La Plata County Weed Management and Enforcement Plan Weed Lists

"A" List Weeds

State "A" Listed Weeds: All populations of the current State "A" List species are designated for eradication. State "A" List species must be eradicated in accordance with all the provisions of the applicable state noxious weed management plans.

La Plata County Goal 1 Weeds (Elevated Status to County "A" List Weeds): In addition to the State "A" List, the following highlighted State "B" List weeds are also designated for eradication in La Plata County as Goal 1 (or, "A "List) weeds.

'03. While the yellow highlighted weeds are State "B List" weeds, their populations are rare or non-existent in La Plata County, therefore eradication is feasible. Thus, the eradication of such weeds is being prioritized by the County and the status is hereby elevated to the County "A" List. This "A" list designation prioritizes their eradication.

			_	
Weed Name & Scientific Name	Found In LPC?	State List	LPC List	LPC Acres
African rue (Peganum harmala)	N	А	А	0
Absinth wormwood (Artemisia absinthium)	Yes	В	А	0.1
Black henbane (Hyoscyamus niger)	Yes	В	А	.2
Bohemian knotweed (Polygonum bohemicum)	Ν	А	А	0
Camelthorn (Alhagi pseudalhagi)	No	А	А	0
Chinese clematis (Clematis orientalis)	Yes	В	А	0.005
Common crupina (Crupina vulgaris)	Ν	А	А	0
Common tansy (Tanacetum vulgare)	Ν	В	А	0
Common teasel (Dipsacus fullonum)	Ν	В	А	0
Cutleaf teasel (Dipsacus laciniatus)	Ν	В	А	0
Cypress spurge (Euphorbia cyparissias)	Yes	А	А	1
Dyer's woad (Isatis tinctoria)	Ν	А	А	0
Diffuse knapweed (Centaurea diffusa)	Yes	В	А	5
Eurasian watermilfoil (Myriophyllum spicatum)	Yes	В	А	0.22
Elongated mustard (Brassica elongata)	Ν	А	А	0

Weed List A, 39 species:

Flowering Rush (Butomus umbellatus)	N	А	А	0
Giant knotweed (Polygonum sachalinense)	N	А	А	0
Giant reed (Arundo donax)	N	А	А	0
Giant salvinia (Salvinia molesta)	N	A	А	0
Hairy willow-herb (Epilobium hirsutum)	N	A	А	0
Hydrilla (Hydrilla verticillata)	N	А	А	0
Japanese knotweed (Polygonum cuspidatum)	N	А	А	0
Meadow knapweed (Centaurea pratensis)	N	А	А	0
Mediterranean sage (Salvia aethiopis)	N	А	А	0
Medusahead (Taeniatherum caput-medusae)	N	А	А	0
Moth mullein (Verbascum blattoria)	N	В	А	0
Myrtle spurge (Euphorbia myrsinites)	Yes	А	А	2
Orange hawkweed (Hieracium aurantiacum)	Ν	А	А	0
Parrotfeather (Myriophyllum aquaticum)	N	А	А	0
Perennial pepperweed (Lepidium latifolium)	Yes	В	А	2
Plumeless thistle (Carduus acanthoides)	Yes	В	А	10
Purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria)	Ν	А	А	0
Rush skeletonweed (Chondrilla juncea)	Ν	А	А	0
Squarrose knapweed (Centaurea virgata)	N	А	А	0
Sulfur cinquefoil (Potentilla recta)	Yes	В	А	1
Tansy ragwort (Senecio jacobaea)	N	А	А	0
Wild caraway (Carum carvi)	N	В	А	0
Yellow nutsedge (Cyperus esculentus)	N	В	А	0
			А	0

"B" List

Weeds

<u>State "B" Listed Weeds</u>: The following State "B" List Species are designated by the Commissioner for eradication or management wherever they are found. State B List species should be eradicated or managed in accordance with all the provisions of the applicable state noxious weed management plans.

Until a state noxious weed management plan for a particular species is developed and implemented by rule, all persons are recommended to manage that species pursuant to consultation with the Weed Office or pursuant to the management plan developed by the weed office and attached hereto.

La Plata County Goal 2 Weeds (Elevated Status to La Plata County "B" List Weeds):

In addition to the State "B" List Weeds set forth below, the following highlighted State "C" List weeds are also designated for eradication or management in La Plata County as Goal 2 (or,"B" List) weeds.

Size and Location:

All landowners and land managers with mandatory for eradication or management B List Weed Species will be required to implement the following minimal management strategies.

Isolated small populations of one acre or less (goal 1): Intensive best management practices applied with eradication goals in mind. Prevent seed formation and root spread on an annual basis

Satellite populations, one acre or less, (goal 1) proximate to larger populations (goal 2): Intensive best management practices applied with eradication goals in mind. Prevent seed formation and root spread on an annual basis. Large populations of more than one acre (goal 2): Use effective, best management practices. At a minimum, apply containment and perimeter buffering management of fifty feet wide each growing season. Prevent seed formation and root spread on an annual basis.

Containment and perimeter buffering/ reduction practices shall be stepped inward toward the center of the infestation at a minimum of fifty feet wide each season thereafter until the desired goals of the weed management plan have been met. Weed re-growth in previous buffers shall continue to be managed to prevent seed formation and root spread on an annual basis.

Priority Management Areas:

Infestations adjacent to property lines, easements, rights of ways, ditches, canals, streams, rivers, trails, wildlife migration routes, private and public roadways: Buffering will be required each growing season and applied to the entire perimeter of the infestation at a minimum of fifty feet wide at the proper timing in order to prevent seed formation and root spread. Annual stepped in buffering and reduction management will be required.

Weeds listed below are required (mandatory) management by the State of Colorado in La Plata County. All species on the B list are established in La Plata County.

Weed List B, 23 species:

Weed Name & Scientific Name	Found In LPC	State List	LPC List	LPC Acres
Bouncingbet (Saponaria officinalis)	Yes	В	В	0
Bull thistle (Cirsium vulgare)	Yes	В	В	250
Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)	Yes	В	В	1000+
Corn chamomile (Anthemis arvensis)	Yes	В	В	0
Dalmatian toadflax(Linaria dalmatica)	Yes	В	В	1

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Dalmatian toadflax (Linaria genistifolia)	Yes	В	В	0
Dames rocket (Hesperis matronalis)	Yes	В	В	5
Hoary cress aka Whitetop (Cardaria draba)	Yes	В	В	800
Houndstongue (Cynoglossum officinale)	Yes	В	В	1000+
Jointed Goatgrass (Aegilops cylindrical)	Yes	В	В	1000+
Leafy spurge (Euphorbia esula)	Yes	В	В	1000+
Mayweed chamomile (Anthemis cotula)	Yes	В	В	0
Musk thistle (Carduus nutans)	Yes	В	В	1000+
Oxeye daisy (Chrysanthemum leucanthemum)	Yes	В	В	1000+
Russian knapweed (Acroptilon repens)	Yes	В	В	1000+
Poison hemlock (Conium maculatum)	Yes	С	В	
Russian olive (Elaeagnus angustifolia)	Yes	В	В	1000+
Salt cedar Tamarisk (Tamarix Chinensis,	Yes	В	В	600
T. parvifloria, and T. ramosisima)	Yes	В	В	
Scentless chamomile (Matricaria perforata)	Yes	В	В	300
Scotch thistle (Onopordum acanthium)	Yes	В	В	500
Scotch thistle (Onopordum tauricum)	Yes	В	В	
Spotted knapweed (Centaurea maculosa)	Yes	В	В	1000+
Yellow toadflax (Linaria vulgaris)	Yes	В	В	1000+

"C" List Weeds:

The following weeds are designated for recommended and voluntary management until such time they may be designated as mandatory in La Plata County.

State "C" Listed Weeds: All populations of State "C" List species are designated for recommended and voluntary management until a time they are designated as mandatory, with the exception of Poison hemlock, which the County has designated as a "B" List weed.

Weed List C, 16 species:

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-		
N	С	С
Yes	С	С
Yes	с	С
Yes	с	С
N	с	С
Yes	С	С
Yes	С	С
Yes	С	С
N	С	С
Yes	С	С
	Yes Yes Yes Yes N Yes Yes	YesCYesCYesCYesCNCYesC

Importation and Cultivation of A, B, and C listed weeds:

Persons are prohibited from importing seeds, propagated plant parts or live plants and cultivating the A, B and C listed weed species (or others in this document) in La Plata County and the State of Colorado. All listed species are non-native and problematic in La Plata County, Colorado, other States or other North American regions.

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Effective on: 10/24/2017

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