



April 20, 2022

Fellow Stillwater Valley Landowner,

Since 2011, the Stillwater Valley Watershed Council has offered landowners in the Stillwater Valley a unique opportunity to join your neighbors, both public and private, in an on-going effort to control noxious weeds and protect the natural ecosystem throughout the watershed's river corridors. We strongly feel that convenient drives compliance; therefore, the SVWC will continue the "top-to-bottom" approach at weed management in 2022.

By maintaining the incentive of coordinating commercial applicators for participants, increased efficiency and decreased hassle and overall expense to landowners will be realized. The SVWC will continue to provide the coordination and oversight efforts for all weed control program participants; however, with the expected decline in outside grant funding available for the Cooperative Weed Control Program (CWCP), the SVWC will provide cost-share on chemical for first year program enrollees.

With your membership of \$35 to the Stillwater Valley Watershed Council, and pre-payment of \$100, we are offering you the following opportunities:**

- ◆ **Coordinate commercial applicators (at a reduced rate) to perform chemical applications for noxious weed control;**
- ◆ **Cost-share chemical expenses for first year program enrollees;**
- ◆ **Provide on-site weed control consultation, when requested;**
- ◆ **Provide an educational campaign, offering management tools necessary to successfully maintain a weed-free area. *FYI, SVWC's June 16th "Three W's (Weeds, Water, Wildfire) Workshop" will include topics such as controlling weeds on small acreages, weed identification, timing of control measures as well as chemical updates. The SVWC encourages you to attend and expand your knowledge of the vegetation growing on your property. See enclosed postcard for more details.***

CWCP PROGRAM DETAILS: It is estimated that one hour of application time will treat one acre. A prepayment of \$100, with your annual membership of \$35, will be collected prior to the CWCP. Historically, weed treatment begins in mid-June in areas north of Absarokee (to Columbus) and in mid-July around the south end of the watershed (Nye, Roscoe, Fishtail and surrounding areas). **NOTE:** *We will make every effort to accommodate your request for an earlier application time if contractors are available.*

If any additional control measures are required over one hour of application time, the cost will be billed to the landowner at a rate of \$100/hour, plus the cost of chemical. Again, project coordination and oversight is covered by the SVWC, but chemical is not, unless you are a first time CWCP participant.

Landowners will be accepted for this program on a first-come, first-serve basis with an application deadline of June 15th. If you are unsure if noxious weeds are present on your property, please contact Lindsey and arrangements can be made to assess your property prior to making any weed control commitments.





STILLWATER VALLEY
WATERSHED COUNCIL

PO Box: 112
Absarokee, MT 59001

For those long-time participants of the CWCP, we truly appreciate your dedication to the control of noxious weeds in our watershed and support of this program! Hopefully by this time, the SVWC has given you the tools and contacts needed to take care of your noxious weed concerns. Therefore, we encourage you to begin to think about controlling your own infestations, if you are willing and able, in order for the SVWC to focus fiscal efforts on those landowners that do not yet have these tools.

For the first time, **the SVWC will offer a backpack sprayer fill program, enabling landowners to treat their own small infestations without needing full knowledge of which chemicals to purchase/apply.** SVWC and Stillwater Weed District personnel will be on hand during Day 1 of the Upper Stillwater spray days to give a brief safety and educational demonstration at the Nye Fire Hall. We will then fill handheld or backpack sprayers, with the first load being available at no cost to SVWC members. Please complete enclosed registration form and check the appropriate box.

WEED CONTROL ACT: No matter your weed control plans for the year, please remember that we must all take responsibility for managing our property to keep the Stillwater Valley from being infested with noxious weeds. According to the Montana Local County Weed Act (7-22-2116), it is unlawful for any person to permit noxious weeds to propagate or go to seed on their land. Additionally, the longer aggressive control measures are postponed, the more these control measures will cost; resulting in increased environmental problems and devaluation of property.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this coordination effort, please complete the enclosed form and return it to us by June 15th. A fill-in application can also be completed on SVWC's website at www.StillwaterValleyWatershed.com under the section "About the SVWC" then "Weed Control". Please contact our Coordinator, Lindsey Clark, at 406-780-1249 for more information; inquiries can also be sent to SVWC2010@hotmail.com.

Sincerely,

SVWC Board of Directors | Lindsey Clark, Coordinator | 406.780.1249

****NOTE:** Due to astronomical fuel rate increases nationwide, the SVWC regretfully must raise the hourly rate we compensate our dedicated commercial applicators. Rates have not been raised in 7 years.

Making a difference in Stillwater Valley, Montana
svwc2010@hotmail.com - www.stillwatervalleywatershed.com

