



STILLWATER VALLEY
WATERSHED COUNCIL

PO Box: 112
Absarokee, MT 59001

May 12, 2023

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 river corridors. ***Following the historic flood of 2022, the distribution of weed seeds throughout the floodplain is a huge unknown and an issue that needs to be addressed sooner rather than later. This is your chance to be proactive in your weed management efforts.***

Because we strongly feel that convenience drives compliance, the SVWC will continue the "top-to-bottom" approach at weed management in 2023. By maintaining the incentive of coordinating commercial applicators for participants, landowners benefit from increased efficiency, decreased hassle, and overall lower expense. The SVWC will continue to provide the coordination and oversight efforts for all weed control program participants. Additionally, SVWC will provide cost-share for all 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 all 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: One hour of application time is estimated to treat one acre (depending on terrain). A prepayment of \$100, with your annual membership of \$35, will be collected prior to the CWCP. 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.

Weed treatment will begin in mid-June in areas north of Absarokee (to Columbus) and in mid-September in the south end of the watershed (Nye, Roscoe, Fishtail and surrounding areas). With the drought of 2021 and flood of 2022, CWCP spraying has been forced to postpone to late summer/fall treatments. This has been effective for numerous reasons: 1) it is cooler, 2) there is a higher likelihood of increased moisture for the chemical to translocate—improving control, 3) weed regrowth can be targeted as well as mature plants, covering a broader range of age classes, 4) weeds along the river that have been dispersed due to the flood will be more visible and easier to access with the lower water levels, and 5) local commercial applicators are more available.

NOTE: We will make every effort to accommodate your request for an earlier application time if contractors are available.



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



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Landowners will be accepted for this program on a first-come, first-served basis with an application deadline of July 15. 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.

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.

The SVWC will again offer a backpack sprayer fill program in mid-July, enabling landowners to treat their own small infestations without needing full knowledge of which chemicals to purchase/apply. We will meet at the Nye Fire Hall, giving a brief safety and educational demonstration about chemical and proper spraying techniques. Handheld or backpack sprayers will then be filled with the first load of chemical FREE to SVWC members. Please complete enclosed registration form and check the appropriate box and Lindsey will be in contact with you in early July with the further details.

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 community coordinated effort, please complete the enclosed form and return it to us by July 15. 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 Lindsey Clark, at 406-780-1249 for more information.

Sincerely,

SVWC Board of Directors | Lindsey Clark, Coordinator | 406.780.1249



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svwc2010@hotmail.com - www.stillwatervalleywatershed.com