



GROUND DISTURBANCE AND REVEGETATION GUIDELINES

Ravalli County Weed District
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To comply with the MONTANA'S COUNTY WEED CONTROL ACT 7-22-2152 MCA:

Under Ravalli County's Weed Regulations Section 7 and 21 (excerpt attached), certain activities resulting in disturbed ground require notification of the Weed Board and submission and implementation of a plan to control weeds and reestablish a cover of beneficial plants (a form for the plan is attached below). The district may accept or require modification of a Revegetation and Noxious Weed Management Plan for Disturbed Sites within 10 working days of the receipt of the plan. Successful revegetation of a disturbed site depends on matching site characteristics with species that are well adapted to those site characteristics. The following are some guidelines:

1. **Site Preparation (topsoil management and seed bed preparation).** If present, the topsoil on a site needs to be salvaged separately from subsoil prior to beginning construction. If possible topsoil should be wind rowed rather than piles. If the project is to last more than a growing season the topsoil should be seeded with an annual cover to suppress weed growth. After construction compacted areas should be ripped and topsoil redistributed over area to be revegetated. An ideal seed bed is topsoil six inches deep lightly compacted until an average person leaves a foot print .25 to .5 inches deep in the soil.
2. **Seed species.** Certified Noxious Weed Seed Free Seed should always be used to ensure quality seed is being purchased. Contact the Weed Department or Ravalli County extension for specific seed species depending on site conditions and other preferences (such as native versus non-native species).
3. **Seeding Rates.** Seeding rates can be determined by identifying the existing vegetation and referring to the Seeder Calibration Handout, available through Ravalli County Weed District. Seed rates should be expressed as pounds of Pure Live Seed per Acre.
4. **Seed Placement.** Drill seeding is the preferred and most successful method of seed placement. Broadcast seeding is quick and simple but requires doubling the seed rate to compensate for less than optimal seed placement. The soil surface should be roughed up prior to and just after broadcast seeding. Hydro-seeding and hydro-mulching are accepted methods of seed placement. The advantages and disadvantages should be discussed with the hydro-seeding contractor.
5. **Timing of Seeding.** Time of seeding is as critical as any component of the revegetation process. The recommendation for dryland seeding in western Montana is dormant fall seeding, after October 15th and before freeze up. This timing allows new seedlings to use all available spring moisture and become well established before the summer drought.
6. **Fertilizer.** Fertilization is normally not necessary under dryland conditions. Some non-native species respond to fertilization while native species generally are adapted

to soil with low fertility. If fertilizer is used, a soil test is needed to determine the fertilizer rate.

- 7. Weed Control on Revegetated Land.** Weed Control is critical to the success of any revegetation project. If weeds are present on a site to be disturbed a weed control program prior to disturbance will greatly enhance the probability of success of a revegetation project. Annual weed pressure will interfere with the initial establishment of beneficial vegetation and must be addressed in any revegetation plan. Many species take more than one year to become established necessitating a weed management plan that controls weeds for at least two years.

Inspection Fees (Due upon submission of plan)

An inspection fee must be paid for the subject property accompanying the Revegetation and Noxious Weed Management Plan.

The fee structure for the inspection of the entire subdivision or **constructed road, irrigation or drainage ditch, a pipeline, an electric, communication, gas, or liquid transmission line, or any other development on an easement or right-of-way** shall be \$100.00 for 10 acres and under, 11 acres and over shall be an additional \$15.00 / acre. Total Fee will not exceed \$300.00.

Example for a 15.5 acre subdivision:

\$100.00 - for the first 10 acres
+\$82.50 - for the additional 5.5 acres (5.5 x \$15.00)
\$ 182.50 Total

Ground Disturbance, Revegetation and Noxious Weed Management Plan

Date Plan received by Weed District _____

BEFORE CONSTRUCTION/DISTURBANCE BEGINS, please complete and submit a copy of this Subdivision Noxious Weed Management and Revegetation Plan to the Ravalli County Weed District office for review and approval by the Weed Board. *If you need assistance filling out this plan please contact the Weed District 406-777-5842.*

Include a map of the land(s) being developed/disturbed when submitting the Plan.

Landowner Information (required)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Developer/person responsible for ground disturbance Information: (if different than landowner)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Property Location:

Subdivision Name: _____

Legal Description: _____ 1/4, _____ 1/4, Sec. _____, T. _____ N/S, R. _____ E/W

Physical Address _____

Please attach a survey or plat of the site if possible.

Weeds Present Please Circle

<u>Priority 1A</u>	<u>Priority 2A</u>	<u>Priority 2B</u>
Yellow Starthistle	Blueweed	Canada Thistle
	Hoary Alyssum	Field Bindweed
<u>Priority 1B</u>	Tansy Ragwort	Leafy Spurge
Dyers Woad	Meadow Hawkweed	Whitetop
Flowering Rush	Orange Hawkweed	Russian Knapweed
Japanese Knotweed Complex	Tall Buttercup	Spotted Knapweed
Purple Loosestrife	Tamarisk Salt Cedar	Diffuse Knapweed
Rush Skeletonweed	Yellow flag Iris	Dalmatian Toadflax
Eurasian Watermilfoil	Perennial Pepperweed	St. Johnswort
Scotch Broom		Sulfur Cinquefoil
Curlyleaf Pondweed	<u>County Listed Weeds</u>	Common Tansy
	Common Bugloss	Oxeye Daisy
	Black Henbane	Houndstongue
	Field Scabious	Yellow Toadflax
	Common Teasel	Salt cedar
	Kochia (county/state roadside only)	
		<u>Priority 3</u>
		Cheatgrass
		Hydrilla

Number of acres, or square feet of disturbance: _____

Type of disturbance: (subdivision, road construction, sewer installation, approach etc)

A. Disturbed Area Revegetation Plan:

1. Site preparation: Describe topsoil management and seed bed preparation/

2. Seed Species and seeding rates: (pound, PLS, acre)

3. Seeding method: (drill, hydro-seed, broadcast, or other)

4. Time of seeding:

5. Fertilization: (pound/acre)

6. Weed control method(s) for each noxious weed

Weed	Control Method	Product & Rate	Control Timing

- Example of control methods: Chemical, Biological, Mechanical, Cultural
- If control method is chemical, the specific herbicide that will be used and its application rate
- If control method is biological, the specific species and rate of application
- Most Noxious weeds are best treated during active growth. Check with the Weed District about your weed.

Signature of Landowner (required)

X _____ Date _____

Signature of Developer/Person responsible for ground disturbance (if different than landowner)

X _____ Date _____

This signed plan constitutes a binding agreement between Ravalli County and the responsible person or agency for 2 years from the weed district's sign and date.

Ravalli County Weed District

X _____ Date _____

Comments and Conditions:

EXCERPT OF COUNTY WEED REGULATIONS RELATED TO GROUND DISTURBANCE

Landowner or person responsible for ground disturbance is responsible for knowing all current weed regulations. Check for currentness of these regulations.

7: GROUND DISTURBANCE MUST BE MITIGATED:

A. NOTIFICATION OF WEED BOARD: Any person proposing any development that needs state or local approval and that results in the potential for noxious weed infestation within the Weed District shall notify the Weed Board at least 15 days prior to the activity. See Section 21 below.

B. DISTURBED GROUND MANAGED TO PREVENT WEEDS: Whenever any person constructs a road, an irrigation or drainage ditch, a pipeline, an electric, communication, gas, or liquid transmission line, or any other development on an easement or right-of-way, the areas must be seeded, planted, or otherwise managed to reestablish a cover of beneficial plants according to the provisions of Section 21 below.

(See § 7-22-2152, MCA.)

21: REVEGETATION OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND AREAS THAT HAVE POTENTIAL FOR NOXIOUS WEED INFESTATION.

A. NOTIFICATION OF WEED BOARD: Any person or state agency proposing a mine, a major facility under Title 75, chapter 20, an electric, communication, gas, or liquid transmission line, a solid waste facility, a highway or road, a subdivision, a commercial, industrial, or government development, or any other development that needs state or local approval and that results in the potential for noxious weed infestation within the Weed District shall notify the Weed Board at least 15 days prior to the activity.

B. REVEGETATION REQUIRED: Whenever any person or agency constructs a road, an irrigation or drainage ditch, a pipeline, an electric, communication, gas, or liquid transmission line, or any other development on an easement or right-of-way, the Weed Board shall require that the areas be seeded, planted, or otherwise managed to reestablish a cover of beneficial plants.

C. WRITTEN REVEGETATION PLAN REQUIRED: The person or agency committing the action shall submit to the Weed Board a written plan specifying the methods to be used to accomplish revegetation at least 15 days prior to the activity. The plan must describe the time and method of seeding, fertilization practices, recommended plant species, use of weed-free seed, and the weed management procedures to be used.

D. TERM OF REVEGETATION PLAN: A revegetation plan shall be valid for no more than three years.

E. APPROVAL OF REVEGETATION PLAN: The revegetation plan is subject to approval by the Weed Board, which may require revisions to bring the revegetation plan into compliance with the Ravalli County Weed Plan.

F. NO ACTIVITY PERMITTED UNTIL PLAN APPROVED: The activity for which notice is given may not occur until the plan is approved by the Weed Board and signed by a designee of the Weed Board and by the person or a representative of the agency responsible for the action.

G. BINDING AGREEMENT: The signed revegetation plan constitutes a binding agreement. The plan must be approved, with revisions if necessary, within 10 days of receipt by the Weed Board.