

UTAH COUNTY WEED CONTROL BOARD MEETING

Minutes

January 22, 2024

In Person Meeting

Utah County Commission Conference Room
51 S. University Ave, Provo, Utah 84601

Board Members: Tom Sakievich, (Utah County Commissioner)
Dean Miner, Vice Chairman, (Extension Office)
Rex Larsen, (Farm Bureau)
Sid Smart, (Farmer)
Kim Evans, (Farmer)

1. Meeting called to order- Tom Sakievich- 1 p.m.
2. Introduction- Roll Call
 - Tom Sakievich, Utah County Commissioner, Chairman, Board Member (by phone)
 - Dean Miner, Vice Chairman, Board Member
 - Kim Evans, Farmer, Board Member
 - Rex Larsen, Farmer, Board Member
 - Lisa Shepherd, Policy Adviser
 - Ben Stanley, Utah County Deputy Attorney
 - Jake Johnson, Utah County Weed Control Supervisor
 - Sam Coombs, Utah County Road & Weed Control Divisions Head Supervisor
 - Aaron Eagar, Utah Department of Agriculture, State Weed Coordinator
 - Dakota Durfey, Utah Department of Agriculture, Compliance Specialist

Chairman Tom Sakievich asked Vice Chairman Dean Miner to conduct meeting

3. Approval of Minutes November 11, 2023, meeting
 - No Comments
 - Motion to approve: Rex Larsen*
 - Seconded: Kim Evans*
 - Passed unanimously.*
4. Open and Public Meetings Act Training- Ben Stanley
5. Approval of Utah County Noxious Weed Control Policy- Jake Johnson
 - Attachment A
 - Updated 2023 Weed Control Policy to exclude a mentioned year so the new policy can stand until it is determined it needs to be updated. By doing so it stops having to approve a new policy annually.
 - Motion to approve: Kim Evans*
 - Seconded: Rex Larsen*
 - Passed unanimously.*
6. Approval of Annual Public General Notice Posting- Jake Johnson
 - Attachment B

- Updated 2023 Annual Public General Notice Posting to state 2024 instead of 2023.
- Public General Notice Posting to be physically posted in the Utah County Administration, Public Works, and Health & Justice buildings. It is to be physically posted at the Spanish Fork Fair grounds by their boarding facilities as well. It is also to be posted in the Daily Herald in three different printings. All before May 1, 2024.

Motion to approve: Rex Larsen

Seconded: Tom Sakievich

Passed unanimously.

7. Approval of Individual Notice/Complaint Procedure- Jake Johnson

- Attachment C
- Old procedure was out of date.
- Can now submit a noxious weed report through link on Utah County Weed Control Webpage
- Update to show possible actions.
- One Question: Why did we single out Myrtle Spurge for a letter?
 - i. Summarized Answer: Myrtle Spurge is a class 4 Utah State Declared Noxious Weed species. Utah County has no authority to pursue code enforcement for control of this species but is a potential health hazard. So, it is a letter to inform the landowners of the potential health hazard on their property.

Motion to approve: Kim Evans

Seconded: Rex Larsen

Passed unanimously.

8. Approval of Utah County's 2024 General Weed Control Plan and Grant Proposals- Jake Johnson

- Attachment D
- Motion to approve: Rex Larsen*
Seconded: Tom Sakievich
Passed unanimously.

9. Other Business

- Aaron Eagar- Utah Department of Agriculture likely to add an aquatics section to the Utah State Declared Noxious Weed List. Currently species being reviewed are Parrot Feather and Eurasian watermilfoil. Eurasian Watermilfoil has been positively identified in Utah. With Utah Lake being in Utah County this could affect Utah County. There are also 14 other species under review to be added to the Utah State Declared Noxious Weed list. There is also a conversation on allowing a sterile version of Bermuda grass to be sold and grown in Utah.

10. Scheduling of Future Utah County Weed Control Board Meeting

- November 18, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in the Utah County Commission Conference Room.

11. Adjourn- 2:02 p.m.

Motion to adjourn: Tom Sakievich

Seconded: Rex Larsen

Passed unanimously.

Utah County Noxious Weed Control Policy

A. Statement of Intent

The Utah County Noxious Weed Control Program will function and enforce in accordance with the State of Utah Noxious Weed Act and Utah County Code 7.11 to organize, supervise, and coordinate a noxious weed control plan for Utah County including chemical, mechanical, and biological control practices.

B. Annual Coordination of Meetings

The Utah County Weed Control Board shall hold an annual coordination meeting each calendar year prior to the start of the weed season. All organizations concerned with weed control and the public are welcome to attend. Notice of the meeting shall be posted in compliance with County Code and State Law. The main purpose of this meeting will be to discuss and approve noxious weed control efforts for the coming year. The approval of the annual general notice of noxious weeds within the county (Utah State Code 4-17-109) will be discussed at this meeting as well.

A final meeting of the year shall be held at the end of the calendar year. The main objective of this meeting is to inform the Utah County Weed Board of the weed control activities for the past season and to discuss possible priorities for the following year. The *Annual Weed Progress Report* will be created after the items discussed in this meeting and submitted by the Utah County Weeds Supervisor to the Utah Department of Agriculture.

Additional board meetings may be held during the year to discuss pressing weed control issues such as new noxious weed discoveries, noxious weed law violations, and code enforcement appeals.

C. Board Membership

Chairman- Utah County Commissioner

Role:

- Preside over and conduct the board meetings.
- Provide positive and energetic leadership.
- Act as spokesman for the weed board with other county commissioners.

Vice Chair- Appointed by Weed Board

(appointment shall be for the length of a four-year term)

Role:

- Assist the Chairman as requested.
- Preside at and conduct board meetings in the absence of the Chairman

All Board Members:

Role:

- Attend all meetings of the Utah County Weed Board
- Report infestations of noxious weeds to the board and the weed supervisor
- Know the Noxious Weed and Seed Laws

Attachment A

- Be willing to share knowledge and understanding of weed problems and weed control.
- Set an example of good weed control on personal farms, ranches, home grounds, and on any land under your control or supervision.

D. Other Roles

Weed Supervisor

Role:

- Direct Weed Control Program for Utah County Weed Board.
 - Receive and investigate violations of Noxious Weed Act
 - Determine and send out individual notices for Noxious Weed Act violations.
 - Peruse code compliance if necessary.
 - Plan, coordinate, and supervise weed control efforts made by the Weed Control Division
 - Keep records of work accomplished.
- Oversee Noxious Weed Fee Certification inspections for Utah County Land Use Ordinance 14.12.C.9.
- Report annually to Weed Control Board
- Attend all meetings of the Utah County Weed Board
- Keep minutes of all meetings
- Create an agenda for board meetings.
- Provide consultation for best noxious weed control practices.

USU extension Agent

Role:

- Provides support to the program by being the lead for education outreach.

Utah Department of Agriculture Agents

Inspector

Role:

- Part of an inspector's job is to monitor products being sold by a variety of retailers, orchards, and other agricultural related businesses. If noxious weed products (plant or seed) are being sold, U.D.A.F. can impose regulatory authority and stop the sale of these products. (Utah Seed Law, Utah Administrative Code R68-8). Involvement with local weed boards helps both agencies be more aware of issues developing within Utah County. Agencies can work together with issues at hand.

Invasive Species Mitigation Program Manager

Role:

- I.S.M. grant funds could provide or have provided funding to address large-scale noxious weed issues within Utah County. I.S.M. Program Manager oversees county boards throughout Utah are following Utah State Code 4.17 regulations. Involvement with meetings helps County awareness of potential or approaching weed issues and possible funding source for weed control projects.

Attachment A

E. Weed Control Division Service Area

Any individual, corporation, municipality, governmental agency, or organization owning, leasing, or controlling property within Utah County may request consultation for best weed control practices by the Utah County Weed Control Division. All requests for control services will be referred to a commercial companies/applicator. Utah County Weeds Division may perform control services on County maintained/owned properties, on project areas approved by the Utah County Weed Board, or on other areas as directed by Utah County Government.

Property owners are encouraged to participate in noxious weed control activities by locating, identifying, and controlling specific infestations on their individual properties. The Utah County Weeds Division shall conduct noxious weed control activities within Utah County. In the case of weed control adjacent to organic farms, the County may actively spray up to the property boundaries including all County Road rights-of-way and easements. The responsibility to provide a "no-spray" buffer remains with the property owner. If noxious weeds are present on organic farms, the property owner can opt to control said weeds in compliance with this policy, County code, and State law with non-chemical applications if the control is effective. However, if the property owners are unable to control weeds in an appropriate manner, the property may be declared a public nuisance in compliance with Utah County Code 7.11.110 and the Utah County Weeds Division would control the weeds accordingly at the expense of the property owner.

F. Weed Control Priorities

1. Control of noxious weeds or any plant deemed a nuisance or hazard on property within the county.
2. Control of noxious weeds on water ways including lakes, ponds, streams, drainage, and irrigation systems. Also, control of non-noxious plants which impede the water flow in irrigation systems when that control can be accomplished as part of the noxious weed application.
3. Control of noxious weeds on non-crop land areas such as rangeland, wet pastures, fence lines, vacant land, rights-of-way, easements, county roadsides, etc.

The State of Utah has adopted a noxious weed list with prioritization within Utah Administration Code R68-9. This prioritization has 4 different class categories with different actions called for mattering on the class. The State's prioritization will be followed unless the Utah County Weed Board approves the Utah County Weeds Division to address it as a different classification than the State's prioritization.

Utah County Weed Board may also declare other weeds not on the State list as "County Noxious Weeds" in compliance with Utah State code 4-17-107(3a). If a plant species is declared as a Utah County Noxious Weed, the Utah County Weed Board shall determine what classification it is to be recognized within the county using the same classifications as the State's prioritization list.

G. Weed Control Fee Schedule

Attachment A

Code Compliance Work – Cost of herbicide and labor used, plus equipment rates defined in Utah County Code, Fee Schedule for Public Works.

Grant Projects –All treatment costs are covered by use of project funding.

Noxious Weed Certification- \$100 inspection fee as defined in Utah County Code, Fee Schedule for Public Works.

Attachment B

2024 State of Utah Noxious Weed List

The following are declared noxious weeds for the State of Utah, as per the, Utah Noxious Weed Act:

Common Crupina	Dyers Woad
African Rue	Yellow Starthistle
Small Bugloss	Yellow Toadflax
Mediterranean Sage	Diffuse Knapweed
Spring Milletgrass	Black Henbane
Syrian Beancaper	Dalmation Toadflax
Ventenata (North African Grass)	Russian Knapweed
Plumeless Thistle	Houndstounge
Malta Starthistle	Perennial Pepperweed
Camelthorn	Phragmities
Garlic Mustard	Tamarisk
Purple Starthistle	Hoary Cress
Goatsrue	Canada Thistle
Sahara Mustard	Poison Hemlock
Giant Reed	Musk Thistle
Japanese Knotweed	Quackgrass
Vipers Bugloss	Jointed Goatgrass
Elongated Mustard	Bermudagrass
Common St. Johnswort	Perennial Sorghum
Oxeye Daisy	Russian Olive
Cutleaf Vipergrass	Scotch Thistle (Cotton Thistle)
Leafy Spurge	Field Bindweed (Wild Morning-glory)
Medusahead Rye	Puncturevine
Rush Skeletonweed	Cogongrass (Japanese Blood Grass)
Spotted Knapweed	Myrtle Spurge
Purple Loosestrife	Dame's Rocket
Squarrose Knapweed	Scotch Broom

Pursuant to Utah Noxious Weed Act (Utah Code 4-17-101 et seq.) and Utah Administrative Code R-68-9-6, it is the duty of every property owner to control and prevent the spread of noxious weeds on any land in his/her possession or control. Enforced weed control measures may be imposed against you for failure to comply with this notice. For any questions you may have, please contact the Utah County Weed Control at 801-851-8638 or Visit the Utah County website at www.utahcounty.gov



WEED CONTROL

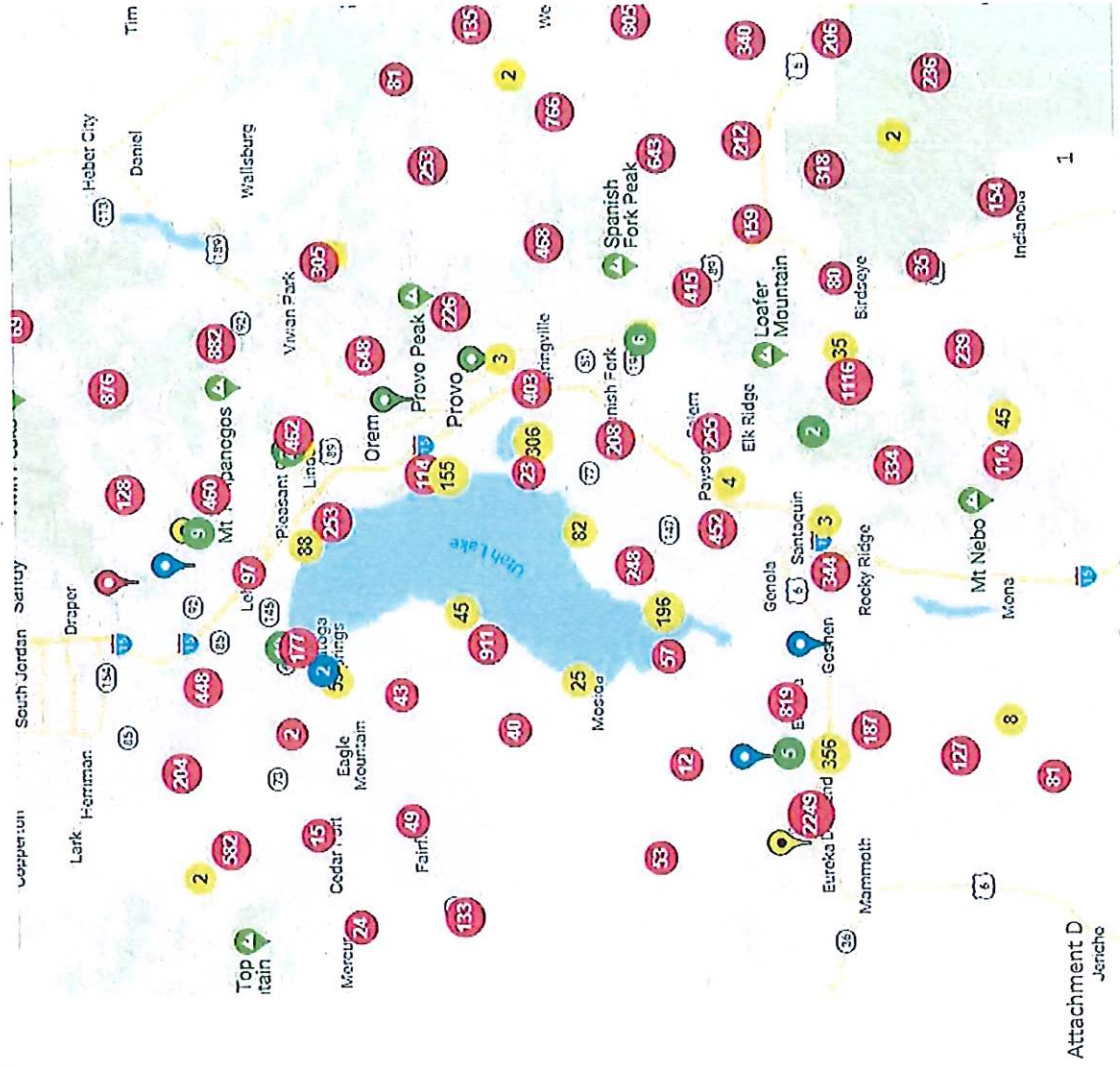
Noxious Weed Individual Notice/Report Procedure

1. Report/Complaint is received, or Utah County Weed Control personnel found violation.
 - a. Online form-link named Report Noxious Weed Infestation in Utah County on Utah County's Weed Control webpage (<https://www.utahcounty.gov/Dept/PubWrks/WeedControl.asp>)
2. Utah County Weed Control Board approved Inspector reviews complaint.
3. Actions possible:
 - a. No action
 - i. Report of noxious weeds found unsubstantiated or already resolved.
 1. Reporter Informed of findings.
 - ii. Individual Notice Sent- Complaint confirmed and meets criteria for Individual Landowner Notice
 - i. Types of Individual Notices
 1. Individual notice
 2. Individual notice (grant funds available)
 - a. Sometimes noxious weed issues fall within a defined area that has funding specific to address undesirable vegetation. In this scenario supplies or services may be available to the landowner to help address the weed issue
 - ii. Landowner Options once notices are received.
 1. Perform control measure to address reduce/eradicate species on property.
 2. Appeal
 - a. Utah County Weed Control Board meetings for appeals will be set up as quickly as possible.
 3. No Response
 - a. If no response is received further steps may be taken to declare the property a public nuisance. If a property is declared a public nuisance code enforcement may take place and expenses incurred may be invoiced to the landowner. If the invoice is not paid a lien may be placed on the property itself.
 - b. Report/Complaint Letter
 - i. This letter is sent to inform landowners of a noxious weed issue on their property.
 - ii. Infestation is not to the extent that code enforcement may be pursued.
 - iii. This letter is for Utah State Declared Noxious Weed species that can be found throughout Utah County and are common to find in the area.
 - iv. Report/Complaint based action only.
 - c. Myrtle Spurge letter
 - i. This letter is sent to inform landowner of a Myrtle Spurge infestation on their property.
 - d. Forwarded to Municipalities
 - i. Many municipalities have Utah State Declared Noxious Weed Species control regulations within their municipal code. Sometimes municipal code is more expansive than Utah County's. For municipalities that have a code enforcement/compliance program to address noxious weed issues, Utah County will forward noxious weed reports to municipalities to address.
 - ii. Reports are forwarded to municipalities electronically.

Note-

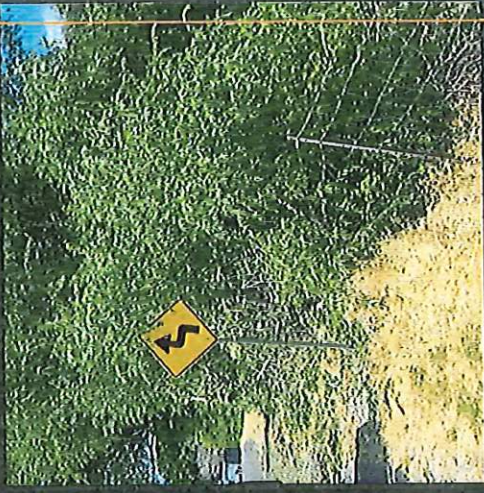
- Reporters will be informed of the action taken when possible unless privacy rights or other considerations require otherwise upon advice of legal counsel.
- Complaints that are not noxious weed related will be forwarded to an appropriate agency or department.

Utah County Weed Control Plan 2024



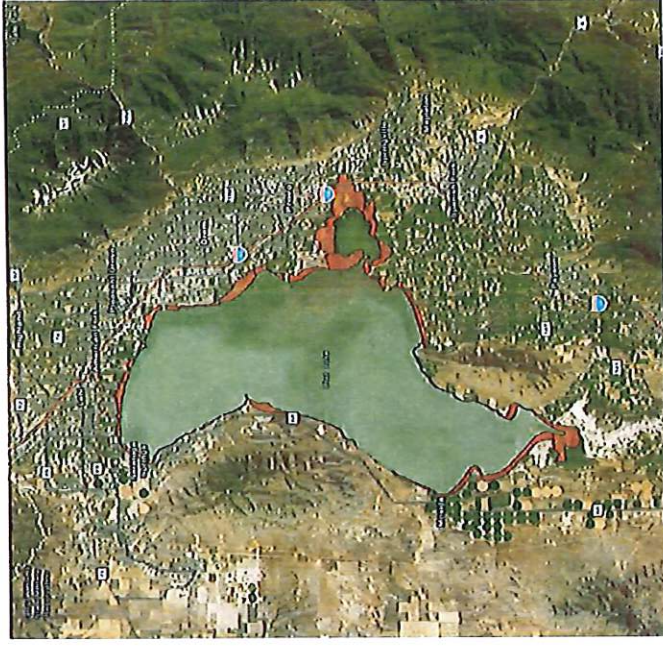
Utah County Public Works Vegetation Management Responsibilities

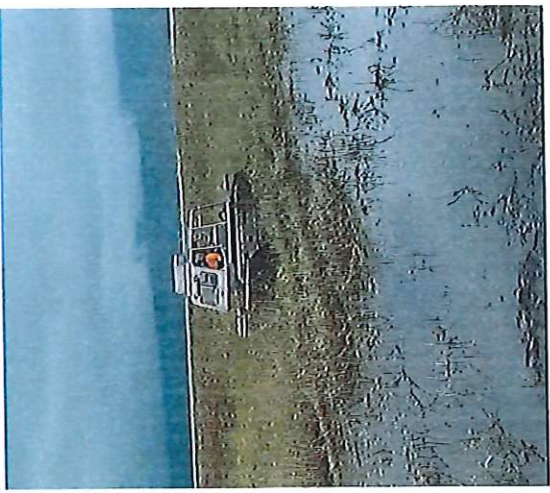
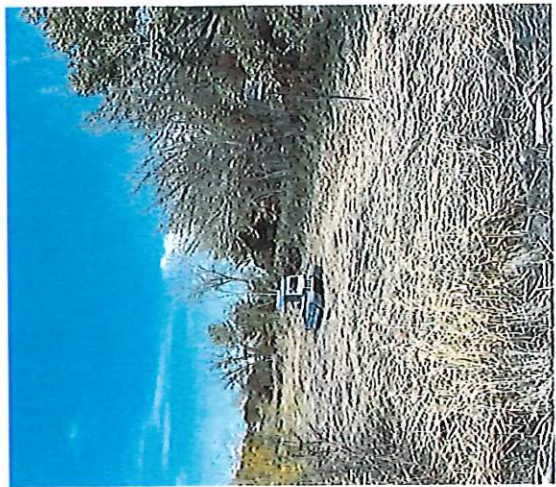
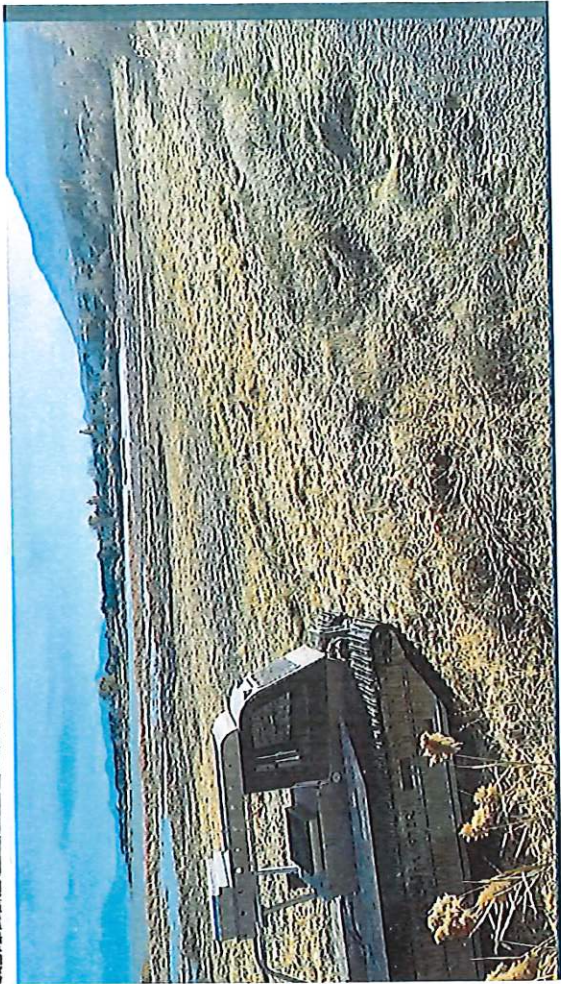
- B Roads (531 miles)
 - Herbicide treatments
 - Mowing
- Debris Basins
 - Santaquin, Hobble Creek, and Payson
 - Herbicide treatments
 - Mowing
- Help with other Utah County Properties



Utah Lake Shoreline Phragmites Removal and Restoration Project

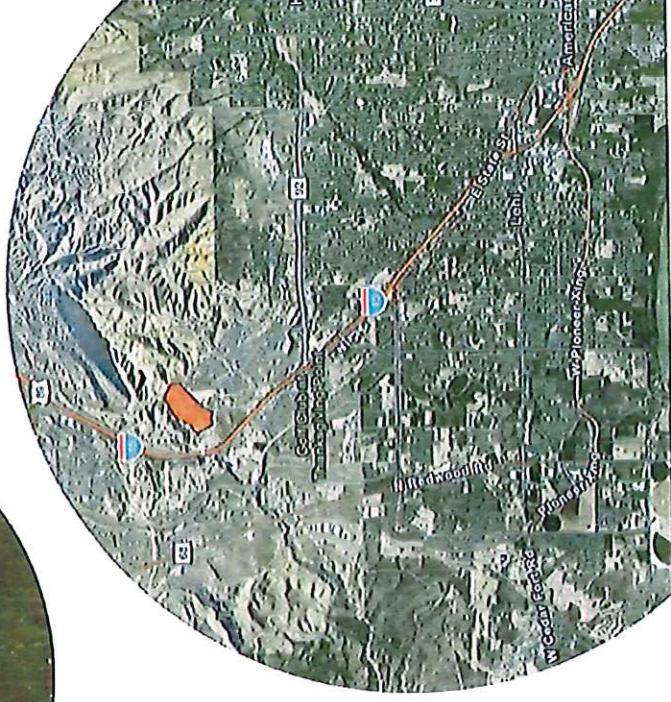
- Currently have funds/agreements with Watershed Restoration Initiative (D.N.R., Grant, \$134,354.55), Invasive Species Mitigation (U.D.A.F., Grant, \$113,088), and Utah Lake Authority (agreement, \$133,327.15)
- Project Objectives
 - Spot Treat 9,575 acres for Phragmites; Treatments include:
 - Aerial Herbicide Application (helicopter)
 - Ground Herbicide Application (Marsh Masters)
 - Mowing/Smashing of Phragmites (Marsh Masters)
 - Removal of Salt Cedars and Russian Olives
 - Use of skid steer with Forestry Head attachment, Cut Stump treatments
- Future Funding
 - F.F.S.L. plans contributing \$300,000 toward Utah Lake annually.
 - Multiple year agreement in process now
 - Funds to buy equipment this year (7/2023-6/2024)
 - Funds to replace WRI and ISM Grants from 7/2024-6/2026
 - Utah Lake Authority plans to continue funding for invasive control
 - Current Agreement \$123,000 (7/2023-6/2024)
 - WRI grant proposal submitted for revegetation efforts with stay with U.L.A. to facilitate.

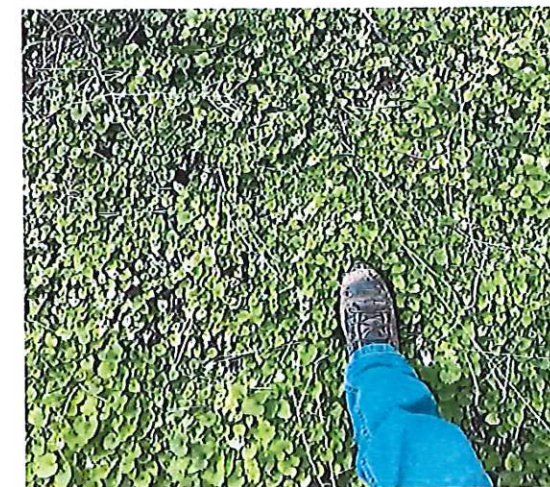
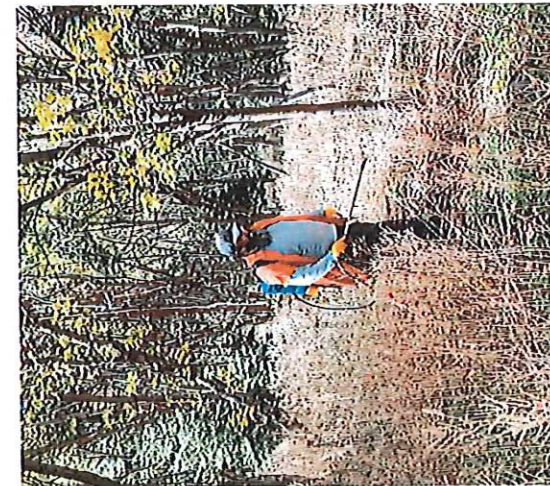
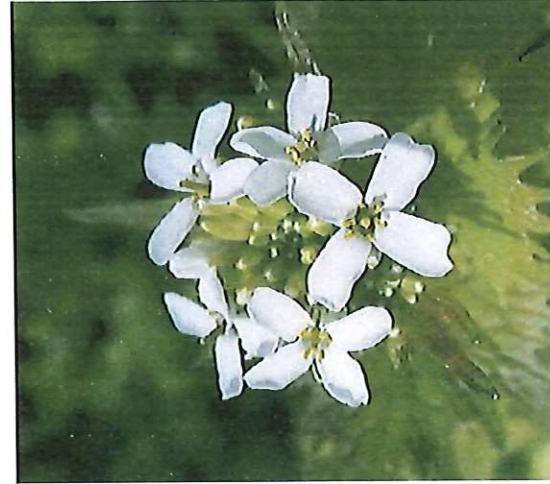




Utah County Garlic Mustard and Dyers Woad I.S.M. Project

- Current funded 7/2023-6/2024 of \$50,905
- Propose to Continue Project by applying for I.S.M. funding. Funding would be for 7/2024-6/2025.
- Project Objective
 - Spot treat Utah State Declared Noxious Weed species within define project areas (1,630 acres). Focus on Garlic Mustard and Dyers Woad control. Work mainly by backpack sprayers due to limited access due to steepness and other restrictions.
 - Herbicide to distribute to partnering agencies
 - Funds to hire contractor apply with backpack
 - Funds to have Utah County personnel apply herbicide
- Approximation of I.S.M. Application of \$60,905

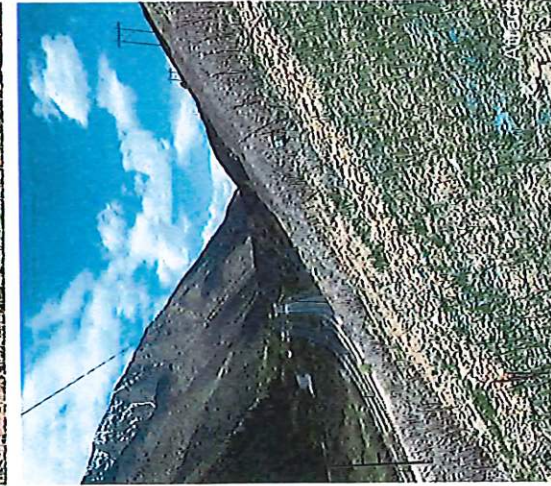




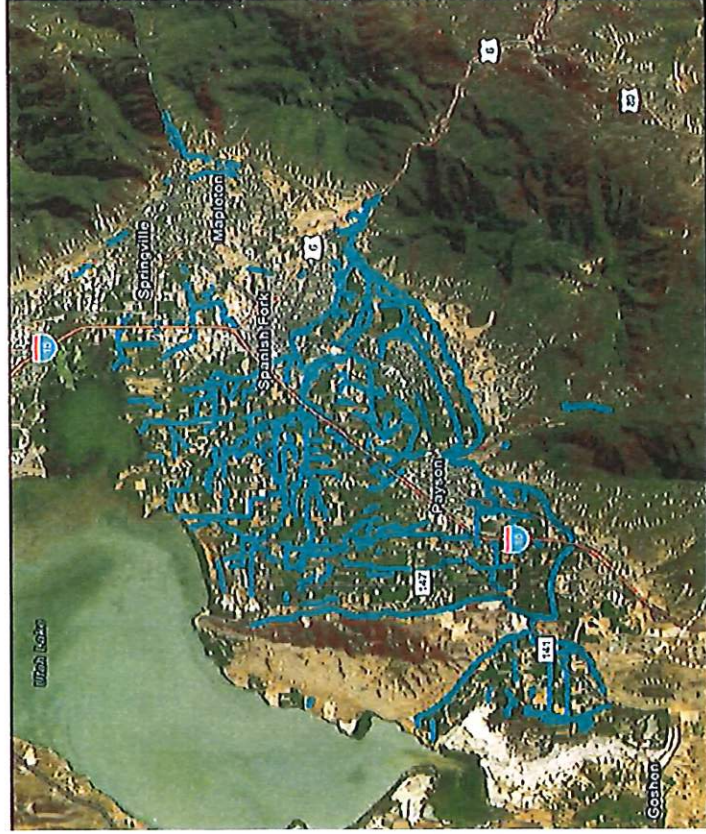
Garlic Mustard and Dyers Woad

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Attachment D



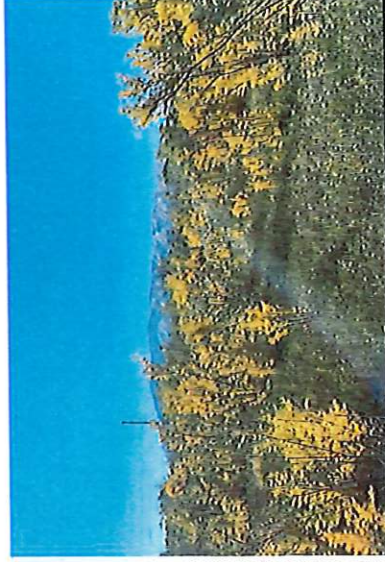
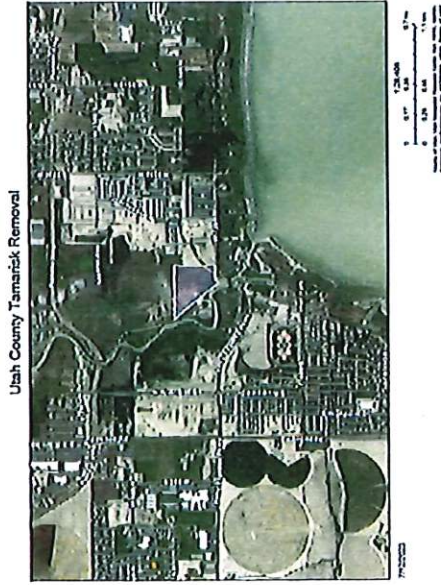
Southern Utah County Irrigation System I.S.M. Project



- Currently funding 7/2023-6/2024 of \$19,560
- Propose to Continue Project by applying for I.S.M. funding
- Approximation of I.S.M. Application- \$20,000. Funding would be for 7/2024-6/2025.
- Project area size 1,166 acres
- Funds used primarily to purchase herbicide. Herbicide is then distributed to partnering Irrigation Companies to treat Noxious Weed found within irrigation systems in Southern Utah County.

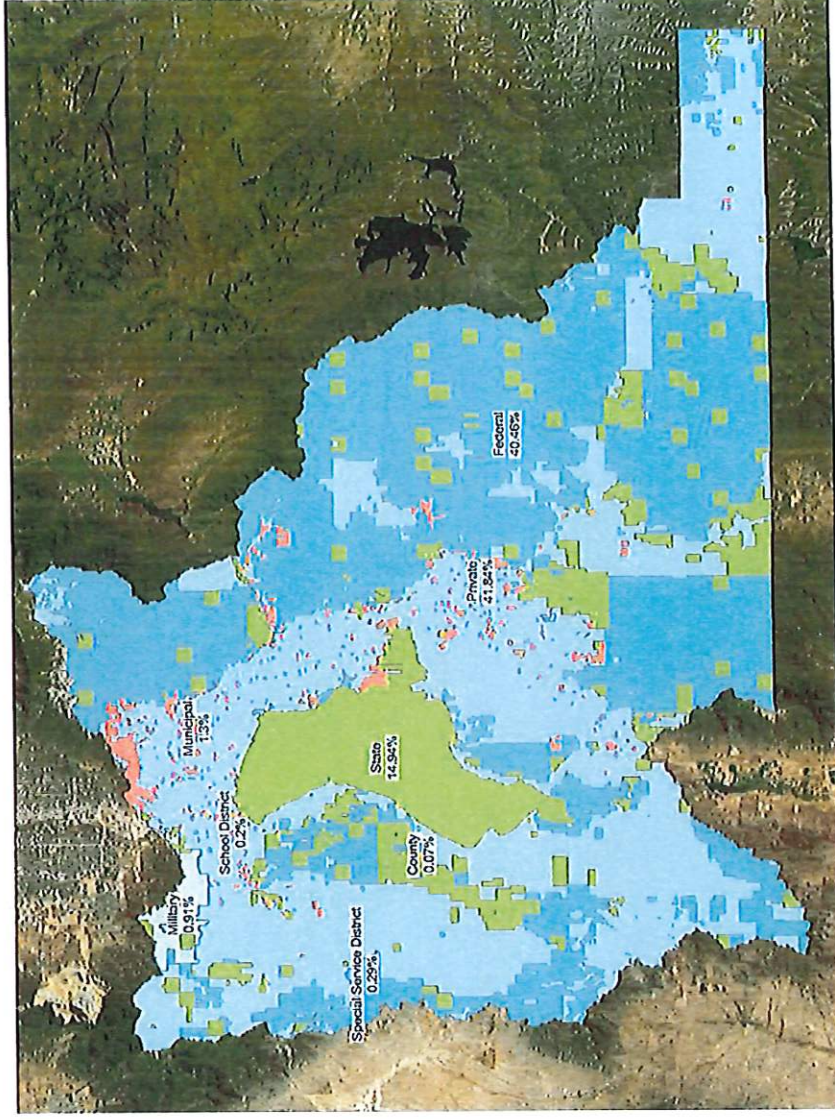
Jordan River Cooperative Weed Management Area Grant

- No current Project
- Funds have been appropriated specifically to make weed control improvements along the Jordan River.
 - Funds being disturbed via grant applications through F.F.S.L.
- Grant application of \$44,621 named Utah County Tamarisk Removal Project was written and approved for funding for 7/2023-6/2024
 - Did not proceed with project as we had to much of a work load
- Would like permission to apply for grant funding of \$45,000
- Application would be for funding 7/2024-6/2025



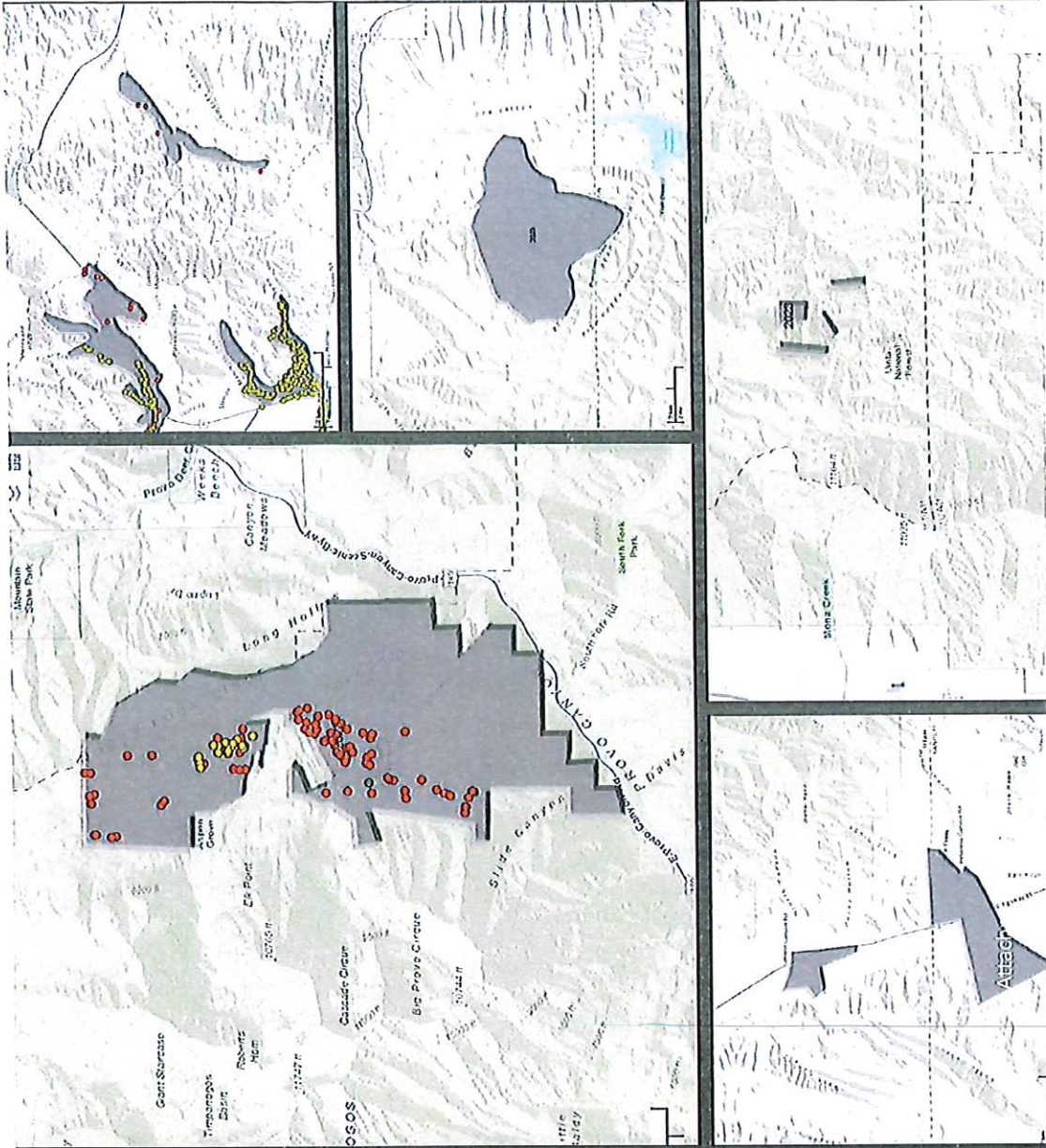
B.L.M. & Forest Service Agreements

- 2024 BLM Agreement
 - \$7,500 (Fully signed)
 - Work to take place next spring/summer
- Forest Service agreement
 - Current agreement ended in 2023. Waiting to receive draft agreement for 2024 & 2025
 - Past agreement of \$16,000 over a two-year period; \$8,000 annually. Estimate future agreement to be similar in size.



General Permission to Help Others

- To help with other weed control project as possible.



General Overview for Approval of Utah County's General Weed Control Plans for 2024

- Approval of Noxious Weed Priorities (Individual Notice Program)
- Approval to continue weed control projects
- Approval to apply for grant funding for projects discussed
- Approval to help others within the county as possible with weed control efforts.

