

**2008 - 2011 Secure Rural Schools  
Public Law 110-343  
TITLE II PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM  
USDA FOREST SERVICE  
FLATHEAD COUNTY RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Project Status:** Approved

**Funding Fiscal Year:** 2011 - 4th year

<b>2. Project Name:</b> Noxious Weed Mapping/Control on Forest-Urban Interface, and North Fork Road Corridor with Educational Model	<b>3a. State:</b> Montana <b>3b. County:</b> Montana - Flathead
<b>4. Project Submitted by:</b> Tris Hoffman, & Valerie Cox	<b>5. Date:</b> 09/01/2011

<b>6. Contact Phone:</b>	<b>7. Contact E-Mail:</b>
<b>8. Project Location</b>	
<b>a. National Forest:</b> Flathead	<b>b. Forest Service District:</b> Glacier View Ranger District

**c. Location (Township-Range-Section)**  
Multiple sections in 5 townships: T37N R22W ; T35N R21W; T35N R22W; T36N R21W; T26N R22W. Also multiple sections crossed by roads & trails & the river corridor.

**9. Project Goals and Objectives:**  
1) To locate and treat weed populations 2) To educate private landowners about their role in identification and control of noxious weeds and revegetation of treated soil.

**10. Project Description:**

a. Brief: *(in one sentence)* Complete mapping and treating of noxious weeds along the Forest/urban interface, trails, closed roads, county road/private land interface and educate private landowners to identify, control, reduce the spread of noxious weeds, and re-vegetate sites using native plants.

b. Detailed:

This project is a cooperative effort between the Forest Service (USFS), the North Fork Landowner's Association (NFLA), and the Flathead County Weed Department. The project is designed to locate and treat noxious weeds, educate landowners, and develop long-term partnerships for future weed control. We will complete the 20% of Forest/Urban interface weed mapping not completed during the initial 2010 RAC grant, inform landowners of weeds along shared boundaries, and educate them in strategies for weed control. We will continue to treat weeds on Forest Service lands, trails, closed roads, and open roads. We will obtain biological control agents, especially to treat weeds in the Wild and Scenic River corridor. We will provide educational signs at trailheads and at campgrounds. Part of the USFS match will be to provide Montana Conservation Corp personnel to re-seed areas following weed eradication. Flathead County Weed Department will map the weeds on the North Fork Road #486, especially along the interface with private lands. Flathead County Weed Department personnel will eradicate weeds along the road corridor and inform landowners of weeds on the road corridor/private land boundary, provide information, options, and a list of local resources available to help landowners control weeds adjacent to the county road. NFLA Weed Wrangler volunteers and Backcountry Horsemen will provide assistance in transporting water via pack animals to support USFS weed spraying work on closed roads. We will hold a Weed Wrangler Education Day to train teams of landowners to identify and map weeds. The USFS, NFLA, and Flathead County Weed Department will hold a Kneighbourhood Knapweed Pull. We will create a model demonstration and education area at Sondreson Community Hall where we will eradicate weeds and revegetate with native grasses as a teaching tool for landowners.

**11. State/Private/Other lands involved? Yes**

**If Yes, specify:** Private and State lands adjacent to USFS lands; County Road land adjacent to Private Lands.

**12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? (check at least 1)**  
Restores and improves land health

**13. Project Type:**

a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1) Soil Productivity Improvement, Control of Noxious Weeds

b. Primary Purpose (select only 1) Control of Noxious Weeds

**14. Identify what the project will accomplish**

500	Acres of soil productivity improved
Acres of hazardous fuel treatment	
500	Acres of noxious weeds controlled
0.1	Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 40 hours per week x 52 weeks
400	Number of people reached (for environmental projects/fire prevention)
	Describe direct economic benefit The direct economic benefit of this project is in cost savings of prevention. Weed prevention or treatment of small infestations is a far more economical prospect than allowing weeds to spread and then try to treat them. Land values are protected, and land use opportunities such as hunting and fishing are improved.

**15: Estimated Project Start Date:**

06/01/2012

**16: Estimated Project Completion Date:**

10/01/2012

**17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.**

North Fork Landowner's Association, North Fork Preservation Association, Flathead County Weed Department, Backcountry Horsemen.

**18. Identify benefits to communities.**

(max 12 lines)

This project has already been very beneficial to the North Fork community and the Flathead area. We reached a large number of people with the message about the detrimental effects of noxious weeds, and motivated many people to control weeds. We also made giant strides in locating weed populations on the Flathead National Forest so control efforts can begin. We took the first step in weed control on some huge infestations. Continuing this effort will reduce the spread of weeds and restore native habitat resulting in enormous future savings to the community. Education, early detection, and rapid control of weeds are all activities with high returns on investment. This project is focuses on all three.

**19. How does this project benefit federal lands/resources? (max 12 lines)**

Weed control is widely recognized as an important component to protecting wildlife habitat, retaining soil stability/productivity, and maintaining diversity in native plant populations. However, the Forest Service and Flathead County have limited resources to control noxious weeds or to restore weed infested habitat to its native condition. When weed infestations can be detected while they are small (as this project did in a number of areas in 2010), weeds can be treated before they spread, and native plant populations and habitat are protected. When larger infestations are treated and/or re-seeded with native species (also part of this project), native plant diversity will be maintained, and weed spread can be minimized. When people are educated about the weed issue (a huge component of this project) they are less likely to spread weeds and more likely to assist in efforts to control weeds.

**20. What is the proposed method(s) of accomplishment? (check at least 1)**

Americorps, Contract, Federal Workforce, Volunteers

**21. Will this project generate merchantable timber? No**

**22. Anticipated Project Costs**

a. Please fill out a project cost form for each fiscal year the project will be funded

b. Is this a multi-year funding request? No

**24. Monitoring Plan** *(Input or attach below)*

a. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above.

We have several processes for tracking our progress. As weed surveys are conducted, they are added to a master GIS map that was started as part of the original 2010 RAC grant process. This map is part of a FS National Database and can be used for a variety of functions such as matching weeds with landowners using the County Cadastral survey, determining the risk of spread (are weeds mapped in a fire area, river or road corridor etc.), or determining treatment priorities.

A second process for tracking effects of this project is the daily logs that are required for weed spraying on FNF lands. The daily logs indicate the size of the infestation we started with, how much and what kind of spraying was done, and how effective the spraying was. The Forest Service requires “efficacy calls” (return visits to treated sites to check herbicide effectiveness) on at least 50% of areas sprayed. Typically, we do more than 50%. Efficacies are added to daily logs and also entered into our national database. We have taken photographs of a number of infestations, and we can return to those areas for a “before-after” look at our work.

We return to sites where we have released biological agents (insects) to see if they have had an impact to their target weed. We sometimes sweep the sites to see if insects are present. We also have photopoints of some of the sites where insects were released.

For education/outreach, we keep track of attendance at events, calls of inquiry, articles in newspapers and newsletters, and participation by volunteers.

b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring:

Surveys, weed spraying, biological agent releases, and daily logs will be monitored by Tris Hoffman, FNF weed coordinator and FNF staff. Tracking of education/outreach will be conducted by Valerie Cox, NFLA.

c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks:

d. Identify remedies for failure to comply with terms of the agreement.

If project cannot be completed under the terms of this agreement:

If other is selected, explain:

Project Recommended by: Daniel Short  
Chairperson, RAC

Project Approved by: Chip Weber  
Forest Supervisor, Flathead National Forest

## Project Cost Analysis

<b>Item</b>	<i>Column A</i> <b>Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution</b>	<i>Column B</i> <b>Requested Title II Contribution</b>	<i>Column C</i> <b>Other Contributions</b>	<i>Column D</i> <b>Total Available Funds</b>
a. Field Work & Site Surveys	0	0	5000	5000
b. NEPA/CEQA	0	0	0	0
c. ESA Consultation	0	0	0	0
d. Permit Acquisition	0	0	0	0
e. Project Design & Engineering	0	0	0	0
f. Contract/Grant Preparation	600	0	500	1100
g. Contract/Grant Administration	900	0	0	900
h. Contract/Grant Cost	0	0	0	0
i. Salaries	6000	9800	500	16300
j. Materials & Supplies	4500	1450	0	5950
k. Monitoring	500	0	500	1000
l. Other				
Mileage, postage	1000	1100	0	2100
Partner Indirect Costs	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
m. Project Sub-Total	13500	12350	6500	32350
n. FS Indirect Costs	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Cost Estimate</b>	13500	12350	6500	32350