

From: [Lauren Williams](#)
To: [Mark Freese](#)
Cc: [Rope Ashworth](#)
Subject: Updated Heritage budget
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 11:58:38 AM
Attachments: [Heritage_2024_Leafy_Spurge_updated_budget.docx](#)
[Heritage_2024_Leafy_Spurge_original.docx](#)

Hi Mark. Attached is an updated budget for leafy spurge treatments. The cost has gone down and match has increased a bit. The only changes are in the budget and budget narrative. I attached the original application as well, just in case the commission would like to look at both.

The information I gathered from NRCS is as follows:

They have CSP, EQIP, AMA, and IRA that have the capacity to treat weeds. However, the application deadline for these programs has past (for this year) and the treatments need to be on pasture or rangeland ground. There is also no guarantee of funding through any of these programs.

I am happy to answer any other questions the commission may have regarding this project.

Thanks

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Wildlife Heritage Account Project Proposal Form

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Person Submitting Proposal/Project Manager: ___Lauren Williams (DCNR) and Susi Algrim (ENLC) on behalf of White Pine County Conservation District___

Organization/Agency: ___White Pine County Conservation District _____

Date: ___2/15/24_____

Address: ___744 N. Industrial Way_____ **City:** ___Ely _____

State: _____Nevada_____ **Zip Code:** ___89301__

Cell: ___775-461-6469 and 620-255-5742__ **Phone:** _____

Email: ___lawilliams@dcnr.nv.gov and execdir@envlc.org_____ **Fax:** _____

NDOW Monitor (if the project would be managed by someone other than a NDOW employee):

_____Moira Kolada_____

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Leafy Spurge Eradication

State Fiscal Year(s) Wildlife Heritage Account Funds are Needed: FY25

Project Location: Newark and Long Valley (Northwest White Pine County)

Amount of Funds Requested from Heritage Account: \$150,000

Is a Project Map Attached? Yes No

(a map **must** include the project title, map scale, date map was created, and a north arrow; Note that we will need project spatial information in the future if funded)

Project Partners/Organizations and Roles (Implementation Lead, Agency Cooperator, Non-Agency Cooperator, Private Landowner):

Implementation Leads:

Rope Ashworth, Tri-County Weed Control, Administrative Services Manager

John Ashworth, Tri-County Weed Control, Operations Manager

Lauren Williams, DCNR, Conservation Staff Specialist



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Susi Algrim, ENLC, Executive Director

Agency Cooperators:

Moira Kolada, NDOW, Habitat Biologist

Kelsey Ekholm, ENLC, Ecologist

Stephanie Frederick, BLM, Weeds Technician

Sheryl Post, BLM, Weeds Specialist

Aryn Hayden, US Forest Service, Fuels Specialist

Amery Sifre, US Forest Service, Supervisory Range Management Specialist

Jake Dick, NDA, Noxious Weed Coordinator

Andrea Moe, NDA, Weed Free Products/Biological Control

Non Agency Cooperators:

Shane Boren, WPCCD Board Chair

Jeff Weeks, WPCCD Board Member

Landowners:

Brian Starkey, landowner

J.J. Goicoechea, landowner

Chad Bliss, landowner

The list above comprises all individuals involved in the planning process, acquisition of information surrounding the project location, previous work completed, and recommendations for best methods of action in combating this category A weed.

Define Priority Resources (Big Game, Diversity, Fish, General Habitat Improvement, Waterfowl, Upland Game):

Big game; mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, pronghorn antelope; general habitat improvement, and upland game; sage grouse

Select Priority Species (e.g. Sage-grouse, mule deer, etc.):

Sage grouse, mule deer, elk, insects

Is this Project related to a Project Initiatives (e.g. NDOW Mule Deer Enhancement Program, Sagebrush Ecosystem Program, Shared Stewardship, NRCS Sage-grouse Initiative, NV Biodiversity Initiative, Sagebrush Conservation Initiative, Monitoring and Research, etc.): **No**

Project Activities (e.g. Conifer Removal, Fire Rehabilitation, Fuels Management, Riparian Enhancement, Acquisition, Population Monitoring or Research, etc.)

Category A noxious weed treatments; targeted herbicide.



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Does the Project benefit Greater Sage-grouse or their Habitat (Yes/No): Yes

Purpose of the Project: Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) will be the focus for management and eradication under this proposed project. Leafy spurge is a Category A species (Early Detection Rapid Response), designated by the Nevada Department of Agriculture (Weed Management Cost Share RFP, 2023). Leafy spurge is an aggressive invader plant that can overtake large areas, displace desirable plant communities, and reduce aesthetic and economic values in addition to wildlife habitat (St. John & Tilley, 2014). This plant is highly toxic to wildlife and humans; if consumed it can kill livestock and cause severe digestion issues in humans as well as, skin irritation and blistering. In addition to its toxicity, mature stems with capsules containing seeds explode and propel the seeds up to 15 feet from the original plant. A single flowering stem may produce over 150 seeds. They also spread via adventitious root and crown buds or by regrowth from root fragments

(Field Guide for Managing Leafy Spurge in the Southwest, United States Department of Agriculture, 2014). These plants are most sensitive to herbicide treatments when the true flowers and plants are developing (spring or early summer) or in early to mid-September after the stems have developed new fall growth.

This specific population of leafy spurge is approximately 200 acres, occurs on two private landowners' properties and on the surrounding Forest Service land (the Mountain City- Ruby Mountains-Jarbidge Ranger District). All are within the Newark/Long Valley watershed and Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA). Most of the infested acreage is on Cowboy's Rest Ranch, the middle of priority sage grouse habitat, and near two leks. In September 2023, the Forest Service and Nevada Department of Agriculture personnel took a tour of Cowboy's Rest Ranch to discuss potential for a biocontrol release on adjacent infestations on Forest Service Land. The goal; implement a more comprehensive integrated pest management approach. Nevada Department of Agriculture and the Forest Service indicated that a comprehensive inventory of this population would be incredibly helpful to guide subsequent management efforts.

Since 2004, Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition (ENLC), a partner with the White Pine County Conservation District (WPCCD), has been seeking funding to assist Tri County Weed Control (TCWC) and the ranch owner(s) in treatment of leafy spurge.

In conjunction with proposed private land treatments, adjacent Forest Service lands have a Phase 2 SNPLMA (Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act) Project currently underway. This project is called the Overland Pass Habitat Restoration Project and is taking place south of the White Pine County line in the Ruby Mountains. In this project, they will inventory and treat 14,000 acres, including Forest Service lands around Cowboy's Rest. However, funding is lacking to assist TCWC and the private landowner's efforts to manage leafy spurge on private land that is checkerboarded amongst USFS lands.

The continued control of this Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) species, which is negatively



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impacting the region's ecosystem, rangelands, economy, and tourism industry, will help support the growth of native species. These include native grasses such as Indian rice grass, Thurber's Needlegrass, and squirrel tail, forbs such as globemallow, and several varieties of sagebrush. This, in turn, will provide improved habitat (forage, nesting sites, and brood rearing sites) for greater sage grouse. Mule deer and elk will benefit from increased desirable forage and pollinators will have access to the diverse flower community they require. This project will also indirectly improve the health of hundreds of acres of sagebrush and riparian habitat on adjacent Forest Service property. This supports stated goals of the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and other agencies. It supports the Nevada Wildlife Action Plan, developed by the Nevada Department of Wildlife, which includes "protecting and maintaining native grassland characteristics and wildlife habitat requirements by utilizing fire, improving diversity, eradicating invasive species, and managing grazing regimes to encourage natural reseeding of native grasses and forbs."

The project's overall goal is to inventory the totality of leafy spurge on private lands, reduce the size, and revegetate treated areas in a subsequent year. This will be accomplished through a summer inventory and late summer and early fall treatment and monitoring. Treatments will be primarily chemical in nature, as leafy spurge control is difficult to obtain through mechanical treatments.

Detailed Description of Project and Rationale (include any development plans such as vegetation removal, planting, seeding, or installation of structures; also include the schedule for obtaining any necessary permits, completing NEPA compliance, etc.):

TCWC, and the private landowners (all belonging to the Newark/Long Valley CWMA), will conduct inventory, monitoring, and treatment. This will benefit 200 hundred acres of private land and indirectly benefit hundreds of acres of adjacent public land. TCWC will complete a comprehensive inventory of leafy spurge, across all jurisdictions in which it occurs.

Implementation leads (in addition to Tri County Weed Control), and on the ground support will:

1. Work with private landowners to assist with weed treatments on their properties and public lands.
2. Work to continue growth of the CWMA and provide inventory and treatment of new properties (as they arise) and repeat monitoring of previously treated sites.

This project will take place on private land. This will not require NEPA clearances.

How Would this Project Help with "the protection, propagation, restoration, transplantation, introduction and management of any game fish, game mammal, game bird or fur-bearing mammal in this State; or the management and control of predatory wildlife in this State"? (See NRS 501.3575)



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This project meets these objectives in multiple ways: 1) early detection and removal of noxious weeds will prevent invasion on woodlands, riparian communities, meadows, and mountain ridges; 2) benefits local wildlife by increasing availability of quality forage, cover, and quality habitat; and 3) subsequent seeding when appropriate will further increase land value for wildlife. Restoration of Nevada's wildlife habitat will, in turn, protect numerous wildlife species by providing more natural habitat conditions capable of supporting a diversity of wildlife.

Project Schedule (describe key milestones for project implementation):

The principal project activities will be a comprehensive inventory of existing leafy spurge across all private lands and adjacent Forest Service lands for a total of 4,000 acres. Direct application of chemical treatments on 200 acres of private land is slated for this project.

Using a treatment and prevention area standard accepted by the Bureau of Land Management and the Nevada Department of Agriculture; four additional adjacent areas of prevention for every one acre of direct treatment would result in approximately 700 acres of direct and indirect invasive species control. However, since not every treatment area will consist of exactly 1 acre, and some treatment areas will be smaller or larger than one acre, it is estimated that the total net area of impact under this project will be approximately 600 acres. Additional project activities will include re-treatments as necessary and monitoring of treated and adjacent areas. This project can move forward on a smaller scale with less funding.

Project schedule: Transect pre monitoring and comprehensive inventory of project area: as soon as funds are awarded.

Treatments: September 2024

Post-treatment monitoring and re-treatment as necessary: October 2024-April 2025

Does this Project have a Monitoring Plan and if so, please describe:

Tri County Weed Control will conduct a comprehensive inventory of leafy spurge on private property as well as adjacent Forest Service. Monitoring will include spot checks on private properties for re-growth and continued communication with landowners on their eradication efforts. Leafy spurge data will be updated in EDDMaps, which is the mapping tool for reporting invasive species. Data is reviewed by verifiers prior to officially entering it into the system to ensure accuracy.

Legal Description of the Property on Which the Proposed Project is to be Located (must include the property address, access roads, township, range and section):

Legal description: T26N R56E Sec 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, 32, 33



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Access Roads: The main access road is National Forest Development Road 114. The road heading into Cowboys Rest is Tub 2; access into Goicoechea's property is Tub Spring Road; access to Chad Bliss's property is Willow Creek Road.

Does this Project Have Additional Funding Sources Other than Your Wildlife Heritage Account Request? Yes No

We have requested funds from the State Conservation Commission Sage Grouse Grant to complement Heritage funds. The amount awarded from this funding source will be released in March 2024.

Does this Project Involve Habitat Restoration and Improvement of a Long-term or Permanent Nature? Yes No

Please Describe in Detail the Reason Why You Need Wildlife Heritage Account Funding to Fund this Project:

Leafy Spurge is a Category A, EDRR (Early Detection Rapid Response) which makes it a top species to treat with any funding source. Northwest White Pine County is the only documented location (in White Pine County) of leafy spurge and eradicating it is a top priority. Heritage wildlife funds represent the needs of Nevada's wildlife, which will have a greatly diminished habitat if Category A species are not dealt with.

Project Duration: one year two years three years more

Estimated Start Date: July 2024

Estimated End Date: July 2025



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PROJECT FUNDING

The funding breakdown below should cover the total funding needs of the project. While projects may be extended beyond the fiscal year for which money was awarded, such an extension must be due to unusual circumstances and be approved by the Wildlife Commission (see NAC 501.340). Double click on the table to activate the embedded spreadsheet.

1. Amount of Heritage Account Funds Being Requested		\$ 70,652.00
2. Other Cash Funding Sources for this Project		
a.		
b.		
c.		
d.		
e. Total Other Cash Funding Sources (lines a - d)		\$ -
3. In-kind Services for this Project		
a. Volunteer Time-Landowner time spraying leafy spurge		\$ 11,400.00
b. Equipment-facilities provided for TCWC during treatments		\$ 2,000.00
c. Materials-feed for horses during treatments		\$ 490.00
d. WPCCD contributing to project (monetary)		\$ 1,000.00
e. ENLC assisting with project management		\$ 6,000.00
g. TCWC post treatment maps (made after treatments)		\$ 1,000.00
h. Total Donations/In-kind Services (lines a - g)		\$ 21,890.00
4. Total Project Funding		\$ 92,542.00
(add lines 1, 2e,3h)		



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PROJECT COSTS

The cost breakdown below should cover the total costs of the project you are seeking funding for. NOTE: THE HERITAGE ACCOUNT CANNOT BE USED TO PAY INDIRECT COSTS. Double click on the table to activate



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the embedded spreadsheet.

	Heritage Costs	All Other Costs
1. Land Acquisition		
2. Personnel (NDOW employee costs can't be included in the Heritage column)		
3. Travel (NDOW travel costs can't be included in the Heritage column)		
a. Per diem		
b. Mileage		
c. Total Travel Costs (lines a & b)	\$ -	\$ -
4. Equipment Items		
a. Tri County Weed Control (labor and equipment)	\$ 46,000.00	
b. Feed for horses during treatments		\$ 490.00
c. TCWC staying at Cowboy's Rest while conducting treatments		\$ 2,000.00
d. Total Equipment Costs (line a - c)	\$ 46,000.00	\$ 2,490.00
5. Materials		
a. Tri County Weed Control herbicide and other materials	\$ 19,760.00	
b. Heribcide for landowners	\$ 4,892.00	
c. Landowner volunteer time spraying		\$ 11,400.00
d.		\$ -
e. Total Material Costs (lines a - d)	\$ 24,652.00	\$ 11,400.00
6. Miscellaneous Costs		
a. WPCCD contributing to project (monetary)		\$ 1,000.00
b. ENLC assisting WPCCD with project management		\$ 6,000.00
c. TCWC post treatment maps and monitoring (made after treatments)		\$ 1,000.00
d. Total Miscellaneous Costs (lines a - d)	\$ -	\$ 8,000.00
7. Total Heritage Costs Only (add lines 1, 2, 3c, 4d, 5e, 6e)	\$ 70,652.00	
8. Total All Other Costs (add lines 1, 2, 3c, 4e, 5e, 6e)		\$ 21,890.00
9. Total Project Costs (add lines 7 & 8)	\$ 92,542.00	

