

RESOLUTION

THE OURAY COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Concerning: Government Springs Road Noxious Weed Management Plan  
Cornerstone Montrose, LLC

**Whereas**, pursuant to the Final Improvements Agreement for Cornerstone Montrose LLC, “the Government Springs Road Improvements include the implementation of weed control treatment along the portion of Government Springs Road upon which the Owner has undertaken the other elements of the Government Springs Road Improvements;” and

**Whereas**, the noxious weed management plan provides methods that Cornerstone Montrose LLC will follow to minimize the expansion of noxious weeds during construction and manage disturbed areas upon completion of the project; and

**Whereas**, on November 27, 2006, Cornerstone Montrose LLC presented to the Board of County Commissioners a Noxious Weed Management Plan for Government Springs Road Upgrade Project (“Exhibit A”).

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved**, by the Board of County Commissioners of Ouray County, Colorado that the attached Noxious Weed Management Plan for Government Springs Road Upgrade Project is approved and shall be followed in accordance with its contents.

Adopted this 4th day of December, 2006.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Heidi M. Albritton, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Nauer,  
Clerk and Recorder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Batchelder, Vice-Chair

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Munson-Haley,  
Clerk of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristi R. Westfall, Member

# **NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

## **Government Springs Road Upgrade Project**

Ouray County, Colorado

*Prepared by:*

**Cornerstone Montrose LLC**

November 2006

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- INTRODUCTION
- REVEGETATION
- NOXIOUS WEED SPECIES OF CONCERN
- MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
  - Early Detection/Rapid Response
  - Post Project Monitoring and Control
- METHODS OF CONTROL
  - Physical Control
  - Competitive Vegetation
  - Herbicide
  - Notification of Herbicide Use

## Tables

Table 1	Noxious Plant Species of Concern (that may occur in the project area)
---------	---

## Appendices

Appendix A	Weed Management Strategies
Appendix B	Ouray County Seed Mix

## **INTRODUCTION**

Cornerstone Montrose LLC will undertake certain specified upgrades to Government Springs Road from the termination of existing pavement to the Cornerstone entrance gate. Upgrade will include installing pavement on the length of the road and all improvements necessary to facilitate a sound pavement surface. Achievement of these upgrades will require limited temporary disturbance of the non-surfaced right of way along Government Springs Road.

Ouray and Montrose Counties have identified certain species of noxious weeds and other undesirable invasive plants that are known to occur in each county. Several of these weeds of concern may occur along disturbed portions of the Government Springs Road right of way. This noxious weed management plan provides methods that Cornerstone Montrose LLC will follow to minimize the expansion of noxious weeds during construction and for the management of the disturbed areas of the project after construction.

## **REVEGETATION**

Cornerstone Montrose LLC will revegetate areas disturbed during construction to minimize the potential for noxious weeds to become established. Ouray County and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) recommend the use of the drought-resistant seed mix reflected in the approved Ouray County Seed Mix, attached hereto as Appendix B. If a seed drill is utilized, seeding rates will be half those shown in Appendix B. This seed mix will be used on areas where landowners or the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have not established a revegetation mix.

## **NOXIOUS WEED SPECIES OF CONCERN**

Noxious weed and invasive plant species are those that spread into areas where they are not native and typically displace native vegetation or bring about significant changes in species composition, community structure, and/or ecosystem function. A list of noxious weed species of concern in Ouray County is provided in Table 1. Appendix A provides a description of each of the weeds of concern in Ouray County, with specific management objectives regarding containment or eradication, as appropriate.

**Table 1 Noxious Weed Species of Concern (that may occur within the Project)**

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Aegilops cylindrical</i>	Jointed goat grass
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Common burdock
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Hoary cress
<i>Carduus</i> spp.	Musk thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull thistle
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Yellow starthistle
<i>Centaurea repens</i>	Russian knapweed
<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>	Spotted knapweed
<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	Diffuse knapweed
<i>Centaurea debeauxii</i>	Meadow knapweed
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Houndstongue
<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Leafy spurge
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Yellow toadflax
<i>Linaria geistifolia</i> spp. <i>Dalmatica</i>	Dalmation toadflax
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple loosestrife
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Scotch thistle

## **MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

### ***Early Detection/Rapid Response***

The Government Springs Road Upgrade Project will be completed early during the 2007 growing season. Following revegetation, Cornerstone will implement an early detection/rapid response program regarding noxious and invasive non-native species with the goal of preventing re-establishment of noxious species along the disturbed right of way and minimizing adverse competition with the seeded revegetation species during the first growing season.

Throughout the 2007 growing season, Cornerstone will monitor the revegetated right of way on a bi-weekly basis in order to identify areas of new noxious species growth. Following identification, when appropriate in each circumstance, Cornerstone will implement the identified management strategy for species addressed in Appendix A that is most calculated to eradicate the emergent population, at least until desirable species are well established and are not in danger of being overcome by noxious species. For undesirable species that are not addressed in Appendix A, Cornerstone will coordinate with the Ouray County Weed Official to determine and undertake the most appropriate control methodologies.

### ***Post Project Monitoring***

During the period 2008 – 2010, inclusive, Cornerstone Montrose LLC will conduct an annual survey and necessary control of the previously disturbed and revegetated right of way to ensure that noxious and invasive species do not out-compete desirable revegetated species. Ouray County will resume its normal weed management obligations and activities along the Government Springs Road right of way following 2010 and Cornerstone Montrose LLC will, beginning at the end of the 2010 growing season, and following Ouray County inspection, be released from any further weed management obligations regarding the Government Springs Road Upgrade Project or the Government Springs Road right of way. Determination of successful revegetation will be by USDA guidelines as adopted by Ouray County.

## **METHODS OF CONTROL**

Several weed control methods are contemplated including physical control methods, seeding with competitive vegetation, and the use of herbicides for weed control. In general, the use of herbicides has been found to be the most effective and feasible method of weed control, and will be used except in isolated locations where other methods are necessary or on portions of the right of way identified by Ouray County as chemically free.

### ***Physical Control***

Physical control methods range from manual pulling of individual plants to the use of hand and power tools to uproot, girdle, or cut plants. Hand removal by pulling is appropriate when the plants are large enough that they will not break and leave the roots, which may re-sprout. Mowing or cutting of most weed species is seldom successful as this may stimulate lateral growth below the cut portion. This method can be effective in localized or sensitive areas. To be effective, this method must generally be combined with hand application of herbicide.

### ***Competitive Vegetation***

The use of native plant species to out-compete noxious and invasive species is an effective, long-term weed control method and the primary long term weed management strategic goal. Noxious weeds will usually grow in disturbed areas reseeded with native vegetation; however, after a few years, these weeds cannot compete with well established native vegetative cover and will die off. In areas where noxious weeds are allowed to flourish, they are likely to out-compete desirable native plants. The use of Pure Live Seed mixes will help ensure a healthy and strong revegetated site.

## ***Herbicides***

The use of herbicides on noxious and invasive plants can be an effective means of control. If herbicides are used, it will only be after the notification procedures discussed in the following section are satisfied. Herbicide application will be on a plant by plant basis by hand application with backpack sprayers to avoid overspray to non-target species in adjacent plant communities. Broadcast spraying will not be conducted and spraying will only take place when wind speeds are less than 8 miles per hour. This limits the use of herbicides to isolated stands of plants when individual plants are relatively small in size. Appropriate herbicides will be target-specific and have a short residue time in the environment.

Herbicide options for each noxious weed of concern are listed in Appendix A.

## ***Notification of Herbicide Use***

Cornerstone Montrose LLC is aware that a number of chemically sensitive individuals reside or work in Ouray County. Prior to use of herbicides on the Government Springs Road Upgrade Project, Cornerstone Montrose LLC will consult with the Ouray County Weed Supervisor to determine if there are any chemically sensitive individuals in the area that may be adversely affected by such use. If such individuals are present in the area, Cornerstone Montrose LLC will provide appropriate notification.

*Double click on the words below to open document in Acrobat Reader.*

**APPENDIX A**  
**WEED MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

---

4/2/2011

Appendix B

Ourray County Weed Department

Approved Seed Mix for Revegetation

Species	Rate per acre/pure live seed
Galleta grass (unhyopsis) var. NVS	.6 lb
Indian Ricegrass var. Nezper or Rimrock	.6 lb
Sandberg bluegrass var. NVS	.5 lb
Western wheatgrass var. Arriba	2.4 lb
<hr/>	
Total PLS per acre - drilled dormant seeding	4.1 lb
Total PLS per acre – broadcast seeding / with mulch	8.2 lb

Optional species in addition to above grasses

Sulphur-flower buckwheat	.05 lb
Scarlet globe-mallow	.2 lb
Rocky Mountain penstemon	.4 lb
Fourwing saltbush	.5 lb

Approved by Ron Mabry – Ourray County Weed Coordinator

September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006