

Minutes

Quarterly Meeting of the MPCD Board of Supervisors

August 14, 2026– 12pm, Zoom & In-person

Call to Order: 12:07 pm by Deb Wood

Roll Call - Board/Attendees: Quorum established with 4 of 5 voting members

Deb Wood, President - **yes**

Jay Yust, Vice President - **no**

Justin Fosha, Sec/Treas - **yes**

John Longhill, Board Member - **yes**

Brien Rose, Board Member - **yes**

Katlin Miller, District Manager - **yes**

Mark Volt, DCT - **yes**

Gerald Gregory, Interim NRCS Team Lead - **yes**

CSU Extension – Summit – Dan Schroder - **no**

CSU Extension – Grand – Sydney Pryor - **no**

Colorado State Forest Service – Ryan McNertney - **no**

Members of the Public – **none**

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION: *Move to approve the agenda with addition of discussion about changing banks.*

• **Motion By:** Justin

Second By: Brien

Vote Outcome: Approved Unanimously

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes: Minutes can be found on the MPCD website: Top Menu Bar → About Us → Board Meetings → Click on the Minutes link under the meeting date that you want to look at.

MOTION: *Move to approve June minutes as presented.*

• **Motion By:** Justin

Second By: John

Vote Outcome: Approved Unanimously

Public Comment / Guest Presentations: none

Partner Reports:

NRCS: Gerald is serving his 120-day detail as resource team lead in Glenwood Springs until mid-October.

Currently, there are 5 existing and 3 new EQIP/CSP applications in the Kremmling field office that he and Mark are working on. The deadline for 2027 EQIP/CSP applications is set for December 18th. Gerald mentioned that NRCS is planning to go through a reorganization but details of that reorganization and its impact on the Kremmling field office have not been released. Gerald will email Katlin when details are confirmed.

CSU Extension: none

Other: none

MPCD Reports:

DCT Activity: Mark has been working on EQIP projects, range inventories, drought, water, and reseeding. Gerald and Mark both suggested we push our fall seed sales due to the impacts of the drought this summer. If landowners seed this fall and if we have good winter (due to the Super El Nino), landowners may be able to help compensate for some of the losses.

Middle Park Conservation District

DM Activity: Things have been pretty slow since June. Seed sales are slow and we are currently taking orders for our Fall Tree Sale. I did a few kids' programs in June for the Grand County Library District (Wildfire Preparedness) and the Fraser Rec District (honey/bees). With the help of partner agencies, we successfully held 5 webinars in June. I published a Mid-Summer Newsletter at the beginning of July. I also record a weekly "water report" for KFFR radio that airs on Saturday mornings. Lastly, I have been working on two letters (to be discussed in new business).

Financials: Katlin presented the financials to the board for 6/1/26 to 8/10/26.

MOTION: *Move to approve the financials, including Budget v. Actual, Balance Sheet, Checks and Open Invoices as presented*

- **Motion By:** Brien **Second By:** John **Vote Outcome:** Approved Unanimously

Checking Account: Katlin mentioned that Mark informed her that our current bank, BMO, plans to close the Kremmling branch in October. Though there will be branches in Fraser and Frisco, both are a quite drive from Kremmling. Katlin suggested that we move our bank account to United Business Bank that has branches in Kremmling and Granby.

MOTION: *Prior to closure of the Kremmling branch of BMO, move to close our current checking account at BMO and open a new checking account at United Business Bank with the President (Deb) and Treasurer (Justin) as signers on the new account.*

- **Motion By:** Deb **Second By:** Brien **Vote Outcome:** Approved Unanimously

Old Business

PAM: There has been no movement on the PAM. Mark and I currently refer people to the Fruita Fertilizer Plant.

Webinars: Webinars went well. We had low attendance, but some of the attendees were from out-of-state, so I think our purpose of reaching second-homeowners was accomplished. The recordings are still available on our website: www.middleparkcd.com/webinars.din

- **6/5 – Preparing for Wildfire Season in Grand County** (with Grand County Wildfire Council)
- **6/16 – Preparing for Wildfire Season in Summit County** (with Summit County Wildfire Council/Summit CSU Extension)
- **6/22 – Noxious Weeds in Summit County** (with Summit Weed Control)
- **6/29 – Drought in Summit County** (with Troy Wineland, Summit Water Commissioner)
- **6/30 – Noxious Weeds in Grand County** (with Grand County DNR)

New Business:

Draft Letters from MPCD

Drought & Ag Letter: The Board reviewed a letter drafted by Katlin to the Colorado State Conservation Board urging CSCB to adopt and publicly communicate a statewide position opposing the permanent dry-up of productive agricultural lands as a primary strategy for addressing Colorado River water shortages. The letter was spurred by recent articles in the [Aspen Times](#) and [LA Times](#) promoting permanent dry-up of ag lands as a solution to said water shortages.

Noxious Weed Letter: In response to an email from a concerned citizen about a [Sky-Hi News article](#) about goat grazing for noxious weeds, Katlin drafted a letter about noxious weeds, integrated noxious weed management, and efficacy of different management strategies in different situations.

Middle Park Conservation District

The Board had a good discussion and made suggestions for changes to both letters.

MOTION: *Move to have Katlin modify the letters with suggested changes and send updated letters to the Board for approval via email.*

• **Motion By:** John

Second By: Justin

Vote Outcome: Approved Unanimously

Updated final, approved letters are attached.

Closing Round Table:

Next Meeting: The next board meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2026.

Adjourn:

MOTION: *Move to adjourn the Board Meeting at 12:59pm.*

• **Motion By:** John

Second By: Justin

Vote Outcome: Approved Unanimously



MOTIVATING LANDOWNERS TO PURSUE, COMMIT, AND DELIVER ON-THE-GROUND CONSERVATION PRACTICES

MIDDLE PARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO BOX 265 106 S. 2ND ST.

KREMMLING, CO 80459

PH: 970-724-3456, EXT 4

middleparkcd@gmail.com www.middleparkcd.com

August 24, 2026

Dear Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB),

Middle Park Conservation District (MPCD) writes to urge CSCB to adopt and publicly communicate a statewide position opposing the permanent dry-up of productive agricultural lands as a primary strategy for addressing Colorado River water shortages.

Recent media coverage illustrates the trend we are concerned about. A June 23, 2026, Aspen Times article, "[Colorado River experts say agriculture must make permanent cuts to water use](#)," quotes water expert Eric Kuhn suggesting it may eventually "make economic sense" to permanently buy out agricultural water demand. Two days later, an [LA Times article](#) drought-affected ranchers in Granby, Carbondale, Molina, Delta, Loma, Parshall, and Grand Junction closed with climate scientist Brad Udall arguing that temporary irrigation pauses would be "a waste of money" and advocating permanent farmland buyouts instead.

Taken together, these pieces reflect a growing narrative among some water policy voices that permanent agricultural retirement, rather than temporary or efficiency-based measures, is the most economically sensible path forward.

We recognize the argument behind this position: permanent buyouts can offer water managers a predictable, one-time reduction in demand, avoiding the administrative burden of renewing temporary programs each year and providing ranchers facing chronic shortages with a clean financial exit. We do not dismiss this reasoning outright. However, we believe it undervalues the long-term costs of permanent land retirement and overlooks lower-risk alternatives that keep land in productive use. Furthermore, suggestions like "retired agricultural lands could be used for alternative purposes that support local economies such as recreational opportunities or low water-use industries" (from [Aspens Times article](#)), minimize the importance of agriculture in providing critical ecological and economic services.

The permanent dry-up of agricultural lands can result in landscape conversion with cascading consequences: loss of agricultural production that puts food on our tables, reduced rural economic activity, degraded open space and wildlife habitat, diminished soil health, insufficient water-retention functions and the demise of rural community heritage.

The Colorado Soil Conservation Act of 1937 was established because agricultural lands lost to wind and water erosion summed to “one-tenth of the total area of the state”. The state legislature was concerned that the depleted land would no longer “conserve to the full the precious rainfall and snowpacks that could help replenish underground water reserves.” The state further recognized that the damage would likely compound over time without a constructive, conservation-oriented approach to land use. They believed the act was important “to insure the health, prosperity, and welfare of the state of Colorado and its people.” The reasoning behind that Act remains directly applicable today.

Colorado River District General Manager Andy Mueller was quoted in the Aspen Times article saying, “agriculture has a role to play in reducing water consumption, but permanently retiring agricultural land is a misguided approach that will put the country in danger of not being able to feed itself. Programs should remain temporary and focus on efficiency improvements and growing less-thirsty crops.”

We agree that the current water crisis requires compromises and everyone (including ranchers and farmers) doing their part to conserve water. In fact, Middle Park Conservation District (MPCD) supports a range of practices already in use, including irrigation efficiency upgrades, temporary and voluntary demand-management programs, and crop adaptation.

We are aware that the Colorado Association of Conservation District is currently working on a public outreach campaign that includes a “one-pager” on buy and dry. **We support that effort and encourage CSCB to build on it by issuing a formal statewide position opposing widespread permanent agricultural dry-up as a primary demand-management strategy. We ask that CSCB communicate this position directly to county commissioners, state legislators, water managers, and municipalities, and to major Colorado newspapers.**

MPCD's own [outreach](#) on this issue has been limited to Grand and Summit Counties. CSCB and CACD represent conservation districts statewide and are far better positioned to reach the audience this issue requires.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further. Our District Manager, Katlin Miller, is available to answer questions and assist in any way that would be useful.

Sincerely,

Deb Wood, Jay Yust, Justin Fosha, John Longhill, Brien Rose

Board of Supervisors
Middle Park Conservation District

cc: Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD)



MOTIVATING LANDOWNERS TO PURSUE, COMMIT, AND DELIVER ON-THE-GROUND CONSERVATION PRACTICES

MIDDLE PARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO BOX 265 106 S. 2ND ST.

KREMMLING, CO 80459

PH: 970-724-3456, EXT 4

middleparkcd@gmail.com www.middleparkcd.com

August 26, 2026

To: Daniela Gosselova

Cc: Grand County Natural Resources, YMCA, Sisu Farms, Grand County BOCC, Granby Trustees

To All.

The Middle Park Conservation District (MPCD) is a local entity that regularly consults with Grand and Summit County residents on noxious weeds and proper grazing management. As a non-regulatory agency, we provide education and technical assistance on natural resource conservation matters.

In response to Daniela Gosselova's email to the Middle Park Conservation District and the above entities on August 3, 2026, about the Sky-Hi News Article on Goat Grazing, MPCD sends the attached Technical Brief on Noxious Weeds. The Brief highlights different means of noxious weed control as well as the benefits and limitations of each method.

Please feel free to reach out with any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Katlin Miller

District Manager

Middle Park Conservation District

Attachments

- Technical Brief – Noxious Weeds
- Daniela's Email



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Technical Brief – Noxious Weeds

Noxious weeds, as defined in the Colorado Noxious Weed Act, are alien (non-native) plants that aggressively invade; are detrimental to economic crops or native plant communities; are poisonous to livestock; are carriers of detrimental insects, diseases or parasites; or have direct or indirect effects that are detrimental to the environmentally sound management of a natural or agricultural ecosystem. Grand County has 26 of the 80+ state-listed noxious weeds.

When it comes to noxious weed management, integrating more than one method of control can increase rates of success. This holistic approach, called Integrated Weed Management, often includes a combination of chemical, biological, mechanical, preventative and cultural control. Even when multiple management techniques are used, however, noxious weed management is not a one-time deal. Landowners must exercise patience, persistence, and perseverance when treating noxious weeds due to the evolutionary adaptations, such as high seed count and lengthy seed viability periods, that give them a competitive edge over native vegetation.

When comparing the various means of control, not all options are suitable for all weed species due to differing life cycles and root structures.

Understanding and acknowledging these differences is critical to effective noxious weed control. Using the wrong treatment can be counterproductive and have damaging effects. Regarding life cycles, there are annuals (plants that only live one year), biennials (plants that live two years), and perennials (plants that live three or more years).

Chamomile daisy is an example of an annual; common mullein is a biennial; hoary cress is a perennial. Regarding root structures, there are taproots, fibrous roots, and rhizomes. Plants with fibrous roots (like cheatgrass) are easy to pull whereas taproots (like houndstongue) are difficult to pull and may need to be dug out. Rhizomes are underground stems that connect aboveground plants and produce new roots and shoots.

Rhizomes should not be pulled or dug out as damage to rhizomes can spur new growth.



Technical Brief – Noxious Weeds

Canada thistle is a prime example of a rhizomatous plant. The photo above depicts the extent of rhizomes under a Canada thistle colony.

Chemical Control (Herbicides)

Chemical control is the use of herbicides or plant growth regulators to disrupt the growth of noxious weeds. Concerns are frequently raised regarding the potential effects of herbicides on human and environmental health; however, herbicides vary considerably in their chemistry, selectivity, application requirements and environmental characteristics. The type of herbicide as well as the timing and mode of application can impact (and minimize) health concerns. For example, two herbicides commonly used to treat noxious weeds in Grand County are Milestone (aminopyralid) and Telar (chlorsulfuron). Both herbicides are non-restricted use; thus, when applied according to label requirements, they can be used by the general public without the need for a pesticide applicators license. Both herbicides are also selective, meaning they primarily target specific broadleaf plants and have little effect on most grasses. Lastly, when selected appropriately and applied according to label requirements, both herbicides are “practically nontoxic” to birds, fish, honeybees, earthworms and aquatic invertebrates. Due to their specificity and combined effectiveness on nearly every noxious weed we have in the county, a mix of Milestone and Telar is what Grand County Natural Resources provides to the public at their weekly herbicide giveaways.

When selected appropriately and applied according to label requirements, the use of herbicides has many benefits.

- They are highly effective at killing the whole plant, including the roots.
- You can spot spray specific plants without impacting nearby vegetation.
- You can spray whenever and wherever needed and can selectively respray as new growth emerges.

** Note: Organic herbicides (a mix of herbicidal vinegar, salt, and soap) are not selective and can have mixed success as well as undesirable changes in soil chemistry. Furthermore, some herbicidal vinegars have higher toxicity levels than some common inorganic herbicides (including aminopyralid and chlorsulfuron). Read [this article](#) for more information.*

Biological Control (Insects/Fungi & Grazing)

Biological control is the use of organisms to disrupt the growth of noxious weeds. Biological agents limit the spread and density of target weed species by feeding on leaves, stems, roots and/or seed heads.

Technical Brief – Noxious Weeds

Insects, Mites, Pathogens

The Colorado Department of Agriculture’s Palisade Insectary imports, raises, researches, and distributes biological controls (insects, mites or pathogens) for the state of Colorado. The Insectary’s [Request-A-Bug service](#) involves collection and distribution of biological controls (insects, mites or pathogens) to suppress noxious weeds or insect pests. Biocontrols can be requested by private landowners in Colorado or other government agencies. Supplies can be limited and vary from one year to the next. The Insectary has agents for purchase that target Canada Thistle, Dalmatian Toadflax, Diffuse Knapweed, Field Bindweed, Leafy Spurge, Musk Thistle, Russian Knapweed, Spotted Knapweed, Tamarisk/Salt Cedar, and Yellow Toadflax. It is worth noting, however, that biological control via insects, mites, and pathogens has a limited success in our area due to our harsh winter conditions and lack of landscape-level infestations that support continued biocontrol populations.

Grazing

Grazing is both a biological and a mechanical means of control to emulate mowing. It can be effective but is not a catchall “natural” alternative to be used in every situation. Compared with targeted herbicide applications, prescribed grazing introduces additional management variables that must be considered.

MPCD does not advocate for or against grazing as a category of weed control. We advocate for selecting management practices based upon the biology of the target weed species, site conditions, measurable objectives, and long-term monitoring. When initiating grazing operations, one must consider the type of livestock used, the targeted weed species to be controlled, the other species of vegetation present, timing and duration of grazing, and other environmental factors/stressors. If grazing is administered incorrectly, it can have long-term detrimental impacts.

Type of Livestock Used

Goats tend to be the best species of livestock for noxious weed control. They are primarily browsers and will eat a wider variety of vegetation than either cattle or sheep. Keep in mind, as browsers, they are particularly fond of deciduous trees and shrubs, such as aspen and willows.

Targeted Weed Species to be Controlled

Not all noxious weed species are palatable to livestock. Furthermore, some species, like houndstongue and field bindweed, are [poisonous](#) to livestock. Palatability can also depend on the maturity of the target species. For example, thistles are more palatable when they are

Technical Brief – Noxious Weeds

young and spines are soft. When spines mature and harden, animals are unlikely to eat the spiny leaves and stems.

Other Species of Vegetation Present

If grazing an area that contains both weeds and desired species (grasses, forbs, shrubs, and deciduous trees), the animals may graze the desired vegetation first due to palatability. Only once there is no ‘tasty’ vegetation left will they shift to the less palatable species (commonly the noxious weeds). Even then, they may not eat the targeted noxious weeds at all.

Timing and Duration of Grazing

When considering the timing of grazing, it is important to coordinate grazing with the right stage of plant growth and maturity. Ideally, grazers should be introduced when they will have the greatest impact on target species but the least impact on non-target species. This also includes considerations for repeat grazing (grazing a given area again after it has rested and recovered). Unlike some herbicides that kill the whole plant, grazing only removes the top growth and may suppress flowering or seed production in certain species under certain conditions without killing the plant. Thus, a single grazing event should not be represented as eliminating the infestation. To effectively manage noxious weeds with grazing alone, the stand of weeds must be grazed repeatedly. If a pasture has more than noxious weeds in it, one must also account for the impact of repeat grazing on the desired vegetation.

Managing the duration of grazing is vital to preventing overgrazing. [Overgrazing](#) is the act of excessively grazing an area to the point of vegetation and land damage. According to Emi Kimura, agronomist with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, “Overgrazing is the sin of all sins.” Overgrazing results in lower forage production and persistence, increased soil erosion and water runoff, depressed animal performance, and higher incidence of weed encroachment.

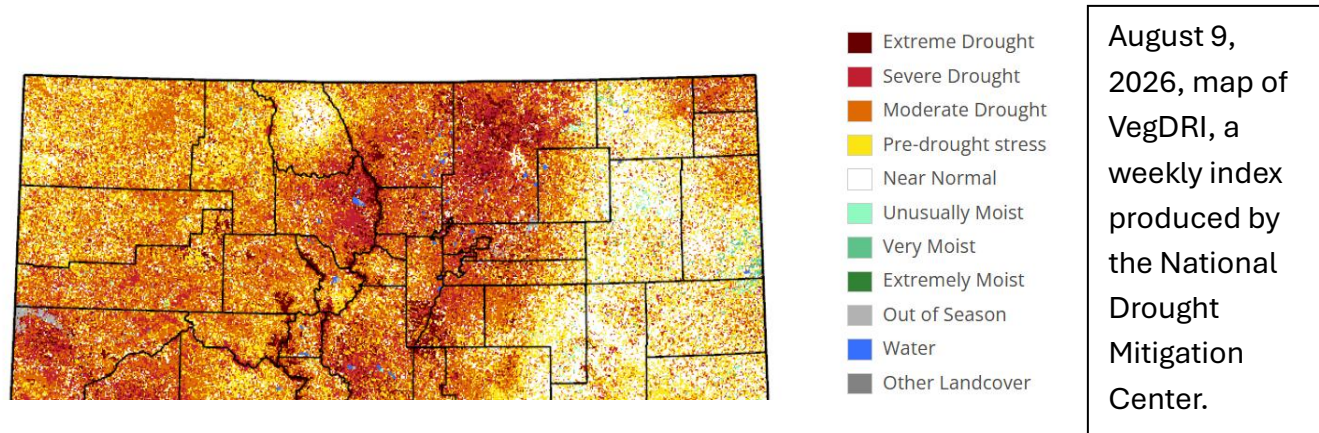
While high intensity mob grazing – grazing a large number of animals in a small area for a short period, followed by a long rest period for the pasture – is a commonly used approved practice in grazing systems, it must be carefully planned and managed. A livestock owner should not ignore a pasture’s carrying capacity or the proper grazing principle of “[take half leave half](#)” just because they are practicing mob grazing.

Other Environmental Factors/Stressors

As we all know, Mother Nature is unpredictable and unforgiving. We can plan all we want, but at the end of the day, Mother Nature can (and will) do as she wishes. It is for this reason that grazing must be adaptive. Livestock managers must be willing to throw all plans away and adapt on the fly to do what is best for the land. Take this year’s drought for example. Not only have our lakes and rivers suffered from the lack of moisture, our native vegetation is extremely

Technical Brief – Noxious Weeds

stressed as well. The following map, produced on August 9, 2026, shows the [Vegetation Drought Response Index \(VegDRI\)](#), a weekly depiction of drought's effects on vegetation stress across the contiguous United States. Stressed vegetation does not recover as quickly or robustly as healthy vegetation. Thus, a livestock manager must be prepared to remove animals sooner than expected, forego grazing all together, and/or destock (sell some of their animals due to lack of sufficient grazing conditions).



Mechanical Control

Mechanical control is the management of weeds through physical disruption. It may include tilling, mowing, burning, flooding, hand-pulling, hoeing, and grazing. As discussed in the introduction, mechanical control can work for some species. For other species (ones that reproduce by rhizomes), some forms of mechanical control can have inverse effects by triggering new growth and expansion of infestations. Species identification is essential if choosing to use mechanical control.

Preventative and Cultural Control

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure! Preventative control is about taking actions to reduce the incidence of noxious weed establishment before it happens. The first, and most important, step to preventative control is awareness and knowledge. One must be educated on what noxious weeds are, how to identify them, how they establish, and knowing where to turn when you do not know the answer to your questions. At the end of this brief, we have information on the local resources for noxious weed management. Actions one may take to prevent noxious weed establishment may include properly manage your land to prevent overgrazing, maintaining desired native/adapted species, monitoring roadways and disturbed areas for noxious weeds, detecting and identifying unknown species early on, and aggressively managing all infestations when they are small.

Technical Brief – Noxious Weeds

Cultural control is similar to preventative control, but cultural control is more about increasing the native vegetation's competitiveness and resistance to noxious weed establishment. It may include maintaining optimal soil health, planting density, spatial arrangement, and species selection as well as using mulch and weed barrier. Establishing competitive and desired vegetation through seeding is one of the most effective means of cultural control. When choosing to seed desirable species, there are many factors to consider. The Middle Park Conservation District has created two guides to help landowners increase chances of a successful seeding: [Keys to Successful Seeding](#) and [Why Did My Grass Not Grow?](#)

Conclusion

There are a variety of strategies that one might use to mitigate noxious weed encroachment. Nevertheless, not all strategies suit all situations. As such, landowners seeking to implement a new noxious weed management plan should carefully consider the targeted weed species and the management options available. For advice on noxious weeds and their management, [Grand County Natural Resources](#), [Summit County Weed Control Department](#), and [Middle Park Conservation District](#) are three local resources available in Grand and Summit Counties, Colorado.

Printed copies of the Grand County [Noxious Weed Guide](#) can be picked up at Grand County Noxious Resources (469 E. Topaz, Granby, CO 80446).

Printed copies of the Summit County [Noxious Weed Guide](#) can be picked up at Summit County Weed Control (37 Peak One Dr, Frisco, CO 80443 – lower floor).



MiddlePark ConservationDistrict <middleparkcd@gmail.com>

Goats for weed mitigation: Commercial gimmick in Sky-Hi?

1 message

Daniela Gosselova <danielagosselova@hotmail.com>

Mon, Aug 3, 2

To: Middle Park CD <middleparkcd@gmail.com>, Amy Sidener <asidener@co.grand.co.us>

Cc: "msoyars@skyhineews.com" <msoyars@skyhineews.com>, "awolf@ymcarockies.org" <awolf@ymcarockies.org>, Sisu Farms <info@sisu.farm>

To Grand County Natural Resources, Middle Park Conservation District

CC: YMCA, Sisu Farms

(bcc: County's Commissioners, Granby's Trustees)

Good Afternoon,

Please refer to the Sky-hi article <https://www.skyhineews.com/news/snow-mountain-ranch-hires-49-goats-to-tackle-invasive-plants/> :**Snow Mountain Ranch hires goat herd to tackle invasive plants****Sisu Farms brought 49 goats to the YMCA of the Rockies property as a natural alternative to chemical weed control**

I've got few questions about local weed control:

Will blurbs in Sky-Hi News going to replace Grand County Noxious Weed Plan or Colorado Noxious Weed Act (the Act) ?

What happened to the Grand County Noxious Weed Board that is supposed to meet annually?

When was the Grand County Noxious Weed Management Plan last reviewed? (Reviews are required at least every 3 years, under the Act)

Grand County Noxious Weed Management Plan

Adopted in 1997**Rev. 2001, 2007, 2013, 2018**

Have Sisu Farms, YMCA or Rendezvous HOA ever developed and submitted an Integrated Weed Management Plan to Grand County Natural Resources? Why did they let weed spread on their properties in the first place and to the magnitude that can deserve a media attention?

And can these entities explain how they suppress the spread of Canada thistles from the roots, as the goats do not browse on roots? How does any existing native vegetation survive during the goat grazing?

Chamomile seeds can stay viable even after passing through goats' digestive system. How effective the control of scentless chamomile (YMCA has gardens of it) can be with "Goats on the Go" that change browsing location daily?

Why to even spent taxpayers' money on County's weed control program or outreach, if local businesses can freely grow noxious weeds on their properties, infest neighboring properties and then make a "good business" out of it by posting bluffs in local media.

Way to go towards environmental sustainability!

Photo from August 31, 2025: Sisu Farms's Canada thistle blooming plantation next to Cold Springs Greenhouse, gravel pit and County Road 60 - A great setup to distribute thistles countywide.....



Thank you for consideration,

Daniela Gosselova,
Granby resident