

December 29, 2008

Dear kNOweeds Contributors:

This letter is in regards to the status of the kNOweeds curriculum that originated in 2006 and was made possible by contributions from your agency and the Noxious Weed Trust Fund. Enclosed you will be provided with the phases this project has gone through. Also included is a list of contributors and other funding received for this project.

We thank you for your commitment to this project and please consider contributing to the final stage of the kNOweed curriculum.

Best Regards,

Steffany Rogge-Kindseth
Weed Education Coordinator
Missoula County Weed District

This project has been divided into 3 phases:

Phase 1 A project coordinator was hired through funding from the NWTF grant at Missoula County Weed District. Existing noxious weed and invasive plant educational materials were evaluated and goals and objectives were developed accordingly for the curriculum. A curriculum sub-committee was developed and comprised of the MWCA Education Committee for support. This committee surveyed agencies and collected existing weed education materials from Montana and beyond.

Phase 2 The project coordinator left the position and two teams of science education/curriculum development specialists were contracted to continue the project. Development and promotional activities have been the focus of Phase 2 of the Know Weeds curriculum. A grades K-12 conceptual framework for the curriculum was developed in accordance with Montana State Science Education Standards. This framework is made up of the main concepts relating to noxious weeds, including such topics such as identification, ecology, botany, impacts, and weed control methods. Contracted curriculum writers Lisa Mills and Elaine Caton attended the Natural Areas Invasive Species conference to begin recruiting project advisors and identify current topics for further curriculum development. They continued to solicit advice on the project and made contact with numerous professionals who could contribute to the project. A statewide project advisory list was developed for reviewing, piloting and steering the project. A matrix of lessons was developed, with objectives that linked framework concepts and national and state curriculum standards. To date the draft lessons have been developed, and portions of the K-12 lessons have been distributed and are being reviewed by advisors. The review and piloting of the Know Weeds curriculum by Montana teachers has been initiated. Lisa and Elaine presented a 2 hour workshop for 11 educators from throughout the state at the MEA (Montana Education Association) annual meeting in October 2008 to introduce the project and recruit additional pilot teachers.

Phase 3 of the Know Weeds curriculum project will consist of reviewing, piloting, editing, and disseminating the materials. Drafts of the K-12 curriculum guide will be reviewed and piloted statewide by appropriate members of the advisory team. Feedback from the review process will be used to finalize the content. The curriculum guide will be published, and distributed at workshops throughout the state. Teachers, informal educators, and weed professionals will be prepared to use the guide for leading lessons, field trips, and weed-related projects in their communities.

Contributions Received

2006

Beaverhead County	300.00
Bitterroot National Forest	750.00
Butte-Silverbow County	250.00
Carbon County	200.00
Cascade County	100.00
Flathead County	400.00
Lolo National Forest	500.00
Gallatin County	300.00
Granite County	300.00
Liberty County	100.00
Mineral County	250.00
Missoula County	11,000.00
Missoula Valley Land Managers	4,950.00
Montana Department of Transportation	2,000.00
Powell County	300.00
Ravalli County	250.00
Rosebud County	250.00
Sweet Grass County	250.00
Western Area Weed Council	500.00
Yellowstone County	<u>300.00</u>
Total	\$23,250.00
NWTF 2006	\$23,496.00

2007

Beaverhead County	300.00
Bitterroot National Forest	750.00
Carbon County	200.00
Flathead County	400.00
Gallatin County	300.00
Granite County	300.00
Mineral County	250.00
Missoula County	11,000.00
Montana Department of Transportation	2,000.00
Powell County	300.00
Sweet Grass County	250.00
Madison County	100.00
Yellowstone County	<u>300.00</u>
Total	\$16,450.00
NWTF	\$21,623.00
NWTF 2009 Grant Request	\$21,500.00

Timeline 2009 - 2010

March – June 2009

1. Facilitate piloting of lessons by teachers throughout the state. This will include contacting teachers, printing and sending materials, providing support as needed and processing feedback.
2. Editing and revision of K-12 lessons based on input from piloting and review.

June – August 2009

1. Facilitate piloting of lessons by informal educators throughout the state in youth summer programs and camps.
2. Write other sections of the Guide (introduction, matrixes, appendices, etc.)
3. Final editing and revisions of the Know Weeds Guide.
4. Develop graphic design and illustration for Guide.

September – December 2009

1. Publication of the Know Weeds Guide.
2. Begin dissemination across Montana through teacher workshops and conferences (MEA, MEEA, PIR days) as well as to County Weed Offices, the Montana Office of Public Instruction, and other agencies and organizations who participated in the development, review and piloting of the guide.
3. On-line version of the Know Weeds Guide made available through Missoula County website. Links to this resource offered to schools and agencies free of charge.

December 2009 – March 2010

Continue dissemination to educators and other professionals.