

Open Space Integrated Pest Management Updates • Summer, 2017

For more information: Contact Morgan Valliant, Conservation Lands Manager, 552-6263 mvalliant@ci.missoula.mt.us

Please note:

- Most herbicide application occurs away from trails.
- Application is weather dependent and is cancelled on windy or rainy days.
- Notice of application and maps will be posted at trailheads and access points **24 hours before** and **24 hours after application**.
- Application does not occur on weekends or holidays.
- Blue dye is used to identify herbicide-treated weeds and help people to avoid contacting the chemicals when wet.

Application Schedule For the 2017 Summer Season*

Parks and Recreation staff will apply herbicide to noxious weeds in selected areas, on weekdays only as shown below, weather permitting. ****Dates are flexible and subject to change due to wind speed or precipitation.***

Monday – Friday

Week of May 15: South Hills Spur
Week of May 22: South Hills Spur/North Hills
Week of May 29: North Hills
Week of June 5: Mount Sentinel
Week of June 12: Mount Jumbo
Week of June 19: Mount Jumbo
Week of June 26 through mid-July: Tower St./Clouse property

Application will be completed by mid-July, depending on weather.

The chemicals used to control invasive species have been carefully selected on the basis of their efficacy in killing invasives, reduced impacts on desirable native plants, reduced public risk and environmental impact. Herbicides are applied by trained, licensed, [state certified applicators](#). Herbicides are applied directly to targeted noxious weeds to minimize use of chemicals and potential harm to beneficial plants.

Noxious weeds pose a real threat to Missoula's Conservation Lands. Weeds negatively impact the ecological condition, diversity of plants and animals, and ground cover of conservation lands. Some introduced species, like cheatgrass and Japanese brome, have been shown to alter fuels and fire behavior in other regions of the country, increasing the fire risk in forested and rangeland sites.

Herbicides are just one of many methods, such as sheep grazing, re-vegetation, hand-pulling and bio-control insects, the City uses to control noxious weeds and restore native plant communities. More information concerning the impact and control of noxious weeds and which invasive plants controlled on City Open Space can be found in the Conservation Lands Management Plan, Chapter Four at <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/index.aspx?nid=867>.