Montana Natural Heritage Program History with the MT Noxious Weed Trust Fund Program

- The MT Noxious Weed Trust Fund (NWTF) is a grant program administered through the Montana Department of Agriculture. The NWTF was established by the legislature in 1985 for the education, research, and on-the-ground control of noxious weeds in the state.

- The Department grants funds for the purchase and application of chemicals for noxious weed control and therefor follows MEPA standards in reviewing proposed projects.

- In 1992, the Department had a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) drafted to assess how to best meet MEPA standards. An amended PEIS was drafted in 2010 to account for aquatic weed control and new pesticide products.

- To meet MEPA standards, NWTF grantees proposing to purchase and apply chemicals must complete an Environmental Assessment (EA) as part of the project application. The EA includes practices and mitigation strategies concerning general vegetation, soils, ground and surface water, fish and wildlife, threatened and endangered species, air quality, and historical/cultural resources.

- In 2001, the NWTF began granting funds to the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) to assist in gathering the information needed to complete parts of the EAs. The MNHP provides detailed information about the habitat, wildlife, and TES species in the project area to the project coordinator upon request.

- In 2015, the NWTF began granting funds to the MNHP for updating plants and their status into the database in which biological information is pulled for the EA's.

- Beginning in FY18, project coordinators are required to include an environmental summary report from the MNHP in their new applications. Those reports can only be accessed currently by MNHP staff or NWTF program staff.

- The MNHP and all the information they house and provide to our project coordinators, is crucial for completing documents required by the NWTF program.

Montana Natural Heritage Program Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant History 1997-2017

Contract	Title	Project Sponsor	Amount Awarded	Amount Paid
1997-068	Montana Rare Plant Guide	MNHP	$10,350	$10,350.00
2001-064	Servicing Requests for Environmental Assessment	MNHP	$4,984	$4,984.00
2002-064	Natural Heritage Program	MNHP	$5,000	$4,057.13
2003-064	Natural Heritage Program	MNHP	$5,000	$5,000.00
2004-034	Natural Heritage Program	MNHP	$5,000	$5,000.00
2005-001	Natural Heritage Program	MNHP	$5,000	$5,000.00
2006-002	Natural Heritage Program	UMT	$7,500	$7,500.00
2007-001	MT Natural Heritage Info for Weed Grants	UMT	$7,500	$7,497.39
2008-080	MT Natural Heritage Info for Weed Grants	UMT	$7,500	$7,463.98
2009-004	MT Natural Heritage Info for Weed Grants	UMT	$7,500	$7,491.83
2009-071	MT Natural Heritage Info for Weed Grants	UMT	$7,500	$7,436.99
2011-008	Supporting Weed Management with Biological Information	UMT	$10,000	$9,983.72
2012-007	Supporting Weed Management with Biological Information	UMT	$10,000	$10,000.00

Contract	Title	Project Sponsor	Amount Awarded	Amount Paid
2013-031	Supporting Weed Management with Biological Information	UMT	$10,000	$10,000.00
2014-004	Supporting Weed Management with Biological Information	UMT	$10,000	$10,000.00
2015-009	Supporting Weed Management with Biological Information	UMT	$10,000	$9,999.98
2015-074	Supporting Weed Management with Plant Species of Concern Information	UMT	$10,000	$9,999.93
2016-020	Supporting Weed Management with Plant Status Reviews	UMT	$10,000	$4,219.92
2016-019	Supporting Weed Management with Biological Information	UMT	$10,000	$9,999.96
2017-010	Supporting Weed Management with Plant Status Reviews-2017	UMT	$10,000	*
2017-011	Supporting Weed Management with Biological Information	UMT	$10,000	*
		Totals	$172,834	$145,985

*Note: Grants are reimbursable (pending payments have yet to be requested by the MNHP)