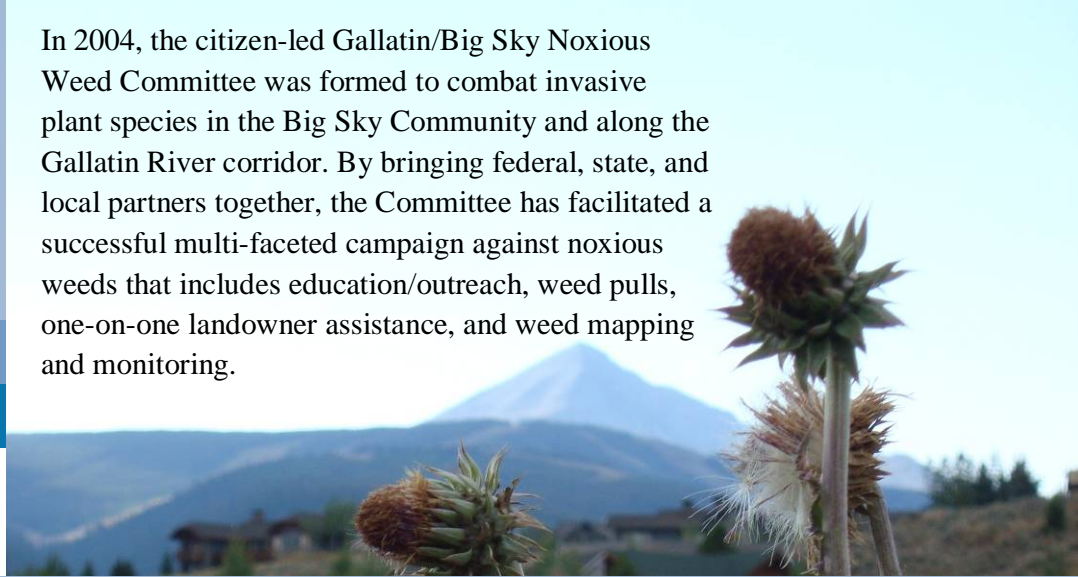


# Northern Rocky Mountain RC&D

## RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

Partnerships Serving America's Communities

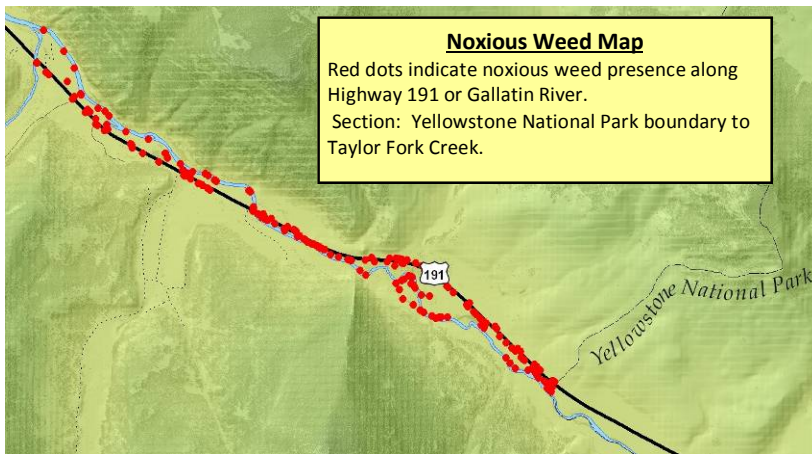
In 2004, the citizen-led Gallatin/Big Sky Noxious Weed Committee was formed to combat invasive plant species in the Big Sky Community and along the Gallatin River corridor. By bringing federal, state, and local partners together, the Committee has facilitated a successful multi-faceted campaign against noxious weeds that includes education/outreach, weed pulls, one-on-one landowner assistance, and weed mapping and monitoring.



Under the Northern Rocky Mountain RC&D, the Gallatin/Big Sky Noxious Weed Committee is actively working to minimize and reduce the spread of noxious weeds through implementation of cooperative weed management projects.



## Invasive Species Mapping of Highway 191



In 2009, the Committee and its partners completed a noxious weed inventory along the Highway 191 corridor from Yellowstone National Park to Four Corners. Because of this effort, the first populations of leafy spurge, St. Johnswort, and Dalmatian toad flax in Gallatin Canyon were identified and immediately treated. This extensive inventory is now being utilized in cooperation with committee partners to prioritize suppression efforts and prevent new invasions. A total of 145 road miles were mapped for noxious weeds during 2008 and 2009. A total of 19 species of state or county listed noxious weeds were observed. In 2011, the Committee will initiate a monitoring program for mapped populations.

## Landowner Education and Outreach Program

Since 2004, the committee's focus on education has provided on-site weed management assistance to hundreds of landowners, hosted a variety of educational seminars, and provided outreach on the importance of noxious weed management to local citizens through local newspapers, radio, a website, billboards, and participation in community events.



Wildflower and weed walk in Porcupine Wildlife Mgmt Area.

In 2010:

- Over 3,500 people were reached through the outreach/education campaign.
- 96 properties (348.9 acres) were inspected and assistance was provided.
- 10 landowners participated in the cost share program, resulting in 122.4 acres treated.

# Snapshots of more Gallatin/Big Sky Noxious Weed Projects

In 2009 and 2010, the Gallatin/Big Sky Noxious Weed Committee partnered with Trout Unlimited to host an annual weed pull and river clean up day. The goal was to pull weeds and pick up trash at fishing access points, trailheads, campgrounds, and turnouts from Sheds Bridge to Big Sky. Volunteers collected approximately 900 lbs of noxious weeds and trash each year from multiple locations along the Gallatin River.



## Noxious Weed Pull with Trout Unlimited

## Ophir School Noxious Weed Education Event



Since 2008, the committee has been hosting a weed pull and education event with the Ophir School students in Big Sky. The objectives of the field trip were to educate the students about noxious weed identification, the impacts of noxious weeds, weed mapping using GPS technology, and how to control certain noxious weeds by hand pulling. In 2010, students and volunteers collected approximately 300 pounds of noxious weeds.

Committee members voluntarily treated previously identified and mapped noxious weed infestations. In 2010, over 235 acres were sprayed with a backpack sprayer and chemical, which were provided by the Forest Service.



## Volunteer Treatment of Noxious Weeds

## Committee Partners

The Committee has been successful in bringing together different groups (from small acreage and absentee landowners to state, local, and federal land managers) with the common goal of effective invasive plant species management within the Gallatin River corridor.

- Big Sky Resort Area District
- Gallatin Conservation District
- U.S. Forest Service
- Montana Department of Transportation
- Gallatin County Weed District
- Nature Resources Conservation Service
- Gallatin Cooperative Extension
- Montana State University
- Big Sky Owners Association
- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Big Sky Institute
- Big Sky Natural Resource Committee
- Montana Department of Agriculture
- Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators
- Trout Unlimited
- Citizen volunteers
- Ophir School
- Weed Subcommittee of the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee

