

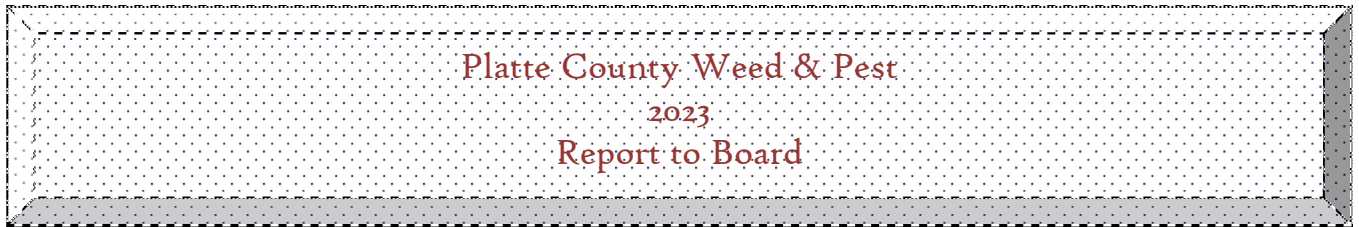
PLATTE COUNTY

Weed and Pest Control District



Annual Report

2023



Front cover: Leafy spurge. Picture taken by Trisha McCarty

Platte County
Weed and Pest Control District
Board of Directors

Ron Lockhart	Area 1	Glendo-Meadowdale Area
John Watson, Chairman	Area 2	Guernsey-Dwyer Area
Bill Criss, Secretary/Treasurer	Area 3	North Wheatland Area
Roxie Harris, Vice Chairman	Area 4	South Wheatland Area
Josh Graves	Area 5	Slater Area
Eric Heatherly	Area 6	Chugwater Area
Amy Miller	Area 7	Town of Wheatland Area

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I. Platte County Weed & Pest Programs

a. Agencies



1. Bureau of Land Management

In 2023, the Bureau of Land Management issued the Platte County Weed and Pest \$5,000 worth of Plateau for cheatgrass treatment on 737 acres of BLM lands. Map #1.



2. Bureau of Reclamation

The Bureau of Reclamation contracted with the Platte County Weed and Pest District again to treat noxious weeds at the Glendo State Park and Guernsey Dam. In 2023 the weed and pest treated 200.49 acres of noxious weeds for a total of \$36,051.25. We received \$35,000 from the BOR contract for this service. See map #2.



3. United State Forest Service

In the Harris Park/Cottonwood and Esterbrook areas, 38.75 acres were treated. The crew used a pick-up slide-in sprayer and ATV's. The total amount charged to the USFS was \$3,000.00. See attached map #3.



4. Wyoming National Guard – Camp Guernsey

In 2023 the Camp Guernsey branch of the Wyoming National Guard contracted Platte County Weed and Pest to spray thistle and other noxious weeds. The PCWP sprayed 99.88 acres utilizing ATV's at a cost of \$9,995.37. See map#4.

b. Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR)

The Early Detection Rapid Response Weed Program, initiated in 2002, was designed to be a proactive, aggressive response to noxious weeds not commonly found in Platte County. The Weed and Pest will provide an educational program and attempt eradication with the Weed and Pest absorbing 100% of the costs. Species include Black henbane, Dyers woad, Ox-eye daisy, Purple loosestrife, Medusahead, Ventenata, species on the state of Wyoming EDRR list, and any other species, that may appear, at the supervisor's and/or board of director's discretion.

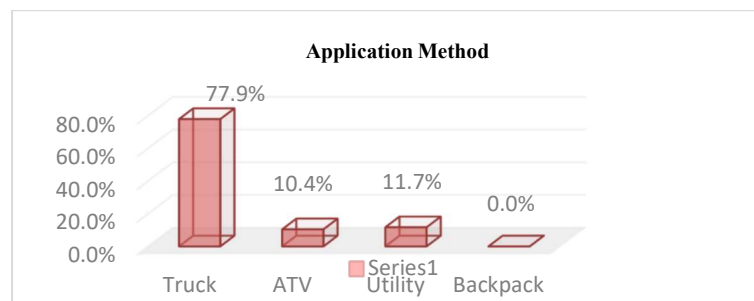
In 2021 there was more Spotted knapweed treated around the county than in previous years. It showed up in many places it had not been seen before. The Platte County Weed and Pest sprayed 25.88 acres in 2021. In 2022 PCWP sprayed 15.99 acres of Spotted knapweed and in 2023 there was not any spotted knapweed treated. This decrease of acres shows an effective EDRR treatment program. Spotted knapweed will continue to be monitored and treated in order to eradicate this prohibited weed.

In 2023 PCWP sprayed 54.75 acres of White top. Considering the amount found this season, we expect to be spraying a large amount of it again in the 2024 season.

c. Weed & Pest Control - Custom Application

1. Custom Application

The Platte County Weed and Pest did custom application for 132 producers. A total of 1,976.20 acres of weeds were treated during the 2023 spray season under Custom Application. This does not include any county, state, or federal agency contracts. The custom truck treated 1,538.92 acres at a cost of \$43,586.42, ATV's treated 206.19 acres at a cost of \$14,621.60, the utility vehicle sprayer treated 230.97 acres at a cost of \$8,530.95 and Backpackers treated .2 acres at a cost of \$140.88. A total cost of \$66,879.85 was invoiced for these treatments. Included in map #5. These figures do not include Blacktailed prairie dog numbers (see prairie dog section on page 10).



2. Rejuvra Cheatgrass Program

In 2023 the PCWP did not participate in the MB906 program that ran through the Resource District. However, The Platte County Weed and Pest did begin a program to work on the large amount of Cheatgrass in Platte County.

Utilizing a grant from the Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$60,160, Game and Fish Grants of \$54,621.26, landowner contributions of \$10,968.00 and \$46,051.94 from the weed and pest budget, we were able to treat 2,676 acres of Cheatgrass using Rejuvra and Panoramic herbicides. These herbicides have shown great results in the past and we are expecting good results from this program. We hope to continue the program, working with more partners in future years. See map #1.

3. *Wheatland Irrigation District*

Each summer, the Platte County Weed and Pest works alongside the Wheatland Irrigation District to spray noxious weeds along the entire length of the irrigation system. In 2023, 118.49 acres of noxious weeds were sprayed, for a cost of \$6,612.31. See map #10.

d. **Services**

Platte County Weed and Pest offers many services to the residents of Platte County. Insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides, and biological control methods are available not only for agricultural producers, but also for small acreage landowners and town residents. Pesticide application equipment (backpacks and drop spreaders) is available for use at no cost. The PCWP rents a 200-gallon slide-in insecticide sprayer as well as a 200-gallon herbicide sprayer. Other services include recommendations for weed and pest control; weed free hay certification; and use of the water filling station. During 2023, the PCWP office staff invoiced 467 individual producer sales plus 349 individual cash sales for a total amount of \$156,493.70.

e. **Cost-Share**

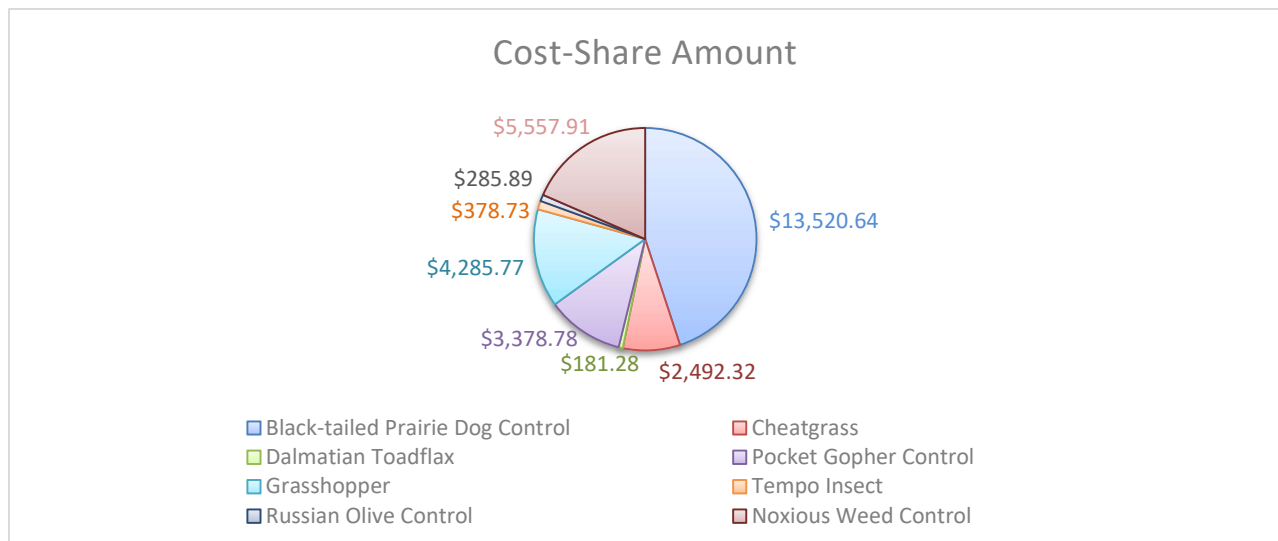
The Platte County Weed and Pest Board approves various cost-shares on purchased chemicals.

Black-tailed prairie dog Rodenticides: 80%; Pocket Gophers rodenticides, Grasshopper insecticides, Cheatgrass, and Russian Olive chemicals: 50%; Tempo insecticide for other insects: 25%; Specific noxious weed chemicals: 25%.

The fiscal year caps are:

Black-tailed prairie dog Rodenticides: \$1,200 per landowner; Combination of all other cost-shares: \$1,200 per landowner.

The following chart shows the contributions PCWP made for the cost-share programs. Please note these figures are from the fiscal year end 2023, not calendar year 2023.



2. Leafy Spurge and Noxious Weed Control Program

a. County

Leafy spurge control falls under the Platte County Weed and Pest's second mill levy. PCWP provides herbicides and application for the control of leafy spurge at a cost-share of 100% (up to \$2,500) per landowner. This is an important service that the PCWP provides to county residents. During FYE 2023, 127.35 acres of leafy spurge were treated utilizing ATVs. Costs associated with the application program include chemicals \$6,659.20, equipment & labor \$11,010.00, and mileage \$1,278.74 for a total of \$18,947.94 or \$148.79 per acre.

This year PCWP worked with Albany County Weed and Pest in spraying 400 acres and surveying 14,300 acres of leafy spurge by helicopter in the Van Ortwick area. The sprayed acres included 397.17 acres of private land, 2.83 acres on public lands. This has been an ongoing project to try to eradicate Leafy spurge in this hard-to-get to area. Various grants and weed and pest contributions helped pay the total cost of \$48,524.06. PCWP budgeted \$10,000 for this year's acres of which \$10,000 was utilized. See map #6

Eight landowners came in and picked up products for leafy spurge control in FYE2023. The following table summarizes chemicals picked up by the landowners.

Product	Amount Purchased	Costs
Crop Oil	2.5 gallons	\$ 32.00
Brewer 90/10	12.5 gallons	\$ 144.00
Tordon 22K	27.5 gallons	\$ 1,478.40
Venue	1 quarts	\$ 166.72
	Total	\$ 5,028.16

b. State

The Office of State Lands and Investments provided payment for noxious weed control on the lands it administers. They paid all costs for the control of Leafy Spurge, 100% of chemical and 50% of application costs on Salt Cedar, Russian Olive, as well as 100% of the chemical cost for all other noxious weeds. The lessee was responsible for the remaining application costs. In the summer of 2023, the weed and pest treated 107.63 acres of Leafy spurge on State lands for a payment of \$5,718.28, and 153.33 acres of other noxious weeds for a payment of \$3,591.44. The final total paid to the Platte County Weed and Pest from the Office of State Lands and Investments was \$5,560.42.

The remainder of the funds will be paid from the Department of Agriculture, who will now be in control of State funds allocation for weed and pest control. The PCWP was awarded a total of \$10,869.00 for treatment of weeds and pests on State lands. The amount of funds that will be invoiced to the Department of Agriculture for Leafy spurge is \$3,749.30.

3. Road Rights-of-Way Noxious Weed Control Program

a. County

The Platte County Weed and Pest began treating county roads on May 5th, 2023. To avoid crops and other vegetative damage on farm ground and residential areas, the PCWP sprays only when weather conditions are favorable. Organic farmers are encouraged to let the PCWP know of their location to avoid negative effects to their operation. Designated and declared noxious weeds are prominent along road rights-of-way. The numbers below are the amounts spent from July of 2022 to June 30, 2023.

Item	Total Amount
Chemical Costs	\$19,300.46
Equipment Costs	\$ 5,530.00
Total Costs	\$21,071.87
819.66 Acres	\$30.29/Acre

b. State

The Platte County Weed and Pest receives payment from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture for treatment of noxious weeds and pests along State Road rights-of-way. One of the primary vectors by which noxious weeds spread is vehicle dissemination along roads. Weeds and pests were treated from the road edge to the boundary fence. This year, the PCWP treated noxious weeds using a custom truck sprayer for a total cost of \$31,958.68. The 2023 allocation was \$17,576.00. See map #7



State Road	Description	Chemical cost	Application cost	Total Cost	Acres Treated
PL 01A	I-25	\$ 1,590.32	\$ 1,867.50	\$ 3,457.82	60
PL 01M	I-25 SV Rd	\$ 794.88	\$ 652.50	\$ 1,447.38	46.67
PL 01N	I-25 SV Rd	\$ 4,980.24	\$ 2,317.50	\$ 7,297.74	170
PL 03A	WY 34	\$ 2,384.48	\$ 1,575.00	\$ 3,959.48	140
PL 04A	WY 26	\$ 3,346.84	\$ 1,192.50	\$ 4,539.34	120
PL 05A	WY 270	\$ 1,021.92	\$ 652.50	\$ 1,674.42	60
PL 07A	WY 312	\$ 11.41	\$ 45.00	\$ 56.41	0.67
PL 08A	WY 321	\$ 405.44	\$ 337.50	\$ 742.94	20
PL 09A	WY 314	\$ 340.64	\$ 427.50	\$ 768.14	20
PL 10A	I-25 SR	\$ 1,021.92	\$ 832.50	\$ 1,854.42	60
PL 11A	WY 317	\$ 170.32	\$ 180.00	\$ 350.32	10
PL 14A	WY 311	\$ 681.28	\$ 652.50	\$ 1,333.78	40
PL15A	WY 315	\$ 601.24	\$ 427.50	\$ 1,028.74	20
PL 16A	WY 319	\$ 193.92	\$ 270.00	\$ 463.92	10
PL 17A	WY 320	\$ 1,903.83	\$ 1,080.00	\$ 2,983.83	63.33
	TOTALS	\$ 19,448.68	\$ 12,510.00	\$ 31,958.68	840.67



4. Black-tailed Prairie Dog Control

To assist landowners with Black-tailed prairie dog infestations, the Platte County Weed and Pest implemented the first Black-tailed Prairie Dog Control Program in 2003. It has become one of the most popular control programs of PCWP. The three main goals of the program are: 1) continue to control and reduce current Black-tailed prairie dog population; 2) prevent the spread of Black-tailed prairie dog populations to protect lands not currently infested; and 3) encourage neighboring landowners to treat entire blocks of Black-tailed prairie dog populations.

As of December 31, 2023, approximately 8,379 acres of Black-tailed prairie dog infestations were treated on deeded ground. Landowners were charged a cost-share price of \$4.40 per treated acre. A \$45,000 Pesticide Registration Fee Grant was received from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (approved by the State Allocation Committee) to assist with the costs associated with the program. See attached map #8.

The Department of Agriculture pays 100% of the costs for control of prairie dogs on state leased property up to the amount allotted each year. Approximately 2,427 acres of Black-tailed prairie dog infestations were treated on State Lands for a cost of \$22,286.17. Due to limited funding, \$7,119.70 will be billed to the Department of Agriculture for zone 1 application. The Lessee paid the full \$4.40/acre price on state lands. As of December 31st, that amount equals \$10,678.80. The Weed and Pest will pay the difference of \$4,487.67.

As of December 31st, the expenses associated with the Black-tailed Prairie Dog Program are \$139,611.54. The income from the grant, state, and landowners thus far is \$70,326.90. Which would put the weed and pest share of the program at \$69,284.64. The average cost per acre for this year's prairie dog treatment as of December 31st is \$16.68.

5. Grasshopper Diflubenzuron Program

a. In 2023 the Platte County Weed and Pest did not conduct a grasshopper program. However, there were hot spots that were sprayed by AG Flyers. The landowners received 50% cost

share on the chemicals in the amount of \$1,776.20. The total acres that were sprayed were 942 for a total cost of \$5,012.18, which \$3,212.60 was paid by the landowners. See map #9

6. Cooperator of the Year

a. Past Years' Recipients

The Platte County Weed and Pest Board created the Platte County Weed and Pest Cooperator of the Year award in 1994. The award is given annually to a Platte County farmer/rancher who has demonstrated good stewardship and land management practices and who actively and aggressively works to control noxious weeds and pests. The table below shows past Cooperator of the Year award recipients.

Year	Recipient	Area	Year	Recipient	Area
1994	John Braunschweig	6	1995	John Lancaster	1
1996	John Wilhelm	7	1997	Mike Johnston	4,5
1998	John L. Baker	5	1999	Don Olson	4
2000	Dennis Baker	5	2001	Randy Hunter	4
2002	George Bauer Jr	3	2003	Larry Lebsack	3
2004	John F Baker	5	2005	Pat & Sherri Cullen	7
2006	Newton Russell	5	2007	Rob Hellbaum	5
2008	Rocky Foy	1	2009	Ken & Patti Small	4
2010	Sumner & Shirley Shockley	3	2011	Irvine Ranch	4
2012	Jim & Mary Mathis - Gittaway Ranch	4	2013	Tyler Dodge	4
2014	Dan Kennedy	5	2015	Rodger & Lindy Schroeder	6
2016	Dave Foreman - 14 Ranch	1	2017	Preuit Ranch	4,3
2018	John & Kathy Watson	1,2,5	2019	Dan Artery	5
2020	Melvin and Mimi Kontour	2,3	2021	Bard Ranch	4
2022	West Ranch	6	2023	Slim Ranch	1

b. 2023 Recipient:



Slim Ranch, Mike and Susan McKay, received the Platte County Weed and Pest Cooperator of the Year award for 2023. The Slim Ranch was chosen for their endeavors to control various weeds and pests via ground control and air control, and for their loyalty in buying chemicals from Platte County Weed and Pest.

Left: Myla and Eric Griego received the award on behalf of Slim Ranch.

7. Additional Fun and Information at the Weed and Pest

a. Wyoming Weed and Pest Council Annual Fall Conference



The Wyoming Weed and Pest Council held their Fall Conference in Gillette Wyoming and on Zoom. Three staff members and one board member from Platte County attended the conference in Gillette. Trisha McCarty received her Supervisor Certificate, Pat Bookout received his 10-year pin and Roxie Harris received her 20-year pin. Congratulations everyone! Thanks for your hard work.

b. Wyoming Weed and Pest Council Spring Workshop

Trisha McCarty and Sarah Taylor attended the Spring Workshop in Dubois, Wyoming.

c. Employee Christmas Party

The Platte County Weed and Pest Employees enjoyed an afternoon of treats, gifts, and visiting at the annual Christmas party.

d. Private Applicator Class

The Platte County Weed and Pest in conjunction with the University of Wyoming Extension Service hosts a Private Applicator Class each year. This class is designed to help Farmers and Ranchers whose license will expire April 30th of the current year or for anyone wishing to obtain a new private pesticide applicator's license. In 2023, PCWP hosted one class with 42 attendees on February 16th.

f. Chemical Jug Recycling

The Wyoming Weed and Pest Council offers two ways for the weed and pest districts and landowners to dispose of their used chemical containers. They can use the WWPC bailer, or the garbage compactor trucks from Iowa. In 2023, two garbage compactor trucks made it through the state running two different routes. The Platte County Weed and Pest utilized the garbage compactor truck method. All seasonal employees loaded the jugs into the truck. Sixteen of the twenty-three districts participated in utilizing the garbage compactors this year. The other seven districts either used the baler or have their own method of jug disposal.



The End!

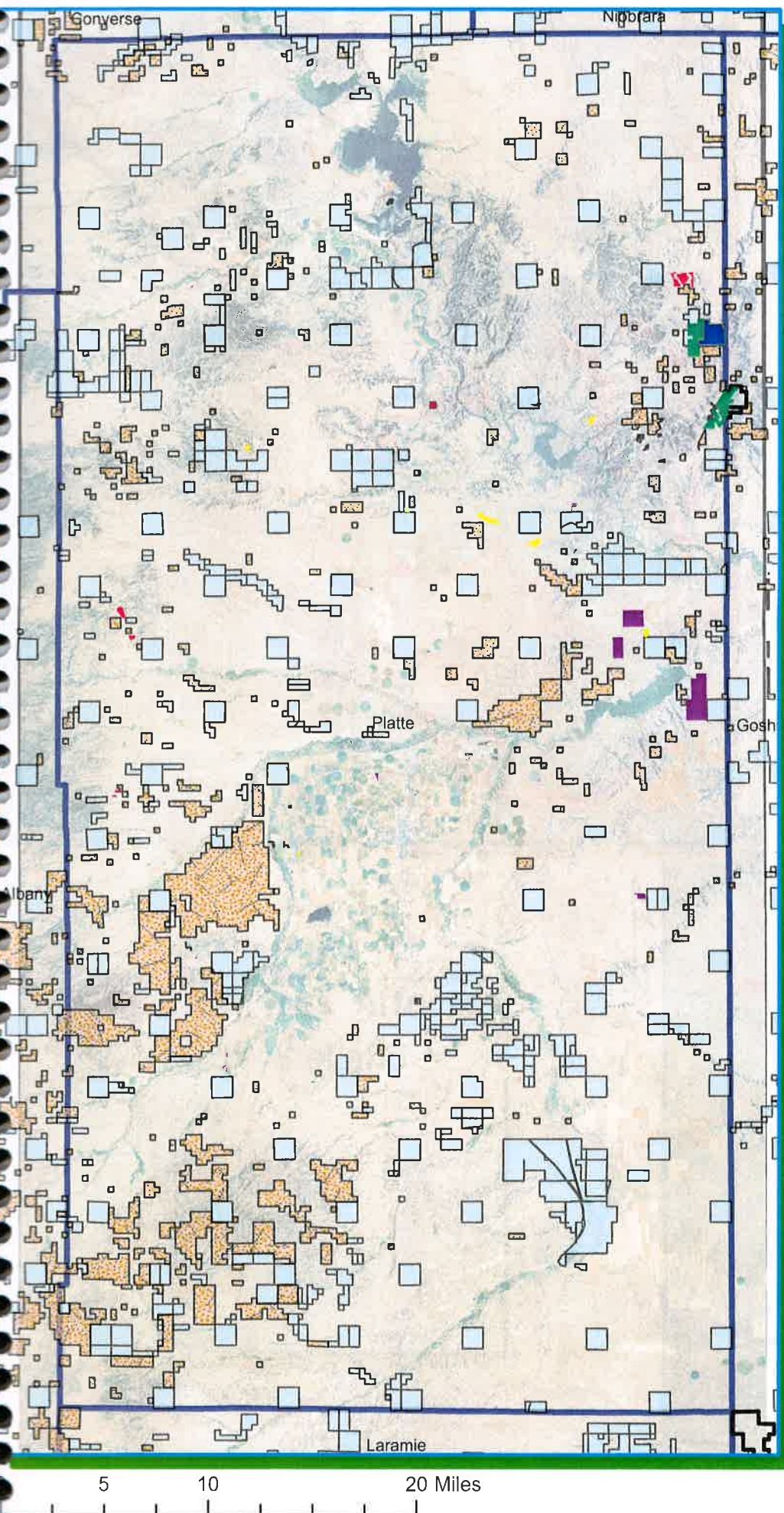




Written and produced by Patrick Bookout, Trisha McCarty, Sarah Taylor and Glendowyn Laffitte 2023

Map #1

2023 Platte County Cheatgrass Control

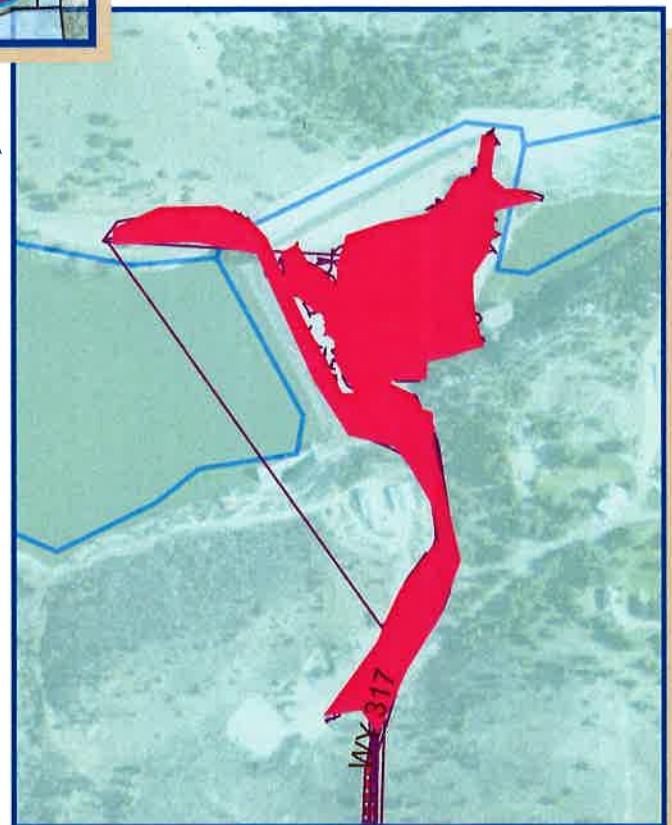
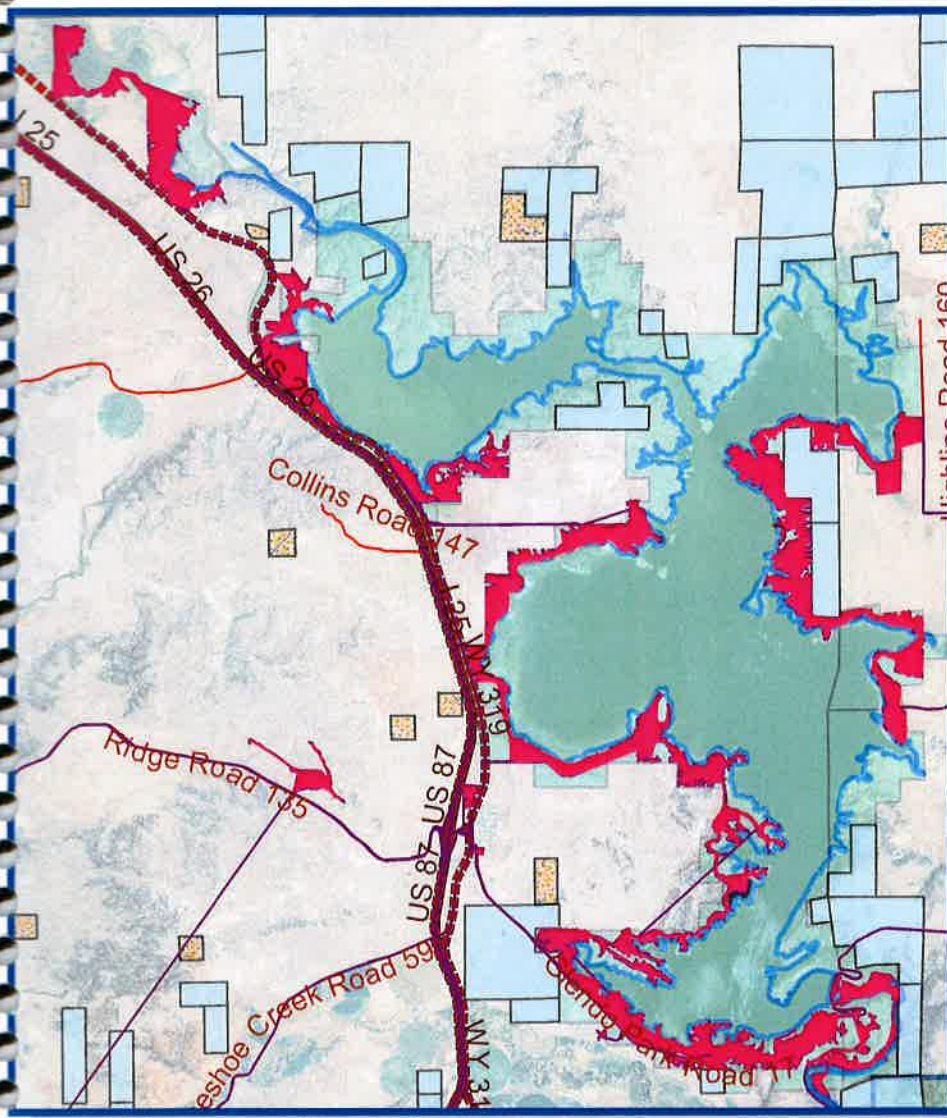


- 2023_Completed_Custom_CG
- BLM_Area
- Cheatgrass_State
- 2023GameAndFish
- 2023CGAerial
- 2023StateLand
- BLM



Map #2

2023 Platte County Bureau of Reclamation Noxious Weeds



Horseshoe Creek Road 59

Map #3

2023 Platte County

United States Forest Service

Noxious Weeds

1-7363
14 Ranch, LLC

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| ▲ Buffalobur | — 2023_Tracks_Platte |
| ● Canada thistle | — CountyRoads |
| ○ Common burdock | 2023StateLand |
| ○ Common cocklebur | ForestService |
| ▲ Common mullein | BLM |
| ● Curly dock | |
| △ Field bindweed | |
| ● Musk thistle | |
| ○ Russian knapweed | |
| ◆ Scotch thistle | |
| ◇ Whitetop | |

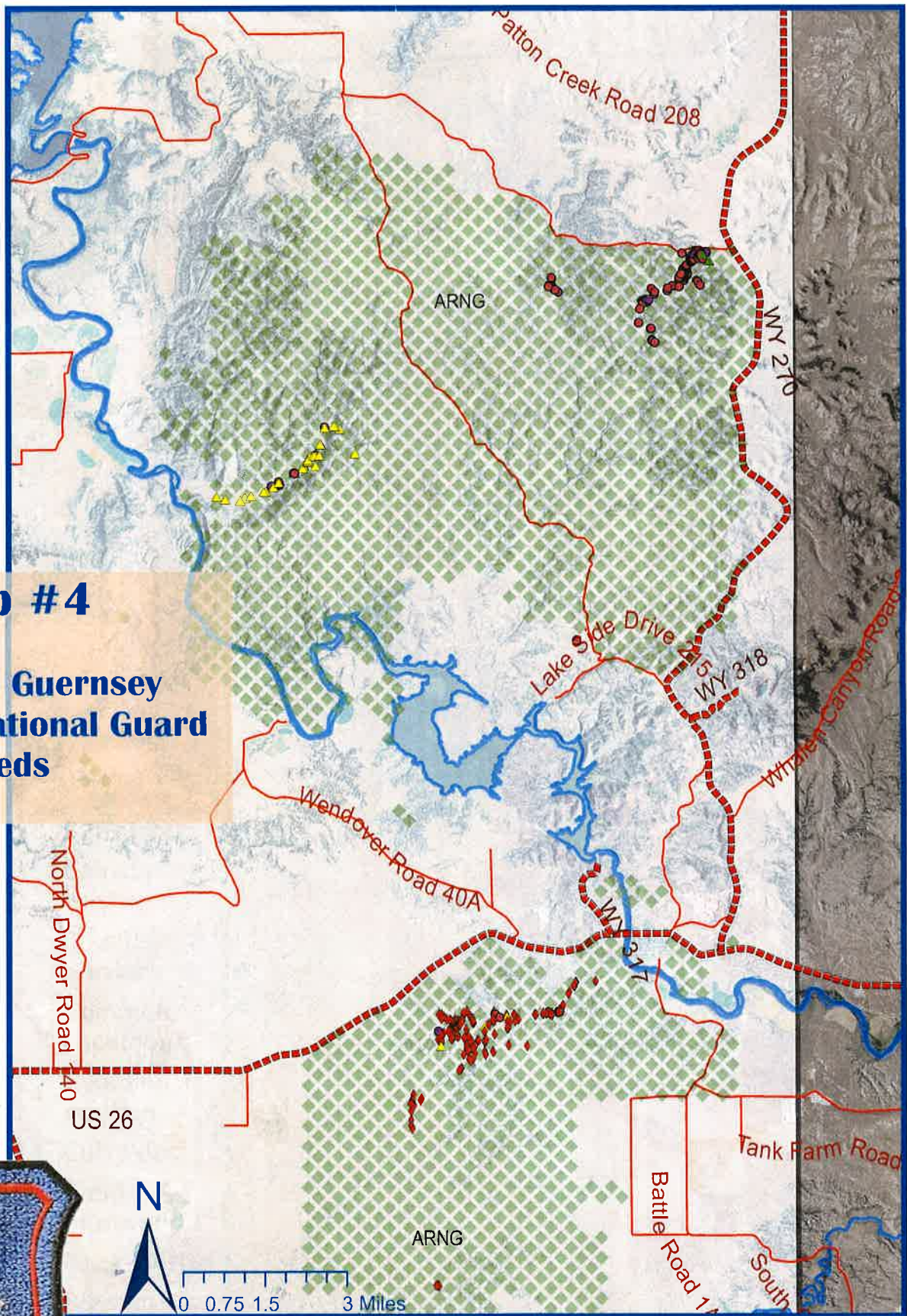
Cottonwood Park Road 71



Tris Park Road 210

Map #4

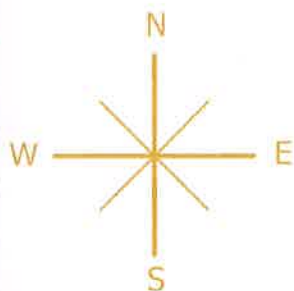
2023 Camp Guernsey Wyoming National Guard Noxious Weeds



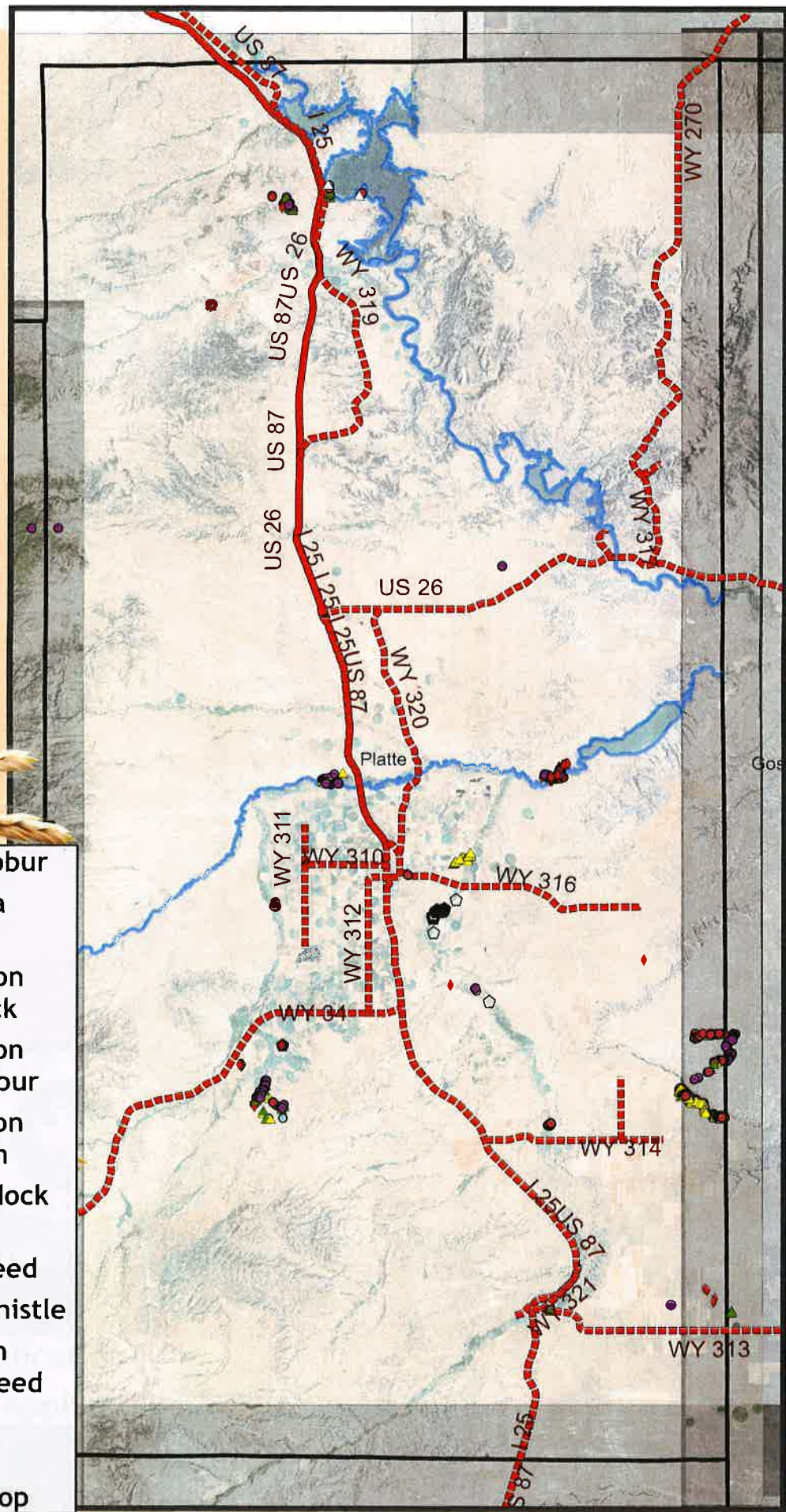
▲ Buffalobur	● Curly dock	◇ Whitetop
● Canada thistle	△ Field bindweed	▨ Camp Guernsey
○ Common burdock	● Musk thistle	⋯ Highways
● Common cocklebur	○ Russian knapweed	— County Roads
▲ Common mullein	◆ Scotch thistle	— Rivers

Map #5

2023 Platte County Weed and Pest Custom Application Noxious Weeds



- ▲ Buffalobur
- Canada thistle
- Common burdock
- Common cocklebur
- ▲ Common mullein
- Curly dock
- △ Field bindweed
- Musk thistle
- Russian knapweed
- ◆ Scotch thistle
- ◇ Whitetop



0 5 10 20 Miles

Converse

Albany

Map #6

2023 Platte County Leafy Spurge Application



- Ground Application
- Helicopter Application



2.5 1.25 0 2.5 5 7.5 10 Miles

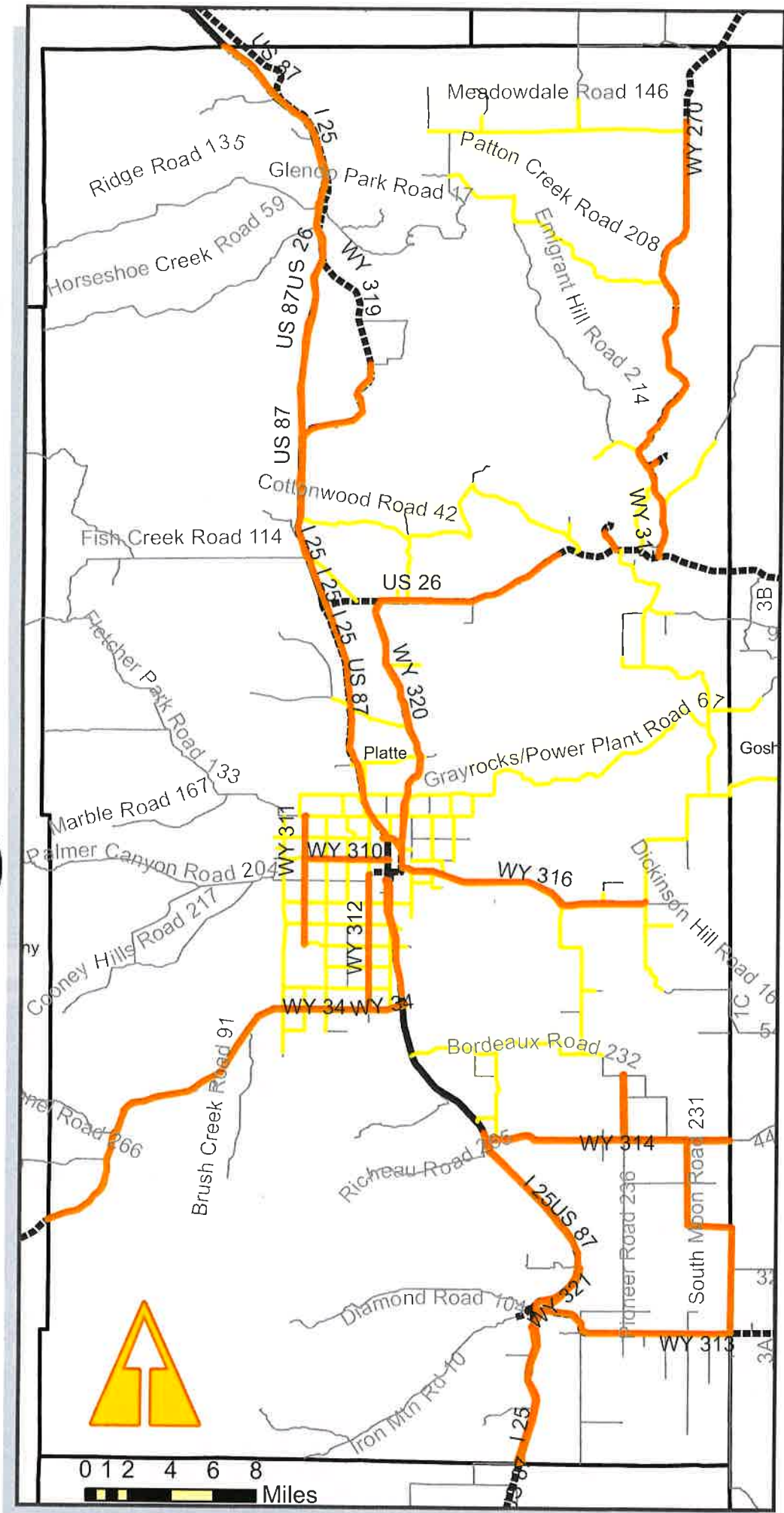


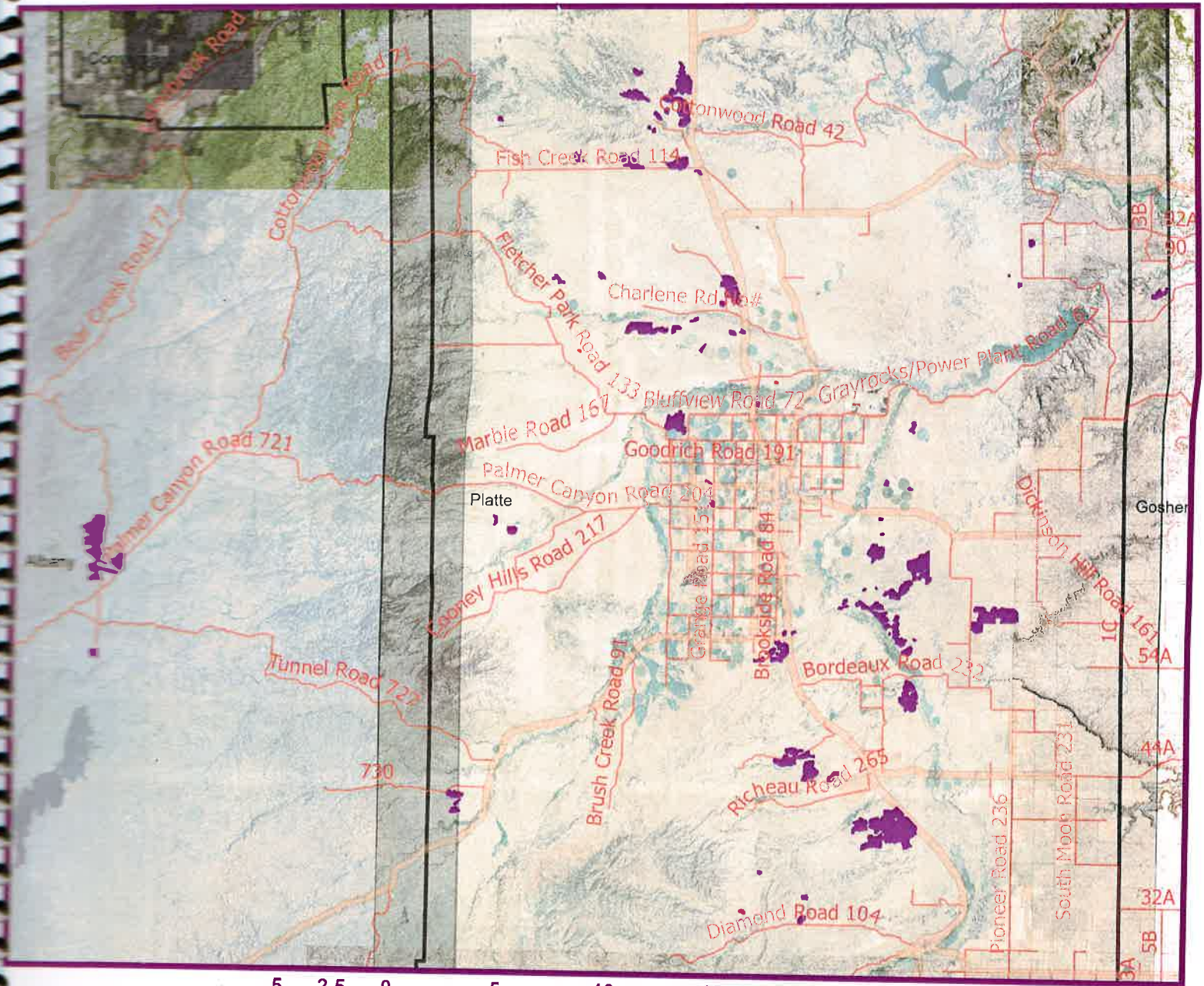
Map #7

**2023 Rights of Way
State and County Roads
857 Miles
Noxious Weed Control**



County Roads
State Highways





5 2.5 0 5 10 15 20
Miles



Map #8

2023 Platte County Black-tailed Prairie Dogs

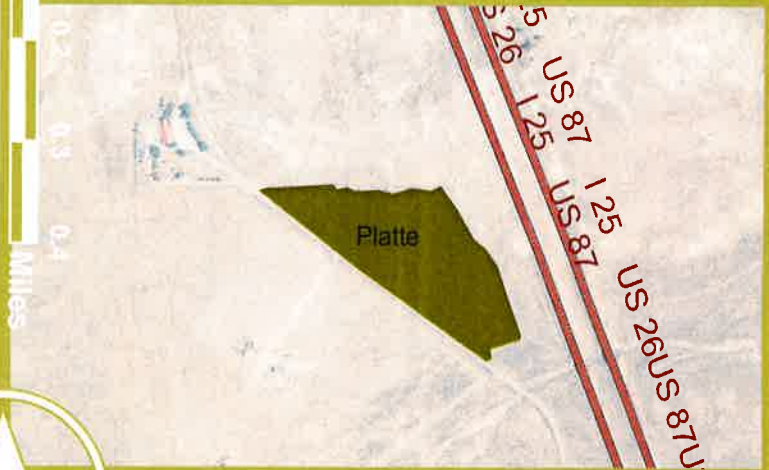
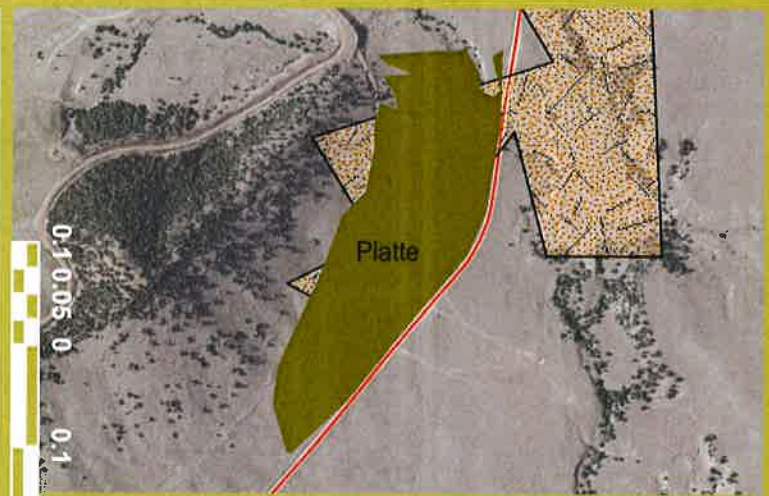


Map #9

2023 Platte County Grasshopper Treatment



- Grasshopper Treatment Area
- BLM
- Highways
- County Roads



Meadowdale Road 146

