

Bid for Noxious Weed Management on Highway Rights-of-way in Wheatland County

PURPOSE:

This bid is for the control of noxious weeds on state highway rights-of-way in Wheatland County, Montana. This contract is for the 2026-2027/2027-2028 fiscal year, beginning July 1st 2026 and ending June 30th 2028.

All paved state highways in Wheatland County are to be surveyed and noxious weeds present are to be treated with herbicide. Specifically, Highway 191 from mile marker 19.2 near Judith Gap south to mile marker 26.5 at the Sweetgrass County Line; Highway 12, from mile marker 77.2 near Martinsdale, west to mile marker 122.6, near Barber; Highway 297 from mile marker 1 near Shawmut, north to mile marker 10 and from mile marker 37 near Judith Gap, east to mile marker 19.

REQUIREMENTS:

The APPLICATOR shall have a valid Montana commercial pesticide applicator license and bid with licensed operators as required by state laws.

All chemicals used on the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) rights-of-way will be charged at the state bid price rate.

APPLICATOR shall provide, at their own cost, a minimum of \$750,000 property and personal liability insurance with a business endorsement covering the spraying operation. Applicators/Operators will conduct herbicide applications in a safe and effective matter, use required personal protective equipment (PPE), and prioritize worker and public safety at all times.

APPLICATOR agrees to furnish all tools, licensed applicators/operators, equipment, fuel, and safety supplies to effectively complete the work in a professional manner and in compliance with state requirements. Daily record sheets required by MDT will need to be turned in, with an attached billing invoice, by the end of each month. GPS track log data will be collected by applicator/operator during herbicide applications, and submitted with application records. State highway maps provided will be marked upon completion of each month.

APPLICATOR will not have any open or past due accounts owed to the Wheatland County Weed District.

Time for repairs, maintenance, and servicing vehicles shall not be charged. Equipment is the responsibility of the APPLICATOR.

Spraying activities may commence beginning July 1st 2027/2028 and continue into October 2027/28 if weather and growing conditions allow for effective control. 75% of right-of-way spraying will be done between May 16th 2027/28 and June 25th 2027/28, subject to growth conditions, to be agreed to by the parties hereto. No application shall be made in violation of state regulations as to rain, wind, or other adverse conditions. No chemical application will be made to new seeding areas. Before application begins on the MDT right-of-way, the applicator will coordinate with MDT to ensure mowing does not take place immediately following herbicide applications.

Minimum equipment required to fulfill this contract shall be, but not limited to the following: Two 3/4 ton four-wheel-drive trucks equipped with a 300-gallon tank, broad jets, two hand guns, and 50 feet of hose. The pump, engine, filters, plumbing, etc. Shall be of sufficient capacity to provide at least 40 pounds of pressure and deliver a volume adequate to efficiently perform the work. Hand spreaders, backpacks, or other equipment to be provided as needed.

Trucks shall be equipped with a strobe light and all other safety devices as required by law. Personal safety equipment shall include protective clothing (PPE), first aid kit, and any other requirements of state and federal agencies necessary for the application of the product to be used.

Labor requirements shall be a two-person crew at a rate of \$ ___ per hour. However, where applicable, a one-person crew may be used at a rate of \$ ___ per hour, provided the above equipment is being used. Any other methods of application and pay schedule shall be done only with prior approval of the weed district supervisor.

APPLICATOR is solely an independent operator, and as such is responsible for their own Workers Compensation coverage and that of each of their employees.

Dated this ___ day of ____, 2026.

Applicator

Wheatland County Commissioners:

Jeff Sell

Adam Jones

Larry Berg