

**FREMONT COUNTY WEED AND PEST CONTROL DISTRICT
BUDGET REPORT
for the
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018**

BUDGET MESSAGE
[per W.S. 16/4/104(c)]

Fremont County Weed & Pest Control District is a special District political subdivision of the State of Wyoming established under W.S 11/5/101 to 303. Our central offices and accounting functions are in the Fremont County Court House, 450 N. 2nd Street, Room 325, Lander, WY 82520. We have subsidiary facilities in Lander, Riverton, and Dubois.

The District uses a modified accrual system of accounting. With revenue, self-generated income is posted on the day the work is completed, but tax revenues received from the County Treasurer are posted the last day of the month of distribution. Expenses are posted as invoiced with exception of goods purchased for resale which are posted when sold. Bills for the previous month, with the exception of payroll, are paid at the next regular board meeting held on the second Monday of the month. Purchases with the debit card are pre/approved, paid at the time of purchase and reviewed by the Board at their next meeting with the rest of the bills. Payroll is paid on the last working day of the month. The District has a standalone audit completed by Fagnant, Lewis, and Brinda, P.C. (formerly Mckee, Marburger, & Fagnant, P.C.).

The 2017/2018 FY Budget for Fremont County Weed and Pest Control District assumes that one mil will raise \$630,000. This is a reduction from FY 16/17. The overall mill levy request for both programs, General Weed Control and Special Weed Management, reflects a decrease of \$81,333 over last year. The District is requesting a mill levy 1.94. In addition to general work agreements with local agencies, this budget also includes estimated revenues for an Emergency Insect Management Grant from the State of Wyoming for West Nile Virus targeted mosquito control. Remaining funds from the Shoshone National Forest, Resource Advisory Committee will be utilized and the first year of a three year grant from the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resources Trust. There are also new funds from a grant through the local Sage Grouse Working Group. The actual tax request for this year is \$1,220,440, a decrease from FY 16/17.

The District is authorized by statute to spend up to one mill for general weed and pest control activities. On July 1, 1990 the Special Weed Management Act went into effect authorizing a second mill for the control of leafy spurge and one additional special management species. In 2010, the District established Russian knapweed as a Special Management species in select locations. In 2015, the District modified its Russian knapweed program to include all of Fremont County.

EXPLANATION OF SELF/GENERATED REVENUES

Fremont County Weed and Pest provides noxious weed management services to many state and federal agencies. The District provides quality weed control on public lands and rights of way that directly affect nearly every property owner and taxpayer in the county. The District charges for these services at market rates for herbicide and labor. The District also treats weeds on privately owned non-crop sites for designated noxious weeds and treats some crop land for leafy spurge where other local commercial applicators are unavailable. There are several commercial applicators in Fremont County who provide work on cropland sites and the District modifies its work load to prevent intentional direct competition with local enterprise. We retail some specialty herbicides where local dealers have not met market demands. In FY2017/2018 the District expects to generate \$1,125,600 which is used to extend the District's programs beyond what our property tax collections would allow.

EXPLANATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Fremont County Weed and Pest Control District employs an administrative staff of a supervisor, office manager, and a bookkeeper. The supervisor oversees, manages, and provides leadership for the work of thirteen permanent and up to thirty seasonal employees, while providing technical assistance and service to Fremont County landowners for different areas of the county.

Supervisor responsibilities exceed those of many other weed and pest Districts in the state due to the size of Fremont County, our special weed management Districts, and the diverse assortment of land management systems affected by noxious weeds and pests within the county.

EXPLANATION OF OPERATIONS EXPENSES

The District sprays for weeds as described in the revenue section of this message. This section of the budget provides for the personnel, herbicides, and equipment maintenance necessary to carry out those functions. The size and extent of Fremont County requires Assistant Supervisory staff located in different regions of the County. These assistant supervisors' responsibilities also exceed those of many other Weed and Pest Districts within Wyoming. In addition to weed spraying, the District cost shares with county land owners on a number of herbicides. Approximately \$670,000 will be directly returned to county landowners in the form of cost sharing on weed control and product cost shares. The District reimburses Fremont County cities for their work on noxious weeds and pests in the amount of \$250,500. The District also offers many other services in the form of free consultations, equipment rentals, weed management planning, control and detection of priority species, biological control, educational materials and programs, hay certification, and other FCWP programs.

EXPLANATION OF INDIRECT COSTS

The District carries liability insurance through the State of Wyoming Local Government Insurance Pool. Physical damage and contents coverage on our vehicles and buildings is purchased from local insurance vendors. The balance of this category deals with expenses associated with our employees.

EXPLANATION OF CAPITOL OUTLAY

Capital expenses are for items with an extended service life of three years or more and an acquisition cost in excess of \$1,000. Each capital asset is depreciated annually using the same schedules as Fremont County Government to simplify auditing for the county.

EXPLANATION OF CASH & INVESTMENTS

For the FY2016/2017 budget, the District established a depreciation reserve account for vehicle replacement at \$100,000 and an emergency reserve account at \$250,000. In addition to these reserve accounts, the District established a cash flow funds savings balance of \$808,000 which is intended to allow the District to maintain operations when the expense stream is high, but revenue stream is low. Historically, funds which are now accounted for in a cash flow funds savings where considered reserve. Since these funds are intended to maintain a minimum bank balance, the restricting nature of reserve accounts would have made use burdensome. For FY2017/2018 the District intends to increase the depreciation reserve by \$20,000 and maintain the current balance in both the emergency reserve and cash flow funds savings.

The All Other Funds category is our estimated remaining bank balance and undeposited funds at fiscal years end.

Lastly, Unpaid Bills at FYE is our accounts payable at fiscal years end.