

MONTANA BIOCONTROL COORDINATION PROJECT

April 4, 2022



Rae Lynn Hayes
Lincoln County Conservation District
PO Box 2170
Eureka, MT 59917

Dear Rae Lynn,

What a year 2021 was! I would be lying if I didn't tell you that there were many times that I didn't think we would be able to accomplish everything that we had set out to complete last year, but we did it! We were able to offer the on-the-ground and educational services that we have in past years by maintaining the number of biocontrol agents distributed (**1.2 million insects and ~80 Canada thistle rust inoculations**), increasing the number of sites we monitored from 107 to **138**, increasing the number of educational programs participated in from 13 to **16** (only ¼ of these were in person though), and increasing the number of collection days held from 41 to **44**. We also completed the update and reprint of the **Montana Biocontrol Field Guide** in collaboration with the Whitehall Biocontrol Project and finalized and printed the **Biocontrol Poster**!

It seems that in 2022 we will get back to our standard educational programming. I am already committed to, or in discussions about, **10** in-person educational programs or field days occurring throughout Montana. While traveling to and from these events, I am more than happy to deliver **Montana Biocontrol Field Guides** or **Biocontrol Posters**. A field guide was included with this letter for you to preview. I also wanted to send a full-size poster, but they are much more difficult to ship. Instead, a preview of the poster is on the back of this letter, which does not do the full-size poster justice.

In conversations with land managers throughout Montana, it is often mentioned that educational materials related to biocontrol would be useful. I am thrilled to finally provide you with the field guides and posters and am excited to announce that in 2022 we will be working to **create biocontrol agent displays**. These displays will be made with resin to replace the aging shadow boxes that some of you may still have around. These will be a great replacement as they take up far less room, can fit in a single hand, the insects can be viewed on all sides, and will last far longer than the pinned insects in the shadow boxes. Additionally, we will be **creating temporary tattoos and stickers** utilizing the beautiful illustrations that were created for the poster. These items are targeted toward youth education, but some adults will enjoy them too!

In addition to the development of these educational materials, we will continue to provide the services that have proven over the years to be valuable to Montana land managers. These include educational programming both in-person and virtual, coordinating and hosting collection days for land managers to attend, shipping insects to those who requested them, monitoring our established sites, and providing monitoring training and assistance to those interested in starting their own monitoring programs.

\$338,512
Market
Value
of Insects

10 Species
Released
9 Species
Collected

11,172
Acres
Treated

1,226,397
Insects
Distributed

As many of you know, MTBCP is entirely funded by contributions, cooperative agreements, and grants, and therefore, **we constantly strive to provide the deliverables you desire**. Any financial contribution you can make will ensure that we are able to continue to provide and enhance the services you need. This year we will be putting the contributions received towards the development of the previously mentioned educational materials, as well as towards the on- the- ground and educational services that are valuable to you. We are so grateful that in the last few years we have been able to **exceed our goal of \$10,000** in contributions! We are hopeful that in 2022 we will once again receive more than our **goal of \$10,000**. A blank invoice has been included. You can fill in your desired contribution or let me know the amount, and I can send you a completed invoice. Again, any financial contribution to MTBCP is greatly appreciated and aids in the management of invasive plants in Montana through the spread of biocontrol agents and increased education.

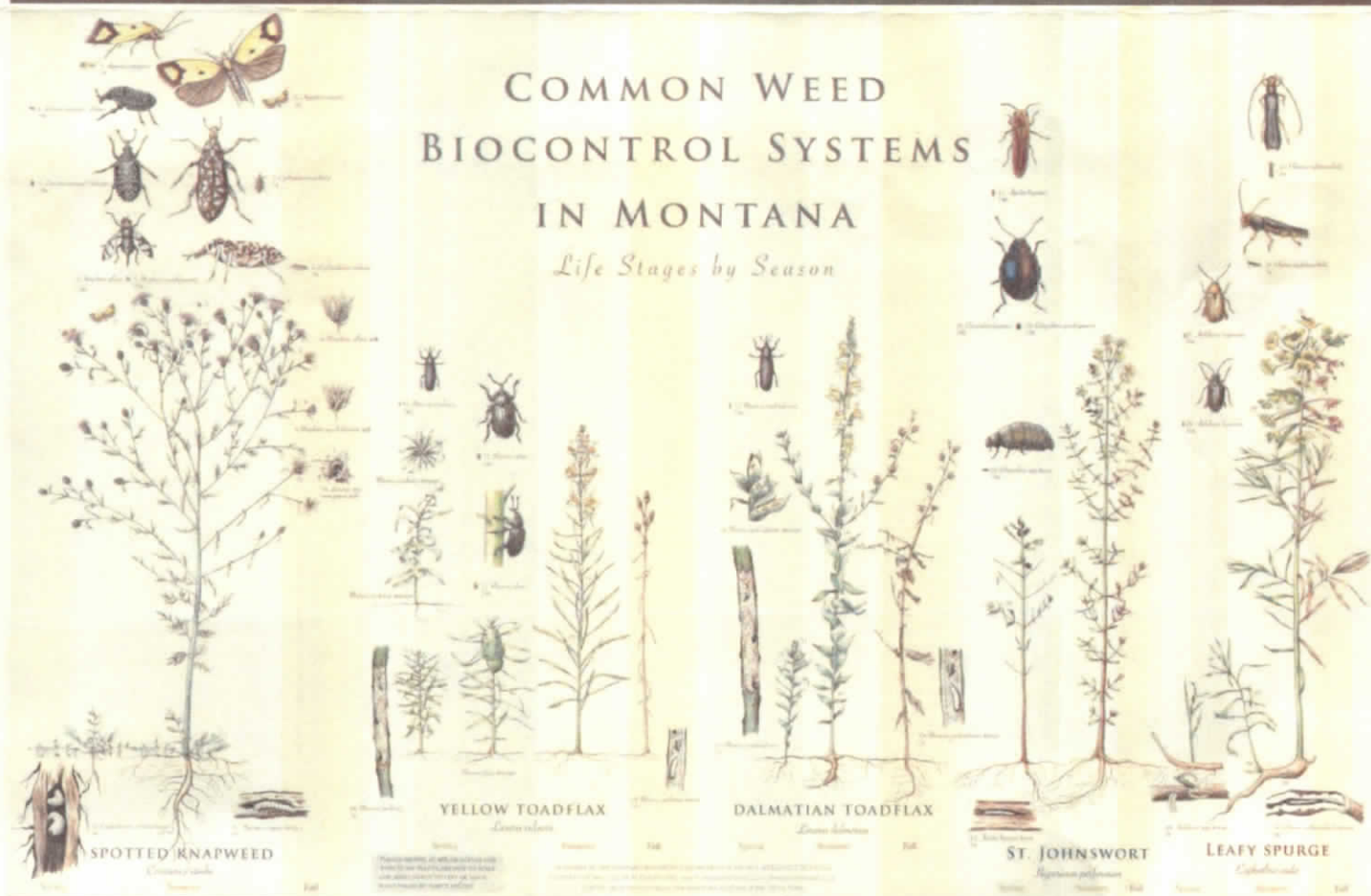
Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns, if there is any way I can assist with your weed management program, or if you have an idea for a project we should take on.

Sincerely,

Melissa Maggio

Melissa Maggio
Project Coordinator

P.S. Did you remember to return your 2021 Biocontrol Needs Survey (Due April 1st)! If not, **please return it ASAP**. This survey allows us to plan and ensures that you will receive the education, insects, and/or monitoring that you need.



MT BIOLOGICAL WEED CONTROL COORDINATION PROJECT

2825 SANTA FE CT.
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59808
TAX I.D. # 81-600-1397
(406) 258-4223

INVOICE

April 4, 2022

Lincoln County Conservation District
PO Box 2170
Eureka, MT 59917

Attn: Rae Lynn Hayes

Montana Biological Weed Control Project
2840-000-334025-37152

\$ _____

Total Due

\$ _____

Please make your check payable to the **Montana Biological Weed Control Project and reference Project #37152.**

Payments may be sent to:

Montana Biocontrol Coordination Project
Attention: Pirrie Durkee
2825 Santa Fe Court
Missoula, MT 59808

Thank you for your support!