



County Commissioners:
Jim Candelaria
Gerald Koppenhafer
Kent Lindsay
County Administrator:
Travis Anderson

109 West Main, Room 250
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The 2024 Montezuma County Noxious Weed Plan

1.) Introduction

Noxious weeds are invasive plants that are not native to Colorado. They pose a threat to native plant populations, agriculture, wildlife, recreation, and property values. Noxious weeds form dense monocultures that crowd out native and desirable plant species, robbing desired vegetation of sunlight, soil nutrients, and water. This expansion of noxious weeds can change the landscape and native ecosystems. In Montezuma County noxious weeds overcome hay meadows, destroy wildlife habitat, poison livestock, degrade riparian areas, and cost residents financially in control costs.

2.) Authority

- a. The "*Colorado Noxious Weed Act*" §35-5.5-101 through 119 of the Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S 2018) and the "*Permanent Rules Pertaining To The Administration and Enforcement of the Colorado Noxious Weed Act*" 8 Code of Colorado Regulations 1203-19 (both referred to hereafter as the "*Colorado Noxious Weed Act*" or "*the Act*") require that Montezuma County adopt and administer a noxious weed management plan to prevent damage by noxious weed species designated by the State. All language definitions used within this plan shall be consistent with the "*Colorado Noxious Weed Act*".
- b. The jurisdictional area of the Montezuma County Board of Commissioners is the unincorporated area of the county, other than lands owned or leased by a municipality and used in connection with any municipal service, function or facility. This plan shall apply to all subject lands within Montezuma County. It does not preclude the County from entering into intergovernmental agreements with other governmental entities to manage noxious weeds under the Colorado Noxious Weed Act.

3.) Designated Noxious Weeds

- a. Under the "*Colorado Noxious Weed Act*" the State Department of Agriculture has set mandatory management objectives for three classifications of weeds, also known as the A, B and C lists. Species of plants from these lists are designated for eradication, containment or suppression.

For the purposes of this plan, and per the "*Colorado Noxious Weed Act*":

"Eradication" means reducing the reproductive success of a noxious weed species or specified noxious weed population in largely un-infested regions to zero and permanently eliminating the species or population within a specified period of time. Once all specified weed populations are eliminated or prevented from reproducing, intensive efforts continue until the existing seed bank is exhausted.

"Containment" which means maintaining an intensively managed buffer zone that separates infested regions, where suppression activities prevail, from largely un-infested regions, where eradication activities prevail.

"Suppression" means reducing the vigor of noxious weed populations within an infested region, decreasing the propensity of noxious weed species to spread to surrounding lands, and mitigating the negative effects of noxious weed populations on infested lands. Suppression efforts may employ a wide variety of integrated management techniques.

Under the authority of the "*Colorado Noxious Weed Act*", section 35-5.5-107 the board of county commissioners shall appoint a local advisory board. This advisory board, known as the Montezuma County Noxious Weed Advisory Board, shall have the authority to designate noxious weeds to be subject to integrated weed management and to assign which category each weed species shall fall into, either "eradication, containment, or suppression." This "designated weed list" is in APPENDIX A, and may be changed as deemed necessary by the Montezuma County Noxious Weed Advisory Board and with the approval of the Montezuma County Board of Commissioners, in compliance with the "*Colorado Noxious Weed Act*", and without having to change or re-approve the main body of the Routt County noxious weed management plan.

In addition to the designated weed list for Montezuma County, the county shall have authority, as set forth in the "*Colorado Noxious Weed Act*" to enforce the law on private lands as is outlined in §35-5.5-108.5 and 35-5.5-109 C.R.S.

4.) Enforcement

4.1 Private Lands: Per §35-5.5-108.5 and 109 C.R.S. and 8 CCR 1203-19.

Public lands: Per §35-5.5-110 C.R.S.

Public Rights-of-way: Per §35-5.5-112 C.R.S.

Special Use Permits: Per the requirements of special use permits as issued by the Routt County Board of County Commissioners.

5.) Priorities

5.1 Provide education and training, including technical assistance to private landowners on noxious weed management per §35-5.5-108.5, (3)(b)(I).

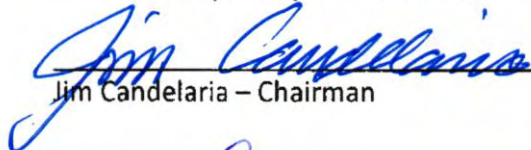
- 5.2 Manage noxious weeds on all county-owned and maintained lands, including right-of-ways and gravel pits, per §35-5.5-108.5 and §35-5.5-112. Under the Act, no local governing body shall provide for or compel the eradication of List A species and populations of List B species designated for eradication or list B noxious weeds on private or public property without first applying the same measures to any land or rights-of-way owned or administered by the local governing body that are adjacent to the property.
- 5.3 Assist landowners in the management of noxious weeds, including initiating and maintaining communications with landowners who are affected by list A species and list B species designated for eradication by the commissioner, per §35-5.5-108.5 (3)(a) C.R.S.
- 5.4 Develop recommended management criteria for county designated noxious weeds per 35-5.5-107 CRS. These management criteria can be found in Appendix A and will be made available to the public at the Montezuma County weed management office as they are developed.
- 5.5 Cooperate with other governments in management of noxious weeds.
- 5.6 Implement and enforce the Colorado Noxious Weed Act as it pertains to unincorporated Montezuma County per 35-5.5-108.5, 109, 110, 112 CRS and 8CCR 1203-19.
- 5.8 Detect and eradicate new infestations of noxious weed species, as defined by the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. Most weed species, if detected and managed early in the infestation cycle, can be effectively controlled.
- 6 Management Strategy:

The Montezuma County Noxious Weed Program will manage noxious weeds following the principles of integrated weed management, per the Act. An integrated weed management program seeks to create desirable plant communities utilizing a variety of methods to manage noxious weeds. Such methods include, but are not limited to: biological, chemical, cultural, and mechanical control techniques. Integrated weed management also incorporates education, prevention, and good land stewardship.

- 6.1 Montezuma County's goal is to provide assistance to land owners in the management strategy by having a cost share program; this program will provide financial assistance in providing funding to land owners (up to ½ the costs) for chemicals in the treatment of a property.
- 6.1 Management of County Right of Ways (ROWs) along roadsides will be managed by the Montezuma County Road and Bridge Department.
- 6.1 Management of County properties such as the Fairgrounds, Courthouse, and other facilities will be managed by the Noxious Weed Department either directly or through a private applicator.

7. Adoption

This plan is the recommended management plan as required by the Act. It has been reviewed and received the recommendation of the Noxious Weed Management Advisory Board, and has been adopted by the Montezuma County Board of Commissioners.


Jim Candelaria – Chairman


Date:


Kent Lindsay – Commissioner


Gerald Koppenhafer – Commissioner

Montezuma County Designated Noxious Weeds

APPENDIX A

		Management Objective	
Species		Montezuma	State
		County	
1	Dalmatian toadflax (<i>Linaria dalmatica</i> and <i>genistifolia</i>) L.	Containment	Containment
2	Common mullein (<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>)	Containment	Suppression
3	Curly dock (<i>Rumex crispus</i>)	Suppression	N/A
4	Cypress spurge (<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>)	Eradication	Eradication
5	Diffuse knapweed (<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>)	Eradication	Containment
6	Hoary cress/whitetop (<i>Cardaria draba</i>)	Containment	Containment
7	Houndstongue (<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>)	Containment	Containment
8	Leafy spurge (<i>Euphorbia esula</i>)	Containment	Containment
9	Meadow knapweed (<i>Centaurea pratensis</i>)	Eradication	Eradication
10	Myrtle spurge (<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>)	Eradication	Eradication
11	Orange hawkweed (<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>)	Eradication	Eradication
12	Purple loosestrife (<i>Acroptilon repens</i>)	Eradication	Eradication
13	Russian knapweed (<i>Centaurea repens</i>)	Eradication	Containment
14	Spotted knapweed (<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>)	Eradication	Containment
15	Yellow toadflax (<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>)	Containment	Containment

"Eradication" which means reducing the reproductive success of a noxious weed species or specified noxious weed population in largely uninfested regions to zero and permanently eliminating the species or population within a specified period of time. Once all specified weed populations are eliminated or prevented from reproducing, intensive efforts continue until the existing seed bank is exhausted.

"Containment" which means maintaining an intensively managed buffer zone that separates infested regions, where suppression activities prevail, from largely uninfested regions, where eradication activities prevail.

"Suppression" which means reducing the vigor of noxious weed populations within an infested region, decreasing the propensity of noxious weed species to spread to surrounding lands, and mitigating the negative effects of noxious weed populations on infested lands. Suppression efforts may employ a wide variety of integrated management techniques.

Important note: the state may require eradication of other species than listed here, but at the time of this list's adoption these other species are not known to exist in areas of Montezuma County's jurisdiction. Additionally, Montezuma County shall retain all enforcement powers for noxious weeds as outlined in §35-5.5-108.5, 109, 110 and 112 C.R.S. and 8 CCR 1203-19.

APPENDIX B

State Listed Noxious Weeds

Note: The State may change their designated list after this plan is adopted. The most current list is the one that applies. To find the most up-to-date list check with the Colorado Department of Agriculture: www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds

List A Species (25)

Common

African rue
Bohemian knotweed
bohemicum) Camelthorn
Common crupina
Cypress spurge
Dyer's woad
Elongated mustard
Flowering rush
Giant knotweed
Giant reed
Giant salvinia
willow-herb
Hydrilla
Japanese knotweed
Meadow knapweed
moncktonii) Mediterranean sage
Medusahead
Myrtle spurge
Orange hawkweed
Parrotfeather
aquaticum) Purple loosestrife
Rush skeletonweed
Squarrose knapweed
Tansy ragwort
Yellow starthistle
solstitialis)

Scientific

(*Peganum harmala*)
(*Fallopia x*
(*Alhagi maurorum*)
(*Crupina vulgaris*)
(*Euphorbia cyparissias*)
(*Isatis tinctoria*)
(*Brassica elongata*)
(*Butomus umbellatus*)
(*Fallopia sachalinensis*)
(*Arundo donax*)
(*Salvinia molesta*) Hairy
(*Epilobium hirsutum*)
(*Hydrilla verticillata*)
(*Fallopia japonica*)
(*Centaurea x*
(*Salvia aethiopis*)
(*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*)
(*Euphorbia myrsinites*)
(*Hieracium aurantiacum*)
(*Myriophyllum*
(*Lythrum salicaria*)
(*Chondrilla juncea*)
(*Centaurea virgata*)
(*Senecio jacobaea*)
(*Centaurea*

All populations of List A species in Colorado are designated by the Colorado Department of Agriculture Commissioner for eradication.

List B Species (38)**Common**

Absinth wormwood
Black henbane
Bouncingbet
Bull thistle
Canada thistle
Chinese clematis
Common tansy
Common teasel
Cutleaf teasel
Dalmatian toadflax, broad-leaved
Dalmatian toadflax, narrow-leaved
Dame's rocket
Diffuse knapweed
Eurasian watermilfoil
Hoary cress
Houndstongue
Jointed goatgrass
Leafy spurge
Mayweed chamomile
Moth mullein
Musk thistle
Oxeye daisy
Perennial pepperweed
Plumeless thistle
Russian knapweed
Russian-olive
Salt cedar
Salt cedar
Scentless chamomile
Scotch thistle
Scotch thistle
Spotted knapweed
Spotted x diffuse knapweed hybrid
Sulfur cinquefoil
Wild caraway
Yellow nutsedge
Yellow toadflax
Yellow x Dalmatian toadflax hybrid

Scientific

(*Artemisia absinthium*)
(*Hyoscyamus niger*)
(*Saponaria officinalis*)
(*Cirsium vulgare*)
(*Cirsium arvense*)
(*Clematis orientalis*)
(*Tanacetum vulgare*)
(*Dipsacus fullonum*)
(*Dipsacus laciniatus*)
(*Linaria dalmatica*)
(*Linaria genistifolia*)
(*Hesperis matronalis*)
(*Centaurea diffusa*)
(*Myriophyllum spicatum*)
(*Cardaria draba*)
(*Cynoglossum officinale*)
(*Aegilops cylindrica*)
(*Euphorbia esula*)
(*Anthemis cotula*)
(*Verbascum blattaria*)
(*Carduus nutans*)
(*Leucanthemum vulgare*)
(*Lepidium latifolium*)
(*Carduus acanthoides*)
(*Rhaponticum repens*)
(*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)
(*Tamarix. ramosissima*)
(*T. chinensis*)
(*Tripleurospermum inodorum*)
(*Onopordum acanthium*)
(*O. tauricum*)
(*Centaurea stoebe* L. ssp. *micranthos*)
(*Centaurea x psammogena*)
(*Potentilla recta*)
(*Carum carvi*)
(*Cyperus esculentus*)
(*Linaria vulgaris*)
(*Linaria vulgaris* x *L. dalmatica*)

List B Species are species for which the Colorado Department of Agriculture Commissioner, in consultation with the state noxious weed advisory committee, local governments, and other interested parties, develops and implements state noxious weed management plans designed to stop the continued spread of these species.

List C Species (16)

<i>Common</i>	<i>Scientific</i> Bulbous
bluegrass	(<i>Poa bulbosa</i>)
Chicory	(<i>Cichorium</i>
<i>intybus</i>) Common burdock	(<i>Arctium minus</i>)
Common mullein	(<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>)
Common St. Johnswort	(<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>)
Downy brome, cheatgrass	(<i>Bromus tectorum</i>) Field
bindweed	(<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>)
Halogeton	(<i>Halogeton glomeratus</i>)
Johnsongrass	(<i>Sorghum halepense</i>)
Perennial sowthistle	(<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>)
Poison hemlock	(<i>Conium maculatum</i>)
Puncturevine	(<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>)
Quackgrass	(<i>Elymus repens</i>)
Redstem filaree	(<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>)
Velvetleaf	(<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i>)
Wild proso millet	(<i>Panicum miliaceum</i>)

List C Species are species for which the Colorado Department of Agriculture Commissioner, in consultation with the state noxious weed advisory committee, local governments, and other interested parties, will develop and implement state noxious weed management plans designed to support the efforts of local governing bodies to facilitate more effective integrated weed management on private and public lands. The goal of such plans will not be to stop the continued spread of these species but to provide additional educational, research, and biological control resources to jurisdictions that choose to require management of List C species.



JOB DESCRIPTION: PART TIME NOXIOUS WEED TECHNICIAN

DEPARTMENT:	Natural Resources
REPORTS TO:	Natural Resources Director
APPOINTED BY:	County Administrator
APPROVED BY:	Board of Commissioners
FLSA CLASSIFICATION	Part-Time
PAY RANGE:	\$22,464.00 - \$24,960 DOE/DOQ

Job Summary

Works under the direction of the Natural Resources Department Director and assists at their direction in planning, coordinating, educating, and participating in the control and prevention of aggressive non-native noxious weeds.

Job Functions

(Tasks, duties, and responsibilities that comprise the means of accomplishing the job's purpose and objectives. The functions listed are not intended to be all-inclusive. This position needs to handle other functions as necessary. This job description does not constitute an employee contract or agreement.)

* Participates in the enforcement of the state weed law and the Montezuma County Noxious Weed Management Plan.

*At the direction of the Natural Resources Director, sprays (or coordinates the spraying through contractors) all county properties as deemed necessary.

*Under the Direction of the Natural Resources Director, Participates in the mapping of noxious weed infestations within Montezuma County utilizing GPS and the most up-to-date technology as available and applicable.

*Maintains the required mandatory certifications through the Colorado Department of Agriculture as required by rule, law or regulations. Attends workshops and training to update knowledge regarding new laws and regulations regarding application, materials, and safety. Attends meetings as directed.

*Maintains knowledge of newly adopted and proposed legislation regarding weed management issues.

*Monitors County Weed Management Plans as submitted on development approvals through the County Planning Department as directed by the Natural Resources Director.

Supervision

Works under the direction of the Natural Resources Director.

Supervision Exercised

None

Minimum Requirements

- a. High School Diploma or GED.
- b. Colorado Department of Agriculture Licensing as identified by the Colorado Department of Agriculture (or ability to obtain within 1 year of hire).
- c. 1 year of experience preferred.
- d. Valid Colorado Driver's License or ability to obtain such within 30 days from date of hire.
- e. United States Citizen or proof of eligibility to work within the United States.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

*Ability to read, analyze and interpret written material.

*Knowledge of noxious weed identification.

*Knowledge of herbicide uses and rates for different plants in pasture, range, riparian, turf and non-agricultural areas.

*Knowledge of equipment and materials used in noxious weed control.

*Knowledge of County, State of Colorado and EPA noxious weed laws and regulations.

*Ability to communicate effectively with the public, both speaking and writing.

*Ability to read and interpret aerial and topographic maps.

*Have basic skills in ESRI Arc GIS and Trimble GPS.

*Ability to work well with co-workers, other agencies, and the public.

*Math skills.

*Computer skills including Microsoft Office and Trimble/ESRI.

*Basic clerical skills.

Physical Requirements

1. Operation of normal office equipment.
2. Operation of a motor vehicle and specialized equipment.
3. Must be able to regularly lift and carry up to 75 lbs.
4. Must have sufficient dexterity to operate equipment controls and to maneuver over rough terrain when operation equipment or mapping in unimproved areas.
5. While performing essential functions of this job, it is frequently required to sit, walk various distances, use hands to finger, handle to feel, reach with hands and arms, climb, balance, stoop, kneel, crouch, crawl, speak, hear and see.
6. Adherence to policies - Follows organization and administrative policies and procedures as set forth by the Board of County Commissioners and Administration.
7. May be required to be part of an emergency operations team.

Working Conditions

Work is generally performed in the outdoor environment. Exposure to weather conditions is constant. Exposure to chemicals is frequent and safety precautions and equipment must be used.

Salary and Benefits

Salary Range \$22,464.00 - \$24,960.00 per annum.

Part-time sick leave accrual of 1 hour per every 20 hours worked.

USE OF THIS JOB DESCRIPTION

***THIS JOB DESCRIPTION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND THE INCUMBENT IN THE POSITION.***

Nothing in this position description restricts Montezuma County's ability to assign, reassign or eliminate duties and responsibilities of this job at any time. The description reflects Montezuma County's assignment of essential functions. It does not prescribe or restrict the tasks that may be assigned. Critical features of this job have been described. Those features may change at any time due to reasonable accommodation, as the needs of the County change or other reasons deemed appropriate by the County.

I have received a copy of the Part-Time Noxious Weed Technician job description. I understand that I am to become familiar with its contents.

Signature of Employee

Name of Employee

Date

To: Montezuma County BOCC

Date: February 22, 2024

From: Montezuma County Noxious Weed Advisory Board (Board)

Subject: Board Comments Addressing A New Proposed County Noxious Weed Plan (Plan)

The following are comments and suggestions addressing a new draft County Noxious Weed Management Plan as suggested by County administration.

The current plan was approved in 2016 and amended in 2023. The plan is aspirational and provides several goals and objectives over time. There are no required annual County financial obligations. The Plan is funded on an annual basis via County general funds and various grants and agreements. The Board believes the goals and objectives and various processes identified in the current plan are still valid and meet the intent of the Colorado Noxious Weed Act and Montezuma County. With the ongoing County growth, proactive noxious management is vital to maintain acceptable agriculture values maintain agricultural valuations, real estate values, wildlife habitat, and water quality to name a few. , water quality and other quality of life issues that draw people to this area.

With the above in mind the Board respectfully proposes the following for the 2024 noxious weed program:

1. Clarify Job description for the Noxious Weed Department;
2. Continue to compete for grants and agreements to help fund program priorities; the current grant programs are not a financial drain on county funds but rather a boost to the agricultural community.
3. Keep the current noxious weed management plan, but amend the existing Plan to address 2024 issues and priorities. The current Plan address many issues that have been cause for concern in the past. In fact our current plan has been used as blueprint for other counties and been praised by several state agencies.
4. The Advisory Board and the Noxious Weed Department are prepared to assist in the development of a 2024 work plan – work calendar if you will. The rational for moving the weed management to the Road Department needs some clarification. The road department doesn't have the experience, training or knowledge base required to add this to their already busy work load. There is a definite need to coordinate the efforts of both departments as they overlap. A work plan and calendar to coordinate would be helpful for both departments. For example the fall bare ground/pre-emergent applications. This would include assisting the Road and Bridge Department in preparing a roadside noxious weed contract that would cover seasonal roadside noxious weed control work, ongoing fall bareground work along paved roads.
5. The Board strongly recommends the BOCC keep funding the backpack sprayer loan program. That program has been very successful and at no net cost to the Department or the County. As it is one of the noxious weed program's more popular initiatives;

6. The draft plan under review proposes to eliminate the no spray program along County roads. The Board could support this for 2024 with the recommendations that a review of the properties that have participated and County response. We would also suggest a review of the success/failure of the current program so a final determination would be in place for the 2025 program;
7. Finally, the Board strongly believes in continuing to move County noxious weed management forward. There have been significant gains regarding the decline and control of the infestations of noxious weeds. It is clearly visible and a big economic savings for our agricultural community. To eliminate or decrease the current level of management makes it much harder and expensive to recover in the future. Not going backwards, which most likely would occur if priorities were to change. Going backwards would likely erase ongoing successes;.

Respectfully.

Montezuma County Noxious Weed Department

Advisory Board Members

The BOCC appoints the Advisory Board comprised of landowners and operators who live within Montezuma County's boundaries. The Advisory Board shall have all of the authority and powers set forth in C.R.S. § 35-5.5-107. There is currently no term limit, as it is hard to find volunteers to serve on the board. If you are interested in becoming a board member, please email a letter of interest to bloving@co.montezuma.co.us.

Contact information for board members on request. Request contact information from bloving@co.montezuma.co.us or 970-565-0580.

Weed Advisory Board Members:

Brad White

I have been farming 40 years and taking care of weeds for that long also we farm 3000 thousand acres beans corn sunflowers wheat hay we can take care of all of our weeds with a four wheeler and 25 gallon sprayer My farm has been in the family for 100 years. Taking pride in my farm and the shape that it is in weed free is very important to me.

Eddy Lewis

I have owned and operated my company Southwest Weed Control since the early spring of 1997. In the years since buying the business from Ron Lanier I have had contracts with most federal, state and local government agencies. Besides those contracts I have provided weed control services to local land owners.

Through the state required continuing education seminars that I have attended, I have observed the weed problems that Colorado and other Western states are currently facing. In continuing education settings I have been able to see what is being done to successfully combat various weed problems throughout the Western US. I have also been able to utilize my skills of equipment design and fabrication to match the needs for applying chemicals accurately and efficiently in various terrain conditions.

Joe Brunner

Joe Brunner has managed weeds for many years on his small acreage farm in Dolores. He became a commercial applicator several years ago and has his own business called J.B. Contracting. Joe is a very knowledgeable and trustworthy manager.

Mark Tucker

Mark has a Bachelor Science degree in Range Management from Humboldt State University; 1979. He is a Certified Professional in Rangeland Management; Society for Range Management (CP00-145). Mark has worked 36 years with USDA Forest Service working in all resource management aspects of invasive species management in four states; includes approximately 10 years managing the rangeland and invasive programs on the Bureau of Land Management San Juan Field Office.

Steve Miles

Steve was raised in the "burbs" of Denver. After graduating from Colorado College with a degree in anthropology, Steve signed up for 3 years in the Peace Corps. After returning to the "states" in 1977, the rural lifestyle of Cortez called. Several quirks of fate led to starting what developed into a landscape irrigation business, Rainmaker Sprinkler, which he still operates.

His passion for water and land conservation fits well with the intent and design of the conservation districts. He was awarded Conservationist of the Year in 2008 by the Colorado Department of Agriculture for his activities in weed management and conservation. The Colorado Weed Management Association similarly awarded Steve and the Dolores Conservation District with Weed Manager of the Year for efforts made in tamarisk control in the district.

Walter Henes

Walter Henes grew up in Dolores, Colorado on a potato farm located near Dunton Hot Springs. That probably set the stage for his continuing interest in agriculture. After graduating from Montezuma Cortez High School in 1982 he attended Colorado State University and earned a degree in Range Management. During his college career, which spanned 7 years, he was a Certified Seed Crop Inspector for the Colorado Seed Growers enabling him to travel the state, learn a great deal about certified crops, the farmers growing them and the location of many great fishing spots.

Since graduation Walter has been farming for Southwest Seed (SWS) – A native grass and wildflower production facility in Montezuma County, near where he grew up. After five years of fighting his destiny as a farmer for SWS – he settled into the reclamation seed business, learned the A to Z's of the operation and took over as President for his relieved father Walt Sr. These days Walter fights the battle against weeds. A bane to Southwest Seed production and every other farmer, rancher and land owner in the region. Walter farms approximately 700 irrigated acres of native grasses and forbs. Rumor has it that his Utah Sweetvetch field is famous and can be seen by the space station when it passes over!

When he is not on the farm, Walter enjoys hiking the backcountry and fly fishing. He never declines an offer for racquetball (winter) or golf (summer) if possible and can be found rafting upon occasion.