

## 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.

### **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

### **Scott Hawk**

In our experience, noxious weeds appear as a symptom of a lack of healthy soil function. We have managed land from Peru to Wisconsin to Downtown Denver and now the Mancos valley at the mouth of Webber Canyon and in each ecosystem, weeds appeared in the places lacking essential nutrients, microbial activity, or soil permeability. In both Wisconsin and now here in Mancos we have used tight groups of cattle moving quickly over the landscape to increase the amount of material trampled onto the soil surface and manure and urine distributed over a given area. This approach moves the soil PH, organic matter, and water holding capacity in a direction where noxious weeds no longer flourish and succession can move forward rapidly. We believe nature does nothing wrong, so therefore the weeds we see tell a greater story about overall soil and ecosystem health. I can provide the studies and data supporting this approach to noxious weed control and

management from Texas A&M, The Soil Health Institute, Dr.Elaine Ingham and Dr.Christine Jones just to name a few. I can talk for hours and share many anecdotes on this subject and would love to do so with whoever asks

### **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.