



New Mexico Department of Agriculture

## Noxious Weed Management Grant Fiscal Year 2025

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### **Purpose**

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) will award competitive grants to eligible applicants for projects that improve the state economy and environment by managing noxious weeds in New Mexico. The grants are funded through New Mexico's Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund to achieve the purposes of the New Mexico Noxious Weed Management Act.

### **Application Information**

The application period opens July 1 and closes July 30, 2024 at 12 p.m. (noon) Mountain Time. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications must be submitted online through NMDA's grant portal: <https://grants.nmda.nmsu.edu/submit>. Applicants will be asked to upload a completed budget template as part of their application, which can be found at: <https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/media/noxious-weed-management-grant-budget-template.xlsx>

### **Eligible Applicants**

- Cooperative weed management areas
- Soil & water conservation districts
- Local governments, state political subdivisions, and special districts
- Tribes, nations, & pueblos
- Land grants-mercedes & acequias
- Non-profits & non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with proven land management capacity

### **Eligible Activities**

Projects must incorporate one or more of the following activities related to the prevention, control or eradication of state-listed noxious plant species. These activities **must** include some form of mapping or on-the-ground treatment. Projects that are **solely** Education/Outreach; or Planning, Capacity Development, & Partnership Building will not be considered for funding.

- **Surveying & Mapping**
  - Mapping the extent of known and unknown infestations of Class A, B, C, and watchlist species.
  - Monitoring and evaluating previous treatments or management actions.

- **Early Detection & Rapid Response (EDRR)**
  - Detecting and rapidly treating Class A and watchlist species.
  - Distinct from Surveying & Mapping projects in that EDRR projects involve responding to any detected infestations.
  
- **Integrated Weed Management (On-the-Ground Treatments)**
  - Projects involving on-the-ground treatment should have a fully developed treatment plan, including:
    - A spatial inventory of target weeds
    - An assessment of control methods
    - A plan for post-treatment monitoring and evaluation.
  - Treatments can include chemical, physical, biological, and cultural control methods.
  - Biocontrol projects must utilize a **federally-approved biocontrol agent**. Biocontrol projects should include the same elements of a treatment plan (above) as other treatment projects.
  - All treatment projects will be required to submit mapping data.
  
- **Education/Outreach**
  - Hosting events, developing educational materials, and any other activities to raise public awareness of noxious weed issues.
  
- **Planning, Capacity Development, & Partnership Building**
  - Developing a noxious weed management plan, training staff, hiring administrative support, and any other activities that would increase the applicant's ability to manage noxious weeds within their jurisdiction.

### **Funding Amount**

- Grant award limits:
  - Minimum: \$10,000
  - Maximum: \$60,000

### **Project Timeline**

- Maximum project period will be September 3, 2024 to February 28, 2026.
- Priority may be given to projects that can be completed by the end of the state's 2025 fiscal year (June 30, 2025).

## **Project Requirements**

- Projects must focus on the prevention, control or eradication of plant species found on the current version of the [New Mexico Noxious Weed List](#).
- Applicants must include all necessary landowner permissions for implementation of a proposed project, or provide a well-defined plan for how such permissions will be obtained early in the project. Activities may occur on any landownership type within New Mexico (private, state, federal, tribal, etc.).
- Applicants must agree to provide to NMDA any infestation and treatment mapping data resulting from the project. Such data must be provided in a required GIS file format, compatible with the [EDDMapS platform](#).
- In their timeline on the application, applicants must provide a plan for pre- and post-project monitoring to evaluate project success.

## **Grant Selection Criteria**

- Projects should adhere to the principles of Integrated Weed Management (IWM). The IWM process incorporates knowledge of species biology, selection of appropriate control methods from a diverse toolbox, and an adaptive management approach. Applicants are encouraged to include multiple activities for different stages of the IWM approach within a single proposal.
- Applicants should present their proposed activities in the context of other related noxious weed management efforts.
- Priority may be given to EDRR projects focused on emerging Class A and watchlist species.
- Priority may be given to multi-entity partnerships and cross-boundary projects.
- Priority may be given to proposals demonstrating the greatest positive impact to the economy and environment of local communities.
- Applicants are not required to provide matching funds. However, a match of 10% or more will improve application competitiveness. Match can come in the form of in-kind or cash contributions and must be identified in budget template.
- Preference may be given to projects that can be completed by the end of the state's 2025 fiscal year (June 30, 2025).

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***1. Can my organization submit multiple applications?***

Yes, you can submit multiple applications for different projects. The submission of multiple applications will not reduce the competitiveness of any individual application for first consideration.

**2. *When will we know if our project(s) has been selected for funding?***

NMDA will notify applicants before August 23, 2024 as to whether or not they have been awarded funds.

**3. *When can project activities begin?***

Project activities can begin once successful applicants have completed and signed all required paperwork, and a purchase order has been created. NMDA anticipates this date will be on or about around September 3, 2024. Costs incurred before receiving a notice to proceed will not be reimbursed.

**4. *Can these funds be used to treat invasive and other troublesome weed species, such as mesquite or pigweed, that are not on the state noxious weed list?***

No, these funds must be used for the purposes of the New Mexico Noxious Weed Management Act. Thus, applications must focus on the management of [state-listed noxious weeds](#) and should not be targeted toward the management of other plant species.

**5. *How will NMDA provide project funding to successful applicants?***

NMDA administers grants on a cost-reimbursement basis. The grantee will first incur costs of approved budget items and then submit invoices to NMDA for reimbursement. Grantees should submit invoices and related receipts to NMDA early and often. Purchases of items that are not part of the approved project budget will not be reimbursed. Purchases that exceed line-item dollar amounts in the approved project budget also will not be reimbursed.

**6. *What expenses are ineligible for grant funding?***

NMDA reserves the right to remove any item from the project budget that is not substantiated by application materials; is not effective or required for the project's purpose; or is not an appropriate use of state funds for achieving the purposes of the Noxious Weed Management Act.

Some items that generally will be considered ineligible include:

- Any good or service associated with an activity outside the grant period (September 3, 2024 to February 28, 2026)
- Any fuel or mileage cost already accounted for in a separate line-item (e.g. separating mileage for a contractor as a line-item when this cost is already part of a contractor's fee)
- Purchase of livestock (cows, goats, sheep, etc.)
  - a. **Rental** of livestock for prescribed grazing **is eligible** for grant funding

- Project inputs produced by the applicant themselves
- Gasoline/diesel, irrigation water, and utilities (electricity, natural gas, etc.)
- Travel per diem
- Durable goods costing more than \$4,999.99. Durable goods that are purchased to function as part of a single, larger unit are considered collectively.

**7. *Given that NMDA's budget template requires the applicant to distinguish between nondurable goods, durable goods, and services, how do they all differ?***

- **Nondurable Goods:** Tangible, perishable items that are used up during the course of the project (examples: herbicide, personal protective equipment)
- **Durable Goods:** Tangible, nonperishable items that last after the project is complete (examples: GPS, sprayer)
- **Services:** Intangible, specialized work that is performed for a fee (examples: contractor for spraying or mapping, goat rental for prescribed grazing)

**8. *Can Noxious Weed Management Grants be used to purchase equipment?***

Yes. However, equipment purchases cannot exceed the \$4,999.99 limit on durable goods.

**9. *Do we need to identify a specific contractor in the budget?***

Yes. However, it's possible that an applicant will be unable to identify a contractor at time of application, possibly due to procurement procedures or statutory requirements. In this instance, NMDA simply requests that you explain this in your application.

**10. *Can my project involve restricted-use herbicides?***

Yes, applicants are welcome to propose the purchase or use of restricted-use herbicides. Applicants must comply with all applicable state and federal law, including the use of a licensed pesticide applicator when required.

**11. *Can I request funding for administration of the grant?***

Yes, applicants may request up to 10% of grant expenses for administrative costs. Applicants will indicate the percentage requested in the budget template that is uploaded as part of the application.

**For More Information, please contact:**

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