

## Comment on Invasive Weed Management

As described in the invasive plant management plan to remove seed heads and/or fruiting bodies prior to seed set is an efficient, productive, and proactive approach.

Chemical methods, including [Glyphosate](#) (the active ingredient of Roundup) and [Indaziflam](#) (the active ingredient of Esplanade and Rejuvra), both commonly used to control cheatgrass, are harmful to our ecosystem. Glyphosate is associated with a wide range of illnesses, including Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. It also causes environmental damage, including water contamination and harm to amphibians. Indaziflam is known to be extremely toxic to fish, aquatic plants, and terrestrial plants, as well as a neurotoxin to mammals.

As we are facing a water and biodiversity crisis, chemical methods need to be replaced by highly effective alternatives that are already implemented in Colorado and elsewhere.

Prescribed burning, also known as hazard reduction burning, can successfully control cheatgrass at our altitude and within Boulder County's ecosystem as the [presentation](#) "Fire, Cheatgrass, Mammals, Birds, and Butterflies - A Study of Ecosystem Interaction" demonstrated during the [Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee](#) meeting of December 16, 2021. Prescribed burning will also control other potential ladder fuel and avoid the use of toxic herbicides.

[Goat Green LLC](#) offers another inspirational example of successful pesticide-free weed management and fire mitigation. Goats grazing in a controlled manner can remove weeds and return the land to a healthy and natural ecosystem. You can watch the inspiring presentation "[Using Goats for Habitat Restoration on Public lands](#)" of Hilary Boyd, a wildlife biologist at the BLM Colorado River Valley Field Office. The Roaring Fork Transportation Authority also uses the goats of Goat Green along the Rio Grande Trail to manage weeds. This [short video](#) presents their efforts and goals. Brett Meredith, RFTA Trails and Corridor Manager, and his team don't just rely on goats, they also mow, pull, harvest, remove noxious weed seeds, and revegetate with native seeds. [Here](#) is a vegetation management study that they conducted over the last 3 years. Lastly, goats can help [mitigate fires](#) by controlling ladder fuels without the use of herbicides.

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