

Appendix L

Noxious and Invasive Weed Control Plan

Prepared for:
Bison Pipeline LLC

Noxious and Invasive Weed Control Plan

AECOM, Inc.
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Noxious and Invasive Weed Control Plan

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Noxious and Invasive Weed Control Plan

Significant changes from Bison's Noxious and Invasive Weed Control Plan submitted in October 2009, and used for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analysis, are identified in the Table below. These changes are highlighted with **bolded text** in the body of this report.

Significant Revisions to Bison's Noxious and Invasive Weed Control Plan Since October 2009	
Section	Description of Modifications
1.0, 2.0	Added aboveground facilities, including storage yards, to the areas discussed in this plan
1.0	Clarified that Bison will monitor for noxious and invasive weeds for the life of the Project on BLM lands and State of Montana lands
2.0	Clarified that some surveys will be completed prior to construction in 2010
2.0	Added definition of the minimum size of weed infestations that were/will be recorded during surveys
2.0	Added statement that this plan will be updated when surveys are complete, prior to construction
2.0	Updated Tables 2-1 and 2-2 to reflect RevLv18, and all weed locations mapped to date, including for EWS and aboveground facilities
2.0	Added condition that, by September 15 of each year, Bison will submit Pesticide Applications Records with accompanying maps to each BLM Field Office.
3.0	Clarified that portions of the construction ROW, that are currently inhabited by noxious weeds, may be treated with herbicides
3.0	Added details about the locations of additional weed wash stations. Noted that weed wash stations are also known as equipment or weed cleaning stations
3.0	MPs for additional weed wash stations added to Table 3-1
4.0	Clarified that Bison will request written approval from the appropriate agency that additional monitoring and treatment is not required for areas where the re-establishment of self-sustaining native vegetation communities meet pre-disturbance parameters for cover, production and diversity, as measured at adjacent undisturbed areas
4.0	Clarified that Bison will coordinate weed treatment on BLM lands with BLM, and may offer funds for BLM to provide weed control along the ROW
4.0	Clarified that Bison will monitor for noxious and invasive weeds for the life of the Project on BLM lands and State of Montana lands. For BLM lands and State of Montana lands where the performance standards have been met, Bison will consult with the appropriate agency to increase the monitoring and reporting interval (e.g. to every 3-5 years), and will continue to monitor the route until the pipeline is decommissioned and properly abandoned

1.0 General Approach

Noxious weeds and other invasive plants are defined as non-native, undesirable native, or introduced species that are able to outcompete desired native species and thereby decrease overall species diversity. Noxious weeds often invade and persist in areas after disturbance. Noxious weeds are addressed by Executive Order 13112, which was set into Federal law on February 3, 1999. Under Executive Order 13112, the Federal government is required to prevent the introduction of invasive species, provide for their control, and minimize their impacts. The order further specifies that the federal government shall not authorize, fund, or carry out actions likely to cause or promote the introduction or spread of invasive species unless it has been determined that the benefits of such actions would outweigh the potential harm caused by invasive species after all prudent and feasible measures to minimize risk of harm are taken in conjunction with the actions.

There are three key elements to Bison Pipeline LLC's (Bison's) noxious and invasive weed control program for the Bison Pipeline Project (Project). First, Bison will determine the location of significant populations of pre-existing problem plant species on the Construction Right-of-Way (ROW), extra work space (EWS) **as well as in aboveground facilities and storage yards**, and treat these existing infestations prior to construction as approved by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and County agencies. Second, appropriate measures will be taken to minimize the spread of known weed populations by maintaining construction equipment in a weed-free state during the construction process. Third, during the monitoring and maintenance phases of the Project, the Construction ROW and EWS will be monitored and treated if necessary for a period of 3 years or until the re-establishment of self-sustaining native vegetation communities meet pre-disturbance parameters for cover, production, and diversity, as measured at adjacent undisturbed areas. **Bison will monitor for noxious and invasive weeds for the life of the Project on BLM lands and State of Montana lands.** In areas where agency consultation has determined that additional measures may be necessary, Bison may implement additional monitoring, revegetation and/or weed control programs.

2.0 Preconstruction Survey and Control

Noxious weed surveys were conducted on the majority of Construction ROW and EWS in 2008 and 2009. **Additional surveys are being completed in 2010 for areas with previously denied access.** All impacted areas will be surveyed prior to initiation of construction. Species sought are those currently listed as undesirably invasive by federal, state, and local officials (**Table 2-1**). **All locations of noxious weeds encompassing an area of approximately 50 square feet or more were identified during surveys. Individual specimens or clusters of noxious weeds less than approximately 50 square feet in size were not identified during surveys as noxious weed locations.**

Known weed populations located on the Construction ROW, EWS and **aboveground facilities** (discovered and recorded during the 2008, 2009 **and 2010** environmental studies) will be treated with appropriate measures to prevent their spread, prior to construction. **Table 2-2** references currently known locations of all problem plants, with the exception of cheatgrass, along the Construction ROW, EWS and **aboveground facilities. This table will be updated when all surveys are complete.**

The extent of cheatgrass infestation throughout the Project area makes treatment of every affected area infeasible. Preconstruction herbicide treatments for all areas of cheatgrass are not proposed. Isolated infestations of cheatgrass will be controlled on a case-by-case basis, following consultation with the landowner and/or land management agency.

Bison will submit to the BLM a Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP) prior to any pretreatment of noxious weeds on BLM-managed lands. In accordance with BLM's requirements, the applicator will be BLM approved and certified by the applicable state agency. **By September 15 of each year, Bison will submit Pesticide Applications Records with accompanying maps to each BLM Field Office.**

Table 2-1 - Noxious and Invasive Weeds Potentially Occurring Within the Bison Pipeline Project Area										
Data contained within this table are based on the REV Lv18 centerline shapefile issued on 2/12/2010										
Common Name	Scientific Name	WY Noxious Weed List	MT Noxious Weed List	Carter County, MT	Fallon County, MT	ND Noxious Weed List	Bowman County, ND	Grant County, ND	Slope County, ND	Stark County, ND
Jointed goatgrass	<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>	X								
Perennial ragweed	<i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i>	X								
Common burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>	X		X	X					
Absinth wormwood	<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>					X				
Wild oats	<i>Avena fatua</i>	X								
Hoary alyssum	<i>Berteroa incana</i>		X							
Cheatgrass*	<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	X	X	X	X					
Hoary cress	<i>Cardaria draba</i>	X	X					X	X	X
Hoary cress, whitetop	<i>Cardaria pubescens</i>	X								
Plumeless thistle	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>	X								
Musk thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	X				X				
Diffuse knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	X	X			X				
Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>	X	X			X				
Russian knapweed	<i>Centaurea repens</i>	X	X			X				
Yellow starthistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	X				X				
Blue mustard	<i>Chorispora tenella</i>	X								
Oxeye daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>	X	X							
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	X	X			X				
Field bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	X	X			X				
Common crupina	<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>									
Dodder	<i>Cuscuta sp.</i>	X								
Houndstongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	X	X					X	X	
Tansymustard	<i>Descurania pinnata</i>	X								
Russian olive	<i>Eleagnus angustifolia</i>	X								
Quackgrass	<i>Elymus repens</i>	X								
Leafy spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	X	X			X				
Skeletonleaf bursage	<i>Franseria discolor</i>	X								
Wild licorice	<i>Glycyrrhiza lepidota</i>	X								
Baby's breath	<i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>						X	X		
Halogeton	<i>Halogeton glomeratus</i>	X								
Black henbane	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>							X		X
Common St. Johnswort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	X	X						X	
Dyer's woad	<i>Isatis tictoria</i>	X								
Poverty weed	<i>Iva axillaris</i>	X								
Blue lettuce	<i>Lactuca pulchella</i>	X								
Perennial pepperweed	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	X								
Broad-leaved Dalmatian toadflax	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>	X	X			X				
Narrow-leaved Dalmatian	<i>Linaria genistifolia</i>									
Yellow toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	X						X		X
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	X				X				
Scotch thistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	X					X			
Wild proso millet	<i>Panicum millaceum</i>	X								
Buckhorn Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	X								
Sulfur cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla recta</i>	X								
Perennial sowthistle	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	X								
Marsh sowthistle	<i>Sonchus palustris</i>						X			
Swainsonpea	<i>Sphaerophysa salsula</i>	X								

Table 2-1 - Noxious and Invasive Weeds Potentially Occurring Within the Bison Pipeline Project Area
Data contained within this table are based on the REV Lv18 centerline shapefile issued on 2/12/2010

Common Name	Scientific Name	WY Noxious	MT Noxious	Carter County,	Fallon County,	ND Noxious	Bowman County,	Grant County,	Slope County,	Stark County,
		Weed List	Weed List	MT	MT	Weed List	ND	ND	ND	ND
Saltcedar	<i>Tamarix parviflora</i>	X				X				
Saltcedar	<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	X				X				
Common tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	X	X							
Puncturevine	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	X								

X's denote listed by the authority in that column
 Sources: WY Dept of Agriculture, MT Dept of Agriculture, ND Dept of Agriculture
 * It is estimated that much more than 50% of the vegetated portions of the proposed ROW are currently inhabited by various population densities of cheatgrass. Due to the ubiquitous presence of cheatgrass along the proposed ROW, areas of cheatgrass infestation were not separately identified or demarcated by MP.

Table 2-2 - Noxious Weeds Identified on the Bison Pipeline Project Construction ROW, EWS and Aboveground Facilities
Data contained within this table are based on the REV Lv18 centerline shapefile issued on 2/12/2010

MP (enter)	MP (exit)	State	County	Species
0.86	0.89	WY	Campbell	Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)
1.24	1.25	WY	Campbell	Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)
1.36	1.38	WY	Campbell	Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)
1.46	1.48	WY	Campbell	Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)
1.48	1.51	WY	Campbell	Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)
7.71	7.74	WY	Campbell	Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)
14.76	14.78	WY	Campbell	Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)
18.29	18.31	WY	Campbell	Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)
18.73	18.76	WY	Campbell	Spotted knapweed (<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>)
19.64	19.65	WY	Campbell	Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)
19.91	19.92	WY	Campbell	Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)
23.86	23.99	WY	Campbell	Spotted knapweed (<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>)
23.86	23.99	WY	Campbell	Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)
24.32	24.32	WY	Campbell	Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)
24.79	24.86	WY	Campbell	Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)
25.35	25.35	WY	Campbell	Spotted knapweed (<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>)
25.55	25.56	WY	Campbell	Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)
25.58	25.60	WY	Campbell	Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)
25.64	25.66	WY	Campbell	Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)
26.04	26.04	WY	Campbell	Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)
27.73	27.75	WY	Campbell	Spotted knapweed (<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>)
27.99	28.01	WY	Campbell	Spotted knapweed (<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>)
30.03	30.03	WY	Campbell	Spotted knapweed (<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>)
30.06	30.07	WY	Campbell	Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)
31.02	31.02	WY	Campbell	Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)
32.97	32.98	WY	Campbell	Spotted knapweed (<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>)
33.08	33.09	WY	Campbell	Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)

Table 2-2 - Noxious Weeds Identified on the Bison Pipeline Project Construction ROW, EWS and Aboveground Facilities

Data contained within this table are based on the REV Lv18 centerline shapefile issued on 2/12/2010				
MP (enter)	MP (exit)	State	County	Species
33.43	33.44	WY	Campbell	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
33.51	33.52	WY	Campbell	<i>Spotted knapweed (Centaurea maculosa)</i>
36.48	36.49	WY	Campbell	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
36.64	36.64	WY	Campbell	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
38.26	38.36	WY	Campbell	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
48.82	48.83	WY	Campbell	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
75.38	75.41	WY	Campbell	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
79.36	79.37	MT	Powder River	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
86.33	86.34	MT	Powder River	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
86.33	86.34	MT	Powder River	<i>Musk thistle (Carduus nutans)</i>
91.06	91.07	MT	Carter	<i>Field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis)</i>
91.06	91.07	MT	Carter	<i>Field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis)</i>
93.89	93.90	MT	Carter	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
103.28	103.29	MT	Carter	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
104.71	104.74	MT	Carter	<i>Field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis)</i>
107.43	107.45	MT	Carter	<i>Musk thistle (Carduus nutans)</i>
108.33	108.35	MT	Carter	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
108.33	108.35	MT	Carter	<i>Field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis)</i>
108.43	108.44	MT	Carter	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
108.49	108.50	MT	Carter	<i>Musk thistle (Carduus nutans)</i>
153.01	153.03	MT	Carter	<i>Field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis)</i>
154.71	154.71	MT	Carter	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
154.74	154.75	MT	Carter	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
154.81	154.82	MT	Carter	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
156.40	156.42	MT	Carter	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
156.75	156.76	MT	Carter	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
156.75	156.76	MT	Carter	<i>Field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis)</i>
157.08	157.08	MT	Carter	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
157.97	157.99	MT	Carter	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
173.33	173.33	MT	Fallon	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
185.52	185.53	ND	Bowman	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
195.32	195.54	ND	Bowman	<i>Field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis)</i>
195.48	197.25	ND	Bowman	<i>Field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis)</i>
197.25	197.28	ND	Bowman	<i>Field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis)</i>
201.90	202.01	ND	Bowman	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
212.13	212.15	ND	Bowman	<i>Field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis)</i>
215.31	215.32	ND	Bowman	<i>Field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis)</i>
231.41	231.42	ND	Slope	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
231.52	231.53	ND	Slope	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
231.94	231.95	ND	Slope	<i>Musk thistle (Carduus nutans)</i>
237.49	237.57	ND	Slope	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
237.49	237.57	ND	Slope	<i>Spotted knapweed (Centaurea maculosa)</i>
237.62	237.63	ND	Slope	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
237.62	237.63	ND	Slope	<i>Spotted knapweed (Centaurea maculosa)</i>
242.65	242.74	ND	Hettinger	<i>Field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis)</i>
245.42	245.42	ND	Hettinger	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>

Table 2-2 - Noxious Weeds Identified on the Bison Pipeline Project Construction ROW, EWS and Aboveground Facilities

Data contained within this table are based on the REV Lv18 centerline shapefile issued on 2/12/2010				
MP (enter)	MP (exit)	State	County	Species
246.35	246.36	ND	Hettinger	<i>Field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis)</i>
247.76	247.87	ND	Hettinger	<i>Field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis)</i>
253.63	253.64	ND	Hettinger	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
261.33	261.37	ND	Hettinger	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
264.09	264.11	ND	Hettinger	<i>Field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis)</i>
264.32	264.43	ND	Hettinger	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
265.11	265.15	ND	Hettinger	<i>Field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis)</i>
265.43	265.43	ND	Hettinger	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
265.51	265.56	ND	Hettinger	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
270.17	270.18	ND	Hettinger	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
270.19	270.19	ND	Hettinger	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
275.40	275.40	ND	Stark	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
275.40	275.41	ND	Stark	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
276.21	276.21	ND	Stark	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
278.07	278.61	ND	Stark	<i>Field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis)</i>
281.95	281.98	ND	Stark	<i>Leafy spurge (Euphorbia esula)</i>
281.97	282.40	ND	Stark	<i>Leafy spurge (Euphorbia esula)</i>
282.69	282.72	ND	Grant	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
282.69	282.72	ND	Grant	<i>Leafy spurge (Euphorbia esula)</i>
284.69	284.76	ND	Grant	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
286.48	286.50	ND	Grant	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
287.65	287.66	ND	Morton	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
287.65	287.66	ND	Morton	<i>Leafy spurge (Euphorbia esula)</i>
292.87	292.88	ND	Morton	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
Facilities				
Gillette Railyard / Pipeyard		WY	Campbell	<i>Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</i>
Dickinson Contractor Yard / Pipeyard		ND	Stark	<i>Field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis)</i>
Miles City		MT	Custer	Not Yet Surveyed ^a
Gillette - Garner Lake 2		WY	Campbell	Not Yet Surveyed ^a
Olmstead Rd		WY	Campbell	Not Yet Surveyed ^a
Gillette - Garner Lake Road		WY	Campbell	Not Yet Surveyed ^a

^a Yards listed as "Not Yet Surveyed" will be surveyed prior to construction and this Plan will be updated accordingly.

3.0 General Pipeline Construction Procedures

Contractors will be required to ensure that vehicles arrive at the work site clean and weed free. Bison's Environmental Inspectors (EIs) will inspect each vehicle to determine that it is free of soil and debris capable of transporting seeds or other propagules.

In areas that were pre-treated for existing noxious weed infestations, vegetation, soils and trench spoil material will be stockpiled as part of the topsoil segregation process and will be returned to the original soil horizons to the extent possible. Management of spoil in this manner will minimize the spread of seeds existing in the soil. Construction activity will typically take place in an area of the Construction ROW that has been treated with herbicides (**if noxious weeds were present**) and subsequently cleared of topsoil, so that the use of construction equipment on the Construction ROW should not significantly contribute to the spread of noxious and invasive weeds. Infestations that occur on the Construction ROW during construction will be spot treated or removed through mechanical means. Additionally, reseeded with fast-growing native vegetation and post-construction treatments will help reduce the chance of noxious weed spread.

In addition to Bison's pre- and post-treatment, Bison is proposing to establish a weed wash station (**also known as an equipment or weed cleaning station**) at or near each county line as a way to help further control the spread of plant propagules. Bison has proposed weed wash stations in proximity to county lines at road crossings and EWS areas as certificated by the Project. County lines were chosen as wash station locations in order to respect individual county and state weed lists and control priorities. **Bison has proposed additional wash stations after areas of significant infestations and before long stretches without weeds as well as to reduce the spacing between stations at county lines.** Table 3-1 lists the location of these wash stations. Soils and propagules removed during washing activities will be spread on the Construction ROW subsoil layer or below within the infested area.

Reclamation of disturbed areas will follow immediately after construction as described in Bison's Plan and Reclamation Plan to prevent establishment of invasive species which may be present in nearby areas. Materials used for erosion control and reclamation will be obtained from state-cleared sources free of noxious weeds.

Table 3-1 - Weed Wash Stations along the Bison Pipeline Project		
Data contained within this table are based on the REV Lv18 centerline shapefile issued on 2/12/2010		
State	County	Milepost
Wyoming	Campbell	Prior to arrival
	Campbell	18.81
	Campbell	48.95
Montana	Powder River	79.22
	Carter	88.83
	Carter	108.64
	Carter	157.20
	Fallon	168.76
North Dakota	Bowman	175.69
	Slope	217.55
	Hettinger	237.66
	Stark	274.60
	Grant	282.76
	Morton	285.95

4.0 Monitoring and Maintenance

Once construction and installation are complete, Bison will monitor for and treat occurrences of noxious and invasive weed infestations on the Construction ROW and EWS for a period of three years or until the re-establishment of self-sustaining native vegetation communities meet pre-disturbance parameters for cover, production and diversity, as measured at adjacent undisturbed areas, **except for BLM lands and State of Montana lands, which will be monitored for the life of the Project.** Target species are those identified in **Table 2-1**. Monitoring data collected will include: noxious weed species; location, extent of infestation, results of previous control measures implemented; and recommendations for further control, if needed. Bison will consult with local weed districts and land management agencies to determine the most appropriate control measures.

Bison will share the results of the annual monitoring program with local regulatory agencies and other adjacent pipeline operators to facilitate effective treatment of identified noxious weed populations. Sharing of information will help ensure that control efforts of all operators are focused on problem areas. It will also help ensure that treatment efforts are balanced and coordinated so that overuse of herbicides or other control measures are avoided.

Where and when appropriate, Bison will consult with the relevant agency to obtain written approval that the re-establishment of self-sustaining native vegetation communities meet pre-disturbance parameters for cover, production and diversity, as measured at adjacent undisturbed areas, and that additional monitoring and treatment is not required.

Where pre-construction surveys show heavy weed infestations or in areas where weed infestations are located outside of the Construction ROW and EWS, complete eradication of noxious and non-native invasive weeds may not be feasible. **Where this situation arises on BLM lands, Bison will coordinate treatment with the BLM, and may, in some cases, offer funds for BLM to provide weed control along the ROW.** Where required, Bison may implement additional revegetation and/or weed control programs in areas where monitoring has determined that additional measures may be necessary at the land owner or manager request, **including BLM lands and State of Montana lands, which will be monitored for the life of the Project. For BLM lands and State of Montana lands where the performance standards have been met, Bison will consult with the appropriate agency to increase the monitoring and reporting interval (e.g. to every 3-5 years), and will continue to monitor the route until the pipeline is decommissioned and properly abandoned.**

To prevent potential impacts associated with improper herbicide application or accidental spills, Bison will use locally certified applicators and develop specific herbicide application, handling, and cleanup guidelines. Bison will submit to the BLM a PUP prior to any treatment of noxious weeds on BLM-managed lands and the applicator will be BLM-approved and certified by the applicable state agency. All herbicides used will biodegrade quickly, will not be persistent in the ecosystem, and should not pose a risk to wildlife in the Project area. Bison may provide funds for county or agency personnel to provide weed control services under cooperative agreements. Applications will follow USEPA label guidelines and be performed in accordance with federal, state and local laws and regulations.

In general the guidelines to be implemented could include:

- Implement control measures for noxious and invasive plants before seed maturation.
- Suspend herbicide application when:
 - Wind velocities exceed 6 mph for the application of liquid materials and 15 mph for the application of granular materials;
 - Ice covers the target vegetation; or
 - Precipitation is occurring or imminent.
- Transport to the construction site a reasonable quantity of material to treat the expected and unanticipated weed populations;
- Transport herbicides in approved containers that are inspected daily for leaks;
- Mix chemical controls at least 500 feet from wetlands, waterbodies, or other known sensitive biological resources (e.g., localities supporting threatened, endangered, or sensitive species);
- Preclude use of herbicides within 100 feet of wetlands or waterbodies unless specifically authorized by an appropriate regulatory agency.
- Carry material safety data sheets and spill kits in any vehicle transporting or applying herbicide; and
- Schedule weed control efforts to occur before seed maturation/development.