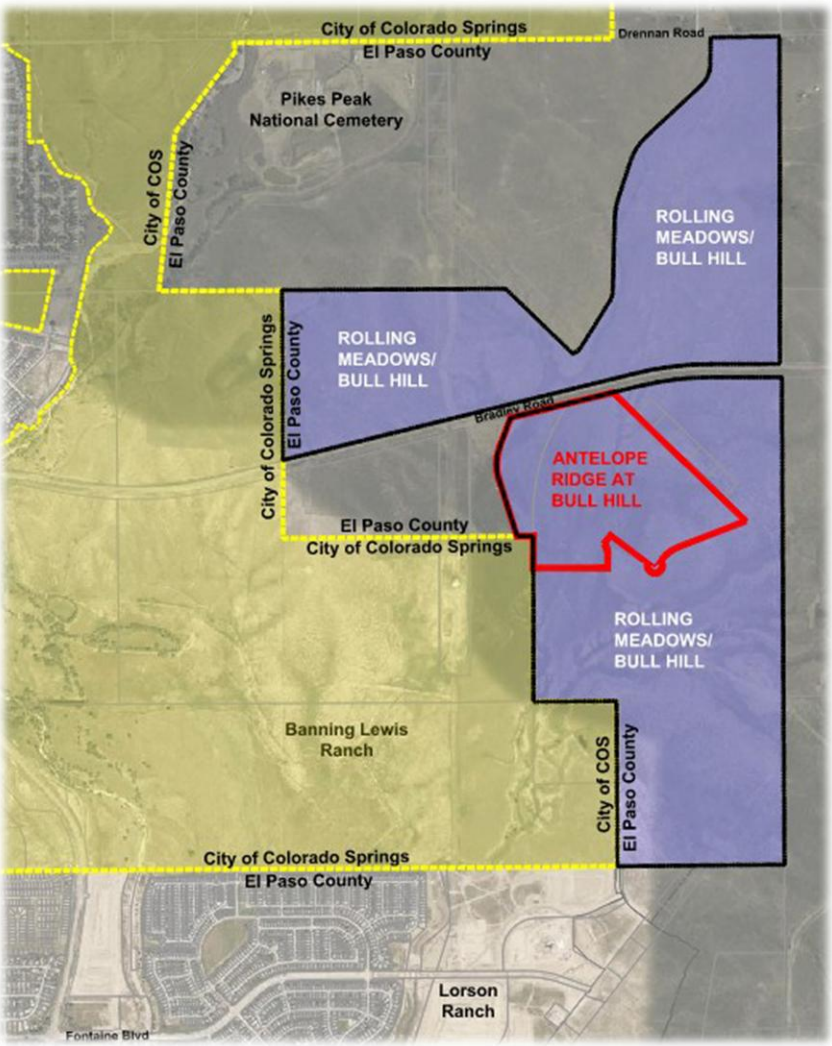
ANTELOPE RIDGE AT BULL HILL PHASE 1
NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN
FINAL PLAT

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PREPARED FOR:

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Management Goal: The goal is to contain, suppress, and eradicate an infestation of noxious weeds that may be found in the developing community known as Antelope Ridge at Bull Hill while promoting desirable self-sustaining native plant communities.

Description of Property: The area is described by the El Paso County Assessor's page as Parcel Number(s): 5500000383, 5500000324.

Weed Control Objective: Through urbanized development, the use of properly timed herbicide applications, grazing, maintenance, and the possible establishment of a community of predacious insects within the property, any emerging noxious weeds can be mitigated early, and the onset of dense growth can be greatly reduced in the following years. Also, well-defined thresholds are a critical element of integrated vegetation management.

Distinguishing Plant Features: At this time, there have been no known noxious weeds identified within the Antelope Ridge at Bull Hill Development by El Paso County weed management personnel. The property is currently vacant grazing land. Shall any evidence of noxious weeds emerge, eradication efforts will begin utilizing the techniques as outlined in the El Paso County Weed Management Plan.

Control Methods: Key control is to prevent noxious weeds from spreading. There are several options for noxious weed mitigation that include the use of integrated vegetation management techniques to control spread.

a. Biological
    i. Insects: The Colorado Department of Agriculture Insectary in Palisade, CO can recommend the appropriate insect to release to establish a community of predatory insects that may assist in the suppression of diffuse knapweed on the property. Call the insectary at (866) 324-2963, or see the Colorado Department of Agriculture website – Divisions – Conservation Services – Biological Pest Control Program. Once the insect community is well established on the property, they can have a great influence reducing noxious weed infestation.
    ii. Population establishment: An appropriate population of feeding insects may take 2-4 years to become established in an area protected from mowing and herbicide application such as under a grove of scrub oak or other woody shrubs.
b. Mechanical/cultural
    Mowing: Regular mowing and maintenance to keep weeds from growing and spreading depending upon the species of noxious weed and the recommendations for mowing.
c. Chemical:
    i. Aminopyralid (Milestone)
    ii. Clopyralid plus triclopyr (Redeem R&P)
    iii. 2,4-D plus Dicamba (Weedmaster)

(The above control methods and the below timeframe are all listed on the State of Colorado Department of Agriculture Website search noxious weeds and fact sheets.)

Timeframe: Herbicide control is most effective in early spring (May/June) when the rosette is bolting. Chemical control is not as effective during the flowering stage, which is July and August. A fall (September) herbicide application following the rainy season will successfully treat the new seedlings and rosettes.

Monitor: The Antelope Ridge at Bull Hill area shall be monitored to ensure the suppression of any new emerging noxious weeds.

Evaluation Methods: Photographs/plant counts at permanent monitoring points are a good way to compare and ensure the decline of the infestation from one year to the next. In most cases, the suppression of an infestation will take several years with multiple treatments per year to kill the plants and reduce the seed bank in the soil. Successive sprouting of seeds in the soil from desirable plant groups will eventually re-vegetate bare soils until an optimum community of plants develops.

Analyze Effectiveness: Management objectives are aided by monitoring, which assures that the treatment effects are gauged, and shortfalls are corrected.

Assistance: El Paso County weed management personnel are available for assistance as needed. Contact El Paso County at (719) 520-7879.