



## MACD RESOLUTION SUBMITTAL FORM:

### 2. Legislative Directives

***THIS FORM IS FOR LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS ONLY!***

***Please note that there are three different types of resolutions and associated formats. Please make sure you are choosing the correct one for your chosen purpose.***

1. Policy Statements to guide advocacy and legislative activity.
2. **Legislative Directives are resolutions that become bills for legislative advocacy and support.**
3. National Directives. Resolutions for submission to NACD for consideration for support of regional and/or national initiatives.

**Legislative Directives** are resolutions that will be put forth as potential legislation in the upcoming legislative session. MACD will work with the sponsoring district to find a legislative sponsor and support during the legislative session. For example, a 2020 resolution from Flathead CD about erosion issues on the Flathead River was written into a study bill for the 2021 Legislature. Successful legislative directive

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1. **EMAIL \*** sheridancd@macdnet.org
2. **SPONSORING DISTRICT \*** Sheridan County Conservation District
3. **RESOLUTION TITLE \*** MTDOT/BNSF Invasive Species Cooperation
4. **BACKGROUND DESCRIBING ISSUE \***

As conservation districts, it is our responsibility to safeguard the resources within our district. We have observed that the current management practices of right-of-way properties maintained and controlled by MTDOT and BNSF are inadvertently creating an environment

conducive to the proliferation of weeds and invasive species. The practice of chemical treatment at the immediate edge of the roadway is weakening the grass stands and allowing noxious weeds and undesirables to take over. This situation poses a significant risk to our range and crop land, potentially leading to infestation by both noxious weeds and species not currently listed as noxious in the state of MT. The improper use of chemicals, including incorrect timing, application rates, and types of chemicals, exacerbates the existing problem. Revising the management approach in these areas is crucial to address the conservation and reestablishment of desirable grasses and broadleaf species, thereby reducing the impact of invasive weeds. Additionally, the potential for these weeds, such as cheatgrass, narrowleaf hawksbeard, etc., to modify native plant communities and contribute to erosion and water resource damage is of pressing concern.

**5. LANGUAGE TO BE INCLUDED IN LEGISLATION DRAFTED BY MACD \***

That MACD will work with all stakeholders, including county weed departments, BNSF, MTDOT, and county road departments to develop a management plan that prevents the growth of weeds and their resistance to chemical treatment, thus protecting our native rangeland and our productive farmland from potential destruction and contamination.

**6. SPONSOR(S) ACTIONS TO DATE \***

**What has been done to address the issue, which agencies and organizations have also addressed this?**

Discussions have been held at board meetings and with local MTDOT road superintendent.

**7. HOW WILL YOUR DISTRICT CONTINUE TO SUPPORT, BE INVOLVED WITH, AND TRACK THIS RESOLUTION BEFORE AND DURING THE UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE SESSION? \***

We will research, educate, support, and testify.

**8. ARE THERE ANY EXISTING MACD POLICIES THAT THIS WOULD IMPACT OR INTERACT WITH? \***

Resolution 10-03: BNSF Cooperation

**9. HOW WOULD THIS LEGISLATIVE DIRECTIVE IMPACT MACD? \***

It will necessitate the allocation of staff time to collaborate with different agencies, as well as potential consideration of legislative and policy adjustments.

**10. WOULD THIS POLICY STATEMENT IMPACT THE STATE BUDGET? IF SO, HOW? \***

Yes, the change in management will require essential adjustments, including different mowing times, precise chemical use, timing of application, ensuring seed mixes used in the seeding of right-of-way areas are from a certified weed free source, and potential agronomy consultant fees. These changes are crucial for improving the overall maintenance of these areas.

**11. MEETING AND DATE ADOPTED BY SPONSORING ENTITY \***

Sheridan County Conservation District - Sept. 4, 2024

**AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE(S) AND TITLE(S) \***

Please type your name and title

**Nathan Shackelford, Board Chairman**

*(See original PDF submission for official signature)*