



Meet your Manager

BRYCE CHRISTIAENS

District Manager,
Missoula County
Weed/AIS District



I grew up on a farm/ranch in north central Montana where I spent a lot of time thumbing through field guides figuring out the names of plants and flowers. From there I have worked a mix of plant related jobs, from assisting with research projects while at the University of Montana to owning and managing a native wildflower seed farm. My interest in teaching people about plants and plant communities led me to my current position.



MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

My main responsibilities are setting and managing the budget, supervising and supporting staff, collaborating with statewide partners to protect Missoula County, and providing plant identification and vegetation management recommendations to landowners throughout the county. More recently, I have also been working with partners to design and build our new facility, the Rocky Mountain Gardens and Exploration Center that will be located at the Missoula County Fairgrounds!

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE THE PUBLIC TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION?

I think the biggest thing I would like the public to know is that we make it a priority to help landowners co-create solutions to their land management questions. It's one thing to simply give a recommendation on how to kill a weed, but taking the time to meet with a landowner on their property to talk through their goals and the specifics of their situation to develop a custom strategy is what we are really about.

WHAT IS YOUR ORGANIZATIONS ROLE IN OVERALL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS?

The weed and aquatic invasive species districts do not directly manage any lands. Instead, we work to provide private and public land managers (no matter how big or small) with the information, research, and resources necessary to be successful.

FAVORITE PART OF BEING DISTRICT MANAGER

One of my favorite parts of my job is getting asked to identify plants in pictures that people text to me. I have been in my position long enough, and given my number to so many people that I will get up to a dozen texts a week (from all hours and every day of the week) from unknown numbers with a picture and a comment like *"what is this?"* It is a fun, rewarding challenge that seems to really make a lot of people happy.

