

Greetings,

The Yellowstone County Weed District is looking to assume a new name. While maintaining all current employees, equipment, structure, and operations, we would like to rename as “The Yellowstone County Invasive Plant Division”. We believe that we could make a smooth transition to the new title without disrupting any current operations.

The reason why we request to make this change is that we have noticed an increasing amount of confusion surrounding the word “weed”. While we harbor no ill will towards the marijuana industry or it’s enthusiasts, the word “weed” has become synonymous with marijuana.

Our office has had several cases where people have called or arrived in person thinking that we were affiliated with the marijuana industry. We frequently are compelled to clarify the different meaning of the word “weed” and the actual scope of our duties. When we teach in schools, it is another obstacle that we must overcome. Some students are hesitant to ask questions, while many others snicker.

While this small difference of title is not a matter of urgency, it would certainly help us to be clear to the people of Yellowstone County which plants our office does and does not handle. We recommend this new title because it exhibits our purpose of helping public, private, and other government agencies to manage their invasive plants, while also reflecting our place in the county as a division of Public Works.

