

W. 5. F. 1.

Memorandum Date:
Order Date:

TO: Board of Health
DEPARTMENT: Public Works
PRESENTED BY: Orin Schumacher, Vegetation Management Coordinator
AGENDA ITEM TITLE: ORDER/IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE LANE COUNTY
INTEGRATED ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010-2011

I. MOTION

Move approval of the 2010 Annual Report for the 2010-2011 reporting period.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

The Board is being asked to approve the 2010 Annual Report in following with reporting requirements of Lane Code 15.530 Last Resort Policy, Ordinance 12-03.

III. BACKGROUND / IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

The Annual Report for (2010) was presented to the Vegetation Management Advisory Committee on November 12, 2010 as required by the Last Resort Ordinance. The VMAC Committee voted unanimously in support of the annual report at the November 12th meeting of the Committee.

B. Policy Issues

Lane Code 15.530 states; "On a yearly basis in the fall at a public meeting of the Board of Health and following a presentation to the Vegetation Management Advisory Committee, the Department of Public Works shall present an Annual Report". In accordance with the requirements of the Last Resort Policy an annual report needs to be approved by the Board of Health.

C. Board Goals

The County Strategic Plan, Part IV states in part that "Lane County Government exists to ensure the safety and well being of the people who live, work and visit our communities." The Annual Report provides information regarding planned herbicide and non-herbicide activities for the reporting period by the Department of Public Works to manage roadside vegetation in accordance with the Last Resort Policy while maintaining a safe and efficient road system for Lane County road users.

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

The Road Fund is looking at reduced funding over the coming years with the potential reductions of Secure Rural Schools funding, along with resource

reductions that have occurred over the last two years. The Road Maintenance Division has faced the loss of the Sheriff's inmate work force that was responsible for maintaining vegetation around guardrails, landscaped areas and other vegetation within Lane County, and we have also seen reductions in county staffing during this same period. We need to look at the changing picture of how we maintain roadside vegetation within Lane County while maintaining a high level of public safety and reduce maintenance costs in regards budget and staffing concerns.

E. Analysis

The Annual Report contains no proposed herbicides uses for the reporting period, and details planned non-herbicide vegetation management activities, including potential and current tests and evaluations of our planned activities in accordance with the Last Resort Policy. Approval of the Annual report provides the Department of Public Works with the ability to continue with the indefinite moratorium on the use of herbicides for roadside vegetation management and compliance of the Last Resort Policy for this reporting period.

F. Alternatives/Options

1. Approve the 2010 Annual Report for the 2010- 2011 reporting period.
2. Make further changes to the provided Annual Report (2010) and approve the 2010-2011 Annual Report as amended.

V. TIMING / IMPLEMENTATION

Approval of a 2010 Annual Report is required for compliance with Last Resort Policy, Lane Code 15.530 Annual Report (Reporting). Once approved Lane County Department of Public Works will continue with implementation of the Last Resort Policy for the reporting period November 12, 2010 thru December 31, 2011.

VI. RECOMMENDATION

Alternative 1

VII. FOLLOW-UP

Once approved the Roadside Vegetation Management Prescriptions and Last Resort Policy will continue to be implemented, monitored, and tracked by the Integrated Vegetation Management Coordinator and Public Works Staff. The

Annual Report will be made available in hardcopy at the Public Works Offices, 3040 N. Delta Hwy, Eugene, and will be posted electronically on the Lane County website at www.lanecounty.org

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Annual Report, Lane County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program (2010), dated January 04, 2011.

IN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO.

(IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE LANE
(COUNTY INTEGRATED ROADSIDE VEGETATION
(MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT FOR
THE 2010-2011 REPORTING PERIOD.

WHEREAS, Lane Code 15.530 requires an Annual Report each fall to the Board of Health on roadside vegetation management efforts and compliance with the Last Resort herbicides use policy; and

WHEREAS, The attached (Attachment A) was presented to the Vegetation Management Advisory Committee on November 12, 2010, with all Committee members voting in support of the report; and

WHEREAS, The Annual Report (Attachment A) will be made available in hardcopy at the Public Works Offices, 3040 N. Delta Hwy, Eugene, and will be posted on the Lane County website at <http://www.lanecounty.org>; **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT**

ORDERED, that the 2010 Annual Report (Attachment A) is approved for the November 12, 2010 thru December 31, 2011 reporting period.

DATED this 2nd day of February, 2011

Faye Stewart, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Date 1-18-11 lane county


OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

Attachment A

ANNUAL REPORT

**ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND LAST RESORT HERBICIDE USE
POLICY**

**Lane County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program
(2010-2011)**

Prepared for:

LANE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Prepared by:

**Lane County Department of Public Works
Road Maintenance Division, Vegetation Department**

3040 N. Delta Highway
Eugene, OR. 97408-1696

Contact: Orin C. Schumacher, Vegetation Management Coordinator

November 12, 2010

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Lane County Department of Public Works has prepared this annual report to comply with the requirements of Lane Code 15.530

I. Herbicide Use.

Table 1, shows the quantities and concentrations of each herbicide product applied for roadside vegetation maintenance during the time period from January 31, 2006 to November 10, 2010. The Board of Health adopted by resolution a permitted products list for use by the Department of Public Works on April 26, 2006, permitting the use of approved herbicides for control of roadside vegetation in accordance with the Last Resort Policy.

The Board of Health in 2008 imposed an indefinite moratorium on the use of herbicides for purposes of roadside vegetation management. For this reporting period Public Works has no plans for herbicide use in roadside vegetation management.

Table 1: Concentrations and amounts of herbicide product applied from January 31, 2006 to November 10, 2010 for roadside vegetation management.

| Product Name | Concentration | Amount Applied |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Aquamaster | N/A | 0 quantity |
| Garlon 3A | N/A | 0 quantity |
| Habitat | N/A | 0 quantity |
| Milestone | N/A | 0 quantity |
| Oust Extra | N/A | 0 quantity |

II. Proposed Non-Listed Herbicide Use.

No herbicides are proposed for use 2010-2011 reporting period. During this reporting period use of herbicide products, even those included on the Permitted Products list could only occur by specific authorization of the Board of Health in accordance with Lane Code 15.510(3)(d).

III. Proposed Herbicide Uses.

The Lane County Board of Commissioners acting as the Board of Health in 2008 voted to maintain a continued moratorium on the use of herbicides for roadside vegetation management, and stated that this would exist for an indefinite period of time. As of this reporting period that moratorium continues, in turn Public Works anticipates no herbicide applications for 2010-2011 reporting period.

IV. Cost of Herbicide Application.

Lane County Department of Public Works has incurred no direct costs from herbicide applications during this reporting period. Lane County has existed under a moratorium on the use of herbicides for roadside vegetation management since August 2003, and no herbicides have been applied for roadside vegetation management during that time period.

V. Successful Non-Herbicide Control Methods.

Roadside vegetation management accomplishments that occurred during the 2010-2011 reporting period included routine maintenance activities and testing of non-herbicide equipment and management techniques.

Table 2: Routine Maintenance Activities – Non-herbicide

| Activity Name | Accomplishments (roadside miles) | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----|
| • Mechanical Brushing activities: | 372 | RSM |
| • Safety Strip Mowing activities: | 2,784 | RSM |
| • Full width Mowing activities: | 2,912 | RSM |
| • Top-Trimming Activities: | 239 | RSM |

Numerous non-herbicide projects and strategies were implemented during this reporting period outside the scope of routine vegetation management activities that were considered successful or showed positive results, and some of which are still in the review process.

Table 3: Successful Non-Herbicide Control Methods

| <u>Project Type</u> | <u>Bullet Point Descriptions</u> |
|---|---|
| <u>Seeding Projects</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Restoration for Culvert Installations * Re-seeding of roadside ditch lines * Seeding following road shoulder restoration * Noxious weed management / rehabilitation * Preferred plantings / landscaping |
| <u>Public Outreach / Education</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Website expansion and development * Noxious Weed Flyers * NW. Weed Management Partnership * Public Outreach – Media involvement |
| <u>Survey & Inventory</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * GIS mapping of weed populations County wide * Partnership with Oregon Dept, of Transportation on Highway 36 * Rare and Endangered Site Management Handbook development |
| <u>Alternative Management</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Small site geo textile weed control for non-woody species * Small site manual control / grubbing – <i>limited</i> |

VI. Unsuccessful Non-Herbicide Control Methods.

The following non-herbicide vegetation control methods were found to be ineffective during the January 01, 2010 to November 10, 2011 reporting period.

Table 4: Unsuccessful Non-Herbicide Control Methods

| <u>Project Type</u> | <u>Bullet Point Description</u> |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <u>Mechanical / Manual Control</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Knotweed complex weed management* Knapweed complex weed management* Blackberry control / management* False Brome control / management |
| <u>Geo textile Fabric Use</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Knotweed complex weed management* French Broom Weed control* Scotch Broom Weed Control |
| <u>Mulching For Weed Control</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">* North Game Farm Road Project* River Road landscaping Projects |

Table 5: Projects in Review – Monitoring methods and techniques.

| Project Type | Bullet Point Description |
|--|--|
| <u>Mechanical Guardrail Maintenance</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Eighty-two roadside miles of guardrail vegetation management |
| <u>Bio-Swale Development</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Bob Straub Parkway * Lane County Fleet Yard Project |
| <u>Adopt-A-Roadway</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * In Development with VMAC |
| <u>Wood & Straw Mulch</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * In Conjunction with seeding for roadside construction projects * Initial Weed Suppression |
| <u>Biological Weed Control</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Seed weevil releases for Knapweed control / management * Seed Weevil release for Scotch Broom control / management * Seed Weevil release for French Broom control / management |

VII. Planned Non-Herbicide Control Methods.

For the next reporting period Lane County Department of Public Works will continue to utilize mechanical tools as the primary method to manage roadside vegetation concerns. We will continue to investigate new tools that become available over the next twelve month period and continue with testing and evaluation of other non-herbicide control methods. Until we have an established budget for this next reporting period, these planned projects are tentative, and prioritization of management needs will determine what projects occur over the next 12 month reporting period.

Planned Routine Non-Herbicide Control Methods:

- **Mechanical Control:** This includes using brush mowers, grass mowers and the aerial lift truck to manage roadside vegetation, including noxious weed management and roadside tree care / management.
- **Manual Control:** This includes using County forces to manage roadside vegetation using manual tools and methods. Including small weed site management, Threatened and Endangered plant site preservation and other roadside vegetation management needs
- **Seeding:** Lane County Public Works has continued to experiment with seeding efforts to minimize weed infestations and restore project areas after construction projects. We will continue these efforts over the coming annual reporting period.
- **Plantings and Restoration:** Lane County Public Works continues to plant and restore project areas after construction projects and large culvert projects. We will continue with these efforts over the coming annual reporting period. We will also work to expand our vegetation management program in our numerous urban management areas within Eugene and Springfield.
- **Training and Education:** Lane County Public Works continues to train and improve educational opportunities for the staff members that work on the roadside vegetation management program at Lane County. We will continue with these efforts over the coming annual reporting period.

Non-Routine, Non-Herbicide Control Methods:

- **Biological Control:** This method employs biological control agents to manage weed populations that have established in areas within Lane County rights-of-way. This has been a partnership between Lane County and the Oregon Department of Agriculture over the last two years and will continue into the next annual reporting period.
- **Adopt-a-Weed:** This is a concept that is developing in conjunction with the Vegetation Management Advisory Committee, based upon the concept that private individuals and companies can adopt a section of road, in which they take the responsibility to manage the vegetation for that adopted section without the use of herbicides.
- **Vegetation Control Fabric:** Lane County Public Works has continued to utilize weed control fabrics in testing their effectiveness to manage a wide spectrum of noxious weeds that exist in Lane County. We will continue to test this method of non-herbicides weed control over the coming annual reporting period.
- **Education & Public Outreach:** Lane County and the Vegetation Management Advisory Committee are working to improve and continue forward with efforts involving public education and outreach. We are developing strategies to educate the public about the County's worst weed invaders and develop projects to assist in management of these plant species County wide.
- **Partnerships:** Lane County Public Works has maintained both large and small partnerships over the last four years to assist in our County wide management efforts. We will continue to expand and continue these efforts over the coming annual reporting period.
- **Tree Voucher Program:** Lane County Public Works established a Tree Voucher Program in 2008. This program has grown over this reporting period. The program has assisted in improving public involvement in planned restoration efforts and proven to be effective program to involve the public in our management activities.

VIII. Herbicide Use Reduction:

Lane Code 15.510(3)(e) states;

Within one year after the effective date of this chapter, and for each consecutive year, Lane County will aspire to reduce its herbicide use along county roadsides by at least 5%. Herbicide use reduction will be measured by the percent of roadside miles treated with herbicides as compared to the previous three-year average.

Because the County Engineer imposed a moratorium on the use of herbicides in August 2003, and the Board of Health imposed a continued indefinite moratorium on the use of herbicides for roadside vegetation management in October 2008, no herbicides have been applied for roadside vegetation control since that time. The table below (Table 6) shows the amount of herbicide applied to County road system from September 2000 to December 31, 2008.

Table 6. Annual roadside miles treated with herbicides from Sept. 2000 thru December 2008.

| Year | Roadside Miles Treated | Total Roadside Miles | % Miles Treated |
|---------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 2000 – 2001 | 597 | 2,870 | 20.8 % |
| 2001 – 2002 | 300 | 2,870 | 10.4 % |
| 2002 – 2003 | 385 | 2,870 | 13.4 % |
| Ave. per year | 427 | 2,870 | 14.9 % |
| Year | Roadside Miles Treated | Total Roadside Miles | % Miles Treated |
| 2003-2004 | 0 | 2,870 | 0.0% |
| 2004-2005 | 0 | 2,870 | 0.0% |
| 2005-2006 | 0 | 2,870 | 0.0% |
| 2006-2007 | 0 | 2,870 | 0.0% |
| 2007-2008 | 0 | 2,870 | 0.0% |
| 2008-2009 | 0 | 2,870 | 0.0% |

IX. Report Availability:

Copies of this report are available at the Lane County Department of Public Works offices at 3040 N. Delta Highway, Eugene, Oregon, 97408-1696. The report is also available for viewing, download, and printing from the Lane County website: <http://www.lanecounty.org>