

T. 5. G. 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 2009-2010

I. MOTION

Move approval of the 2009 Annual Report for the 2009-2010 reporting period.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

The Board is being asked to approve the 2009 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 (2009) was presented to the Vegetation Management Advisory Committee on November 04, 2009 as required by the Last Resort Ordinance. The VMAC Committee voted unanimously in support of the annual report at the November 4th 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 2009 Annual Report for the 2009- 2010 reporting period.
2. Make further changes to the provided Annual Report (2009) and approve the 2009-2010 Annual Report as amended.

V. TIMING / IMPLEMENTATION

Approval of a 2009 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 01, 2009 thru December 31, 2010.

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/RoadMaint/LastResort.htm

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Annual Report, Lane County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program (2009), dated November 02, 2009.

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 2009-2010 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 4, 2009, 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**

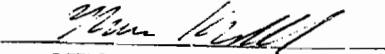
ORDERED, that the 2009 Annual Report (Attachment A) is approved for the November 03, 2009 thru December 31, 2010 reporting period.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 2009

Peter Sorenson, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Date 12-1-09 late 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
(2009)**

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 4, 2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. HERBICIDE USE.....	2
II. PROPOSED NON-LISTED HERBICIDE USE.....	2
III. PROPOSED HERBICIDES USES.....	2-3
IV. COST OF HERBICIDE APPLICATION.....	3
V. SUCCESSFUL NON-HERBICIDE CONTROL METHODS.....	3-4
VI. UNSUCCESSFUL NON-HERBICIDE CONTROL METHODS.....	4-5
VII. PROJECTS IN REVIEW.....	5
VIII. PLANNED NON-HERBICIDE CONTROL METHODS.....	6
IX. HERBICIDE USE REDUCTION.....	7
X. REPORT AVAILABILITY.....	8

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Concentrations and amounts of herbicides applied from January 01, 2009 to November 01, 2009.....	2
Table 2: Routine Maintenance Activities – Non-Herbicide.....	4
Table 3: Successful Non-Herbicide Control Methods.....	4
Table 4: Unsuccessful Non-Herbicide Control Methods.....	4-5
Table 5: Project in Review.....	5
Table 6: Annual Roadside Miles Treated With Herbicide From September 2000 thru November 01, 2009.....	8

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 01, 2009. 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 01, 2009 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 from November 01, 2009 thru December 31, 2010. 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.

During the last reporting period of January 01, 2008 through December 31, 2008 Public Works staff proposed using herbicides as a last resort to manage distinct vegetation issues faced by the County. Those proposed applications included management of County listed noxious weeds, assistance in preparation of the County crack-seal program, to manage weeds and aggressive vegetation at defined guardrail locations and to work in partnerships within Lane County to manage noxious and invasive weeds in an economical and environmentally sensitive manner.

Lane County Board of Commissioners acting as the Board of Health 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. Vegetation management at Public Works anticipates no herbicide applications for this annual reporting period from November 01, 2009 to December 31, 2010.

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 reporting period January 01, 2009 to November 01, 2009 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:	370	RSM
• Safety Strip Mowing activities:	2,680	RSM
• Full width Mowing activities:	2,210	RSM
• Top-Trimming Activities:	148	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

Control Method	Project(s) Attempted	Results	Number of Projects
Seeding Projects	Native seeding projects	This method proved to be successful by promoting lower-maintenance vegetation, reducing future management costs and reducing the need to manage those areas with herbicides in the future.	19
Restoration Projects	Native and non-invasive plant restoration projects, including riparian restoration work	This method proved to be successful by promoting lower-maintenance vegetation, reducing future management costs and limiting maintenance needs	13
Outreach/Education Projects	These projects involved working with other agencies, watershed groups and the public to educate and cooperate on projects to jointly manage vegetation management concerns.	This method proved to be successful by sharing expenses, working in multiple jurisdictions to resolve management issues, and reducing future herbicide applications	5
Public Safety Projects	These projects included working with the public to resolve safety concerns related to vegetation on County roadways through non-herbicide methods.	This method proved to be successful in reducing herbicide use by working with property owners to resolve vegetation issues on County roadways.	71

VI. Unsuccessful Non-Herbicide Control Methods.

The following non-herbicide vegetation control methods were found to be ineffective during the January 01, 2009 to November 01, 2009 reporting period.

Table 4: Unsuccessful Non- Herbicide Control Methods

Control Method	Project(s) attempted	Results	Number of Projects
Vegetation fabric to control Knotweed species within County ROW	North Fork Siuslaw Road	Knot weed species grew around and through the control fabric.	3

Manual and mechanical Scotch Broom Control	Manual control efforts on numerous County roads and other project areas.	Manual / mechanical control only managed to eliminate the plants for a short time period. Would require many years of management to possibly control.	16

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

Control Method	Project(s) attempted	Results	Number of Projects
Bio-Swale Development and Establishment	Bio-Swales installed on Jasper Road, Airport road, Cantrell Road and Briggs Hill Road	Very recent projects, with plants in the early development stage. Showing positive results but will need continued monitoring.	5
Biological Vegetation Control	5 release sites of <i>Larinus obtusus</i> for Meadow Knapweed control testing. 10 release sites of Scotch Broom Weavle	Un-known, will take years of monitoring to see if Bio-release has affect on limiting population growth.	15
Wood Straw Mulch Testing	Utilized wood straw mulch at multiple test locations to evaluate ability to reduce spread of noxious weeds, and control weed development	Un-known at this time. Project sites will need to be evaluated over the coming years	12
Adopt-A-Vegetation Area	Developing concept in working with VMAC to develop a program to involve interested public in non-herbicide vegetation control projects	We are working to develop this potential program	1
Vegetation Control Fabric	Control un-wanted vegetation by applying shade fabric over areas on County roads.	In review, project sites were established in 2007/2008/2009.	6
Mechanical/manual guardrail management	The entire County road system was managed during this last two reporting periods	Will have to have approx. 3 years of management to determine good financial and time figures	2,400 miles

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 12 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.
- **Manual Control:** This includes using County forces to manage roadside vegetation using manual tools and methods.
- **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 culver projects. We will continue with these efforts over the coming annual reporting period.
- **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 grow 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.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Roadside Miles Treated</u>	<u>Total Roadside Miles</u>	<u>% Miles Treated</u>
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 %
<u>Year</u>	<u>Roadside Miles Treated</u>	<u>Total Roadside Miles</u>	<u>% Miles Treated</u>
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/RoadMaint/LastResort.htm>