

## Activity 131 Spraying

### Description

Activity 131 involves applying pesticides to prevent or retard growth, in roadside areas, of:

- Brush.
- Noxious weeds or plants.
- Other undesirable vegetation.

### General Instructions

Perform this activity as described in the Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) Plan for the District, under the proper conditions, and during the proper stage of vegetation growth.

Control noxious weeds as required by Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 570.505 and Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 603-052-1200 and as prescribed in the IVM Plan for the District.

Work under this activity may involve areas that contain endangered species. Refer to the *Resource Area Maps* and comply with all restrictions for work in those areas. Seek assistance from the District Manager and the Region Environmental Coordinator as needed.

Use pesticides to control vegetation on shoulders in conjunction with shoulder blading under Activity 111.

Refer to Activity 125 for controlling vegetation in Water Quality Facilities.

Spray pesticides, after performing brush mowing or brush cutting under Activities 132 or 133, to retard or prevent future growth of the brush.

Perform spraying in landscaped areas and rest areas under Activities 136 and 137.

Take appropriate action to prevent harm to threatened and endangered species. Refer to the ODOT Special Management Area Program monitored by the Geo/Hydro/Environmental Section of the Technical Services Branch.

ODOT employees are required by the Oregon Department of Agriculture to possess a Public Pesticide Applicators License in the following instances:

- The employee applies restricted use pesticides,
- The employee applies general use or restricted use pesticides with machine powered equipment, or
- The employee consults in the use of restricted use pesticides.

Each “restricted use” pesticide is so identified on the front panel of its container. A Public Pesticide Applicator license is not required to apply pesticides, that are not “restricted use”, by manual powered methods.

To obtain information on acquiring a pesticide applicator license, refer to the Oregon Department of Agriculture website or contact the Vegetation Management Coordinator in the Office of Maintenance.

As spraying is performed, whether using machine-powered or hand operated equipment:

- Perform the work as described in the IVM Plan.
- Record appropriate information on the “Daily Spray Report”, form 734-3494.
- Assure that daily spray information is entered into the IVM Plan database.

With assistance from the ODOT Vegetation Management Coordinator, purchase spray materials only as need exists to minimize threat from leakage or spillage. Strive to avoid having excess spray materials left at the end of the annual IVM Plan.

Properly use spray materials, including:

- Apply pesticides as specified in the IVM Plan according to product Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) label requirements.
- Use a drift retardant, as appropriate, to reduce unwanted drift of spray material.
- Apply spray materials only under acceptable atmospheric conditions. Suspend operations if conditions are or become unacceptable for application or may affect adjacent vegetation or property.
- Prevent spray material from affecting non-target vegetation or areas not specified for its application.
- Refer to concerns in the ODOT *Routine Road Maintenance Water Quality and Habitat Guide Best Management Practices* and also discussed below.

Some adjacent property owners or residents, or other citizens may raise concerns or desire information on the use of spray material near their property or area of travel. The Transportation Maintenance Manager should work with the District Manager and District IVM Coordinator to provide information or to modify the IVM Plan to accommodate the concerns, where feasible, and accomplish the needed vegetation control.

- If an adjoining property owner or resident wishes to be notified about ODOT spray operations adjacent to their property or residence, they should send a written request to the District Manager. Before ODOT performs spray operations adjacent to the affected property, the Transportation Maintenance Manager or designated representative should place a courtesy telephone call to, the adjoining property owner or resident.

Place the telephone call or make the visit at least two hours prior to the application, generally at or shortly before the beginning of the work day of application. Remind

the property owner or resident that weather and other conditions or situations may require the work to be interrupted or postponed.

- An adjacent property owner or resident may request permission to control vegetation on ODOT property adjacent to their property so that ODOT will not use pesticides on that ODOT property. If the District Manager agrees to the request, a Permit for Vegetation Control, form 734-2140 may be issued.

The property owner or resident must fulfill all requirements of the permit or ODOT will resume control of the vegetation with methods identified in the IVM Plan. Also refer to discussion in the Use of ODOT Property by Permit section of this Guide.

- Citizens desiring information on areas where pesticide application is planned should contact the District Daily Herbicide Application Contact designated by the District Manager. ODOT employees making pesticide applications will notify their District Daily Herbicide Application Contact to provide information on the location and schedule for pesticide applications.

If a person(s) interferes with or obstructs spray operations:

- Stop the operation. Do not allow spray to contact the person(s).
- Attempt to alleviate the concerns of the person(s) or to answer their questions.
- If the person(s) have valid concern, modify the spray operation accordingly. Seek guidance and advice from the District Manager.
- Otherwise, request the person(s), including any vehicles, to move safely out of the way of the spray operation.
- If the person(s) refuse to move, contact the District Manager to request assistance from the Oregon State Police or other appropriate law enforcement agency.

#### Controlling Erosion, Sedimentation, and Pollutants or Contaminants

Store and handle all spray materials and pesticides in the manner prescribed by the manufacturer, ODOT procedures, and regulatory agencies.

Plan and implement methods to control erosion, sedimentation, and pollutants or contaminants, including those discussed in the Control of Erosion, Sedimentation, and Pollutants or Contaminants section of this Guide and the ODOT *Routine Road Maintenance Water Quality and Habitat Guide Best Management Practices*.

As appropriate, implement and maintain devices and processes including those described in the *Field Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control*.

#### Temporary Protection and Direction of Traffic

Plan, implement, and maintain traffic control as addressed in the *Traffic Control on State Highways for Short Term Work Zones* handbook. "Herbicide Application" signs will be attached to spray vehicles. For sign design and placement contact the District Safety Coordinator.

### Equipment

Select equipment that is suited for the work, spray material, and situation.

### Materials

Use materials in a manner conforming to the IVM Plan and manufacturer recommendations, including needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and material. Provide for acceptable cleanup of equipment and leftover material, including disposal or storage. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) labels will be present with spray vehicles.

### Work Method

1. Identify specific areas to be sprayed, including spray materials and methods. Refer to the IVM Plan for the District.
2. Identify areas, plants, waterways, etc. to be protected from the spray application.
3. Notify concerned adjacent property owners or residents of planned spray application.
4. Implement appropriate traffic control.
5. Perform spray application. Suspend the spray application if conditions are not proper for the application or if a person interferes with or obstructs the spray operation.
6. Remove traffic control.
7. Acceptably dispose of excess spray material and clean equipment, etc.

### Measurement of Accomplishment, Expenditure Account, and Charge Activity

Measurement is number of acres (hectares) sprayed. Expenditure account type is Highway EA. Designate a subjob of 800 if the work involves bicycle path facilities.

- Charge TEAMS Activity 131 for all spraying other than spot spraying or spraying noxious weeds.
- Charge TEAMS Activity 531 for spot spraying other than for noxious weeds.
- Charge TEAMS Activity 532 for spraying noxious weeds.