

Activity 131 Spraying

Description

Activity 131 involves applying herbicides, biological or cultural controls to the highway right of way to:

- Prevent or inhibit growth of brush, noxious weeds and other undesirable vegetation
- Provide adequate clear zone
- Maintain proper site distance
- Improve drainage
- Reduce opportunities for snow drift
- Reduce fire risk
- Control noxious weeds to prevent further spread of the species

General Information

Refer to discussion in the General Instructions section preceding Activity 130 in this section of the *Maintenance Guide* for additional information including environmental and traffic control recommendations and other important considerations.

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. Minimize herbicides to the level necessary to achieve the desired control.

Control noxious weeds as required by Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 569 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 *RES/RAZ 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 herbicides to control vegetation on shoulders in conjunction with shoulder blading under Activity 112, according to the District IVM Plans. Broadcast application of residual herbicides to the highway shoulder should not exceed 8' unless specifically described in the District IVM Plan as necessary for safety or efficiency.

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

Spray herbicides, after performing brush mowing or brush cutting under Activities 132 or 133, to inhibit or prevent future growth of the brush, according to the District IVM Plan.

Perform spraying in designated landscaped areas and rest areas under Activities 136 and 137 respectively, according to the District IVM Plan.

Take appropriate action to prevent harm to threatened and endangered species. Refer to the ODOT Special Management Area Program monitored by the Geo-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
- 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 for manual applications if the pesticides being applied are not “restricted use”.

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 and Operations.

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

- Perform the work as described in the District IVM Plan.
- Record appropriate information on the “Daily Spray Report”, form 734-3494.
- Ensure 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 storing excess spray materials for extended periods of time.

Properly use spray materials, including:

- Apply pesticides as specified in the District 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 Herbicide Application Hotline (1-888-996-8080) is available. The Transportation Maintenance Manager should work with the District Manager and District IVM Coordinator to provide information or to modify the District IVM Plan to accommodate the concerns, where feasible, and still 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 or visit 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 Request for Vegetation Control Permit, 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 ODOT Spray hotline at 1-888-996-8080. Information contained on this hotline is populated by the District Herbicide Application Contact, who, as appointed by the District manager, must contact dispatch daily prior to spray application. When contacting dispatch the individual should be prepared with highway number, beginning and ending mile points of the application and approximate beginning and ending time of application.

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) has a 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.

Equipment

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

Materials

Use materials in a manner conforming to the District IVM Plan and manufacturer recommendations, including needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and materials. 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. Contact Dispatch with highway number, beginning and ending mile point as well as approximate beginning and ending time of spray application. This information is entered into the 511 system and onto the ODOT spray hotline.
4. Notify concerned adjacent property owners or residents of planned spray application.
5. Implement appropriate traffic control.
6. 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.
7. Remove traffic control.
8. Acceptably dispose of excess spray material and clean equipment, etc.

Measurement of Accomplishment, Expenditure Account, and Charge Activity

Measurement is number of acres sprayed. Expenditure account type is Highway EA; use a sub job appropriate for the crew performing the work.

Use a sub job within the 800 series if the work involves bicycle path facilities. These sub jobs are assigned by the Maintenance Management System (MMS) Unit based on the type of work performed.

- Charge work to Activity 131 in MMS
- Use the following activities in TEAMS as applicable:
 - Charge Activity 531 for spot spraying, spot spraying brush, or other undesirable vegetation in accordance with the District Integrated Vegetation Management Plan.
 - Charge Activity 532 for spraying noxious weeds, applying herbicides in accordance with the District Integrated Vegetation Management Plan to eradicate, control or contain weeds designated as noxious by the Department of Agriculture. This Activity is performed to prevent the spread of noxious weeds on ODOT right of way and adjacent lands.
 - Charge Activity 535 for roadside shoulder spraying, applying herbicides to the road shoulder in accordance with the District Integrated Vegetation Management Plan. This provides for safety improvements and infrastructure preservation by promoting drainage, controlling unwanted vegetation, maintaining sight distance, preventing noxious weeds from establishing, reducing fire hazards and reducing snow drifts.