

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 10, 2008

To: Interested Parties

From: Drin Schumacher, Vegetation Management Coordinator,
Lane County Department of Public Works.

RE: 60 day comment period regarding Lane County's Integrated Vegetation
Management Program.



Lane County Department of Public Works has been directed by the Lane County Board of Health to hold a 60 day public comment period to solicit comments regarding the use of herbicides in our Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program. Lane County Board of Health is also soliciting public comment regarding the question of whether or not Lane County should be in the business of managing noxious and invasive plant species as part of Lane County's Vegetation Management program.

Background:

- **August 2003:** Last Resort Policy was Adopted by the Lane County Board of Commissioners, became part of Lane Code 15.500- 15.530
- **August 2003** – Lane County Department of Public Works entered a self-imposed moratorium on the use of herbicides for roadside vegetation management after adoption of the Last Resort Policy.
- **February 2006** – Lane County Department of Public Works created a Permitted Products List of herbicides for use in roadside vegetation management as required by the Last Resort Policy.
- **March 2006** – Lane County Department of Public Works developed a Management Prescription Plan to define a system of preferred alternatives to manage roadside vegetation within Lane county rights-of-way.
- **April 2007** – Board of Health approved the 2006 vegetation management Annual Report which included the Permitted Products List and Management Prescription Plan for use by Lane County Department of Public Works.
- **November 2007** – Lane County Department of Public Works presented the required 2007 Annual Report to the Vegetation Management Advisory Committee (VMAC) and they voted in favor for approval of the report.
- **December 2007** – The Lane County Board of Health directed Public Works to bring the Annual Report back to the VMAC committee for further discussion.

- **December 2007** – The Annual Report was presented for a second time to VMAC, and with minor revisions VMAC voted 6-2 in favor of the Annual Report, including planned herbicide use for defined roadside vegetation management activities.
- **January 2008** – The Annual Report was brought back to the Lane County Board of Health for approval, and portions of the report were approved, but all sections referring to planned herbicide use were deleted from the Annual Report.
- **January 2008** – The Board of Health directed the Department of Public Works to open a 60 day public comment period, beginning January 2, 2008.

Lane County Department of Public Works Proposals for 2008:

Lane County Department of Public Works had proposed four uses of herbicides from the approved Permitted Products List for roadside vegetation management during the reporting year of 2008. These four proposed vegetation management activities were. *(The four items listed below were deleted from the approved Annual Report).*

- **Noxious Weed & Invasive plant management:**
Proposed limited herbicide use to manage noxious and invasive plant species within County maintained rights-of-way when necessary.
- **Limited Guardrail Vegetation management:**
Lane County's current fleet of vegetation equipment and reduced work force are limited in the ability to maintain vegetation at problematic guardrail locations to promote roadside safety, and Lane County proposed limited herbicide use for managing these guardrail locations.
- **Partnerships:**
Proposed limited herbicide use in both habitat preservation and restoration projects with other management agencies and partners.
- **Crack Seal Program:**
Lane County proposed limited herbicide applications to treat vegetation growing in road cracks prior to pavement restoration activities.

Current Status:

A revised Annual Report was approved by the Board of Health on January 2, 2008, with all sections regarding proposed herbicide use deleted from the approved report. Lane County Department of Public Works has entered a 60 day public comment period, beginning on January 2, 2008. During this public comment period Lane County Department of Public Works will delay any proposed herbicide applications for this coming year awaiting response from public members on two primary questions. The first question is whether or not Lane County Department of Public Works should use limited herbicides from the approved permitted products list as part of integrated roadside vegetation management program? And the second question is should Lane County be responsible to manage noxious and invasive plant species within Lane County rights-of-way?

Until we receive public comment during the 60 day response period, Lane County Department of Public Works will postpone all planned herbicide activities and will delay efforts to manage the spread and establishment of noxious and invasive plant species within Lane County rights-of-way with the use of herbicides.

Relevant Documents:

All of the documents, meeting minutes, commissioner meeting webcasts and other pertinent information can be viewed either on the Lane County website, or by visiting the Vegetation management website listed below;

- Lane County Homepage www.lanecounty.org/
- Integrated Vegetation Management webpage
[Lane County Vegetation Management
www.lanecounty.org/Roads/Vegetation/Vegetation_Management.htm](http://www.lanecounty.org/Roads/Vegetation/Vegetation_Management.htm)

Document Titles:

1. Last Resort Policy, Ordinance 12-03 – Lane Code 15.500 – 15.530
2. Permitted Products List – 5 products approved for roadside vegetation issues.
3. Management Prescription Plan – Integrated Vegetation Management Plan.
4. Webcasts – Commissioner meeting webcasts; dates December 12, 2007 and January 2, 2008.
5. Lane County Weed-list – Listed County noxious and invasive weeds.
6. VMAC – Locate VMAC minutes from all public meetings.

How to respond during the 60 day public comment period:

During the 60 Day public Comment period, public input and response need to be tallied and tracked during the reporting period. All comments, either by letter or e-mail need to be sent to two locations. The contact information is listed below. Comments can also be presented during public comment period of the Lane County Board of Commissioners and during the public comment period of the Lane County Vegetation Management Advisory Committee.

Contacts:

Mailing of Letters:

Please send all public comment letters to Lane County Public Works
Lane County Department of Public Works
3040 N. Delta Hwy. Eugene, OR. 97408-1696
Attn: Vegetation Management Coordinator – Public Comment

E-mailing of Public Comment:

Please send e-mail responses to both of the e-mail address's provided:

Subject Field: Title: PUBLIC COMMENT

1. orin.schumacher@co.lane.or.us Vegetation Management Coordinator, Lane County Department of Public Works
2. sascha.cosio@co.lane.or.us Executive Assistant to the Lane County Board of Commissioners.

Public Comment provided during public meetings:

Listed below are meeting times of both the Vegetation Management Advisory Committee and of the Lane County Board of Commissioners for opportunities to provide public comment.

Meeting Times and Locations:

Vegetation Management Advisory Committee:

Location: 3040 N. Delta Hwy. Eugene, OR. 97408. Meetings are held at the Public Works Operations Building, in the Goodson Room.

Times: Public Comment period is at 5:30 p.m. Meetings are schedule for the second Wednesday of every month, at 5:30 p.m.

Dates: during the 60 day public comment period.

January 9, 2008

February 13, 2008

March 12, 2008

Lane County Commissioner Meetings:

Location: 125 East 8th Ave. Eugene, OR. 97401. Meetings are held in the Commissioners Conference Room in the Public Service Building.

Times: Public Comment is held at 9:30 a.m. at the start of the Commissioners normal meetings.

Dates: time to provide public testimony.

January 9, 2008

January 16, 2008

January 23, 2008

February 6, 2008

February 13, 2008

February 20, 2008

March 12, 2008

March 19, 2008