

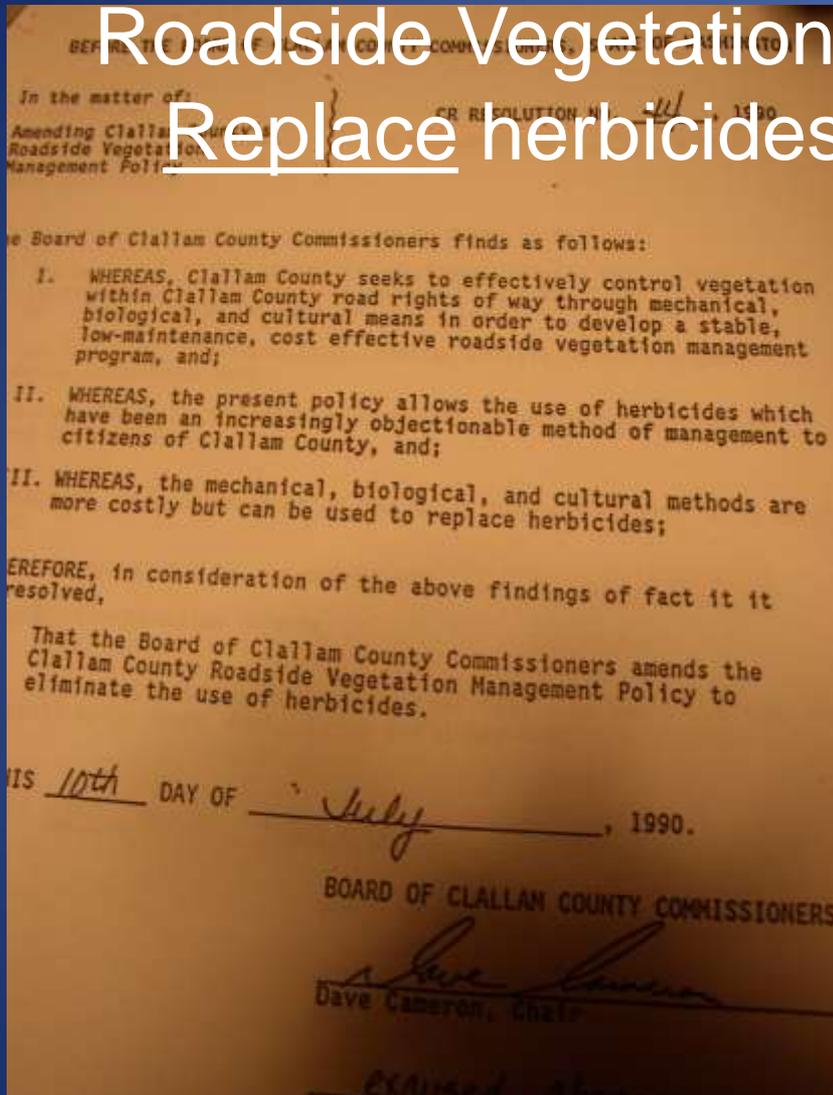
1033 WEST
LAURIDSEN-BLVD

CLALLAM COUNTY
ROAD DEPT
PORT ANGELES
MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

**Weeds, Bees, and Beyond the
Pavement Edge
Season 1**

1990: Resolution 44 amends

Roadside Vegetation Management Policy: Replace herbicides with more mowing



25 yrs later- Mowing's Not Cutting It!

Clallam lifts its ban on herbicides use

By ROB OLLIKAINEN
PENINSULA DAILY NEWS

PORT ANGELES — After years of debate, Clallam County has lifted a 26-year ban on herbicides as one weapon in the fight against noxious weeds on county roadsides.

County commissioners voted 3-0 Tuesday to approve an ordinance that creates an "integrated weed management" chapter in the county code.

The ordinance will be a blueprint for a publicly reviewed, annually updated noxious weed management plan that would allow the limited use of low-toxicity herbicides to control invasive plants that cannot be stopped by mowing, hand pulling, hydroseeding, introducing insects or other control methods.

"The notion that this ordinance will unleash widespread spraying is unfounded," said Cathy Lucero, county noxious weed coordinator, in a four-hour public hearing Tuesday.

"The approach is targeted, using a variety of handheld tools only."

State law requires the county to control invasive

plants such as tansy ragwort, poison hemlock, butterfly bush, knotweed and scotch broom in its 528-mile-long, 1,050-acre-road right of way.

Unlike most jurisdictions, Clallam County does not permit spot spraying of herbicides on roadsides, having banned the practice in 1990.

"Looking at the fact that we've had the same policy for many years and as one looks at the environment, we are not winning the war against noxious weeds," Commissioner Randy Johnson said.

"We're working to solve a complex problem in a pragmatic and responsible way," Board Chairman Mark Ozias added.

"I can guarantee all of you, particularly those who are upset, or who may be upset, that I'm going to be monitoring this program very closely over the next several years.

"And I hope all of you do as well."

Commissioners have held a series of public hearings on the draft ordinance, the first in May 2015 and the second last Oct. 18, but delayed action to conduct independent research and

to digest voluminous public input.

Each of the hearings drew considerable testimony from those on both sides of the herbicide issue.

Seventeen of 30 speakers who testified Tuesday said they supported limited herbicide spraying by trained professionals.

"This isn't an ordinance to spray herbicide with a tanker truck," said Bruce Paul, who serves on the county's Noxious Weed Control Board.

"It's an ordinance to control noxious weeds that are spreading through our county on our road system and replacing native vegetation. It is time for the county to be a part of the solution, not part of the problem."

Thirteen speakers said they were opposed to any herbicide spraying, mainly for health and environmental reasons.

"No one opposes an ordinance," said Darlene Schanfeld, who has led in the opposition to herbicide spraying.

"No one opposes a plan. That's not the question here. The question is are we going to use deadly poisons?"

Under the ordinance, those who do not want herbicides to be sprayed near their property can enter into an "owner will control" agreement with the county to take measures to control noxious weeds themselves.

"At the very least, it is the public that should be voting on whether to let the county use toxic chemicals on roadsides and beyond, or invest in a non-toxic weed control plan, making the county a safer place to reside," Schanfeld said.

Schanfeld presented a joint letter from the Sierra Club North Olympic Peninsula, Protect the Peninsula's Future, Olympic Environmental Council and Friends of Miller Peninsula State Park.

The letter alleged that critical public records were deleted by Lucero, that documents had been "moving targets" and that there had been no unbiased assessment of the noxious weed plan.

Like Schanfeld, most of those who were opposed to herbicides were supportive of the intent of the ordinance and the county's broader effort to control noxious weeds.

"To those who have said 'Well I'm in favor of an integrated plan but without the use of herbicide' folks

that's what we've had here in Clallam County, a de facto integrated plan without the use of herbicide for the last 20 however-many years," Ozias said.

"Unfortunately, the problem is getting exponentially worse."

Harley Oien was among those who raised concerns about the companies that produce herbicides and other carcinogenic chemicals.

"Do you want to be behind this parade of new chemicals, new and beautiful herbicides, and then suddenly find that you have this liability for having poisoned the wells and the streams and the waters of Clallam County?" Oien asked the board.

Lucero said the draft weed management plan has been reviewed by a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ecotoxicologist and 40 other experts from local, state, federal and tribal agencies; environmental groups; and foresters.

"Noxious weeds know no boundaries," Lucero said in a 40-minute staff presentation.

"State law requires the control of noxious weeds, for good reason, on both public and private property.

"The county has not been able to achieve compli-

ance with the tools they had," Lucero added.

"This ordinance commits the county to a strategic, comprehensive process to achieve the legal responsibilities and to me, more importantly, the stewardship goals that we have out there."

The motion to approve the ordinance was made by Commissioner Bill Peach and seconded by Johnson.

"I really appreciate the process and the input," Peach said.

"This issue has been discussed quite comprehensively."

Johnson, a longtime forester, said it would be important for the county to plant native vegetation to help control noxious weeds and use herbicides as a "last resort."

He added that herbicides have been shown to be the only effective means to control certain types of invasive plants such as Japanese knotweed.

Ozias thanked the public for its "incredible participation and engagement with this issue."

He said he shared the concerns of citizens who testified about reducing chemical footprints, protecting food supplies, protecting chemically sensitive citizens and helping bees and other pollinators.

TURN TO HERBICIDES/A

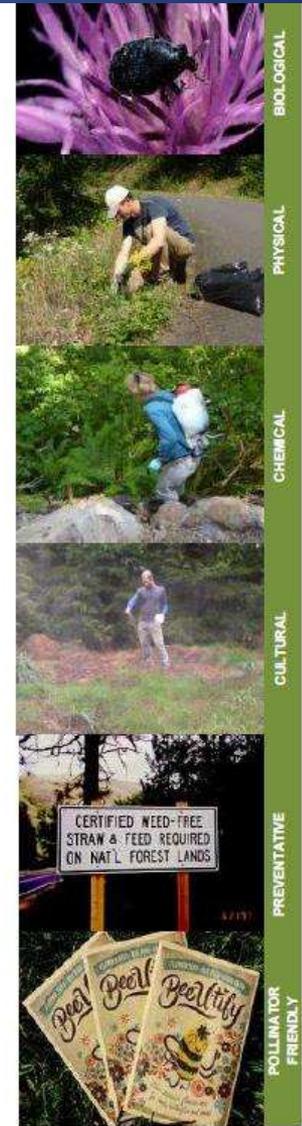
What's the Plan?

Combination of all tools

- Biological
- Physical
- Chemical
- Cultural
- Prevention

GOAL-pollinator-friendly,
diverse, naturally self-
sustaining plant
community

CLALLAM COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN



2017

VISION



Roadsides: An Ecological Opportunity?

Clallam County Road System

- 8 foot x 1 mile=1 acre
- 528 miles-8 foot/shoulder
- 2 shoulders X 528 miles=1,050 acres

No Mechanized Applications



Targeted



Meadow knapweed

How'd we do?

2017 Work Plan-A Pilot: Identifies limited portion of road system for herbicide treatment, no limit to manual sites

- Primary Focus: 3 high priority, but uncontrolled species meadow/spotted knapweed and knotweed sites
- Secondary Focus: Thistle/broom project area in high visibility agricultural area
- Accommodate Public Requests
- Interdepartmental communication
- Provide for volunteer DIY:
“Owner Will Control”, “Adopt-A-Patch” Program,

Treatments combination herbicide/manual

- Roadside: 105 miles, multiple partners
- 33 noxious or invasive species of special concern
- 6.12 gallons (aquatic, low rate formulations)
- Over 100 individual contacts-cautious curiosity, satisfied, positive
- 0 complaints-No one Adopted A Patch
- Other County Land:11 pits
- Native plants being grown

Map 1. Happy Valley-Blyn Focus Area



Legend

- County Pits**
- Poison Hemlock
 - Treated
 - Not Treated

- Field Bindweed
- Hairy Alyssum
- Hairy White Top
- Sulfur Cinquifol

- Spotted Knapweed
- Meadow Knapweed
- Tansy Ragwort
- Yellow Hawkweed

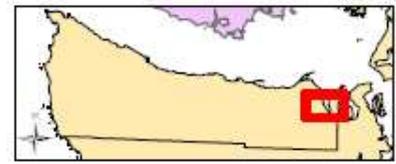
- Bohemian Knotweed
- Fuller's Teasel
- Purple Loosestrife
- Everlasting Peewee

- Chicory
- Oxeye Daisy
- Bull thistle
- Hedge Bindweed

- Common Tansy
- Canada Thistle
- Common Fennel
- Spurge Laurel

- Yellow Archangel
- Orange Hawkweed
- Scotch Broom
- Butterfly Bush
- Herb Robert

- CountyRoads_2017_ManualControl
- CountyRoads_2017ControlledfromHerbicidePlan
- CountyRoads_NotTreated2017
- CountyRoads_2017All
- County Roads
- Highways
- Olympic National Forest
- Olympic National Park



Protect Native Vegetation



Snowberry

Control Invasives



Canada thistle



EDRR

Patches of knotweed on County road not originally included for treatment in plan

Responded to Road Department Requests

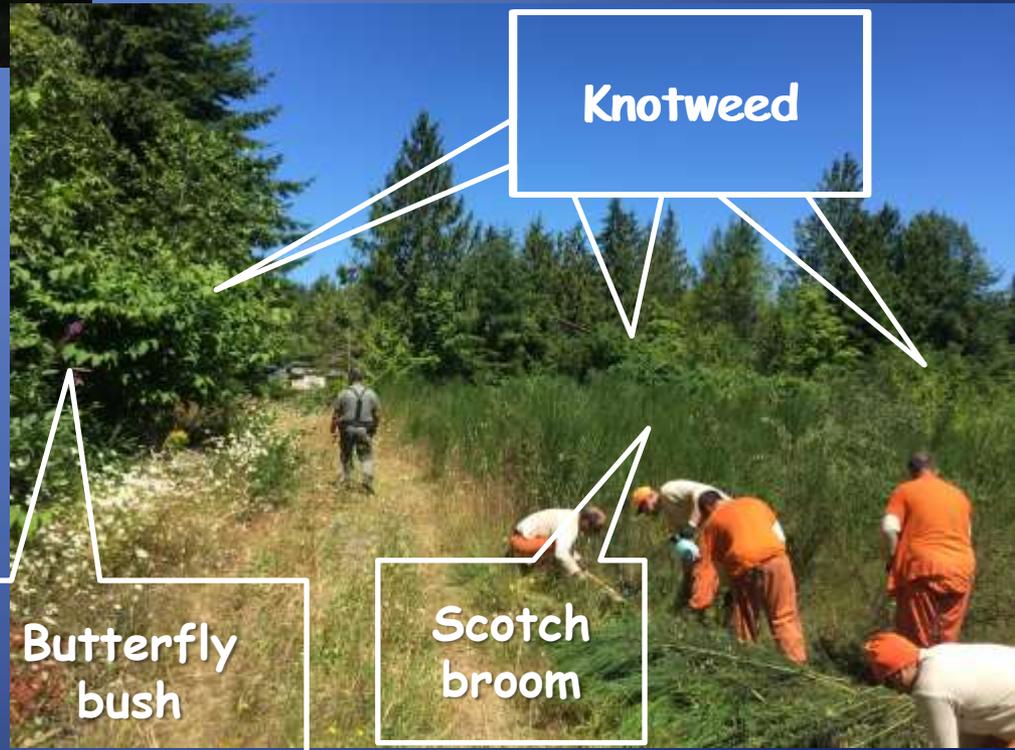


Prevention



Clean rock
piles

Chain Gang In Pits



Knotweed

Butterfly
bush

Scotch
broom

Cross Jurisdiction



Significant meadow knapweed infestation on popular DNR recreational trail, adjacent to County

Monitoring Team





Native Plant Material Cooperative

Previously Widespread Species



white fawn lily



chocolate lily



beargrass

2018!

- Feedback?
- Reporting-Commissioner Briefing
- 2018 Work Plan-submit to Weed Board for approval
- Public Requests-That means YOU!
- Other County lands/Departments-PARKS, DCD

CLALLAM COUNTY



FACILITY SHOP

GITERDUN

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