

2026 Integrated Weed Management Plan Summary

Clallam County is a major landholder subject to Washington State weed laws RCW 17.10 and WAC 16-750, which mandate the control of specific non-native, invasive “noxious” weeds. An integrated weed management plan is needed to help the County efficiently comply with its noxious weed control obligation on county roadsides and other lands under Road department management.

The primary responsibility of the Clallam County Road system is safety in the transport of people, goods, and services. Roadside weed management is a unique element within a general road maintenance program. Effective weed management requires identifying the best mix of all control techniques as well as an understanding of how plant communities are part of a dynamic process. Healthy, self-sustaining plant communities better compete with weed pressure. The explicit goal of this plan is to shift roadside vegetation to natural, site appropriate plant communities. This includes using best management practices that support that shift, minimizing the need for all types of interventions, including the use of herbicide.

Weed control methods include biological, chemical, cultural, physical, and preventative. Each has its strengths and weaknesses influenced by regulations, environment, and economics. A consideration of potential non-target impacts also plays a role. Each control method is described in detail in the 2026 Integrated Weed Management Plan. Utilizing all management practices will move us towards achieving a low maintenance, naturally stable plant community.

Herbicide applications only target specific noxious weeds or non-native and invasive species of special concern in our area that have been identified by the Clallam County Noxious Weed Board, state, or federal agencies. Desirable and non-target plants are not treated with herbicide. Applications are made with herbicides selected for their effectiveness on the weed being targeted and may be applied using backpack sprayers or other handheld equipment as determined appropriate by the site conditions and/or the target weed. No broadcast spraying of herbicides occurs on County-owned roads or properties. Please see the 2026 Roadside Integrated Weed Management Plan for the list of herbicides approved for roadside use.

The 2026 Roadside Integrated Weed Management Plan includes 523 roads (over 440 miles), 25 pits or storage sites plus other lands that are managed by Public Works, such as Dungeness Trails and portions of the Olympic Discovery Trail (labeled as “Special Sites”). Not all roads can be visited each year, so roads are prioritized based on known weed infestations and road usage. Please see the 2026 Roadside Integrated Weed Management Plan for the complete list of roads, pits and “special sites”, as well as the known weed species found at each location and maps documenting weed infestations found in 2025.

This plan encourages public involvement. “Owner Will Control” agreements, Adopt-A-Patch, and revegetation projects represent volunteer opportunities. Annual plans, treatment progress updates and year-end reports will be available to the public online at:

<https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/821/Noxious-Weed-Control>. For further information, please reach out to the Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board at 360-417-2442 or web_weed@clallamcountywa.gov.