

# 2016 IRWM WORK PLAN

With more than five hundred miles of county roads there are a variety of weed problems as well as control opportunities. The long term goal of this program is to promote a low maintenance, naturally sustainable plant community while maximizing potential ecological services this thousand acre County asset can provide.

The immediate goal of the Integrated Roadside Weed Management (IRWM) work plan is the control of state-listed noxious weeds and invasive, non-native weeds of special concern on Clallam County rights-of-way. The integral precept of this IRWM plan is that all control techniques are potentially applicable to the solution of the problem.

Biological controls will continue to operate on roadsides through releases made elsewhere in the county. Additional releases will be made if new insect controls become available and are compatible with routine maintenance activities such as mowing, which is non-specific to and independent of weed control.

Physical controls will continue to be applied across the road system where effective and as resources allow. Scheduling chain gang weed control activities to be consistent with weed growth life-stage and as part of an overall strategy will greatly increase the efficiencies of using this labor force. Volunteers will be recruited for various projects, especially where adjacent infestations threaten county assets.

Chemical control is an important tool that is needed for specific weed problems. Great care has been taken in choosing which herbicides may be applied, and additional safeguards are included by ensuring only targeted, hand applications are allowed. Herbicide use is limited to specific locations which are listed in the plan based on surveys conducted in 2015.

Most importantly, cultural and preventative controls will be applied programmatically to sustain the progress made by all of the above mentioned control methods. Combined, these management practices will move us towards achieving a low maintenance, naturally stable, plant community.

In the plan, high priority weed targets are identified and control options for an array of roadside weeds are summarized. These are followed by specific tasks necessary for effective implementation. Tasks are itemized under separate category headings. While listed separately, the tasks represent the best mix of control options chosen to address specific weed problems. It is important to note, the complete set of tasks is carefully designed to be implemented in tandem, not independently.

A full copy of the IRWM plan can be found online at:

<http://www.clallam.net/weed/RoadPlan.html>.