

# North Central Region, Area 1 Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Plan

2024



**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**  
Maintenance Operations Division

## **Summary**

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The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) North Central Region, Area 1 manages approximately 560 miles of roadside right-of-way in the heart of Washington State throughout Chelan County, and touching on part of Douglas, King and Kittitas Counties. The state highway system in this area includes the major arterial routes in and around the Wenatchee metropolitan area, portions of US2, US97, US97A, SR285, SR971, SR207, SR150, and SR28, as WSDOT well as several other secondary state routes.

The primary roadside vegetation management objectives are in relation to traffic safety and preservation of the highway infrastructure. Additionally, as a landowner WSDOT is required to control all listed noxious weeds that occur on the right-of-way by state law (RCW 17.10 and 15.15.010). It is important that WSDOT not only meet the legal requirements for weed control, but also consider the needs and concerns of adjacent landowners in this area.

With these priorities in mind, WSDOT practices an annually cycling process called Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM). Plans like this are developed and updated annually for all areas of the state with an overall goal of establishing the most naturally self-sustaining roadside vegetation possible. Adjustments are made year to year in each area plan, based on tracking the previous years' accomplishments and monitoring for results. Integrated treatment plans are developed and prioritized based on available budgets and working around other highway maintenance needs.

This plan serves as a reference and guidance document for roadside vegetation maintenance in North Central Region Area 1 for the 2024 growing season. It identifies priority locations and prescribes treatments for accomplishing safety and weed control objectives through a combination of seasonally timed control measures. Each year's actions are designed as part of a coordinated multi-year strategy to minimize roadside maintenance requirements wherever possible. This plan also accounts for specific locations where maintenance tactics are adjusted due to environmental issues, neighboring properties, local partnerships, or restoration work done through WSDOT design and construction.

The information contained in this plan document can be geographically referenced by crews in the field using iPads and the agency's Highway Activity Tracking System (HATS). Accomplishments and results are also tracked geographically through this system, providing site specific reference of historic actions and results. This development in WSDOT maintenance management will greatly improve the agency's success in properly executing planned actions, monitoring and documenting results of treatments, and in measuring cost and results over time.

WSDOT welcomes input from local public and private entities and its weed control and other vegetation management activities. Wherever appropriate the agency is looking for opportunities to plan and cooperate with others in management of the roadside. Please direct any questions to North Central Region Area 1 Superintendent – John Maloney, Area IRVM Supervisor – Jeremy Avery, or State Roadside Asset Manager – Ray Willard

**John Maloney**  
Maintenance Superintendent  
[malonej@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:malonej@wsdot.wa.gov)  
(509) 667-2811  
2830 Euclid Avenue  
Wenatchee, WA 98807-0098

**Jeremy Avery**  
Maintenance Supervisor  
[averyj@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:averyj@wsdot.wa.gov)  
(509) 667-2812  
2830 Euclid Avenue  
Wenatchee, WA 98807-0098

**Ray Willard, PLA**  
State Roadside Asset Manager  
[willarr@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:willarr@wsdot.wa.gov)  
(360)705-7865  
PO Box 47358  
Olympia, WA 98504-7358



**North Central Region, Area 1  
Vicinity Map**

## ***North Central Region, Area 1 IVM Work Plan – 2024***

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The section outlines the overall approach and geographic distribution of roadside vegetation management requirements throughout the maintenance area in 2024. Information is organized in relation to three groups defined in the WSDOT Maintenance Accountability Program (MAP) for the performance of roadside vegetation maintenance activities: **Control of Vegetative Obstructions**, **Noxious Weed Control**, and **Nuisance Vegetation Control**. Sections on **Safety Rest Area Landscape Maintenance** and **Drainage and Stormwater Facilities Maintenance** are also included. Specific locations as noted in this work plan are also mapped in the Highway Activity Tracking System (HATS) for reference by maintenance in the field.

### **Control of Vegetative Obstructions – 3A4**

The work of this group of maintenance activities relates to the safety and operational requirements of the highway. These items are first priority in terms of the overall roadside maintenance needs. Vegetation management objectives and work activities in this category fall into four groups – **Pavement Edge Maintenance/Zone 1**, **Safety Mowing/Zone 2**, **Tree and Brush Control/Zone 2 and 3**, and **Hazard Tree Removal/Zone 3**.

### **Pavement Edge Maintenance/Zone 1**

**Work Operation: 1615**

**HATS Form: Pesticide Application**

**HATS Map Layer: Reference lines – Roadside Features/Spray Zone 1 Reference**

This work involves the annual application of herbicides to road shoulders where necessary throughout the area. The objective of these applications in designated locations is preserving of a band of vegetation-free gravel shoulder adjacent to the pavement. This treatment is necessary in the mapped locations described below to provide visibility and maintainability of roadside hardware and guideposts, allow room for vehicles to safely pull off on shoulders, facilitate stormwater drainage, and/or provide added visibility of wildlife approaching the highway.

#### **Total Units of Planned Treatment**

- Approximately **450 acres** of herbicide treatment is applied to road shoulders throughout the area each year.

#### **Locations of Planned Treatments**

- Planned treatment locations are mapped in HATS
- Locations where bare ground treatments will be applied to all gravel shoulder sections include:
  - SR28 – Throughout the maintenance area, (between MP15 and 19 the application band width is 20' to efficiently manage vegetation and weeds adjacent to orchard plantings.)
- Locations where no bare ground treatments will be applied include:
  - SR150 – Entire route
- USFS – SR2 MP53 to 99 will be treated in the fall with a mix of herbicides approved for use in the Forest.
- Lowland areas will be treated in the spring (approximately 190 acres)
- Upland areas treated in the fall (approximately 240 acres)
- For all other corridors in the area, Zone 1 herbicide treatments occur on all shoulder sections using the treatments described below.

#### **Treatment Methods**

- Shoulders in designated areas will be treated annually with pre-emergent herbicides in the fall.
- Herbicides are applied using a truck mounted power spray system set up to deliver a 4 foot band of spray mixture adjacent to the paved shoulder. In some locations as noted, application width may be increased to accommodate roadside hardware.

- Treatments will be made using blended products in returnable/reusable containers whenever possible. In some cases tank mixing with containers and dry products.
- Lowland Mix in Spring:
  - Roundup Pro Conc. @ 32 oz/acre
  - Esplanade 200SC @ 5 oz/acre
  - Milestone @ 7 oz/acre
  - Crosshair @ 4 oz/acre
- Around vineyard areas (approximately 50 acres):
  - Roundup Pro Conc. @ 32 oz/acre
  - Esplanade 200SC @ 5 oz/acre
  - Payload @ 10 oz/acre
  - Crosshair @ 4 oz/acre
- Upland Mix in Fall:
  - Roundup Pro Conc. @ 32 oz/acre
  - Esplanade 200SC @ 5 oz/acre
  - Milestone @ 7 oz/acre
  - Ecomazapyr 2SL @ 48 oz/acre
  - Crosshair @ 4 oz/acre
- USFS Mix in Fall:
  - Aquatic glyphosate @ 64 oz/acre
  - Ecomazapyr 2SL @ 48 oz/acre
  - Milestone VM @ 7 oz/acre
  - Escort SC @ 3.3 oz/acre
  - Crosshair @ 4 oz/acre

**Safety Mowing/Zone 2**

**Work Operation: 1625**

**HATS Form: Mowing Zone 2**

**HATS Map Layer: Reference lines – Roadside Features/Mowing Zone 2 Reference**

This work includes routine mechanical cutting of all vegetation on the road shoulder in a band width immediately adjacent to pavement. Mowing is necessary in areas where taller growing grasses or other vegetation are present and must be annually or semi-annually cut back for visibility and maintenance of roadside hardware and delineators, to maintenance traffic sight distance at curves and intersections, and for improved visibility of wildlife approaching the highway. Mowing height for these operations is typically 6 to 8 inches above the ground.

**Total Units of Planned Treatment**

- Approximately **25 acres** of shoulder will be mowed mechanically annually to provide improved visibility for traffic operations.

**Locations of Planned Treatments**

- Safety edge mowing is planned as described for the following road sections:
  - SR 150 – except within City of Chelan
  - SR 172 MP 16 – 18
  - SR 971 – As needed
  - SR 28 – MP 9 – 10
  - US 2 – MP 134-135, 152-155
  - US 2 – MP 118.5 – 119.5 and North End Interchange

**Treatment Methods**

- Edge mowing will occur as needed once per year, after seed set and selective control of noxious weeds.
- Mowing typically consists of a single 4 to 6-foot-wide pass with a tractor mounted sickle-bar, locations with additional sight distance needs may be mowed beyond one pass as necessary.

### **Tree and Brush Control/Zone 2 and 3**

**Work Operations: 1622, 1625, 1626**

**HATS Forms: Pesticide Application for spray applications, and three sub-forms under Tree/Brush Control –Trimming Mechanical, Trimming Manual, and Mowing**

**HATS Map Layer: None**

This includes safety and traffic operations related work in Zone 2, such as periodic side-trimming or removal of brush and trees or tree branches encroaching on or overhanging traffic operations and impacting sign visibility. Also included is work in Zone 2 and 3 when selectively controlling emergent early succession tree species – to prevent them from growing into mature hazard trees within striking distance of the road.

#### **Total Units of Planned Treatment**

- Up to **20 acres** of mechanical trimming and pruning will be conducted along corridors through areas where trees and brush encroach on the road.
- Another **15 acres** will be treated with herbicides in the fall to control emerging seedlings and brush in Zone 2.
- Up to **15 acres** of manual trimming will occur to address encroaching and overhanging branches.

#### **Locations of Planned Treatments**

- US2 MP75-61 – This area is overdue for trimming and mature shrubs and trees encroaching into the back side of Zone 2 will be removed using a heavy-duty mowing/mulching attachment to a mowing arm on a tractor.
- Selective trimming is necessary in isolated instances throughout the area where trees and brush are present.
- Herbicide applications for treating regrowth on Tree of Heaven control will be recorded as tree and brush control.

#### **Treatment Methods**

- This work is typically done in late winter or early spring so that new spring growth will hide the visual impact of these operations.
- Tractor mounted brush cutters and hand tools as needed for mechanical operations.
- Herbicide application will be conducted in the late summer/fall to avoid brown out
- Herbicide mixtures:
  - Foliar applications:
    - Vastlan @ 64 oz/acre
    - Syltac @ 16 oz/acre
  - Stump treatment:
    - Garlon 3A

### **Hazard Tree Removal/Zone 3**

**Work Operation: 1628**

**HATS Forms: Hazard Tree Removal – Individual Tree Removal, Stand Removal, and Cleanup Fallen Trees**

**HATS Map Layer: None**

Trees within and adjacent to the right of way are routinely monitored by maintenance staff for potential risk to the highway and/or neighboring structures. Individual and stands of trees exhibiting structural or health defects and identified as a potential imminent threat are removed as soon as possible.

#### **Total Units of Planned Treatment**

- The area has experienced a high number of hazard trees in recent years due to fire and insect damage.
- Between **800 and 1,000 hazard trees** will be remove throughout the area this year.

#### **Locations of Planned Treatments**

- Pine forest areas throughout the area have been impacted by pest and disease issues, routine annual removal of effected trees is required.
- SR 971 MP 5.5 – 6.5

#### Treatment Methods

- WSDOT crews will conduct falling and leave the debris to decompose on site.
- In cases with difficult removals or corrective pruning, Washington State Parks arborist crew will conduct falling with WSDOT traffic control.
- Possible coordination with USFS Wenatchee District crews for training opportunities on right of way

### **Noxious Weed Control – 3A2**

This group of activities includes control of non-native invasive weed species as defined by state law and individual county designation. This group of activities is second priority vegetation management work after safety related objectives have been addressed. While all Class A, B, and C noxious weed species as listed in RCW 17.10 are considered potential targets for WSDOT noxious weed control, the agency is currently not funded to achieve 100% control of all noxious weeds. Therefore, the top priorities for weed control are focused on locations and species that are more limited in distribution on the right of way – where there is a chance of successful eradication. To prioritize control of species that are already widespread in the area, WSDOT works with the local county noxious weed boards and coordinators, to annually review and determine which species and locations will be specifically targeted.

To prioritize, plan, and track noxious weed control, WSDOT maps and monitors weed infestations in two categories: **Priority** and **Planned Treatment**. **Priority** locations are where Class A noxious weed species exist on the right of way, and complete eradication is required by state law. **Planned Treatment** sites are locations where there are new, and/or limited distribution infestations of Class B and C noxious weed exist, and eradication is possible.

#### Noxious Weed Control

**Work Operations: 1616, 1618, 1641, 1699**

**HATS Forms: Pesticide Application (for spray applications,) and three sub-forms under Noxious Weed Control General– Manual/Mechanical, Seed/Fertilize/Mulch, and Biological**  
**HATS Map Layer: Reference Points – Roadside Features/Noxious Weed Control Priority, Noxious Weed Control Planned Treatment, and Noxious Weed Control General Reference**

Operations are prescribed throughout the season to prevent the spread of any legally designated noxious weed species, and to reduce or eliminate populations wherever possible. Integrated treatment plans combine field monitoring and an integral mixture of seasonally timed control methods with proven effectiveness on designated species. Successful plans are consistently implemented over a series of years and annually adjusted as necessary based on field observations. Care must be taken in all cases to avoid damage to surrounding desirable/native vegetation.

#### Target Noxious Weed Species Known to Exist on WSDOT Right of Way in North Central Region Area 2

- **Appendix A** contains a list of primary target species present on WSDOT right of way in the area at this time, along with notes for each species explaining how management will be accomplished.

#### Total Units of Planned Treatment

- Approximately **1,200 acres** of noxious weed infestations will be treated with herbicides.
- Another **25 acres** will be controlled by mowing and/or hand pulling.

#### Locations of Planned Treatments

- Reoccurring infestation sites will be mapped in HATS over the course of the 2024 season, including county weed board identified “hot spots” and priority sites identified by the spray crews.
- Most roads in the area fall within Chelan County with short sections in Douglas and
- Planned treatment sites will be mapped for the following infestations:
  - SR150 MP3 – Whitetop
  - SR28 Restoration planting areas and Bike Path in E. Wenatchee – Puncture vine,
  - US2 MP90.5 – Restoration planting area at the Wenatchee River Bridge.
  - US2 – Isolated knotweed infestations
  - US 97 & SR 97A Hugo Jct. north MP238.7 to 246.1 Rush Skeleton Weed
  - Any additional infestations identified by the County Weed Board

#### Treatment Methods and Timing

- Seasonal timing is critical to successful reduction in weed populations. However, in some cases the only possible treatments are made when weeds are visible in flower, simply to control seed production, rather than to reduce populations.
- The area will be developing a map of priority treatment sites and seasonal timing goals in HATS for implementation in 2024.
- Herbicide mixtures:

#### Broad-spectrum applications –

##### **Mix 1:**

- E2 @ 48 oz/acre
- Milestone @ 7 oz/acre
- Syltac @ 8 oz/acre
- Crosshair @ 4 oz/acre

##### **Mix 2 (Late season and USFS):**

- Opensight @ 3.3 ozd/acre
- Syltac @ 8 oz/acre
- Crosshair @ 4 oz/acre

#### Specialized applications for late season control of knotweed and spot treatment of weeds emerging in Zone 1 –

- Roundup Pro Concentrate @ 48 oz/acre
- Ecomazapyr @ 48 oz/acre
- Crosshair @ 4 oz/acre
- Syl-Tac @ 8 oz/acre

### **Nuisance Vegetation Control – 3A3**

Nuisance vegetation control takes place only in a select set of carefully prioritized locations throughout the area. These locations are delineated on maps in HATS as polygon outlines in Zone 3. Locations are prioritized to take place where there is heightened local interest in the visual appearance and condition of the roadside vegetation. Typical locations include: wider areas along limited access freeways in urban and suburban areas, freeway interchanges for local urban centers, environmentally sensitive areas, and areas where neighbors are willing to partner with WSDOT on management efforts. Because nuisance weed control activities are not related to safety or legal requirements, and are primarily undertaken to improve the visual appearance of the roadside, they are considered the last priority vegetation management needs.

For all areas designated to receive Nuisance Vegetation Control, multi-year treatment plans have been developed. The actions contained in these plans will be executed and tracked in relation to specific Zone 3 polygons for **Nuisance Vegetation Control Zone 3**, referenced on HATS maps and described below.

#### Nuisance Vegetation Control

**Work Operations: 1611, 1612, 1641, 1699**



**HATS Forms: Pesticide Application (for all spray applications), and 3 sub-forms under Nuisance Veg. Control General – Manual/Mechanical, Biological, and Seed/Fertilize/Mulch**  
**HATS Map Layer: Feature polygons – Roadside Features/Nuisance Vegetation Control Zone 3**

Maintenance activities in each identified location are planned and tracked as multi-year treatment strategies utilizing monitoring and the most effective combination of control methods – with a goal of establishing desirable vegetation that requires only minimal maintenance. Care must be taken in all cases to avoid damage to surrounding desirable/native vegetation. In some cases, soil enhancements may be used as well as seeding or planting of beneficial competition species. Successful plans are consistently implemented over a series of years and annually adjusted as necessary based on field observations.

Total Units of Planned Treatment

- Because Chelan County requires control of all state listed weed species, there is technically no targeted nuisance weed control in the area. However, the area has prioritized two locations for control of all weeds and establishment of native vegetation, where recent projects have installed new planting.
- Less than **5 acres** will be treated with herbicides
- Less than **5 acres** will be trimmed mechanically or by hand

Locations of Priority Treatments

- Interchanges throughout the City of Wenatchee and East Wenatchee will be selectively treated for control of all weeds.
- US2/US97 Interchange (Don Senn Memorial Interchange) – Additional plant establishment and selective weed control for recent plantings in and around this interchange.
- US 2 round about and interchange quadrants west side of town
- US 2 MP 90 environmental mitigation site
- SR 97 interchange to Region Office

Treatment Methods and Timing

- Pre and post-emergent treatments with herbicides as needed

**Safety Rest Operations – 7B1**

All safety rest areas have planted areas and vegetation maintenance requirements throughout the facility. These are some of WSDOT's most heavily accessed facilities and often one the first impressions of Washington State for the visiting public. The goal in maintenance of rest area landscape plantings is to present a well-kept appearance and plantings are intended to be maintained in a set condition throughout the year. For landscape treatments in these facilities the goal is to maintain healthy plantings in all three zones and to control all weeds. Planted vegetation is intended to be preserved and enhanced over time through pruning, hedging, trimming, and including irrigation and fertilization where necessary.

**Safety Rest Area Landscape Maintenance**

**Work Operations: 1711, 1752, 1789, 1799**

**HATS Forms: Pesticide Application (for all spray applications)**

**HATS Map Layers: Formal Landscape and Natural Landscape polygons**

Rest area landscape maintenance operations may be conducted by rest area attendants and/or maintenance area IVM specialists. Planting areas at all rest area sites are mapped as two sets of reference polygons in HATS showing areas with formal landscape plantings and those with naturalized plantings. Treatment plans are based on monitoring and evaluation of previous years' actions and results. Annually adaptive plans are based on the proven most effective combination of maintenance actions to keep plantings (and lawns if present) looking healthy and trimmed throughout the year.

#### Locations of Safety Rest Areas in North Central Region Area 1

- Nason Creek Safety Rest Area – US 2, MP 82

#### Treatment Methods and Timing

- Vegetation management activities within Safety Rest Areas is conducted by the Area 1 spray crew with some assistance from the Rest Area Attendants.
- Routine landscape related work requirements include:
  - Annual startup and winterization of irrigation.
  - Weekly mowing and routine edging of lawn areas
  - Weed control in lawns and in planting beds around pedestrian areas

### **Drainage and Stormwater Facilities Maintenance – 2A4**

Highway drainage features which require vegetation management include ditches and culvert ends. Stormwater facilities maintenance operations that include vegetation management considerations are discussed in this section of the plan. This work is regulated by the agreement WSDOT has established under the statewide National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit granted to the agency by the USEPA.

#### **Drainage System and NPDES Maintenance**

**Work Operations: 1331, 1368, 1399**

**HATS Forms: Pesticide Application (for all spray applications), other forms are in Stormwater Feature Layer**

**HATS Map Layer: All feature types listed under Stormwater Features Layer**

Periodic removal of vegetative growth is necessary in ditches and around culvert ends to allow access for routine inspection and repair. There are several vegetation management activities necessary to maintain function and operation of certain constructed stormwater management facilities such as vegetated filter strips and swales along the edge of pavement and throughout the roadside, and stormwater retention/detention ponds in the more urbanized areas. Each of these design features should include a manual which details the requirements in relation to control of vegetation and sediment buildup over time.

#### Locations of Planned Treatments

- All stormwater management facilities are mapped within the Stormwater Features Layer in HATS.
- All culverts are mapped in HATS, vegetation around culvert ends is maintained to be low growing and free of trees and brush.
- Vegetation management activities in stormwater management features are specified in the Highway Runoff Manual, Chapter 5, and Owner's Manual for each constructed feature (if it exists). If no Owner's Manual questions should be directed to Region Hydraulics and Landscape Architecture.
- Required work in stormwater features within the area for 2024 include:
  - None required

#### Treatment Methods and Timing

- Weed control within stormwater management features is carried out in concert with other weed control activities throughout the area, as described in the plan section Noxious Weed Control – 3A2 above.
- Removal of trees and brush in ditches and around culvert ends may be conducted in conjunction with other chemical and mechanical tree and brush control operations.

Most North Central Area 1 roads are in Chelan County where the entire state weed list is designated for control and the area applies this same level of control throughout the area, including parts surrounding counties. Therefore, any weed on the right of way is technically a target for treatment as a noxious weed.

The following table includes all species known to exist or commonly found on WSDOT right of way in the area at this time along with notes on how treatments will be administered:

<b>Common Name (Botanical Name)</b>	<b>Treatment Notes</b>
Absinth Wormwood	?
Bull Thistle ( <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> )	Ag areas
Canada or Creeping Thistle ( <i>Cirsium arvense</i> )	Ag areas
Dalmatian toadflax ( <i>Linaria dalmatica</i> ssp. <i>dalmatica</i> )	US 2 and SR97A west of the river
Field bindweed	US 2 MP 107 – 104
Hawkweed, meadow ( <i>Hieracium</i> spp.)	US 2 MP 68
Hawkweed, orange ( <i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i> )	None observed in recent years
Hawkweed, yellow ( <i>Hieracium caespitosum</i> )	US2 Steven's Pass
Hoary Cress / Whitetop ( <i>Cardaria draba</i> )	SR150 MP3
Hoary alyssum ( <i>Berteroa incana</i> )	?
Knapweed species ( <i>Centaurea</i> sp.)	Throughout the area spreading by vehicles, focus area: US2 MP90.5 at the restoration
Knotweed, Japanese ( <i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i> )	US 2 MP 63.02 (controlled in 2022)
Kochia ( <i>Kochia scoparia</i> )	Throughout the lowland areas
Loosestrife, purple ( <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> )	?
Puncturevine ( <i>Tribulus terrestris</i> )	SR28 Restoration planting areas and Bike Path in E. Wenatchee
Rush skeletonweed ( <i>Chondrilla juncea</i> )	US 97 & SR 97A Hugo Jct. north MP238.7 to 246.1
Russian Olive	SR28 MP 9 vicinity
Scotch broom ( <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> )	US 2 on west side of the pass
Spurge, leafy ( <i>Euphorbia esula</i> )	?
St. Johns Wart ( <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> )	Patches in forested areas on the west side. In Chelan on SR97A MP 230
Tansy ragwort ( <i>Senecio jacobaea</i> )	Patches in forested areas on the west side, Steven's Pass
Thistle, Scotch ( <i>Onopordum acanthium</i> )	US2 MP 129 on the west side of the highway
Tree of Heaven	US 97 and SR 28
Yellow nutsedge ( <i>Cyperus esculentus</i> )	?
Yellow starthistle ( <i>Centaurea solstitialis</i> )	?