

AN ORDINANCE creating a chapter titled “*Integrated Weed Management*” located within Clallam County Code, Title 9 – Roads, Highways, and Bridges.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Section 1. Section .010, Purpose, is created to read as follows:

The purpose of this chapter is to establish an integrated weed management approach that aids Clallam County in keeping county owned or managed lands, including its improved and unimproved right-of-ways, quarries, parks and other county lands safe and operating at an efficient level of service while meeting its legal obligations and stewardship responsibilities to control noxious weeds.

Furthermore, it is the legislative body’s intent that Clallam County’s departments, employees, and designees have the ability and flexibility to address and combat the spread of noxious weeds in our community.

Integrated weed management should promote desirable vegetation and remove noxious and invasive plant species of special concern, through comprehensive, strategic, environmentally responsible, and cost effective methods, including mechanical, biological, cultural, chemical, and prevention control methods as needed.

This chapter is subject to applicable federal and state laws as adopted and hereafter amended; and supersedes the Clallam County Roadside Vegetation Management Policy and any subsequent resolutions relating thereto.

Section 2. Section .020, Applicability, is created to read as follow:

The provision of this chapter applies to any Clallam County department, employee, or designee that may perform work within county right-of-ways, parks or other county owned or managed lands with regard to weed control as defined in this chapter.

Inclusion of this chapter in this specific title is not intended to limit its scope and application to all county owned or managed lands.

Section 3. Section .030, Definitions is created to read as follows:

For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Biological control" means using living organisms that suppress the host plant. Insects, diseases, and foraging animals are examples of biological controls.
- (2) "Chemical control" means using conventional or natural herbicides to eliminate noxious weeds or additional invasive, non-native plant species that present a special concern within a specified area. It does not mean treatments for general vegetation management.
- (3) "Cultural control" means enhancing the vigor of desirable plants which may crowd-out or prevent weed infestations. Hydroseeding or planting low-growing, self-maintaining shrubs are examples of cultural practices.
- (4) "Feasible" means a control method or combination thereof that is capable of being carried out or achieving a goal. This includes consideration of such factors as plant biology, site characteristics, scope of the problem, and available resources.
- (5) "Integrated Weed Management (IWM) " means a coordinated decision making process that uses the most appropriate weed management methods and strategies, along with a monitoring and evaluation system, to achieve weed management goals and objectives in an environmentally and

economically sound manner. It allows for the use of mechanical, biological, cultural, chemical, and prevention control methods.

(6) "Invasive plant" means an introduced, non-native plant that is aggressive and causes economic loss and adverse effects to agricultural, natural and human resources.

(7) Invasive plant of special concern means an invasive plant identified as a threat by the US Department of Agriculture, the Washington Departments of Agriculture and Ecology, or the Washington Invasive Species Council.

(8) "Mechanical, manual control" means cutting or cultivating in a manner to reduce or slow undesirable plant growth (*i.e.*, using hand labor, mowers, graders, and ditching equipment).

(9) "Planning and prevention" means creating design standards that enhance or complement other control methods (such as slope grade within mower reach) and policies or standard operating procedures such as equipment cleaning or weed free material standards that prevent contamination or spread of noxious or non-native invasive species.

(10) "Weeds" means both noxious weeds which are so designated under State law, and additional non-native invasive plants of special concern that have been added to a County specific list of plants targeted for control and elimination.

(11) "Work Plan" means a plan prepared annually by the Clallam County Road Department or any other county department with land management responsibilities, and approved by Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board prior to the commencement of seasonal weed management.

Section 4. Section .040, Integrated Weed Management Plan, is created to read as follows:

Each department with land management responsibilities, such as the Road Department, shall develop and implement an Integrated Weed Management Plan (hereinafter "IWM Plan" or "work plan"), that is specific to land under their management. Each work plan will be reviewed annually, and amended as needed, in concert with and approved by the Noxious Weed Control Board.

Each IWM Plan shall contain a list of priority species and must include the Clallam County Noxious Weed List. Other invasive species may be added as resources allow and according to the level of threat posed. Work plans shall also contain provisions for early detection/rapid response (EDRR) that allows additional weeds, locations, and techniques to be added to a work plan as necessary should new infestations of high priority weeds be discovered during the course of the treatment season.

IWM Plans shall contain detailed information about departmental practices and standards, including but not limited to:

(1) Location of high-priority weed infestations, sensitive areas, and other areas with special management considerations.

(2) Guidelines and prescriptions for best management practices in dealing with weed problems and opportunities, including planning and prevention measures.

(3) Monitoring protocols used to evaluate infestation status and treatment effectiveness, the results of which are publically available and used to inform subsequent work plans.

(4) Creation of an outreach and education component including coordinated volunteer opportunities as time and resources allow.

A copy of each IWM Plan will be maintained by the Department for which it is developed and the Noxious Weed Control Board.

Section 5. Section .050, Citizen Option, is created to read as follows:

(1) Property owners that do not wish herbicides to be applied to eliminate noxious weeds or other invasive weeds of special concern to road right-of-ways or county managed lands directly bordering their property may enter into an annual "owner will control" agreement with Clallam County. Those with current agreements are allowed to post the county adjacent boundary as no spray areas.

(2) Under an "owner will control" agreement, the property owner must undertake specific measures, prescribed within the agreement that will ensure the timely and effective control and reduction of target weed species within the right-of-way or within a proscribed area specifically identified in the agreement

(3) If the property owner fails to effectively control or reduce targeted weed species as agreed, then Clallam County will issue a single written warning. If the problem persists after 10 days from when the written warning was sent, then Clallam County reserves the right to void the agreement upon written notice to the property owner.

(4) If any agreement is subsequently voided, Clallam County may immediately proceed with any planned weed control deemed necessary.

(5) A property owner may re-apply for a new agreement in a subsequent season; however, the County reserves the right to deny said application if there is a documented history of failure to adhere to the terms of such agreements or history of voided agreements.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ 201_

BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chair

ATTEST:

Trish Holden, CMC, Clerk of the Board