

Policy

POLICY TITLE: ROAD ALLOWANCE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

POLICY NO.: AG-63-09

RESOLUTION: 300-22

EFFECTIVE DATE: 2022-09-28

DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE: Community Services

NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2023-09-28

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124 (Municipal District) is responsible for the destruction of prohibited noxious weeds and the control of noxious weeds (hereinafter referred to as weeds) as per the *Weed Control Act* and Regulations on all developed municipal road allowances. There is also a need to control the growth of woody species along developed municipal road allowances to improve public safety and to reduce road maintenance costs.

Herbicide application, in conjunction with other vegetation management principles, provides an effective method of managing weeds and woody species on municipal road allowances.

PRINCIPLE:

1.0 PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 Eradicate infestations of prohibited noxious weeds growing on municipal road allowances.
- 1.2 Control infestations of noxious weeds growing on municipal road allowances.
- 1.3 Prevent the spread of weeds from municipal road allowances to other adjacent lands.
- 1.4 Remove woody species from municipal road allowances to:
 - 1.4.1 improve drainage of water from the road ditches,
 - 1.4.2 facilitate faster drying of roads following snow or rain,
 - 1.4.3 improve the ease of snow removal and reduce snow drifting across roads,
 - 1.4.4 improve travel safety by improving visibility at corners, intersections, and railway crossings,
 - 1.4.5 increase visibility and reduce hazards from wildlife-vehicle collisions, and
 - 1.4.6 reduce fire hazard by removing potential combustible fuel sources

2.0 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 2.1 The municipality has been divided into three districts. The full road allowance (where possible) will be treated with herbicide in one district each year on a rotational basis with the other two districts being spot treated.
- 2.2 District 1 (Flatbush District) starts at the south boundary and goes north up to and including Township 66.
- 2.3 District 2 (Smith/Hondo District) starts at Township 67 and goes north up to the Athabasca River.
- 2.4 District 3 (Slave Lake District) includes everything west and north of the Athabasca River.
- 2.5 The Agriculture Services Department will be responsible to coordinate and supervise the herbicide vegetation management program.
- 2.6 The Transportation Department will be responsible to coordinate and supervise the mechanical vegetation management program.
- 2.7 The Agriculture Services Department and the Transportation Department will annually communicate and coordinate their respective vegetation management programs.
- 2.8 Weed control on municipal road allowances will take priority over woody species control.

3.0 PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

- 3.1 The public will be given notice prior to the vegetation management work being conducted. Notification will be in the form of a notice in the municipally contracted newspaper (prior to the end of March), or by way of a written notice to the affected landowner/occupant or by way of personal contact.
- 3.2 The notification will outline the locations of the proposed herbicide vegetation management, the start and end date of the vegetation management program, exemption information and contact numbers for public input.

4.0 EXEMPTION FROM ROAD ALLOWANCE HERBICIDE APPLICATION

- 4.1 Persons affected by herbicide vegetation management work on municipal road allowances may address



their concerns to the Agricultural Fieldman (or designate) regarding the control or the method of control proposed.

- 4.2 Persons affected will be defined as the owner or occupant of the land adjacent to the road allowance.
- 4.3 Owner/occupant concerns must be in writing and include the following:
 - 4.3.1 name, address and contact number,
 - 4.3.2 legal land description of the affected land(s),
 - 4.3.3 a site diagram of the road allowances and the adjacent property, and
 - 4.3.4 their stated concerns.
- 4.4 The above information must be forwarded to the Agricultural Fieldman (or designate) prior to May 1st of each year.
- 4.5 The Agricultural Fieldman (or designate) will meet with the owner/occupant and discuss vegetation management alternatives. The goal is to obtain a solution whereby the owner/occupant concerns are considered without compromising the objectives of the vegetation management policy.
- 4.6 If a consensus cannot be achieved, the Agricultural Fieldman (or designate) may:
 - 4.6.1 proceed with the planned work if weeds are present or the removal of woody species is deemed necessary for the safety of the public, or
 - 4.6.2 require that the owner/occupant to enter into an "Exemption from Road Allowance Herbicide Application Agreement."
- 4.7 The Agricultural Fieldman (or designate) will inspect all the exempted road allowance locations on or before May 30th to determine if the conditions in the agreement are being met.
- 4.8 If the conditions of the agreement are not being met, the Municipal District will carry out the vegetation management in a manner which is consistent with this policy and the control work that is required.
- 4.9 The exemption from road allowance herbicide application covers vegetation management conducted by



the municipality only and does not include any vegetation management conducted by any other individuals.

5.0 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ON PRIVATE LAND LOCATED ADJACENT TO A ROAD ALLOWANCE

- 5.1 Where work is being conducted to control weeds and / or woody species and the vegetation is situated partially on private property, a "Permission to Enter Upon Lands to Control Vegetation" form will be secured from the owner/occupant of the adjacent land prior to any control work being done on the private property.
- 5.2 The area that will be treated under section 5.1 will be limited to only that area required to meet the vegetation management objectives of that road allowance.
- 5.3 There will be no cost to the owner/occupant for vegetation management work completed under section 5.1.

RELATED DOCUMENTS: Exemption from Municipal Road Allowance Herbicide Application
Permission to Enter Upon Lands to Control Vegetation Form

_____"Original Signed"_____
Chief Administrative Officer

____September 28, 2022_____
Date

_____"Original Signed"_____
Reeve

SPECIAL NOTES/CROSS-REFERENCE: AG-63-09 – Previous Version J.16

AMENDMENT DATE: -

