Introduction

The Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) Northwest Region Area 5 manages vegetation within approximately 220 miles of state highway corridor in King and southwest Snohomish Counties. Crews in this maintenance area contend with some of the highest traffic volumes in the state. Major corridors in the area include portions of Interstates 5, 90 and 405. Other limited access corridors include State Routes 520, and 599/99. Roadsides along secondary highways within incorporated city limits are typically maintained by the cities. A map of all highways in the area is included as Figure 1 on the following page.

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 priority objectives in mind, WSDOT practices an annually cycling process called Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM). Plans like this are maintained 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 monitoring the previous years’ accomplishments and results, available budget, and prioritization of other highway maintenance activities.

This plan serves as the guidance document for vegetation maintenance in Northwest Region Area 5 for the 2022 growing season. It identifies priority locations and prescribes treatments for accomplishing safety and weed control objectives through a combination of integrated, 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 on its weed control and other vegetation management activities. Wherever appropriate the agency is looking for opportunities to plan and cooperate with others in managing the roadside. Please direct any questions, comments or suggestions to the Northwest Region Area 5 Superintendent – Gordon Elley, Assistant Superintendent – Brian Kendall, or the State’s Roadside Asset Manager – Ray Willard.

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Northwest Region Area 5 Map
Figure 1
Northwest Region Area 5 IVM Work Plan – 2022

The section outlines the overall approach and geographic distribution of roadside vegetation management requirements throughout the maintenance area in 2022. Information is organized in relation to four groups of activities defined in the WSDOT Maintenance Accountability Program (MAP) for the performance of roadside vegetation maintenance activities: Control of Vegetative Obstructions, Noxious Weed Control, Nuisance Vegetation Control, and Landscape Maintenance. 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.

Safety First
Safety of our employees, the traveling public, and the environment are WSDOT’s highest priorities and key to our success. Pre-Activity Safety Plans (PSAP) are developed for all activities, and crews review, discuss and sign these plans at tailgate meetings, prior to each day's work. When applying herbicides, our licensed pesticide applicators read the entire label before using products and use the products strictly in accordance with label precautionary statements and directions. WSDOT has implemented additional agency specific environmental restrictions on some products, to minimize any risk to aquatic or terrestrial ecosystems. Applicators wear protective equipment applicable to the products being used and discuss any potential environmental and/or human health risks as part of the daily PASP meeting. Technicians inspect their calibrated equipment daily to ensure it is in proper working order. Herbicides are kept in locked storage facilities with built in containment.

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 considered 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, One Pass 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 includes the 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 gravel shoulder adjacent to the pavement that is free of vegetation. This treatment is necessary in most locations 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
- Apply a total of approximately 300 acres of herbicide treatment to road shoulders throughout the area in two applications spring and fall

Locations of Planned Treatments
- Planned treatment sites are planned for all shoulders throughout the area as mapped in HATS layer – Spray Zone 1 Reference
- Areas missed in fall of 2021 will be treated in spring and all shoulders will be treated in the fall (approximately 80 acres)
- Locations where no bare ground treatment will be applied include:
  - Locations along secondary roads where there neighboring property owners have agreed to maintain the roadside
Treatment Methods

- Herbicides are applied using a truck mounted power spray system calibrated to deliver a 4-foot band of spray mixture adjacent to the paved shoulder. The resulting width of treated shoulder may be wider than 4 feet in areas with steeper shoulder slope.
- In locations with cable rail – If the rail is less than 8 ft. from the edge of pavement, the bare ground treatment will extend from the pavement edge to the back side of the cable rail. In locations where the rail is greater than 8 ft. from the edge of pavement, treatment will be applied in 4 ft. band directly under the rail.
- In locations with guardrail, treatment band width will be extended to the to the back side of hardware.
- Both the 80 acres missed in 2021, and the fall treatment of all shoulders will be made using herbicide blend R6 in pre-mixed reusable drums:
  - Roundup Pro Concentrate @ 32 oz/acre
  - Lockdown SC @ 8 oz/acre
  - Milestone @ 7 oz/acre
  - Telar @ 2 oz/acre
  - Insist 90 Plus @ 16 oz/acre
  - In-Place @ 16 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 Mowing

- Approximately **200 acres** of Zone 2 safety mowing will be conducted throughout the area.

Locations of Planned Mowing

- Planned Zone 2 mowing locations are mapped in HATS reference layer - Mowing Zone 2 Reference
- All roadsides with vegetation along the edge of pavement will be mowed out to specified widths once per year in late spring/early summer
- Prioritized for annual safety mowing including:
  - SR 202 – Ames Lake Rd, 308th intersection, Mills Farm, NE 55th Spring Glen area, MP 23 Toll Hill Rd intersection Fish Hatchery Rd both sides
  - SR 203 – SE 3rd, NE 24th, Horse Crossing at first bridge, NE 11th. S end of Toll River Bridge.
  - I-405/NE 8th interchange for sight distance issues and concerns with transients
  - I-90/Eastgate interchange for sight distance issues and concerns with transients
  - I-5 Interchanges for sight distance where needed and visibility of emerging encampments
  - SR99 – Median
Treatment Methods

- Mowing width varies between 5 and 25 feet as specified on the HATS maps.
- Mowing will be done with multiple types of tractor mounted mowers including a 3-deck, 25 ft. total width mower, side arm mounted flail and rotary mowers, track mounted brush head, RC mower is also available for special conditions.

Tree and Brush Control/Zone 2 and 3

Work Operations: 1622, 1625, 1626
HATS Forms: Tree/Brush Control – Spray, 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. Removal of mature-sized dead, diseased, dying or structurally defective and hazardous trees is also included in this activity group.

Total Units of Planned Treatment

- Approximately 150 acres will be mechanically trimmed throughout the area.
- Approximately 25 acres will be treated with herbicides.
- Approximately 15 acres will be trimmed with hand tools

Locations of Planned Treatments

415530
- I-5 – swamp creek site distance issues
- I-5 off ramp to WB SR 104 – Remove vegetation hanging down from wall
- SR104/HWY, 5th Ave – Mow for intersection visibility (west side of 5th only)
- SR104, MP 24.70- 25.10 – Mow along Edmonds Marsh edge
- I-405, 70th and 85th Interchanges – Mow ditch lines of brush, scotch broom, and small trees.
- I-405, 124th Interchange – Mow ditch lines of grass, blackberries and scotch broom, cut blackberries away from guardrail, cut brush and small trees from guardrail NB and SB ramps
- I-405, south bound from 195th ramp – Mow back brush from sidewalk to the metro bus stop including vegetation on sidewalk
- SR522 – WB, just above the wall after the college, to allow access
- SR202 – Site distance requirements just north of 124th
- SR202 – Multiple areas where brush/blackberries are encroaching on shoulder

415520
- I-5 – Columbian Way interchange
- I-5 – Corson/Michigan interchange area
- I-5 – 80th/85th interchange area
- I-90 – 72nd and 22nd vicinity
- SR900 – WB
- I-90 – WB Wall 18 just west of Mt Baker Tunnel

415510
- SR 18 – MP20 to MP16.88 to remove encroaching brush and improve sight distance
- I-90 – MP 19 to MP20 remove trees encroaching clear zone
- I-90 – MP31 to MP33 improve sight distance and to help control the spread of Scotch broom east into Area 1
- SR202 – MP22.5 and 24.3 remove encroaching trees, brush and some canopy
- Address seedling trees W-90 Median MP 25.3
- SR202 - MP 12.5 area remove encroaching trees and brush
- I405/SR 520 interchange to remove encroaching trees and blackberries to improve sight distance issues and drainage
- I90/SR 900 interchange to remove encroaching trees and brush to improve sight distance problems

**Treatment Methods**
- Tractors with side-arm mounted mowing heads, skid-steer with brush head, manlift, hand-held saws, pole saws, and chippers.
- Herbicides will also be used to trim and remove encroaching tree seedlings and brush in the late summer/fall. Products used:
  - Garlon 3A @ 128 oz/acre

**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 identified, as a potential imminent threat will be evaluated removed as soon as possible where needed.

**Total Units of Planned Treatment**
- As many as 300 mature hazard trees may be removed throughout the area each year.

**Locations of Planned Treatments**
- Crews are continuously looking for trees that exhibit structural defects and could strike the road or neighboring property if they come down. Any hazard trees identified at any time are removed as soon as possible.
- If trees growing outside WSDOT right of way are hazards, crews work with the neighboring property owner to negotiate removal.
- In 2022 WSDOT plans to have Arborist identify potentially hazardous trees in two locations: I-5 NB at Boeing Access to MP 160, and I-90 EB MP 12.1 to 13.0. These evaluations will be conducted immediately before removal is planned.
- The area removed and treated a patch of Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus altissima). This is a fast-growing species that can rapidly develop into a hazard. Crews will remove mature infestations whenever possible. Herbicide treatment will be used in combination with cutting to eradicate the infestation.

**Treatment Methods**
- WSDOT crews typically fall hazard trees as needed. Occasionally for more challenging work, WSDOT contracts with professional Arborist.
- Material is left to decompose on site where possible

**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 three categories: **Priority**, **Planned Treatment**, and **General Reference**. **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. **General Reference** sites are recorded for reference only to document the presence of noxious weed species which are more commonly occurring in the local area. General Reference points are current hidden in HATS, not in use at this time.

**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*

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.

**Priority Class A Noxious Weeds on WSDOT Right of Way in Northwest Region Area 5:**

**Species and Locations**

- Giant hogweed – I-5 at Mercer next to Express Lanes
- Spanish broom – I-5 MP169.3 also has been seen under the north abutment adjacent to bike
- Garlic mustard – I-5 NB MP179.2 on the outside of the 220th St. SW offramp

**Total Units of Planned Treatment**

- Less than one acre total treatment including all three sites.

**Treatment Methods**

- Giant hogweed – Individual plants will be cut at the base of stalk and stump treated with Garlon 4, after flower buds form but prior to seed set
- Spanish broom – Site has been cut and treated by WSDOT and the County Weed Board. Continue to monitor for seedlings each spring and fall.
- Garlic mustard – Treat with Mix 1 or Mix 2 (listed below) in spring, monitor for regrowth and retreatment in the fall.

**Target Noxious Weeds on WSDOT Right of Way in Northwest Region Area 5:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name/Botanical Name</th>
<th>Treatment Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absinth wormwood/Artemisia absinthium</td>
<td>King County will send notifications if found and any reoccurring infestation sites will be mapped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Species</td>
<td>Management Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bull thistle/Cirsium vulgare</td>
<td>Control small patches where visible in conjunction with seasonal patrols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly bush/Buddleia davidii</td>
<td>Control where visible, priority target sites mapped on I-5 in Tukwilla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada thistle/Cirsium arvense</td>
<td>Control small patches where visible in conjunction with seasonal patrols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common reed/Phragmites australis</td>
<td>Target sites mapped and treated in the fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalmatian toadflax/Linaria dalmatica</td>
<td>Target sites mapped and treated in the spring and fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Hawkweed/Hieracium sabaudum</td>
<td>Target sites mapped and treated in the late summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawkweed sp./Hieracium sp.</td>
<td>Control where visible in conjunction with seasonal patrols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knapweed sp./Centaurea sp.</td>
<td>Control where visible in conjunction with seasonal patrols, priority target sites are mapped and treated in the spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knotweed sp./Polygonum sp.</td>
<td>Target sites will be mapped and treated after flower stage in late summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poison hemlock/Conium maculatum</td>
<td>Control where visible in conjunction with seasonal patrols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple loosestrife/Lythrum salicaria</td>
<td>Target sites will be mapped and treated at early flower stage in summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ragwort tansy/Senecio jacobaea</td>
<td>Occurs sporadically throughout the area. All visible plants are sprayed in the spring prior to bud/seed set, any remaining plants visible in flower are hand pulled with seed heads removed, bagged, and disposed of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rush skeletonweed/Chondrilla juncea</td>
<td>Target sites mapped and treated in the spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotch broom/Cytisus scoparius</td>
<td>Controlled in conjunction with seasonal weed patrols, when present in small, isolated patches, and any visible plants along I-90 east of Issaquah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfur cinquefoil/Potentilla recta</td>
<td>Target sites will be mapped and treated in the spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viper’s bugloss/Echium vulgare</td>
<td>King County will send notifications if found and any reoccurring infestation sites will be mapped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild chervil/Anthriscus sylvestris</td>
<td>First detection in Area 5 – Target site on SR18 mapped and treated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Units of Planned Treatment**
- Approximately 150 acres will be treated with a mixture of herbicide treatments and other methods
- Approximately 30 acres will be mowed or pulled by hand

**Locations of Planned Treatments**
- Treatment locations are described in the table above

**Treatment Methods and Timing**
- Treatments are carried out as described in the table above
- Herbicide mixtures used include:
  - **Mix 1**
    - Opensite @ 3 ozl/acre
    - Syltac @ 8 ozl/acre
  - **Mix 2**
    - Capstone @ 128 ozl/acre
    - Syltac @ 8 ozl/acre
  - **Mix 3**
• Garlon 3A @ 64 ozl/acre
• Sytac

Nuisance Vegetation Control – 3A3
Nuisance vegetation control takes place only in a select set of carefully prioritized locations along the wider areas of right of way throughout the state. These locations are delineated on maps in HATS as polygon outlines where right of way is wide enough for Zone 3 to exist. Locations are prioritized to receive treatments where there is heightened local interest in a more controlled visual appearance and highly maintained condition. 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 lowest 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 Zone 3
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: Reference polygons – Zone 3 Nuisance Reference

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. Undesirable species are identified and specifically targeted while care is be taken 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
• Approximately **30 acres** will be treated with herbicides for nuisance weed control.
• Approximately **100 acres** will be mowed for nuisance

Locations of Planned Treatments
• Reference HATS layer – Nuisance Vegetation Management.

Treatment Methods and Timing
• Multi-year IVM treatment plans will be developed for the following Zone 3 areas throughout the area:
  o I-5 milepost 171-183 right sides, left sides, median, and ramps (currently under construction for light rail on the SB shoulder.)
  o I-405 milepost 30-15 staying out of the contract zone, right sides, left sides, median, and ramps right sides, left sides, median, and ramps.
  o SR-522 milepost 10.4-13 right sides, left sides, median, and ramps.
  o SR-104 milepost 24.57-26 right sides, left sides, and ramps, islands.
  o SR-104 milepost 27-29 right sides, left sides, and ramps, islands.
  o SR 104, MP 25.47, Quadrant on west side of 5th Ave
  o SR 104/HWY 99 INT, MP 27.92, Quadrants surrounding this INT
  o SR 104/I-5 INT, Quadrants surrounding this INT
Landscape Maintenance – 3A5
Landscape maintenance work includes all vegetation management activities that take place on roadsides within areas designated as formal urban planting, where the intention is to enhance the appearance of freeways through urban centers. For these highly developed roadsides 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 fertilization where necessary.

Landscape Work Operations: 1513, 1516, 1518, 1525, 1552, 1561, 1599
HATS Forms: Pesticide Application (for all spray applications), and six sub-forms under Landscape – Weed Control/Manual, Weed Control/Mechanical, Pruning/Hedging/Edging, Seed/Mulch/Plant/Fertilize, Mowing Lawn, Irrigation System Operations & Maintenance, and Other Maintenance as Approved by Superintendent

Landscape maintenance operations are only conducted in a limited number of locations as described below and mapped in HATS. Maintenance activities in each identified location are planned based on a multi-year treatment strategy. Treatment decision are based on monitoring and the proven most effective combination of maintenance actions, to keep plantings (and lawns if present) looking healthy and trimmed throughout the year.

Total Units of Planned Treatment
- There are approximately 50 acres of formally landscaped roadside in this area.
- An additional 100 acres of formally landscaped roadside is maintained through agreement with the cities of Seattle and Mercer Island.

Locations of Planned Treatments
- Reference HATS layer – Landscape Maintenance.

Treatment Methods and Timing
415510
- 520 landscape areas
415530
- No landscaped areas in this section.
415520
- I-90 – Landscaped right of way outside of limited access control areas in Seattle and on Mercer Island, including landscaping on structures and along bike/pedestrian paths are maintained by agreement with crews from the Cities. WSDOT reimburses City crews from this work. 
  WB lane polygons need to be adjusted
- SR99 portal entrances need to be mapped
- All other landscape areas along I-5 and I-90 in this section are maintained by WSDOT crews and described on the following tables:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEATTLE TO MERCER ISLAND</th>
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<td>MP 2.0 TO 8.0</td>
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<td>Element 3A @ 64oz / acre</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Opensight @ 2oz / acre</td>
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<td>Escort xp @ 2oz / acre</td>
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<td>EB 1-90 &amp; SB Rainier on Ramp</td>
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<td>EB/WWW L/S &amp; WB ON RAMP</td>
<td>37026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB77TH EXIT RIGHT SIDE</td>
<td>30927.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 77TH TO ICW EXIT R/S</td>
<td>32670</td>
</tr>
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</table>
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 2022 include:
  o 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.