



STANDARD OPERATION PROCEDURE

Subject: NOXIOUS AND INVASIVE VEGETATION ON DOT PROJECTS	Number: SOP 201-01	Page: 1 of 2	Effective Date: 09/23/2016
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PURPOSE:

To provide a cost effective procedure for removing buffelgrass, fountain grass, and other targeted invasive species in areas of the right-of-way for all transportation CIP projects regardless of size.

BACKGROUND:

Buffelgrass Control within Pima County Public Works Departments is covered under SOP No.: 2009-02. Two methods of buffelgrass control that have been identified as being most effective: chemical control and manual control. Chemical eradication of buffelgrass, fountain grass, and other targeted invasive species has been shown to be significantly less costly than manual eradication, which requires pulling by hand, often in hard and rocky soils, then bagged, and hauled to a landfill. However, chemical eradication can only be done when the plant is green and actively growing, which occurs during limited time periods during the year.

A review of the costs associated with these two methods by the Pima County Department of Transportation (PCDOT) has found chemical control to cost significantly less than manual control. Maximizing the use of chemical control, and minimizing the use of manual control, is thus desirable from a budgetary perspective.

PROCEDURE:

1. During the project design phase, the project manager shall identify when the earliest pre-construction ground disturbance may occur, whether it is caused by activities such as; cultural resource excavations, building demolition associated with right of way acquisition, geotechnical investigations, plant salvage, or by modification and relocation of utilities. The project manager shall schedule chemical control for invasive species the summer *prior* to this activity taking place. Typically this occurs in mid to late summer, after monsoon rains have stimulated new growth. Treatment is more effective before seed formation.
2. On or around July 1st, project managers shall meet with PCDOT Landscape Architect to discuss upcoming projects, description of improvements, and time lines for implementation.

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3. The PCDOT landscape architect shall assemble a list of project locations, as well as types of vegetation that is to be targeted for removal.
4. Once compiled, this information will be sent to the Public Works Supervisor responsible for landscape maintenance in the Maintenance/Operations Division so that a cost estimate can be developed.
5. Once the cost estimate has been developed, it will be sent back to the landscape architect, who will then review with the CIP Advocacy Manager.
6. Once the project funding has been confirmed, the landscape architect will then return the list to Maintenance/Operations Division, (along with funding source information) so that the spraying activities can be scheduled.
7. Prior to any pre-construction ground disturbing activities, the Project Manager shall review the project with the Landscape Architect to determine if any additional spot removal is needed, and which method to use. It shall be the responsibility of the Project Manager to direct the contractor procured for the project to remove remaining invasive species under the project contract. Contractors working within the right-of-way will be allowed to chip and spread vegetation removed as a result of their work only after invasive species identified within the project limits have been treated or removed according to project specifications and/or SOP 2009-02.
8. The operator's applicator shall comply with the conditions and requirements of the Pesticide General Permit:

http://legacy.azdeq.gov/environ/water/permits/download/pgpermit_103111.pdf

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