



Clear Hills County

Effective Date: August 17, 2016	Policy Number 6304
Title: ROADSIDE VEGETATION CONTROL	

1. Policy Statement

- 1.1. Clear Hills County strives to maintain roadsides that have a high level of visibility, support adequate drainage, prevent weeds from spreading and are aesthetically acceptable.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. Roadside - that portion of the road allowance that extends from the edge of the driving surface to the adjacent property line.

3. Purpose

- 3.1. To provide direction to administration for the control of roadside vegetation in an environmentally safe, publicly acceptable and cost effective manner.

4. Responsibilities

4.1. Brushing

4.2. Public Works Manager will:

- 4.2.1. Provide council with an annual project plan to remove all brush from County roadsides.
- 4.2.2. Contract and/or operate equipment for clearing and mulching of trees and brush;
- 4.2.3. Provide follow up inspections to insure roads and roadsides are clear of brushing debris, stumps and mounds;
- 4.2.4. Obtain any necessary warranty work from contractors following the inspection of the completed job;
- 4.2.5. Seed suitable pasture seed mix, as required, to prevent erosion and weed competition;
- 4.2.6. Notify in writing landowners with property adjacent to the roadsides included in the annual brushing program plan prior to work commencing.

- 4.3. The County will provide a *Brushing Request* agreement (form B) to landowners, whereby:

- 4.3.1. The landowner agrees to allow the municipality to enter their land to brush outwards into the road ditches.
- 4.3.2. When landowners are requesting private land brushing or have brushed approximately 5 meters beyond the right of way and the brushing extends onto private land adjacent to road ditches, the vegetation will be controlled by spraying or mowing to control regrowth of brush and included as part of the agreement.
- 4.3.3. The County will be responsible for all surveying costs and staking of the work area which extends approximately 5 meters beyond the right of way.

4.4. Do Not Brush Backslope program

- 4.4.1. The Do Not Brush Backslope program is available for persons who want to retain the trees and brush on the backslope of the road allowance in front of their residence.
- 4.4.2. Landowners must request in writing for the County Brushing Program to leave the trees and brush on the backslope of the road allowance in front of their residence.

4.5. Spraying

- 4.5.1. The program will focus on brush control to prevent regrowth and vegetation as listed in the Weed Control Act of Alberta and/or plants designated by County by-law and are the same as the Agricultural Service Board expects the public to control.
- 4.5.2. Spraying will not occur adjacent to yard sites or known herbicide sensitive vegetation such as gardens or shelterbelts or within the legislated setback from water bodies and water sources.
- 4.5.3. Agricultural Services staff will:
- 4.5.4. Contract for and or apply herbicide to kill brush regrowth in the year following the brushing program.
- 4.5.5. Contractor for and or apply herbicide to Noxious & Prohibited Noxious weeds to prevent weed spread & weed seed propagation;
 - 4.5.5.1. Select herbicide based on the following criteria:
 - 4.5.5.2. Registered for use in Alberta
 - 4.5.5.3. Registered for control of the target vegetation
 - 4.5.5.4. Cost effectiveness

4.5.5.5. Suitability for site, application conditions and will not increase environmental foot print.

4.6. Do Not Spray Program:

- 4.6.1. The Do Not Spray program is available for persons who do not want the roadside adjacent to their property sprayed.
- 4.6.2. Landowners must complete and sign a Roadside Spraying form stating that they do not wish to have the road allowance adjacent to specific land locations sprayed,
- 4.6.3. Landowners accept full responsibility for weed and brush control within the stated road allowance.
- 4.6.4. Failure to control the weeds and brush in the current growing season will result in the County controlling the weeds and brush in accordance with this policy.

4.7. Mowing

4.7.1. Public Works Manager will:

- 4.7.1.1 Provide council with an annual project plan to mow County owned roadside ditches.
- 4.7.1.2 Contract and/or operate equipment to mow County owned roadside ditches.

4.7.2. Mowing operations will rotate throughout the County on an annual basis, as per the project plan approved by council, to ensure all roads are maintained as efficiently as possible.

4.7.3. Administration will prioritize the mowing of roads as follows:

- 4.7.3.1. Market Roads: first priority; annually mow to outside edge of road right-of-way (fence line to fence line).
- 4.7.3.2. Local roads: second priority; annually mow to outside edge of mowable road right-of-way (property line to property line).
- 4.7.3.3. All other roads: last priority: annually mow to outside edge of mowable road right-of-way (property line to property line) as needed for brush between 4 and 6 feet in height adjacent to road.

4.8. Mowing for Community Organizations

4.8.1. Clear Hills County offers to mow outfields and large grassed-in areas that are beyond the reasonable scope of riding and push lawn mowers for community not-for-profit organizations within the County, once annually in conjunction with the roadside mowing program.

4.8.1.1. Organizations requesting this service are required to sign a waiver annually protecting Clear Hills County, see attachment Schedule A.

4.8.1.2. Mowing of outfields and large grassed in areas that are beyond the reasonable scope of riding and push lawn mowers shall be completed subject to the conditions set out in Schedule A. In the event that the Public Works Manager or his representative determines that the area requested is too hazardous or difficult to mow the Organization will be notified that the area cannot be mowed.

4.9. Alternative Weed Control Methods

4.9.1. In Environmentally sensitive areas due to soil structure, native species sensitivity or where legislated setback from water bodies and water sources prevent the application of herbicides, mowing or brushing, Agricultural Services staff will implement alternative weed control methods such as hand picking or use of biological controls.

5. Fencing

5.1. Replacement fences will be constructed to the standard currently in place as per Fencing Policy 3206.

6. Reference to Legislation

6.1. Weed Control Act

7. Related Policies

7.1 Property Line Spraying Policy 6309

7.2 Policy 3206 Fencing

7.3 Current Bylaw - Schedule of Fees - Purchase of goods and services

8. End of Policy

ADOPTED: Resolution C262 (03/29/11)

AMENDED: Resolution C408 (05/10/11)

AMENDED: Resolution C262 (03/29/11)

AMENDED: Resolution C445 (07/23/13)

AMENDED: Resolution C190-14 (03/25/14)

AMENDED: Resolution C231-15 (04/28/15)

AMENDED: Resolution C466-16 (08/17/16)

PROPERTY BRUSHING REQUEST

Clear Hills County

I/We, the undersigned, hereby authorize the staff or agents of Clear Hills County to enter the listed locations on their land for brush control along the road allowance boundary and into my private land.

I/We understand:

- the County will attempt to keep brushing machinery no further than 5 meters (16.5 feet) onto private land.
- The County will continually control regrowth by means of spray and/or mechanical methods.

I/We agree:

- to authorize Clear Hills County Staff to carry out vegetation control by means of mowing or spraying up to 5 meters (16.5 feet) beyond the right of way.
- that this agreement remain in effect for 1 year from date of signing, or until cancelled, in writing, by the undersigned or by the County,
- to notify the County of changes to ownership or occupancy of the lands listed on this agreement,
- to identify areas in writing where I do not wish to have brushing take place,
- to hold indemnify and hold harmless the County, their agents and employees, from any claims, demands, actions and costs that may arise as a result of an act of omission in regards to this request,

PLEASE PROVIDE A MAP OR LIST LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTIONS TO INCLUDE IN THIS AGREEMENT ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Landowner/manager (Please Print): _____ Signature: _____

County Representative (Please Print): _____ Signature: _____

I/We agree that brushing/spraying will encroach on to my private property. By signing this document I am giving County staff or contractor's authorization to proceed with the requested brushing on the listed legal land location.

List legal land descriptions, owned or occupied, where the Brushing Request is to take effect:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

PROPERTY BRUSHING REQUEST

Clear Hills County

Use area below for diagram (if necessary):

Comments or Concerns:
