



POLICY NO. 11.09

FEBRUARY 9, 2016

TITLE: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT:

Westlock County is responsible for the control of noxious weeds and prohibited noxious weeds on all municipal road allowances and other land under its control. There is also a need to control the growth of woody species along municipal road allowances to improve public safety and to reduce road maintenance costs. This policy and the Vegetation Management Program will be in compliance with the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and the Standards and Good Practices for Industrial Vegetation Management. This policy does not forgo the landholders from By-Law No. 12-1976 as attached.

PURPOSE:

To manage vegetation within public lands that Westlock County is responsible for in a way that is financially responsible and effectively deals with weeds, promotes public safety and helps maintain roads.

DEFINITIONS:

Community reserves are as described in Alberta's *Municipal Government Act*.

Environmental reserves are as described in Alberta's *Municipal Government Act*.

Municipal reserves are as described in Alberta's *Municipal Government Act*.

Noxious weed is a plant species declared as being so under the *Weed Control Act* or in a bylaw of Westlock County. Noxious weeds are required to be controlled under the Act.

Prohibited noxious weed is a plant species declared as being so under the *Weed Control Act* or a bylaw of Westlock County. Prohibited noxious weeds are required to be destroyed under the Act.

Road allowances means land owned and set aside by the Province for the purpose of providing roads, and managed by Westlock County. It includes road allowances that have no road constructed on them, sometimes referred to as “undeveloped road allowances”.

Westlock County means the municipal corporation, Westlock County.

1. APPLICATION:

1.1. This policy applies to:

- (a) road allowances,
- (b) public areas of hamlets,
- (c) public areas of multi-lot subdivisions,
- (d) municipal reserves,
- (e) community service reserves,
- (f) environmental reserves, and
- (g) any other public land

that Westlock County is responsible for, referred to as “public lands” for the remainder of this policy.

2. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

Westlock County will endeavor to

- (a) reduce / eliminate the infestations of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds growing on public lands,
- (b) prevent the spread of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds from public lands to other adjacent lands,
- (c) remove woody species under two meters in height from Westlock County road allowances to
 - (i) improve drainage of water from the road ditches,

- (ii) facilitate faster drying of roads following snow or rain,
 - (iii) improve the ease of snow removal and reduce snow drifting across roads,
 - (iv) improve travel safety by improving visibility at corners, intersections and railway crossings,
 - (v) increase visibility and reduce hazards from wildlife and vehicle collisions, and
 - (vi) reduce fire hazards by removing potential combustible fuel sources, and
- (d) manage vegetation at the lowest long term cost.


3. NO-SPRAY AGREEMENTS:

- 3.1. Land owners, or legal occupants, who wish to have all, or certain sections, of Westlock County road allowances adjacent to their properties exempt from the application of herbicides by Westlock County staff, must sign and submit to Westlock County an "Exemption from Municipal Road Allowance Herbicide Application" form (Schedule "A").
- 3.2. If the applicant under section 3.1 is a legal occupant of land but not the land owner, the legal occupant must obtain written permission from the landowner and submit this along with their application form (Schedule "A").
- 3.3. Landowners who get the exemption under section 3.1 assume the responsibility of controlling noxious weeds, prohibited noxious weeds and woody species to the following standards along the road allowances they receive an exemption for:
- (a) Prohibited noxious weeds must be destroyed.
 - (b) Noxious weeds will be considered controlled if they are prevented from setting seed throughout the growing season.
 - (c) All woody species below two metres in height must be removed from the road allowance throughout the growing season.

MOTION: #60/16

DATE: February 9, 2016


Peter Kelly
Chief Administrative Officer


Bud Massey
Reeve

Schedule "A"
EXEMPTION FROM
MUNICIPAL ROAD ALLOWANCE HERBICIDE APPLICATION

I, _____ of (Address) _____
(Town) _____ (Postal Code) _____ (Phone) _____

as owner or occupant of the following land(s):

_____ ¼ of SEC _____ TWP _____ RGE _____ W _____th Meridian

_____ ¼ of SEC _____ TWP _____ RGE _____ W _____th Meridian

_____ ¼ of SEC _____ TWP _____ RGE _____ W _____th Meridian

_____ ¼ of SEC _____ TWP _____ RGE _____ W _____th Meridian

Wish to be exempt from the use of herbicides to control prohibited noxious weeds, noxious weeds, and woody species on Westlock County road allowances located adjacent to my property; and therefore I assume the responsibility of controlling the prohibited noxious weeds, noxious weeds and woody species to the following standards:

- Prohibited noxious weeds are to be destroyed, noxious weeds will be considered controlled if they are prevented from setting seed throughout the growing season.
- All woody species below two metres in height must be removed from the road allowance throughout the growing season.

I agree that if the prohibited noxious and or noxious weeds and/or woody species on the portions of Westlock County road allowances adjacent to the properties listed above are not controlled to the above standards, Westlock County will carry out the necessary measures to control those weeds.

I also agree that this agreement is valid for one year until May 30th of the following year and that if I wish to continue to have Westlock County road allowances adjacent to my property exempt from herbicide spraying then I must enter a new agreement each year by May 30th until I wish for the exemption to cease.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20____ at _____, AB

(Owner/Occupant)

(Westlock County Representative)

