



503 Marolf Loop Road
Tillamook, Oregon 97141
Roads (503) 842-3419
Solid Waste (503) 815-3975
FAX (503) 842-6473
Email: pubwks@co.tillamook.or.us
TTY Oregon Relay Service

Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze

Editorial by Liane Welch, P.E.,
Tillamook County Public Works Director

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Tillamook County is a beautiful place to live. Our native vegetation grows lush all around us. Unfortunately vegetation along our roadways impact sight distance, making it sometimes dangerous to see. The vegetation also grows along our roads impacting the integrity of the pavement. The County Road Department mow, brush cuts, and has an herbicide program.

When mowing or brushing is not feasible, our herbicide program consisting of a state licensed and trained vegetation specialist, Mike Wynands and one spray truck utilizes approved formulations and methods for controlling vegetation. Weather permitting; the program will be starting April 2015.

There are several steps involved in vegetation management. The most important step is the maintenance of the zone 1, a 12"-48" bare strip next to the pavement to prevent deterioration of the road surface by encroaching grasses and weeds. Zone 2 covers the ditch up to the tree limb. It encourages the growth of grass to act as a filter for road runoff water and for erosion control in the ditch line. It promotes low growing native species to reduce mowing expenses, preserve sight distance, and crowd out noxious weeds. Zone 3 treats small trees and blackberries. Other programs include signpost treatment, guardrail treatment, noxious weeds outside the second zone, and other special activities for construction projects.

If the terrain is rough or inaccessible, we may spray the area with chemical control agents to control brush. The herbicides used in the brush control program have been approved for use in the road right-of-way near human activity areas and environmentally sensitive areas including bodies of water.

If property owners do not want herbicide used on their County Road frontage, property owners can sign an agreement whereby the property owner agrees to maintain the vegetation to the satisfaction of the County. Maintaining of vegetation means cutting and disposing of brush, berry or other vines and types of vegetation. No Spray signs are available for a fee and must be displayed so that they can be easily seen from the roadway. The county is committed to working with organic producers, if you haven't registered with us, please call 503-842-3419 or Mike at 503-812-0141.