

Lac La Biche County *Policy*

TITLE: INTEGRATED VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

POLICY NO: ENV-63-002

RESOLUTION: 22.952

EFFECTIVE DATE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

NEXT REVIEW DATE: DECEMBER 1, 2026

POLICY STATEMENT:

Lac La Biche County shall implement and maintain a comprehensive weed, grass and brush control program known as the “Integrated Vegetation Management Plan” to control vegetation and the spread of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds within the municipality.

"Original Signed"

Chief Administrative Officer

October 28, 2022

Date

"Original Signed"

Mayor

November 3, 2022

Date

SPECIAL NOTES/CROSS REFERENCE: Procedure ENV-63-002, PI-63-002

AMENDMENT DATE: December 1, 2020; October 25, 2022

Procedure

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PROCEDURE:

1. General

- i. Lac La Biche County Environmental Services department shall establish a continuous weed awareness campaign through local meetings, tours and local media to promote weed control practices within the municipal boundaries of Lac La Biche County, in accordance with the Weed Control Act, Agricultural Pests Act, and local Agricultural Service Board policy
- ii. The Manager of Environmental Services will be responsible for the supervision of the areas of responsibility. The Agricultural Fieldman will be responsible for the implementation, organization, progress tracking and reporting.
- iii. As part of the preparations for the annual budget review, involved staff will create a draft project plan for Roadside Mowing and Spraying for the upcoming season.
- iv. With support from Lac La Biche County's Human Resources department, Environmental Services shall hire, and train sufficient staff required to implement and complete the program.
- v. Lac La Biche County may tender out all or a portion of the said work to be completed, if it is determined that it is beneficial to the program completion based on budget and/or time constraints.

2. Roadside Spraying

- i. A landowner may request spray exemption by entering into an agreement whereby no spraying be undertaken on public roadsides immediately adjacent to his/her property (Schedule A). In such a case, the landowner is responsible for the control of weeds and brush within the road right- of-ways.
- ii. Following the deadline for "No Spray" requests, permanent "No Spray" signs will be posted in designated no spray areas by Environmental Services staff and locations accurately documented. In the event of new property ownership, the signage will remain, and it will be the responsibility of the new property owners to contact Environmental Services to have the "No Spray" signage removed, and the location removed from the designated no spray area listing.
- iii. The deadline to submit a No Spray application request is April 15th of each year.
- iv. Blanket spraying will be applied on areas where a strong presence of noxious/prohibited noxious weeds or brush make spot spraying less cost effective. Blanket spraying will be applied on up to one third of County roads every year on a rotational basis.

3. Roadside Mowing

- a. Vegetation on sites inaccessible to mowers shall be removed to the same level of mowing within the right of ways by:
 - i. use of weed eaters;
 - ii. use of brush saws; and
 - iii. use of manual labour and hand tools.
- b. Mowing of full right-of-ways on newly constructed roads and/or reconstructed roads shall commence two years after the completion of the project.
- c. Full right of way mowing shall occur only where it is possible and practical due to terrain and weather conditions.

4. Subdivision Program

- a. Mowing within subdivision and hamlet roadside right of ways shall occur at a minimum of twice a year, with mowing starting in the hamlets of Lac La Biche and Plamondon.
- b. Entrances/exits to the hamlets of Lac La Biche and Plamondon will be completed as reasonably required within the mowing season, including all associated maintenance and repair work as required by the appropriate County departments.
- c. A yearly assessment of all subdivisions and hamlets shall occur prior to mowing in order to:
 - i. Identify safety hazards;
 - ii. Remove rocks, waste, and other debris; and
 - iii. Determine areas of concern.

5. Right-Of-Way Program

- a. Mowing of municipal right-of-ways shall be determined by:
 - i. Physical suitability to mowing;
 - ii. Classification of roads;
 - iii. Vegetation to be controlled;
 - iv. Safety/hazard assessment;
 - v. Complaints/concerns from ratepayers;
 - vi. Aesthetics; and
 - vii. Financial considerations.
- b. It is the intention that the County will be able to mow the full right-of-way where suitable and

- within the Integrated Vegetation Management Program budget.
- c. Mowing of right of ways shall occur at a minimum of twice a year, the first pass will be a single shoulder pass and the second pass will be of the full right of way.

6. Weed Control

The Weed Control Program is carried out throughout the growing season from April to December, subject to budget and weather.

- a. Weed inspectors will make every attempt to contact landowners before the first inspection of the property by visiting the landowner's residence or calling by phone. The Agricultural Fieldman will use mass communication to notify all farm landowners or farmers about agricultural inspections and the basis of the inspections.
- b. The Agricultural Fieldman or designate will follow up with landowners who have outstanding weed problems and remind them of the weed control requirements on their property.
- c. The Agricultural Service Board is informed of problem areas (photographs or videos may be used in the documentation process). If a landowner is unable to be contacted or is uncooperative, a Weed Notice may be issued. Weed Notice can either be hand-delivered, registered mailed, sent electronically or posted at a field entrance of the land with the weed problem. If sent by email, a documentable confirmation response of the Weed Notice is required. Weed Notices are issued in triplicate, with the original copy going to the landowner, a copy to the municipal land file and the other to the Weed Control Program file.
- d. Weed notices will be issued according to the Alberta Weed Control Act, RSA 2008 cW-5.1, with compliance deadlines based on the risk of the identified weed's ability to produce viable seed. Follow-up site inspections will be conducted on the notice deadline to confirm compliance. Weed Control enforcement can only be performed after the deadline specified in the Weed Notice.
- e. If the conditions of a Weed Notice are not fulfilled and the land exceeds 20 acres, the Agricultural Fieldman or a Weed Inspector and the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Chairperson or alternate ASB Member will inspect the property. Following the joint inspection, Council may in writing, authorize enforcement action in accordance with Alberta Weed Control Act, RSA 2008 cW-5.1. In the event enforcement work is necessary, the Agricultural Fieldman or a Weed Inspector will arrange for weed control utilizing the least crop damaging method, if the field is cropped.
- f. Council shall appoint an independent committee in accordance to Section 19 of the

- Alberta Weed Control Act, RSA 2008 cW-5.1, as amended from time to time to hear appeals to Weed Notices and may confirm, reverse or vary the inspector's notice.
- g. The Weed Control Program manages vegetation on right-of-ways and municipal reserve lands utilizing methods and products as specified by the Alberta Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides.

7. Herbicide Brush Control

- a. Brush control priorities using herbicides on road allowances will be undertaken as follows:
 - i. Where brushing/slashing has been completed and re-growth is evident;
 - ii. Within two (2) years of brushing/slashing;
 - iii. Within three (3) years of construction or back sloping;
- b. Brush removal in established sub-divisions and hamlets shall be conducted in cooperation with adjacent landowners and consider potential safety hazards and accessibility.

8. Fence Line Spraying

- a. Lac La Biche County will offer landowners a no charge fence line spray service to control prohibited noxious and noxious weed infestations in fence line areas to prevent the spread of weeds onto adjacent lands.
- b. To register for the program, landowners are required to enter into an agreement with the County for the application of residual herbicide within their property for the control of noxious weeds and/or brush along the perimeter of the property on fence lines and headlands and into adjacent road right-of-way (Schedule B Fence Line Spray Request).
- c. Landowners must also sign a Hold Harmless Agreement permitting entry onto private land and hold the County harmless from and against all claims, demands, losses, costs, damages, actions, suits or proceedings arising in any manner whatsoever from activities associated with said herbicide application (Schedule "C" Hold Harmless Agreement).
- d. Spraying will consist of a single sprayer pass application covering up to a 3-meter wide swath using a residual broadleaf herbicide to control prohibited noxious and noxious weeds located along the inside edge of the landowner's property and into the municipal road allowance.

9. Enforcement

The Agricultural Service Board shall undertake enforcement of weed control in accordance with the Weed Control Act or local bylaw when deemed necessary.

- i. An inspector’s “Weed Notice” is issued by the Agricultural Fieldman and/or designate in accordance with the Alberta Weed Control Act (RSA 2008 cW-5) and is only valid in the calendar year it was issued.
- ii. In urban areas, inspectors in collaboration with Lac La Biche County Peace officers, may enforce vegetation control requirements of Lac La Biche County’s Community Standards Bylaw.
- iii. The costs involved with enforcement control will be recovered in accordance with the Alberta Weed Control Act (RSA 2008 cW-5) as amended from time to time, and a fee of 20% will be added to cover the costs of administration.

"Original Signed"

Chief Administrative Officer

October 28, 2022

Date

SPECIAL NOTES/CROSS REFERENCE: Policy ENV-63-002, PI-63-002

AMENDMENT DATE: December 1, 2020; October 25, 2022

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
INTEGRATED VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Schedule A

No Spray Request Form

The Lac La Biche County Environmental Services staff will be carrying out the annual roadside brush and weed control program on County owned roads during the months of June to November. Please Note: This program pertains to County owned roads only. Property owners with land adjacent to primary or secondary highways must contact the appropriate provincial representatives.

The standard practices of the County’s spray program maintain a 30 meter no spray buffer zone in front of yard sites, dugouts, waterways or herbicide sensitive vegetation (i.e. gardens, shelterbelts). A selective herbicide will be used in the hamlets of Plamondon and Lac La Biche to control Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds, if no other options can be found following all laws and guidelines.

The deadline for completed “No Spray Requests” to be received at the Lac La Biche County Office will be **April 15. No telephone requests will be accepted.** Landowners who make a “No Spray Request” shall be responsible for weed/brush control within the road allowance adjacent to their properties commencing in the year the agreement is signed. In addition, receipt of the completed form authorizes the Environmental Services staff to enter onto properties to post “No Spray” signs in visible locations to mark areas where a “No Spray Request” has been made.

This request will be applicable for as long as the landowner wishes to keep the area unsprayed. In the case of wanting to remove the no spray area or transferred land, it is the responsibility of the property owners to contact the Environmental Services department to have the signs removed. The signs are County property and cannot be altered in any such way unless by designated Environmental Services staff.

Drop off your No Spray Request at: County Center
13422 Highway 881
Lac La Biche, AB T0A 2C0

Or by mail to: Environmental Services
Lac La Biche County
PO Box 1679, Lac La Biche, AB T0A 2C0

Or by email to: agriculture@laclabichecounty.com
Any questions or concerns can be directed to the Agricultural Fieldman at (780) 623-6366 or email agriculture@laclabichecounty.com

I/We do not wish the road allowance(s) adjacent to my property(ies), as described below, to be sprayed. I/We accept the responsibility of weed/brush control within the road allowance(s).

Name(s):					
Mailing Address					
Phone #:		Email Address:			
Land Location(s) for No Spray Areas					
QTR	SEC	TWP	RGE RD	W4M	
				W4M	
				W4M	
				W4M	

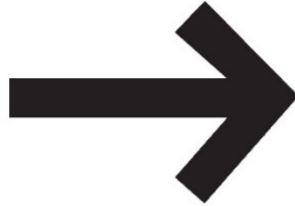
Landowner’s Signature _____
Date

Agricultural Fieldman Signature _____
Date

The personal information on this form is collected under the authority of Section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. It will be used for the purpose of the administration of Lac La Biche County’s Integrated Vegetation Management program. The information on this form will not be disclosed outside of the Lac La Biche County organization. If you have any questions about the collection and use of this information, please contact the Lac La Biche County FOIP Coordinator at 780-623-1747.



NO SPRAY ZONE



*For more information,
please call 780-623-1747.*



NO SPRAY ZONE



*For more information,
please call 780-623-1747.*





ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
INTEGRATED VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Schedule B
Fence Line Spray Request Form

RELEASE FOR HERBICIDE APPLICATION

I hereby grant permission for the Lac La Biche County Environmental Services staff to apply residual herbicide within the property listed below, for the control of noxious weeds and/or brush along the perimeter of the property, including the fence line and headlands, and into adjacent road right-of-way. I understand that herbicide applications will be subject to availability of spray resources and weather conditions. This signed request will include permission for the Lac La Biche County to enter my property for the purpose of performing such related weed control work. I understand the effects of the listed herbicides and agree to their application on my property: **(Check herbicides allowed)**

Lontrel 360 is a slightly residual herbicide with low toxicity, which may persist in the soil for up to two years and may affect the growth of crops such as peas, beans, potatoes, all legumes, and other broadleaf crops. I hereby declare that I understand the residual effects of Lontrel 360®. I agree to save harmless and indemnify the Lac La Biche County, its employees and agents, from and against all actions, suits, claims and demands arising in any manner whatsoever from activities associated with said herbicide application.

Milestone is a residual herbicide with low toxicity, which may persist in the soil for up to three years and may affect the growth of crops such as canola, peas, beans, potatoes, all legumes, and other broadleaf crops. I hereby declare that I understand the residual effects of Milestone®. I agree to save harmless and indemnify the Lac La Biche County, its employees and agents, from and against all actions, suits, claims and demands arising in any manner whatsoever from activities associated with said herbicide application.

Tordon 22K is a residual herbicide with low toxicity, which may persist in the soil for up to five years and may affect the growth of crops such as canola, peas, beans, potatoes, all legumes, brush, and other broadleaf crops. I hereby declare that I understand the residual effects of Tordon 22K®. I agree to save harmless and indemnify the Lac La Biche County, its employees and agents, from and against all actions, suits, claims and demands arising in any manner whatsoever from activities associated with said herbicide application.

The area(s) I wish to have sprayed is/are on: _____
Quarter Section Township Range Meridian

Property access from: _____ Adjacent crops: _____
Range Road Township Road i.e. pasture, hayland, cereals, oilseeds, etc.

Problem weed(s): _____

Additional notes: _____

Landowner Name (Print) _____

Date _____

Signature of Landowner _____

Mailing Address _____

Agricultural Fieldman Signature _____

Telephone No. Postal Code _____

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LAC LA BICHE COUNTY

P O Box 1679 Lac La Biche, AB T0A 2C0
Phone: 780-623-1747 Fax: 780-623-2039 (County Centre)
Phone: 780-623-4323 Fax: 780-623-3510 (McArthur Place)
Email: agriculture@lACLAbichecounty.com

**HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT (SCHEDULE “C”)
FOR USE IN CONNECTION WITH WEED/PESTS CONTROL**

MADE THIS _____ DAY OF _____, A.D., 20__

BETWEEN:

LAC LA BICHE COUNTY
(hereinafter called the “Municipality”)

OF THE FIRST PART

-AND-

(hereinafter called the “Owner/Authorized Representative”)

OF THE SECOND PART

WHEREAS the “Owner” has requested that the Municipality spray the “Owner’s” pests on:

Part	Section	Township	Range	Meridian	Lot	Block	Plan
				W4M			

OR

LANDMARK

For the control of _____ weeds/pests, upon the terms and subject to the
CONDITIONS herein stated.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the “Municipality” and the “Owner” agree as follows:

1. Pesticide includes all herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, algacides, rodenticides and any substances for the control, prevention and elimination pests.
2. The “Municipality” shall perform the said work at a contract price of _____ Dollars or Dollars per hour plus chemical payable by the owner to the Municipality in advance.
3. The “Municipality” shall not be deemed to represent, warrant or guarantee that the application of Pesticide will be effective or safe for the purpose for which it is to be used. The “Owner” assumes the entire responsibility for the selection and use of the said chemical.
4. In consideration of the performance of the said work, the “Owner” for himself, his heirs, executors, administrators, organizations and assigns, agrees that neither the “Municipality” performing the said work shall be under any responsibility for closure of premises, destruction of or damage to crops or other property of the “Owner” which may result from the application of Pesticide or the performance of the said

work, whether due to negligence of the “Municipality” or any employee of the “Municipality” performing the said work or otherwise.

5. The “Owner” represents that he is the “Owner/Authorized representative” of the said property/field and agrees to indemnify and save harmless Lac La Biche County, its agents and/or its employees from and against any losses, claims, demands, damages, or costs (including legal costs on a solicitor and his own client basis) arising from the performance of the said work
6. Any previous agreements with Lac La Biche County signed or implied on or about the above date for the said legal land description are invalid/void and any conditions carried or implied within these agreements.

Owner/Authorized Representative (Print Name)

Agricultural Fieldman (Print Name)

Signature

Signature

Witness