

Welcome to Roadside Vegetation Management



Photos courtesy of Cathy Ford

It is ITD's mission to be responsible land managers and neighbors, conduct responsible stewardship practices on state highways and interstates and reduce negative impacts to our environment.

ITD promotes a comprehensive and integrated vegetation management program that preserves biological diversity and natural habitats by protecting and improving air and water quality, preserving wetlands, minimizing adverse roadside visual impacts, enhancing natural beauty, preserving protected biological species, preserving archaeological and historical sites, and managing noxious and invasive species.

ITD is committed to find ways to minimize human activity and disturbance to the natural environment and ensure activities are conducted harmoniously with preserving natural diversity. This is achieved by promoting Best Management Practices (BMP's) for construction and maintenance projects, reintroducing more native vegetation and restoring native habitats, and complying with applicable federal, state, and local laws.

Vegetation management methods include a prescribed multi-year combination of actions which may include: mechanical mowing and trimming, hand pulling and cutting, herbicide application, introduction of beneficial biological organisms, and planting and encouraging desirable roadside vegetation to outcompete weeds and unwanted vegetation.

When applying herbicide treatments, ITD exercises precautionary measures above and beyond labeled restrictions, and state and federal regulations to further minimize potential risk to the environment and human health.

Roadside Activities

Construction and maintenance projects can often disturb roadside areas in order to improve transportation corridors. Disturbance activities require the areas be restored and the landscape improved to prevent erosion and sediment loss. Many disturbed areas are restored according to the characteristics of the surrounding area. ITD reseeds and plants native vegetation to blend in with the natural growth. Using native plants in roadside restoration will over the long term reduce maintenance requirements and costs and retain the natural character of Idaho's gem state.