



LANDSCAPING

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define landscaping as it applies to ITD projects and landscaping maintenance in coordination with local agencies.

Legal Authority

Idaho Code 40-313(3) - The Board shall acquire, maintain and improve areas adjacent to highways for the restoration, preservation and enhancement of scenic beauty.

Idaho Code 40-317(2) and (3) - The Board may enter into cooperative agreements with local governments for the improvement and maintenance of state highways and secondary roads.

23 Code of Federal Regulation Part 752 – Landscape and Roadside Development

Local agencies shall be contacted before projects are designed for consideration of roadside landscaping. Landscaping projects shall be developed in coordination with local agencies and be consistent with their desire and ability to assume maintenance costs. The local agency shall enter into an agreement with the Department to assume full responsibility for all future maintenance of the landscaping.

Unless otherwise specified, the degree of landscaping shall be limited to what is necessary to insure that the appearance of the airport or highway is compatible with the appearance of the surrounding area and will not interfere with public safety and overall maintenance operations. Functional planting shall be on the basis of engineering and environmental judgment and may include planting for erosion control, headlight screen, noise barriers, traffic safety, noxious weed control, roadway delineation, aesthetics, etc. (See the AASHTO Publication, *A Guide for Landscape and Environmental Design*.) The Department's Roadside Program Coordinator shall be given the opportunity to review all landscaping plans for concurrence with landscaping and roadside vegetation regulations and requirements.

Selection of the appropriate landscaping level of development shall follow these guidelines:

- **Low Level Development:** Use of primary grass, native shrubs and trees requiring minimal or no mowing and minimum water application. Cumulative maintenance costs expected to equal construction costs in 20-35 years.
- **Medium Level Development:** Use of primary grass, native shrubs and trees that require installation of a minimal irrigation system for limited watering. Mowing frequency equals irrigating frequency. Native dry-land shrubs and trees are desired. Cumulative maintenance costs are expected to equal construction costs in 10-15 years.
- **High Level Development:** Use of lawn grass, shrubs and trees that require installation of a complete irrigation system and frequent watering and mowing. Cumulative maintenance costs are expected to equal construction costs in 6-10 years.

Alternatives may be derived from combining elements of different levels to meet maintenance cost constraints.

Signed _____

Brian W. Ness
Director

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