

## **Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Integrated Vegetation Management Plan program update**

Brett Nelson and Michael Coffey, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

The Integrated Vegetation Management Plan (IVMP) assists the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) in its responsibility to manage the vegetation upon its lands to improve safety, provide better maintenance services, and control invasive plant species. DOT&PF intends to use herbicides as a maintenance tool along with nonchemical maintenance and vegetation control measures. Additionally, DOT&PF is currently working to further expand the IVMP process internally to help control the spread of invasive species on larger-scale projects.

# Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities



## Integrated Vegetation Management Plan

Michael J. Coffey  
Assistant Commissioner  
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

# ADEC Regulation Change

- New ADEC regulations became effective on **March 7, 2013**
- Eliminated the requirement for pesticide-use permits for most applications on state-owned lands.
- However, state agencies are required to develop and implement an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM Plan) prior to applying pesticides on state lands or rights-of-way.
- The DOT&PF IVMP is a type of IPM Plan



# DOT&PF's IVMP

- Original IVMP dated July 2013
- Original IVMP Effective Dates: July 2013 – July 2015
- First IVMP Revision Effective Dates: April 2014 – April 2016
- **Current IVMP Revision Effective Dates: March 2016 – April 2018**
- IVMP covers public rights-of-ways, airports, and other lands and facilities owned or leased by DOT&PF
- IVMP Goal - The primary goal of vegetation management throughout DOT&PF lands is to improve public safety and protect infrastructure

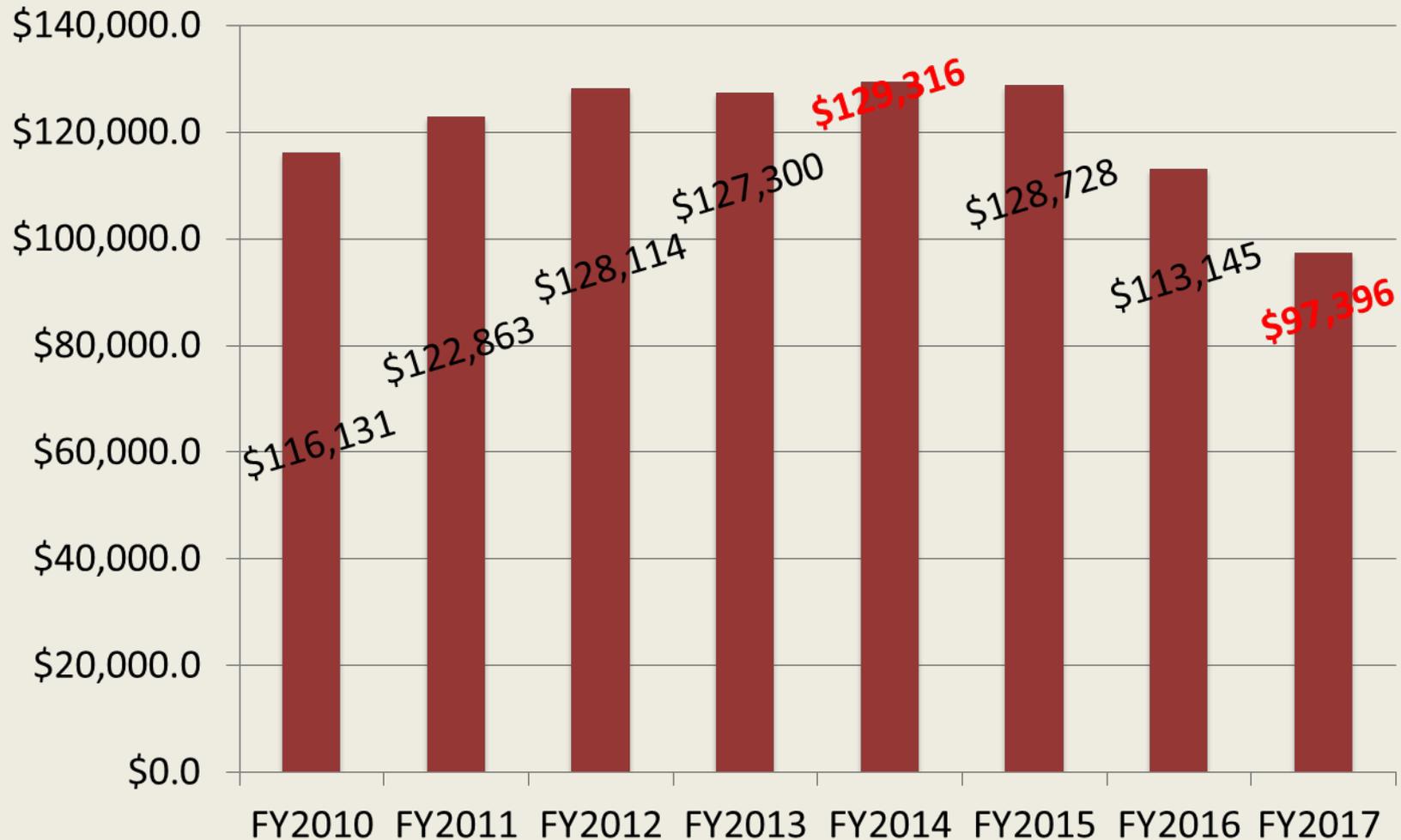




# Alaska's Fiscal Challenge

- Oil revenues fell 81 percent from 2012 to 2015
- \$7.2 B drop in oil revenues from 2012 to 2015
- **Alaska is facing a \$3.5 B budget deficit**
- FY16 & FY17- M&O took a 20% combined budget reduction!
- Closed 5 Maintenance Stations
- Reduced manpower (*55 M&O positions were cut in FY16 and FY17*) and equipment
- Highlights need to Develop Partnerships

# Highways & Aviation-Unrestricted General Fund FY2010-FY2017 Operating Budget



Numbers are in thousands



# Alaska's Fiscal Challenge

- Oil revenues fell 81 percent from 2012 to 2015
- \$7.2 B drop in oil revenues from 2012 to 2015
- **Alaska is facing a \$3.5 B budget deficit**
- FY16 & FY17- M&O took a 20% combined budget reduction!
- Closed 5 Maintenance Stations
- Reduced manpower (*55 M&O positions were cut in FY16 and FY17*) and equipment
- **Highlights need to Develop Partnerships**



# IVMP Partnering Opportunities

- Although written for M&O, the plan applies to anyone working in the department's right-of-way
- The plan is available to be utilized on DOT&PF construction projects
- The ADNR, Copper River Watershed Project, Southeast Alaska Soil Water Conservation District, Homer Soil & Water Conservation District, US Forest Service, Salcha-Delta Soil and Water Conservation District, NPS Denali National Park, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Kodiak Soil & Water Conservation District have all applied herbicides under our IVMP.





Alaska Department of Transportation &amp; Public Facilities

# Maintenance & Operations



search



DOT&amp;PF



State of Alaska

DOT&PF > Maintenance & Operations > Integrated Vegetation Management Plan > 10 Steps to Success

## 10 Steps to Success

Follow the 10 step process for herbicide applications on DOT&PF managed [lands](#). Read through all of the steps before beginning, as some steps must happen concurrently (Step 7 includes a general summary of what needs to be completed prior to herbicide application). Make sure to take into account all timelines and costs associated with the project. Per ADEC, pesticide applications are a single project only if all applications are conducted within the same calendar year by the same agency; therefore the following steps must be repeated on an annual basis for projects applying herbicides for more than one year.

1. Choose the Best Tool »

2. Make a Plan

3. Communicate

4. DOT&PF Involvement

5. ROW/Traffic

6. Notification

7. Status Check

8. Implement

9. Post-Application

10. Record Keeping

### Step 1- Choose the Best Tool



Photo (far right) courtesy of USFWS.

Consider the most appropriate tool for vegetation management, including non-chemical maintenance measures, and identify when plan implementation will be most effective based on the vegetative lifecycle. If herbicide is to be used, choose the one that will be most effective from [Table 1 of the IVMP](#).

## IVMP

- » Home
- » 10 Steps to Success
- » Frequently Asked Questions
- » Forms/Additional Resources
- » Annual reports
- » Contacts

### IVMP Person in Charge

Michael J. Coffey  
 Southcoast Region Director  
 6860 Glacier Highway  
 Juneau, AK 99801  
 Telephone: (907) 465-1763  
[mike.coffey@alaska.gov](mailto:mike.coffey@alaska.gov)

## M & O

- » Home
- » Central Region
- » Northern Region
- » Southcoast Region
- » Adopt-A-Highway Program



# 10 Steps to Success

- [http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdmno/ivmp/steps\\_success.shtml](http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdmno/ivmp/steps_success.shtml)



# Steps to Using the DOT&PF IVMP

**Step 1** - Choose the Best Tool: Consider the most appropriate tool for vegetation management, including non-chemical maintenance measures, and identify when plan implementation will be most effective based on the vegetative lifecycle. If herbicide is to be used, choose the one that will be most effective from Table 1 of the IVMP.

**Step 2** - Make a Plan: Consider the potential costs associated with your project, the personnel you will have and/or work with to complete the task, and come up with a timeline that accounts for the agency and public cooperation that is required (consult Notification Schedule for guidance in Step 6). Compile maps/visuals to show your project area.

**Step 3** - Contact Mike Coffey to begin coordination.

**Step 4** – Fill out the Pre-application Checklist. This is available on the DOT IVMP website.

**Step 5** – Notify the public via two consecutive public notices. Information required to be in the public notices is on the DOT&PF IVMP website. The second notice must be published 30 days before spraying takes place.

**Step 6** – Apply for a Lane Closure permit through DOT’s Right-of-Way (ROW section). This gives you permission to work in the DOT ROW. For this, you must submit a traffic control plan and paperwork form Mike Coffey confirming that you have completed the Pre-application checklist and posted your public notice ads.

**Step 7** – Notify the ADEC and Mike Coffey at least 15 days before spraying so information can be posted on the ADEC website

**Step 8** – Apply herbicides according to labels, and state and federal regulations using only ADEC-certified pesticide applicators, keeping track of rates of application, areas of application, and total amount(s) used. Details from spraying will be put in the final checklist, so have that with you when you spray or review it beforehand.

**Step 9** – Complete the Post-application checklist and submit it to Mike Coffey

**Step 10** – Keep herbicide spraying records for two years. DOT&PF will also keep records of your paperwork and will publish a report on their website for each herbicide applied to more than 20 acres in a calendar year.

# M&O Best Management Practices (BMPs) to Avoid the Spread of Invasives

- Cleaning vehicles and equipment regularly
- Re-vegetating with native, local, and/or non-invasive plants
- Identifying and avoiding contaminated areas
- Working from uninfested to infested areas
- Coordinating with local groups that are managing invasive species
- Timing mowing (if possible) to prevent seed production of invasive plants
- Using certified weed-free materials
- Scouting for invasive plants prior to performing maintenance activities
- Recording and reporting invasive plants

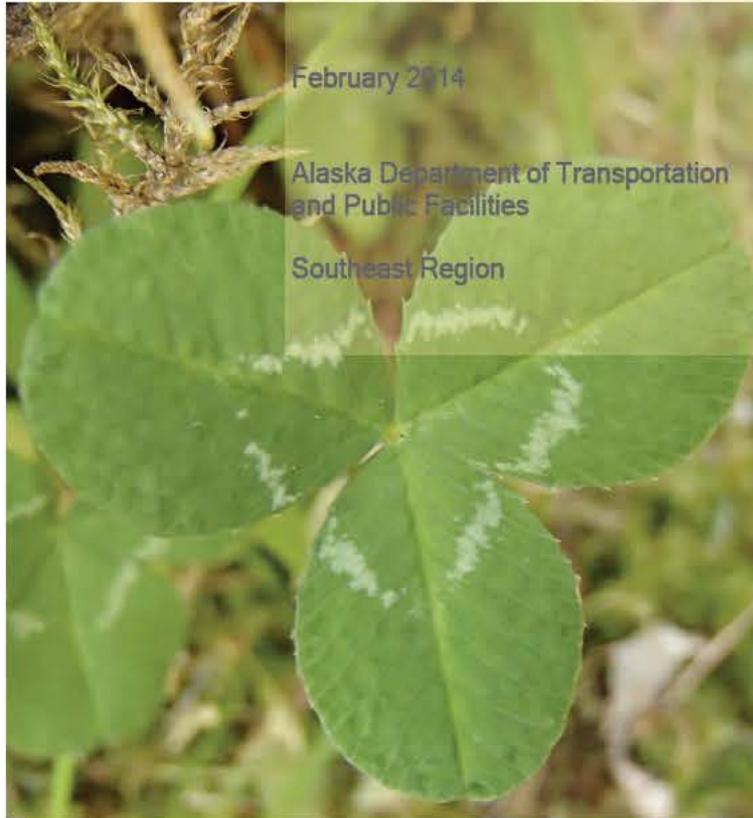


# Disposal and Control of Invasive Plant Species

February 2014

Alaska Department of Transportation  
and Public Facilities

Southeast Region



# Thank You



# Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities



## Northern Region IVMP Update

Brett Nelson

Northern Region Environmental Manager  
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

# Northern Region DOT&PF

- Vegetation management can be challenging



# Northern Region DOT&PF

- We do have invasive weeds
  - Bird vetch
  - White sweet clover
  - Others



# Northern Region DOT&PF

- Vegetation management a big task
  - Safety
  - Infrastructure
  - Invasives



# Northern Region M&O

- Deck mowers
- Spraying
- Hydroseeders (3)
- Airports & highways



# Northern Region M&O

- Obtaining spray truck for 2017 season
  - Provides flexibility
  - Logistical challenges
  - Fiscal challenges





# Northern Region DOT&PF

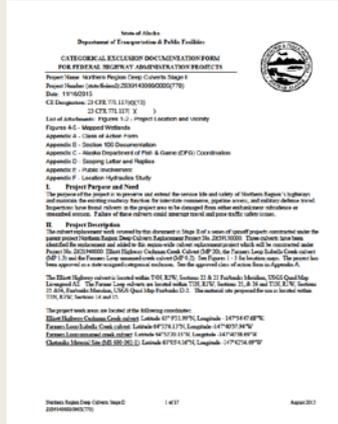
- Adapting to changes and challenges
  - Funding source considerations





# NR Design & Construction

- Applying federal funding
  - Preventive maintenance
  - Projects – E.O. 13112
    - Agency scoping
    - Surveys
    - Environmental documentation
    - Permits
    - Contract specifications





# NR Design & Construction

- Problem identification
  - Scoping
  - Surveys
- Treatment plan & BMPs
- Documentation
- Contract management & compliance





# Questions?

