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120.01 General

Roadside management encompasses roadside planning, design, construction, and maintenance. The primary challenge in roadside management is to preserve and restore roadside character and fulfill roadside functions, regardless of fluctuations in funding and personnel. By setting feasible standards and working consistently within long-term goals, roadside management can promote sustainable roadsides.

120.02 Reference

Roadside Vegetation Management Plans

www.wsdot.wa.gov/maintenance/roadside/mgmt_plans.htm

120.03 Resources

- Region Landscape Architects
- Headquarters (HQ) Design Office, Roadside and Site Development Section

120.04 Definition

sustainable roadsides Roadsides that are designed and maintained with the intent of integrating successful operational, environmental, and visual functions with low life cycle costs.

120.05 Managing for Sustainable Roadsides

Sustainable roadsides fulfill roadside design intent and roadside functions over the long term, within present and future available funding, personnel, and equipment allocations and methodologies. To achieve sustainable roadsides, roadside partners must strive to utilize, protect, and support the physical and ecological resources necessary for a fully functioning roadside.

The primary management considerations for sustainable roadsides are:

- **Design intent:** Roadside functions (operational, environmental, visual, and auxiliary) and maintenance standards, criteria, and actions are coordinated and balanced to the greatest degree possible to achieve the design intent on all levels. Design to achieve the long-term goals of Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM). Refer to the [Roadside Vegetation Management Plans](#) website.

- **20-year planning horizon:** All roadside management decisions are weighed in their long-term context, including projected land use and public health, safety, and welfare considerations. Address future adjacent land uses and roadside functions when designing present-day projects.
- **Projected life cycle costs:** All roadside management decisions are in keeping with present and future available funding, personnel, equipment, and methodologies. What are the costs of the project over its “lifetime?”
- **Utilize, protect, and support the roadway and roadside infrastructure:** All roadside management decisions are balanced with the need to sustain, and to preserve, restore, and enhance the roadside character and natural environment. The emphasis is on careful management of existing and volunteer native vegetation.
- **Continued cooperative involvement:** Roadside management decisions are based on continued active involvement between all roadside partners within WSDOT. This begins at the earliest planning stages with communication between all affected parties through an open, collaborative management process and designated lines of communication between roadside partners.

This manual presents criteria and details for implementation of the sustainable roadside concept. All documents pertaining to roadside management such as design documents, construction plans, and area maintenance plans shall be created and implemented using the considerations for managing sustainable roadsides.