

**Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture
Department of Public Works**

Agreement to Control Vegetation on County Right-of-Way

“Property Owner Maintained Contract”

I, _____ (Print or Type Full Name), have obtained an “Encroachment Permit” (EP# _____) from the Siskiyou County Public Works Department (attached), hereby agree to adequately control vegetation growing within the Siskiyou County road right-of-way adjoining my property, in lieu of herbicide applications by Siskiyou County personnel. This area is defined as the “No Spray Zone” (NSZ) that the owner shall maintain. Determination of “adequate control” is at the sole discretion of the Siskiyou County Public Works (SCPW) and/or the Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture (SCDA) (referred to through the completion of this agreement as “County”) personnel and will be specified as follows:

1. No growth within the entire right-of-way of any vegetation named on the [California State Noxious Invasive Weed List \(3 CCR 4500\)](#).
2. Vegetation shall be maintained to a maximum height of no more than 6 inches on the existing width of shoulder as per Encroachment Permit. Actual maintenance width will be evaluated and specified within the Encroachment permit.
3. All vegetation in or around existing drainage ways or ditches shall be controlled to the extent required to allow proper flows.
4. All vegetation shall be controlled to the extent required to assure no sight restrictions, no damage to the roadway and adjacent areas, or will create any other safety hazards.
5. I agree that signs will be placed as required in the Encroachment Permit and that they are clearly legible and visible. I understand it is my responsibility to replace or repair signs as necessary that do not meet the requirements. I understand that a payment of forty-five dollars and seventy-five cents (\$45.75) will be required to obtain these county owned signs, and their return following contract termination is required.

I agree to use control methods which do not disturb the roadway and adjacent areas, including the traveled roadway, shoulders, ditches, and cut and fill slopes to accomplish the foregoing requirements.

I agree to post SCDA issued signs according to the “Installation Instructions” provided for you at the time of contract signing.

I understand proper sign placement is my sole responsibility and that the County may treat the described areas with herbicide, **without prior notice**, if the signs are not properly in place, readable, and/or clearly visible.

I agree that failure on my part to adequately control vegetation as specified above will result in a “Notice of Termination of Agreement” being issued by the County. Such notice of termination will be effective seven (7) days following mailing to the property owner at the address listed below. Following termination, the County has the right to implement roadside vegetation control by any method it deems appropriate. I also agree that actual current year control costs expended by the County for control as required following a notice of termination may be billed to me, and I agree that I am responsible for payment if the agreement was terminated for failure to adequately control vegetation as required under the provisions of this contract.

I understand that the County does not guarantee that the area being put into “**Owner Will Maintain**” has not already been previously sprayed.

I agree to all the terms and conditions set forth in this contract. I have been provided a list of the current “California State Invasive Noxious Weed List” and website address (listed on this agreement) for information and identification.

This agreement is only valid for a two-calendar year cycle including the year in which it was signed unless notification of termination, in writing, by either the County or the Owner is issued. This agreement is not transferable and complies with the California State Food and Agriculture Code (FAC, Division 4, Chapter 6.5, Sections: 5501-5509). This agreement becomes valid from date of the signature of the last signee from the signatures listed below and reflected here: _____(month)_____(day), 20____ to December 31st, 20____.

Failure to comply with this “Property Owner Maintained Contract” and the “Encroachment Permit” could result in the termination of both the contract and permit and/or a fine of \$350.00 per day the violation occurs (as per California State and Highway Code Section 1483).

Property Physical Address and description of “**Owner Maintained Area**” (provide physical sign locations via GPS coordinates or detailed map, include all parcel numbers):

Property Owner/Responsible Party Mailing Address:

Phone Number: _____ Cell Number: _____

Email Address: _____

This contract is between _____(Property Owner/Responsible Party and the County of Siskiyou (Department of Agriculture and Department of Public Works) was executed on this _____ day of _____20 ____ (date of last signee from signatures below).

Signature of Property Owner/Responsible Party:

_____ Date: _____

Signature of Department of Agriculture:

_____ Date: _____

(Authorized Representative)

Signature of Department of Public Works:

_____ Date: _____

(Authorized Representative)

Siskiyou County Public Works Integrated Vegetation Management Plan

Siskiyou County maintains 1360 miles of roadway, approx. 860 miles are surfaced roads. The Public Works attempts to actively maintain all vegetation within the Right-of-Way.

Siskiyou County's goal in management of roadside vegetation is to maintain the road system with the most efficient use of financial resources while providing necessary vegetation management.

Purpose of Roadside Vegetation Management

- **Protecting Public Safety**

Brambles, vines, weeds, and brush that grow along the roadside can threaten public safety. Vegetation may limit motorists' ability to see hazards. Vehicles, pedestrians, animals, and hazardous objects can be screened by vegetation at intersections, curves, private road connections and driveways. Vegetation can also obstruct traffic signs. Vegetation can cause excessive accumulations of ice, snow, water, and debris on the roadways, all of which are potential safety hazards for motorists. Vegetation increases fire hazards.

By keeping road shoulders free of vegetation, Siskiyou County Public Works creates an area that is safer for pedestrians and bicyclists and provides a safe area for motorists to stop in an emergency. Reducing the amount of vegetation along the road also reduces the fire hazards.

- **Protecting the Roadways**

Vegetation that is allowed to grow on the shoulders and ditches of the road can prevent water from properly draining from the road surface, shoulder and ditches. This accumulation of excess moisture causes the roadbed to become saturated, causing deterioration of the road surface and ultimately causing road failures.

- **Eliminating Noxious Weeds**

Noxious weeds are plants that are designated as a public menace and are under California Department of Food and Agriculture designations as **noxious**, requiring mandated responses from Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture. Noxious weeds threaten agriculture fields, rangelands, wildlands, and compete with desirable native plants including threatened and endangered species. Noxious weeds are often distributed by vehicles traveling on the road system. Eliminating these noxious weeds before they have a chance to spread is integral in stopping their proliferation.

Roadside Vegetation Control Procedures

- **Herbicide Application**

Herbicide vegetation control follows all Federal and State pesticide laws. Siskiyou County Public Works partners with the Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture, to apply and manage all herbicide applications. Herbicide application is used with two main objectives:

1. Actively manage a no growth zone. This zone extends from edge of pavement to top of ditch, this area averages approximately four feet in width. This maintenance action dramatically reduces maintenance costs compared to other methods, promotes water drainage from road surfaces, preventing road failures, allows motorists to safely pull off the roadway onto the shoulder, restore and maintain sight distance, and reduces the risk of vegetation fire from vehicles and motorists. This also prevents noxious weed establishment in the most likely portion of the roadway.
2. Right-of-way herbicide spot spraying eliminates the spread of noxious weeds and maintains compliance with noxious weed control mandates.

- **Mowing, Brush Mowing, Brush Cutting (By Hand)**

These vegetation management actions are designed to, restore and maintain sight distance, allow maintenance access to drainage easements and reduce vegetation in and around bridges to allow for maintenance and inspection.

“No Spray” Request Applications

A property owner can submit an application to have Siskiyou County Public Works restrict herbicide use on the road fronting their property.

Applicants shall:

- Obtain the application packet from [Siskiyou County Public Works](#) under supporting documents, No Spray Application on the web page or from the Siskiyou County Public Works office at, 1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, California.

Packet will include:

- a. Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture’s Property Owner Maintained Contract (Provided in the application packet).
- b. Siskiyou County Public Work’s Encroachment Permit (Provided in the application packet).

This permit will allow applicant to work within the County’s right-of-way. The permit will also detail the maintenance obligations, requirements and restrictions, including eradicating noxious weeds.

- Return application and encroachment permit to Public Works.
- Upon approval notification: Lease the “No Spray” signs and posts from the Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture. Signs must be placed at the beginning and end of each “No Spray” zone. Placement of signs must be approved by Public Works.

If vegetation and noxious weeds are NOT controlled as agreed upon, the Roadside Vegetation Control Agreement and Encroachment permit will be void, and fines, penalties, and additional maintenance costs could be incurred. At this time, and as agreed upon, Siskiyou County Public Works Department and the Siskiyou County Agriculture Department will immediately resume normal vegetation management methods, which may include herbicide use.