

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

Platform Committee

9/18/2014

RESOLUTION 2014.03

A RESOLUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

Relating to the Lane County Integrated Vegetation Management Program

WHEREAS, The Lane County Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) policy has been established as a framework from which to conduct the County's roadside vegetation management program; and

WHEREAS, Lane County's IVM Program was developed by County staff and the Vegetation Management Advisory Committee for the purpose of controlling unwanted vegetation and noxious weeds within County right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 the Board of County Commissioners, responding to health concerns, placed an indefinite moratorium on using chemicals in county right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, The IVM Program was approved by the Lane County Board of Commissioners and has been in successful operation since 1990; and

WHEREAS, The philosophy underlying the Lane County Integrated Vegetation Management Program considers both the needs of human-created systems and the needs of the natural systems in which they occur; and

WHEREAS, The Lane County Board of Commissioners also serves as the Board of Public Health. As the keepers of public health, one aspect of protecting public health is reducing the public's exposure to pesticides. All residents use county roads for transportation. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, infants and children may be especially sensitive to health risks posed by

pesticides for several reasons: (a) their internal organs are still developing and maturing; (b) in relation to their body weight, infants and children drink more water and breathe greater volumes of air than adults, possibly increasing their exposure to pesticides in air and water; and (c) certain behaviors, such as playing outside on lawns or putting objects or dirt in their mouths, increase a child's exposure to pesticides used in homes and yards; and

WHEREAS, Lane County Integrated Vegetation Management Program considers both the Public safety and the integrity and maintenance of public facilities with careful evaluation and reduction of the impacts of disturbance to the environment and water quality; and

WHEREAS, an integrated program includes all aspects of roadside vegetation control and the combined efforts, knowledge, and experience of staff and involved community representatives continues to improve and challenge the IVM Program; and

WHEREAS, the program uses resources in a cost-effective and responsible manner to establish a roadside vegetative regime that will minimize long-term vegetation management costs; and

WHEREAS, the Lane County Public Works Department has made significant gains in vegetation management, including: (a) shifting to smaller, multiuse tractors for roadside vegetation management; (b) increasing trainings and botanical knowledge of staff within the department; (c) using native seeding's and plantings and habitat restoration areas; (d) mapping all of the County's roadside noxious weed locations for a number of species; and (e) continuing to protect both State and Federal plant sites along County roadways; and

WHEREAS, vegetation management on Lane County right-of-ways is an on-going activity, and thus the responsibility of maintaining roadsides and controlling vegetation requires adequate funding, and according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture IPM roadmap, and research institutions such as Oregon State University Integrated Plant Protection Center, Integrated Vegetation Management is the state-of-the-art process for managing vegetation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Democratic Party of Lane County urges the Lane County Public Works Department to continue to implement its Integrated Vegetation Management policy and procedures on all County right-of-ways and lands; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Democratic Party of Lane County supports sufficient funding and periodic updates of Lane County IVM policy in accordance with new information and best-management practices.

**Resolved by the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Lane County,
Assembled in Eugene, Oregon, September 18, 2014**

Signed:

X _____.

Julie Fahey
Chair

X _____.

Celine Swenson-Harris
Secretary
