

Appendix F.

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR RESTORATION TECHNICIANS USING HERBICIDES IN NATURAL AREAS

All crew applicators must hold at a minimum a Massachusetts Pesticide Applicator License issued by the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR). In addition to the applicable rules and regulations, applicators will adhere to the following operational guidelines:

Weather

Herbicide application will be restricted during certain adverse weather conditions, such as rain or wind. Scheduling of spray operations will be dictated by forecast conditions.

Herbicide applications will not be made during periods of moderate or heavy rainfall. Foliar applications are effective in light mist situations. However, any measurable rainfall that creates leaf runoff will wash the herbicide off the target plant. If foliar applications are interrupted by unexpected rainfall, the treatment will not resume until the rain ends and active leaf runoff has ceased.

Excessive wind can create drift during foliage applications causing damage to desirable vegetation. To minimize off target drift, the applicator will comply with the following Restrictions:

- The applicator will monitor wind conditions to insure that there is no significant movement of the herbicide. If the applicator can see the herbicide moving off target, the application will immediately stop until the wind has subsided enough to permit further application.
- All herbicide solutions to be used for a foliar application will contain anti-drift agents. Anti-drift agents will be added to the foliage herbicide solutions as per the anti-drift agent label. In moderate wind conditions, as per label recommendations, more anti-drift agent may be added, at the discretion of the applicator to control increased drift.
- Foliar treatments will not be made to target vegetation that exceeds approximately twelve feet in height.
- Low-pressure foliar application equipment will be calibrated to maintain pressure not exceeding 60 pounds per square inch at the nozzle. The equipment will be calibrated and a Spray Controller will be used to deliver a consistent flow rate of approximately 40 gallons/Acre. For boom applications, the boom will be kept as low as possible to reduce the drift hazard and a drift control additive will be included in the spray formulation to increase droplet size and give a uniform distribution of spray material.

MITIGATION MEASURES & RECORD KEEPING

Record Keeping

An invasive plant inventory containing information on invasive plant distributions for Greylock Glen was completed in 2010. Inventory information is geographically referenced and transferable to handheld GPS computers for accurate field access. Record keeping will include maintenance of project records that maintain information on the nature, timing, and location of actions taken. Data collected will include project location, weather conditions, daily updates of areas completed, amount of material used, worker and equipment hours spent on the project, personnel responsible for activity and follow-up commentary. Chemically treated areas will be evaluated after the herbicide(s) are applied to determine the effectiveness of the applications, and also to determine whether there is any off target injury and/or drift of the spray solution.

Note: As described in the monitoring section of the text, a separate ecological monitoring protocol being carried out by Biodiversity is also in place for this project.