

Invasive Species Program Directive	Silviculture and Road Contracts on DNR Administered Lands
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Owner By	Approved By	Initiation Date	Revision Date
Susan Burks	Alan Jones	January 1, 2010	December 31, 2011

PURPOSE	To establish policies and procedures for incorporating invasive species specifications in all silviculture and roads contracts, and identify roles and responsibilities in developing and administering contracts so that there is an effective and consistent use of the invasive species guidelines to protect Division of Forestry administered lands from the introduction and dissemination of invasive species.
OUTCOMES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forestry staff understand the need for and are actively implementing the division's Invasive Species Guidelines. 2. Contractors understand the risk and threat of invasive species and partner with the division in addressing these threats. 3. Standardized contract language is used where appropriate to consistently communicate with the contractors to minimize potential misunderstandings and optimize work efficiency and compliance 4. Contract specifications are enforced in a consistent manner across the division. 5. The division is in compliance with all state and federal weed and plant protection statutes, rules and orders. 6. Division liability is minimized.
SCOPE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This policy applies to all new and renewing silviculture and roads contracts for work to be performed on Division of Forestry administered lands including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site preparation • Planting or seeding • Bud capping • Pre-commercial thinning • Sanitation and other pest management practices • Road grading • Spot graveling • Culvert installation or replacement • Right-of-Way (ROW) maintenance including mowing and brushing. • Snowplowing 2. It does NOT apply to timber sale permits.

POLICY	
Contract Specifications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All new or renewing silviculture and roads contracts shall include the following language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Before entering and leaving the site, be sure all vehicles, equipment and trailers are free of caked mud, dirt clods, plants, plant parts, bark and debris. The use of a power washer or air compressor to clean equipment is NOT required unless specified below.</i> • <i>Follow other actions as directed by the site administrator to minimize the introduction and/or spread of invasive species.</i>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Additional specifications shall be added to any new or renewing contract to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent the introduction of invasive species into high value at-risk sites defined as those with rare or unusual features at risk of damage from invasive species or invasive species management practices. • Minimize the spread of existing infestations of noxious weeds or invasive plants in categories 1 and 2. See Appendix A: Invasive Species Priorities. • Minimize the spread of existing infestations of noxious weeds or invasive plants in categories 3 when site conditions warrant extra care. See Appendix A: Invasive Species Priorities. 3. Contract specifications should not conflict with or override management objectives for the site or existing management plans and desired future conditions.
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RESPONSIBILITIES and PROCEDURES	
Area Silviculture and Roads Leads	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reviews existing invasive species occurrence data. 2. Reviews stand or site conditions and any known features at risk of damage due to invasive species or invasive species management practices. 3. Refers to the individual activity sheets in the division’s Invasive Species Guidelines. 4. Consults with other disciplines when rare or endangered species or communities are involved, are in proximity, or contract may include other lands administered by other disciplines so that invasive species guidelines are specified in the contract appropriate to address protection needs. 5. Determines which if any additional invasive species specifications are needed and includes appropriate contract specifications from Appendix B. 6. Reviews invasive species guidelines with successful bidder. 7. Periodically monitors the site during the project to ensure compliance. 8. Enforces contract specifications as needed and reasonable. 9. Consults with Area Supervisor if there are any concerns.
Area Forest Supervisor or Assistant Area Forest Supervisor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitates needs determination for additional contract specifications. 2. Ensures program leads provide sufficient oversight of any project(s). 3. Ensures any needed enforcement is clearly warranted, documented and carried out in a professional manner. 4. Ensures that the equipment, work space and safety training needed for staff to comply with invasive species guidelines are provided and readily available.
Regional Silviculture and Roads Leads	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensures area program leads are adequately trained to identify and manage invasive species found in their area. 2. Ensures area program leads are adequately trained to effectively implement the division’s invasive species guidelines. 3. Periodically reviews service contracts to ensure appropriate and consistent application of invasive species specifications.

Appendix A: Invasive Species Priorities

The following list has been modified for use in new and renewing contracts, leases and permits. Include additional specifications as directed in the Invasive Species Program Directive.

Category 1: These are species which are not common in portions or all of the state, are highly invasive, readily displace native vegetation, have management implications for forestry lands and move easily in soil or mud.

- At the moment, garlic mustard is the only species in this category. It can move in soil, water or attached to fur, clothing, vehicles or equipment.

Category 2: These include state or county noxious weeds that are under active regulation because of their potential to impact Ag lands, range, wetlands or open woodlands. They are spread by wind, soil, hay, gravel, or on fur, clothing, vehicles and equipment.

- Bull, sow, musk, plumeless, nodding & Canada thistle
- Leafy spurge
- Purple loosestrife
- Spotted knapweed (common along northern roadsides, elsewhere occurs in small isolated patches)
- Common Tansy

Category 3: These are invasive species that are not currently being regulated, but have the potential to impact forest resources. Most are woody species with heavy seed carried not readily spread by wind or soil. Where they occur in small isolated infestations, include contract specifications to minimize the spread of existing infestations and to prevent introductions into other areas. How “isolated infestations” is defined depends on plant size (in the case of woody species), plant density, patch size and distribution on the site and in adjacent stands. Questions regarding what constitutes “isolated infestations” should be directed to the Regional Silviculture Program Lead or to the Invasive Species Program Coordinator.

- European and glossy buckthorn (currently limited to southern MN, elsewhere it occurs in small isolated patches.)
- Amur maple
- Norway maple
- Siberian pea shrub
- Exotic honeysuckle
- Black locust
- Siberian elm
- Japanese barberry
- Japanese & giant knotweed
- Purple loosestrife Russian olive
- Multiflora rose (limited to small patches in southern MN)
- Winged euonymus
- Bittersweet vine
- Wild parsnip (**a concern for personal injury**)
- Grecian foxglove (**a concern for personal injury**)

Appendix B: Invasive Species Specification Options:

A. Cut and paste the entire table into the contract specifications and check all that apply

OR

B. Select individual specifications, copy and paste into the contract and check all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Before starting work, review known infestations with site administrator. When traveling between multiple sites a day, inform the site administrator of your daily plan and the condition of sites visited previously. The intent is to start work at the site with the fewest number of invasive plants, leaving the most heavily infested sites to last. Time operations and site visits to avoid the spread of weed seed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	This site is infested with <input type="checkbox"/> garlic mustard, <input type="checkbox"/> other wind or soil-borne invasive plant, <input type="checkbox"/> exotic earthworms. Avoid traveling through or parking in infested areas. Time operations to avoid spreading seed. If mowing hay, be aware of any chemical applications and honor wait times before mowing. Some herbicides are passed through manure into sensitive crop fields. See other restrictions below.
<input type="checkbox"/>	This site is infested with <input type="checkbox"/> oak wilt, <input type="checkbox"/> Dutch elm disease, <input type="checkbox"/> other invasive plant disease. When removing trees or clearing brush, stack and tarp infested material for one growing season before moving off site, OR process (chip, burn or debark) before April 1 st . Do not haul infected trees between April 1 st and Nov 1 st .
<input type="checkbox"/>	This site is infested with one or more woody invasive species (such as buckthorn, Amur or Norway maple, black locust, Siberian elm or peashrub, exotic honeysuckle, multiflora rose, knotweed, Japanese barberry or Russian olive). When cutting, <input type="checkbox"/> chip, <input type="checkbox"/> pile, <input type="checkbox"/> pile and burn rather than scattering the tops.
<input type="checkbox"/>	This site is infested with <input type="checkbox"/> gypsy moth, <input type="checkbox"/> emerald ash borer, <input type="checkbox"/> sirex wood wasp, <input type="checkbox"/> other invasive disease or insect. Obtain a compliance agreement from USDA APHIS prior to hauling wood or woody debris off site.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Using a power washer or air compressor, <input type="checkbox"/> daily, <input type="checkbox"/> weekly, <input type="checkbox"/> monthly clean all vehicles, equipment and trailers taken on and off site during the growing season. Washing may be done at an approved location on site or off site at an appropriate cleaning facility. Avoid letting rinse water run into open bodies of water or native plant communities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	All materials (gravel, fill, mulch, chips, sand, etc.) brought to the site are to be weed and pest free. Sources are to be approved prior to purchase or acquisition.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plant or reclaim site within: <input type="checkbox"/> one month, <input type="checkbox"/> three months, <input type="checkbox"/> six months of end of lease or project. Use weed and pest free native plant and seed mixes. Where available, use certified or local sources. Non-native exceptions require prior approval.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Upon completion of the project or operation, close, obstruct or gate all access routes. If project is inactive for longer than <input type="checkbox"/> one month, <input type="checkbox"/> three months, <input type="checkbox"/> six months close, obstruct or gate all access routes until project resumes.
<input type="checkbox"/>	In the case invasive plants become an issue during operations (to be determined by the site administrator), the contractor/lease/permittee agrees to stop operations and gate or otherwise close the site until the infestation can be controlled.