

Herbicide Use Policy

Approved by Board of Directors, Feb 5, 2015

The Long Tom Watershed Council implements a variety of habitat restoration projects on private and public land to improve water quality and habitat for fish and wildlife. It is the goal of the Council to successfully achieve the habitat objectives of these restoration projects, and LTWC is committed to a high standard of ecological outcomes. The control of non-native and invasive weeds is an important element of achieving restoration success at many restoration projects. Invasive weeds negatively impact native habitats, water quality, and agricultural crops. LTWC uses a wide variety of techniques to control invasive weeds on restoration project sites, including the use of herbicides.

LTWC is committed to the safe and thoughtful use of herbicides. The Council applies herbicides safely, effectively and only with the approval of the property owner. In order to do this, we utilize the latest science and application techniques that most accurately treat the target weed species while also minimizing the amount of drift to non-target areas. These application techniques include spot spraying, stem injections, and direct wiping of vegetation. Tractor-mounted, ground-spraying booms are used when broader application is necessary.

LTWC also adheres to the following principles in order to safely and effectively treat weeds in an area:

- Contract only with licensed herbicide applicators experienced with habitat restoration projects.
- Select the most appropriate herbicide with respect to the targeted plant species and situation.
- Apply the material according to the directions on the manufacturer's label and in accordance with state and federal regulations.
- Time applications to coincide with optimal weather conditions to maximize effectiveness to the target weed and minimize drift to non-target areas.
- Time Applications with respect to the life cycle of the target plant species that will optimize effectiveness.
- Use integrated pest management (IPM) techniques as guidance.
- Follow current best practices by consulting current published scientific research and licensed experts.