

PROJECT SPECIAL PROVISIONS' INSERTION STARTS BELOW—

ITEM 9240181 — MISCELLANEOUS WORK (CONTROL OF NOXIOUS PLANTS) (MANUAL / MECHANICAL METHODS):

ITEM 9240182 — MISCELLANEOUS WORK (CONTROL OF NOXIOUS PLANTS) (HERBICIDE):

Description:

The work under these items shall consist of surveying, as well as controlling noxious and invasive plant species manually /mechanically and/or with the application of herbicides, in the areas designated by the Engineer, and throughout the duration of the contract, as required in a Noxious Species Control Plan (NSCP) prepared by the contractor as specified herein. When noxious or invasive plant species are determined to be present within the project limits or all anticipated construction zones, the control procedures in the NSCP shall be implemented with the approved weed management measures achieved prior to earth moving activities of infested areas.

The weed control procedures in the NSCP shall also be implemented during all stages of construction and in advance of seeding. Control of Noxious Plants through herbicide methods shall be accomplished between seven (7) and fourteen (14) calendar days prior to Clearing and Grubbing, as well as roadway / drainage excavations. Control of Noxious Plants through manual /mechanical methods shall be accomplished within seven (7) calendar days prior to Clearing and Grubbing, as well as roadway /drainage excavations. Repeated treatments shall resume after Clearing and Grubbing when noxious/invasive plants occur during construction. In addition, all construction related equipment, materials, and personnel moving in and/or out of project site shall be inspected and cleaned of noxious and invasive plant species (seeds, seed heads /pods) at no additional cost to the Department.

For projects that include Landscape Establishment, as specified in Section 807 of the Standard Specifications and these Special Provisions, control of noxious and invasive plant species will also be required throughout the Landscape Establishment phase, and shall be included in the contractor's NSCP.

The contractor shall conduct repeated applications for Control of Noxious Plants throughout the entire contract time including the Landscape Establishment phase when noxious/invasive plants occur. Successive treatments along with multiple mobilizations for Control of Noxious Plants shall be conducted in accordance with invasive weeds' growing seasons at no additional cost to the Department.

The control of plant species not on the State or Federal Noxious or Invasive lists – especially Forest Service Regional/BLM lists noted below will be paid only

when control is directed by the Engineer based on the original or amended NSCP approved by an ADOT construction Professional Landscape Architect (PLA) licensed in the State of Arizona.

The areas to be designated by the Engineer for Control of Noxious Plants shall be coordinated with an ADOT construction PLA. Unless project site presents sizable monocultures or pure stands of high-density noxious and invasive plant species, the contractor shall not perform broadcast applications of glyphosate and/or other broad spectrum herbicides within the project limits. Spot-treating of identified noxious and invasive plant species patches shall be conducted.

The selection of appropriate treatment method(s) between herbicide versus manual/mechanical or in combination shall be proposed by the contractor and approved by an ADOT construction PLA through the Engineer consistent with type and life stage of plant species, as well as environmental commitments.

Materials:

General

The contractor shall accurately follow all applicable herbicide label requirements. The herbicides to be used and the methods of application shall conform to U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Arizona Department of Agriculture, and/or Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) requirements, and the product's label instructions, as approved by the Engineer. If herbicides are to be applied to potential or delineated Waters of the US as defined under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the contractor shall file a Notice of Intent (NOI) and Notice of Termination (NOT) to EPA and/or ADEQ for compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and/or Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) Pesticide General Permit.

All materials to be used shall be listed and protocol information provided in the Noxious Species Control Plan, as specified below. The contractor shall provide the herbicides container with the original chemical label for inspection and confirmation of the chemicals used. All containers shall be disposed of as recommended by the manufacturer.

Herbicides proposed in the plan for use on projects within transportation easements on BLM and/or USFS Lands shall be in conformance with the following current environmental documents including: "Environmental Assessment for ADOT Herbicide Treatment Program on Bureau of Land Management Lands in Arizona", which is available at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/projectSummary.do?methodName=renderDefaultProjectSummary&projectId=34810> or the "Environmental Assessment for Management of Noxious Weeds and Hazardous Vegetation on Public Roads on National

Forest System Lands in Arizona” which is available at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r3/landmanagement/projects> . The Environmental Documents include a list of approved Herbicides, Mitigations and Best Management Practices (BMPs), which shall be included, as appropriate, by the contractor in the submitted NSCP.

Web links to environmental documents for noxious weeds and invasive plant species treatment for the six (6) National Forests within Arizona:

- (1) Final EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) and Record of Decision for Noxious Weed Treatment on the Coconino, Kaibab, and Prescott National Forests:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=30>
- (2) Coronado National Forest EA (Environmental Assessment) for Noxious Weed Treatments:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/coronado/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=stelprdb5123160>
- (3) Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest EIS for Noxious Weed Treatments:
http://data.ecosystem-management.org/nepaweb/nepa_project_exp.php?project=4967
- (4) Tonto National Forest EA for Treatment of Noxious Weeds:
http://data.ecosystem-management.org/nepaweb/nepa_project_exp.php?project=4454 ;
Additional information on invasive species requirements for the Tonto National Forest is available at:
http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/tonto/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=fsbdev3_018789 .

Arizona Department of Agriculture NOXIOUS WEEDS (under the authority of Arizona Revised Statutes, Administrative Code R3-4-244 Regulated and Restricted Noxious Weeds, as well as R3-4-245 Prohibited Noxious Weeds) web link:

<https://agriculture.az.gov/pestspest-control/agriculture-pests/noxious-weeds>

Furthermore, the USDA Southwestern Region Weed Field Guides web link is accessible below:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r3/forest-grasslandhealth/invasivespecies/?cid=stelprd3813522>

The USDA New Invaders of the Southwest is attainable within the web link below:

https://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/pdfs/FHTET-2014-13_SW_New_Invaders.pdf

The USDA Field Guide for Managing Buffelgrass in the Southwest is obtainable through the web link below:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd563017.pdf

All materials used shall be in accordance with the approved NSCP and Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP).

Construction Requirements:

The contractor shall develop a NSCP for state and federal listed noxious and invasive plant species, and other undesirable plant species shown on the list posted on the Roadside Development web site (<https://azdot.gov/node/5372>) for approval by an ADOT construction PLA. Four (4) copies of the proposed NSCP in standard three (3) ring binders shall be submitted to the Engineer within seven (7) calendar days after the Execution of Contract. The ADOT construction PLA shall review and respond to the proposed NSCP within 10 calendar days upon receiving the submittal. If requested, additional copies may be submitted for review and comments by Native American Community governing body designated representative as approved by the Engineer. Native American Community governing body designated representative shall also review and comment the proposed NSCP within 30 calendar days upon receiving the submittal. The contractor proposed NSCP shall include as minimum the following information applicable to the project area, location and conditions listed below:

- (1) A list of Noxious and Invasive Species and other Roadside Development approved plant species that would be anticipated for control based on existing vegetation and the project biotic communities. The weed species shall include but not be limited to the TABLE – I listed below:

TABLE – I	
Scientific Name	Common Name

- (2) The methods of control of noxious and invasive plant species shall be determined based on the species present within the project limits prior to earth moving activities as well as subsequent project construction phases before seeding. Pre-emergent herbicide shall NOT be applied for all project

seeding areas. The contractor shall provide information /resolutions on how the application of herbicides will NOT harm the expected seed germination and establishment as specified in the Section 805 of these Special Provisions.

- (3)** The proposed method(s) of control, either manual /mechanical control or herbicide application, to be used for each anticipated plant species at each of stage of plant development.
- (4)** The herbicides, method and frequency of application, and rates to be used for each listed plant species.
- (5)** Copies of herbicide and surfactant labels and Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for all chemicals proposed for use.
- (6)** Procedure for collection, removal, containment and disposal of noxious and invasive plants. All components of noxious and invasive plants such as roots, stems, leaves, flowers, seeds, seed heads, or seed pods shall be subject to collection, removal, containment and disposal at no additional cost to the Department.
- (7)** Methods and procedures to be followed to protect existing, transplanted, and new emerging vegetation in seeded areas.
- (8)** Responsible Applicator and required Arizona Department of Agriculture Pest Management Division Licensing information, as specified in Section 806.
- (9)** Record procedures to be followed to document control work completed.
- (10)** Record procedures to be followed for reporting all chemicals used annually within transportation easements on BLM or USFS Lands within two (2) months or September 30th of each calendar year (whichever is sooner) to an ADOT construction PLA.
- (11)** Projects on transportation easements on BLM or USFS Lands shall include a completed Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP) form for all proposed herbicide uses prepared for submittal to the appropriate BLM Field Office or National Forest for approval. An example of a completed PUP for the project area will be provided to the contractor for use in preparing their PUP upon request to the ADOT construction PLA.
- (12)** Projects on transportation easements within Native Americans (Tribal) Land shall include a completed PUP form for all proposed herbicide uses prepared for submittal to the appropriate representative of tribal government (governing body) for approval. An example of a completed PUP for the

project area will be provided to the contractor for use in preparing their PUP upon request to the ADOT construction PLA.

- (13) When applicable, other information and explanations required in the PUP or to implement the NSCP.
- (14) Process to be used for amending the NSCP to add additional plants or treatments that may be required as the project progresses.
- (15) A copy of the original Special Provisions for Control of Noxious Plants that the contractor bid shall be attached to the NSCP.
- (16) Plans and methods to protect Threatened and Endangered Species in accordance with the Environmental Mitigations section of the contract documents.
- (17) Plans and methods for controlling of noxious/invasive plants in riparian and aquatic areas:
 - I – Prevention of herbicide drifted by wind onto non-target native plants or nearby wetlands/watercourses by using low pressure systems and coarse-spray nozzles.
 - II – Safe and effective use of herbicide chemicals labeled for the vicinity of wetlands/watercourses in prevention of water quality contamination.

The NSCP submitted to the Engineer shall not be implemented until it is approved by an ADOT construction PLA and the contractor is so directed by the Engineer.

The contractor shall keep a copy of the approved NSCP and furnish to the Engineer a copy of the approved NSCP for record keeping. The NSCP copy of the contractor and Engineer shall be maintained up-to-date with the contractor providing submittals of completed work activities within five (5) working days following completion of the work for each area directed by the Engineer for control. The NSCP shall be maintained up-to-date with submittals of the above completed NSCP information for the duration of the project.

The Engineer in consultation with an ADOT construction PLA shall designate/approve the location of the areas to be treated, and when required the frequency of treatment as per the NSCP. Payment will be made for the initial treatment of each area, whether with manual /mechanical methods or using herbicides, and for each subsequent treatment ordered and approved by the Engineer.

The contractor shall document the location and size of the project treatment areas, as well as noxious and invasive plant species that have been treated by the end of each working day. Furthermore, the contractor shall mark up the project layout plans (engineering drawings) with location and size of the project treatment areas, as well as noxious and invasive plant species that have been treated. Such documentation shall be submitted to an ADOT construction PLA for inspection/evaluation through the Engineer.

The contractor shall begin control of the designated areas within ten (10) working days of the Engineer's notice, and complete the treatment within fifteen (15) working days of the notice approved by the Engineer.

If other plant species listed in the Arizona Noxious Weed List, the Forest Service Regional/BLM lists, or the ADOT Invasive and Noxious Plant Species Lists (available electronically at the following Roadside Development web address: <https://apps.azdot.gov/files/roadway-engineering/roadside-dev/adot-invasive-noxious-plant-species-list-for-construction-projects.pdf>) occur within the project area that are not included in the NSCP, the contractor shall modify the Noxious Species Control Plan to add such species, including acceptable control measures and where applicable a PUP, and submit this information as an amendment of the NSCP to the Engineer and ADOT construction PLA for acceptance. No herbicide Control of Noxious Plants work shall be commenced on Federal lands until the PUP has been entirely completed and approved.

The project areas will be surveyed by an ADOT construction PLA, with the approval of the Engineer, prior to earthmoving activities and following rainfall events and during plant germination and growth periods for listed noxious and invasive plant species. To update NSCP, the contractor shall also furnish field inspection/observation reports for new growth of noxious/invasive plant species between four (4) weeks to six (6) weeks after each rainfall events of 0.5 inches (\geq 12.7 mm) or more. When surveys determine that noxious, invasive or other designated plants species listed in the NSCP for control are found to be present within the project right-of-way, the contractor shall treat the areas designated by the Engineer in accordance with the approved NSCP. Such treatments shall be completed and approved by the Engineer before ground disturbing or earthmoving activities occur from those areas.

The contractor shall mark those areas receiving manual / mechanical control with an application of a photosensitive dye. Herbicides shall be mixed with a photosensitive dye which will produce a contrasting color when sprayed upon the ground. The color shall disappear between three (3) and five (5) days after being applied. The dye shall not stain any surfaces nor injure non-target plant or animal species when applied at the manufacturer's recommended application rate.

Application of herbicide shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the approved NSCP. Responsible herbicide applicator shall be licensed under the appropriate category as required by the State Law.

Mowing shall be allowed if it is proven to be a successful permanent control method of annual noxious /invasive plant species as approved by the Engineer. If approved, mowing shall be performed before the annual noxious /invasive plant species are able to set seed. Mowing shall NOT be operated in areas where there are perennial noxious /invasive plant species. Mowing shall NOT be utilized for noxious /invasive plant species that carry existing seeds (seed heads /pods). All project areas and plant species to be mowed shall be carefully evaluated /identified by an ADOT construction PLA with approval from the Engineer.

Unless otherwise called out in the plans/details, specified in these Special Provisions, or as directed by the Engineer, the contractor shall remove the identified noxious /invasive woody vegetation to the finished grade level without uprooting it (flush cutting). In order to stop stump regrowth, the applicable remaining stumps shall be promptly treated with suitable herbicide so the identified noxious /invasive woody vegetation will not sprout new growth from the stumps. Herbicide stump treatment shall NOT be conducted to plant species such as common evergreen coniferous shrubs and trees, which will unlikely generate stump regrowth. Manual /mechanical removal of remaining woody vegetation stumps and rootballs in erosive areas shall be avoided to maximum extent practicable (MEP). The removal method and process shall be evaluated by an ADOT construction PLA with approval from the Engineer.

Removal of soil seed bank that has been contaminated by the natural storage of seeds from noxious /invasive plant species shall be required for projects involving soil /ground disturbance from roadway /drainage excavations or as designated by the Engineer. The contractor shall remove top three (3) inches of the existing undisturbed surface soil from the project areas infested with noxious /invasive plant species as evaluated /identified by an ADOT construction PLA with approval from the Engineer. All removed contaminated soil seed bank shall be properly disposed of or placed (buried) below the top two feet (2'-0") of the final finished grade as directed by the Engineer. The removal, stockpile, burial, or disposal of contaminated soil seed banks shall be well contained /concealed during construction. The contractor shall then return all soil-seed-bank removal disturbed area, to an acceptable surface condition (finished grade), as approved by the Engineer.

No earthmoving activities to the treated areas shall be approved until the employed weed management measures have been inspected to be successfully achieved as per the approval of the Engineer.

For projects within transportation easements on BLM, USFS, or Tribal Lands, PUPs shall be prepared and submitted to the Engineer and ADOT construction PLA as required in the NSCP. The PUPs will be submitted by the Department to the appropriate BLM Field Office, National Forest, or appropriate representative of tribal government (governing body) and must be approved by the BLM, National Forest, or tribal government (governing body) before being approved by the Engineer.

The contractor shall keep records of all herbicide applications. A copy of this record shall be added to the NSCP and also submitted to the Engineer after each application. The contractor shall be responsible for the proper transport, storage, and application of all materials necessary for herbicide control treatments.

As a part of the integrated management approach, all areas to be treated for noxious and invasive plant species shall ultimately be seeded, landscaped, or permanently stabilized to minimize and prevent from weed re-invasion /re-infestation, as specified in these Special Provisions.

Method of Measurement:

Control of noxious and invasive plant species, either manually (mechanically) or with herbicides, will be measured by the square yard (SQ.YD.) of each treated area, as directed and approved by the Engineer.

Basis of Payment:

During pre-construction meeting, the contractor in conjunction with Engineer shall verify and be in agreement with the quantity of areas to be treated as evaluated by an ADOT construction PLA. The quantity of areas to be treated shall be in compliance with environmental requirements.

The accepted quantities of control of noxious and invasive plant species, either manually (mechanically) or with herbicides, measured as provided above, will be paid for at the contract unit price for each soil treatment directed and approved by the Engineer. Such price will be considered to include all labor, materials, equipment, and multiple mobilization costs required to complete the work as specified herein. Such price shall also cover collection, removal, containment and disposal of noxious and invasive plant species. Up to four (4) mobilizations may be required to accomplish control of noxious and invasive plant species as specified herein. The Department will consider the cost of such multiple mobilizations to be included in the price bid for control of noxious and invasive plant species. Adjustments may be made to the contract through negotiation for more than four (> 4) mobilization activities as per the approval of the Engineer.

No measurement or payment will be made for treatment of those areas, manually /mechanically or with herbicides, not authorized and approved by the Engineer.

No payment will be made for treatment areas not in compliance with the approved PUP/NSCP. No payment will be made for areas treated by herbicide products not in compliance with the approved PUP/NSCP. No measurement or payment will be made for the removal and proper disposal of waste materials, the cost being considered is included in contract items.

No measurement or payment will be made for preparation of the NSCP and, when applicable, the PUP, including the initial submittal and modifications, or for monitoring, the costs being considered is included in contract items.

No separate measurement or direct payment will be made for Control of Noxious Plants under Landscape Establishment as specified in Section 807 of the Standard Specifications and these Special Provisions; the cost being considered is included in the respective contract item of Landscape Establishment.

For projects engaging roadway / drainage excavations, no separate measurement or direct payment will be made for the removal, stockpile, burial, or disposal of contaminated soil seed banks, as well as returning all soil-seed-bank removal areas to an acceptable surface condition (finished grade); the cost being considered is included in the respective contract item of roadway / drainage excavations.