

Clarification Regarding Weeds & Pests on Solar Sites (in LUB)

Requirements established within the bylaw should be clearly defined, reasonable, and measurable. Clearly establishing these requirements will provide the County with the appropriate tools to successfully enforce them. Resources and skill sets (qualified, appointed personnel) will also need to be in place to ensure we can appropriately manage the expectations within the bylaw

Criteria	Impacts of Weed Control
<p>Currently:</p> <p>We have the authority under the <i>Alberta Weed Control Act</i> to deal with Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds.</p> <p>Inspectors are appointed by Council under the act and granted the authority to fulfill these duties. They are bound by these provincial enactments. Authority to issue notices comes from the legislation.</p>	<p>Work with the owner to address</p> <p>If continued non-compliance a Weed Notice will be issued</p> <p>If owner fails to comply with the notice, we take steps to control the weeds and resources utilized get charged to the property (chemical + labour)</p> <p>Timelines are based on the Act and they have the opportunity to appeal</p> <p>Whatever enforcement action you put on the notice is what must be done (you can't say hand pick and then spray it)</p> <p>Level playing field – everyone is bound by the same rules</p> <p>Fines can be levied as well</p>
<p>LUB proposed: “A vegetation, weed and pest management plan that addresses how invasive plants, weeds, and pests such as Richardson Ground Squirrels will be controlled during the construction period and the projected lifespan of the development, to be submitted for review and approval by the Kneehill County Agricultural Fieldman.”</p>	<p>We determine, based on the plan whether or not the proposed plan is reasonable, satisfactory and able to be achieved. If the management proposed is unsatisfactory, we request amendments to the plan.</p> <p>We can hold them to the plan they submit or have to amend based on our recommendations.</p>
<p>With forage are the desirable species after a year going to be out competing weed species?</p> <p>Forage takes longer to establish</p>	<p>1-2-year grace period with forage</p> <p>Livestock can utilize common weed species as forage.</p> <p>Limitations in herbicide selection dependant on plant species.</p>
<p>Can designate other species by bylaw under the act, but must be signed off by the minister</p>	<p>If a species is elevated, it pertains to everyone</p> <p>Will need to be addressed by policy</p>

	Increase in resources required to enforce and control
Are we only targeting a particular industry or industrial sites?	<p>May be seen as discriminatory.</p> <p>We may need to consider including the following: well sites, abandoned rail, undeveloped road allowances or developed road allowances.</p> <p>We need to ensure surrounding sites are not more problematic</p> <p>More resources may be required to enforce and control</p>
Can use the percentage of coverage	<p>Typically measured by 1 metre square</p> <p>What is a fair percentage?</p> <p>Additional resources may be required</p>
Regarding pest (Richardson Ground Squirrels)	<p>Solar site cannot utilize some of the typical options available to other landowners, it is difficult to come up with viable options to keep them under control (this can be an issue for everyone as effective control requires an enormous effort)</p> <p>They are not a regulated specie under the act</p>
Weed stage restriction Cut/grazed/sprayed prior to going to seed Mow & weed whip perimeter (height restriction)	If beyond noxious and prohibited noxious should be defined