

**NAHBA SURVEY RESULTS  
VEGEGATION MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS  
MARCH 31, 2004**

1.	WY	Vaughn, Rodney [Rodney.Vaughn@fhwa.dot.gov]	Wyoming does not have a formal Outdoor Advertising Vegetation Maintenance Program.
2.	MT	Hurley, Patrick [phurley@state.mt.us]	Montana DOT does not allow anyone in the right-of-way to cut vegetation. Our maintenance crews do the vegetation control. Additionally, we do not allow sign owners are landowners within the right-of-way to work across the right-of-way fences.
3.	OK	kharms@fd9ns01.okladot.state.ok.us	Oklahoma DOT's Right-of-Way Division does not address vegetation maintenance issues relative to outdoor advertising. Any questions regarding maintenance issues can be directed to Mr. Kevin Bloss, Maintenance Division Engineer.
4.	KY	Joe.Rogers@ky.gov	Kentucky does not allow any removal of vegetation in front of billboards. The Division of Maintenance would handle this permit activity if it were allowed. If you need any additional info, please let me know. Have a nice day. Joe Rogers - KY DOT
5.	VA	Barrett, James R., C.P.E.S.C. [James.Barrett@VirginiaDOT.org]	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What states have a vegetation maintenance program? <a href="#">Virginia</a></li> <li>2. Briefly describe your program criteria, i.e. what can be cut, how its cut, when its cut. <a href="#">Sign owners may cut any tree up to 6 inches in diameter measured at chest height. They can also trim branches at a point where the saw cut will not exceed 4 inches in diameter. A certified arborist is required to supervise all trimming work.</a></li> <li>3. In order to participate in your program, does the applicant have to submit a vegetation permit application or sign a contract? If it is a contract, please email me a copy. <a href="#">A permit is required (\$400 fee) plus VDOT may assign an inspector at the permittee's expense.</a></li> <li>4. Cost to participate in the vegetation maintenance program, i.e. initial fees, annual fees, renewal fees. <a href="#">\$400 initially and each re-trim is considered a new permit. All inspector costs are the responsibility of the permittee.</a></li> <li>5. Cost to DOT to administer the program - cost to cut, administrative costs, etc. <a href="#">VDOT invests some administrative time reviewing the permit application that should be covered by the application fee. All other costs are billed to the permittee including VDOT equipment rental costs and vacation and sick leave additive.</a></li> <li>6. How long can a sign owner participate in the vegetation maintenance program? <a href="#">Each site and each time it is cut is considered a new event. There is no continuous program for participation in Virginia.</a></li> <li>7. How can the vegetation maintenance program/contracts be terminated? <a href="#">VDOT reserves the right to stop work on any site should motorist or worker safety become an issue.</a></li> <li>8. What amount of vegetation can be removed? <a href="#">See #2. Plus, VDOT will allow loblolly pines or other diseased trees to be removed at its discretion. Brush may also be removed. The permittee is charged with creating a "picture frame" around the sign to hide the supports.</a></li> <li>9. Who cuts the vegetation, DOT crews or out sourced? <a href="#">The permittee is responsible for hiring the certified arborist and the cutting crews.</a></li> <li>10. Requirements of the sign owner to participate in program. <a href="#">Any sign owner may participate by applying for a vegetation control permit.</a></li> <li>11. Requirements of the DOT in running program and approving participants. <a href="#">No cost to the taxpayer. VDOT, at its discretion, provides an inspector at the permittee's cost.</a></li> <li>12. Do you have any incentives/disincentives for not participating in the program? <a href="#">No incentives. However, anyone who violates the conditions of the permit is barred from cutting for 5 years.</a></li> <li>13. What office in your DOT handles the billboard vegetation maintenance program? <a href="#">Asset Management Division's Roadside Management Unit.</a></li> </ol>

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6.	FL	jeff.caster@dot.state.fl.us	<p>1. What states have a vegetation maintenance program? Florida Department of Transportation has a program for Vegetation Management at Outdoor Advertising Signs.</p> <p>2. Briefly describe your program criteria, i.e. what can be cut, how its cut, when its cut. By submitting an Application for Vegetation Management at Outdoor Advertising Sign, complete with a five year vegetation management plan prepared by a qualified individual (defined in administrative code), a sign permittee may attain a Permit for Vegetation Management at Outdoor Advertising Sign. After review and approval of the application by FDOT, permit may be granted for cutting, trimming, or removal of vegetation that screens or will grow to screen the sign face. No permits will be issued to modify beautification projects, if the beautification project was approved prior to the permit date of the outdoor advertising sign. On the other hand, beautification projects must preserve minimum of 500 feet visibility for all legally permitted signs. Mitigation is required for some vegetation management activities. Unauthorized activity results in \$1000 penalty and mitigation. Complete criteria is outlined in, Rule Chapter 14-40, Florida Administrative Code.</p> <p>3. In order to participate in your program, does the applicant have to submit a vegetation permit application or sign a contract? If it is a contract, please email me a copy. Applicants must complete Application for Vegetation Management at Outdoor Advertising Sign. If approved by FDOT, the application form becomes part of the permit, and the applicant must sign a second time indicating that he/she understands all terms and conditions of the permit. Application form attached.</p> <p>4. Cost to participate in the vegetation maintenance program, i.e. initial fees, annual fees, renewal fees. There is a one time application fee of \$25.00, or up to \$200.00 for multiple applications submitted at same time. Permits may be issued for up to five years. A new application and fee is required for renewal. Mitigation fees are calculated based on the vegetation management plan, and due prior to release of Permit. After work is completed, site is evaluated for compliance with vegetation management plan and permit. <u>Determining the Mitigation Value of Roadside Vegetation</u> is attached.</p> <p>5. Cost to DOT to administer the program - cost to cut, administrative costs, etc. FDOT has not determined the cost to administer the program. All costs associated with the vegetation management are paid by the sign permittee.</p> <p>6. How long can a sign owner participate in the vegetation maintenance program? Sign owners may participate in the vegetation management program for as long as they have a legally permitted sign and valid Permit for Vegetation Management at Outdoor Advertising Sign. Applicants determine the duration of the vegetation management plan, up to five years, but department officials determine the duration of the permit; for up to five years.</p> <p>7. How can the vegetation maintenance program/contracts be terminated? Like other permits issued by FDOT, if circumstances change, or if there are violations of the permit, the department may revoke the permit.</p> <p>8. What amount of vegetation can be removed? Vegetation that screens the sign or will grow to screen the sign may be removed if approved by department. Mitigation may be required. In most locations, mowing is prohibited. The department intends to leave standing all vegetation that does not or will not screen the sign face, and does not approve removing vegetation that meets list of conservation criteria described in Rule Chapter 14-40..</p> <p>9. Who cuts the vegetation, DOT crews or out sourced? Sign permittees hire/contract services for vegetation management. FDOT does not manage, or pay for any vegetation management at outdoor advertising signs.</p> <p>10. Requirements of the sign owner to participate in program. To participate, the sign owner must have a legally permitted sign, complete the proper application form, pay the application fee, submit a vegetation management plan, and pay any required mitigation fees.</p>
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			<p>11. Requirements of the DOT in running program and approving participants. FDOT is required to have properly qualified individuals reviewing and approving the applications for vegetation management at outdoor advertising signs and to review and approve calculations for mitigation.</p> <p>12. Do you have any incentives/disincentives for not participating in the program? Though unintended, the well known challenges of effective enforcement may be considered by some to be an incentive for not participating.</p> <p>13. What office in your DOT handles the billboard vegetation maintenance program? Vegetation Management at Outdoor Advertising Sign program is administered by the Central Environmental Management Office in collaboration with the Office of Right of Way. Permits are administered by each department district.</p>
7.	NH	Walter Keuenhoff [WKeuenhoff@dot.state.nh.us]	<p>1. What states have a vegetation maintenance program? <b>New Hampshire does not allow the cutting, trimming or pruning of vegetation to increase visibility of signs.</b></p> <p>2. Briefly describe your program criteria, i.e. what can be cut, how its cut, when its cut. <b>NA</b></p> <p>3. In order to participate in your program, does the applicant have to submit a vegetation permit application or sign a contract? If it is a contract, please email me a copy. <b>NA</b></p> <p>4. Cost to participate in the vegetation maintenance program, i.e. initial fees, annual fees, renewal fees. <b>NA</b></p> <p>5. Cost to DOT to administer the program - cost to cut, administrative costs, etc. <b>NA</b></p> <p>6. How long can a sign owner participate in the vegetation maintenance program? <b>NA</b></p> <p>7. How can the vegetation maintenance program/contracts be terminated? <b>NA</b></p> <p>8. What amount of vegetation can be removed? <b>NA</b></p> <p>9. Who cuts the vegetation, DOT crews or out sourced?<b>NA</b></p> <p>10. Requirements of the sign owner to participate in program. <b>NA</b></p> <p>11. Requirements of the DOT in running program and approving participants.<b>NA</b></p> <p>12. Do you have any incentives/disincentives for not participating in the program?<b>NA</b></p> <p>13. What office in your DOT handles the billboard vegetation maintenance program? <b>NA</b></p>
8.	IA	LaPietra, Mike [Mike.LaPietra@fhwa.dot.gov]	<p>1. What states have a vegetation maintenance program? <b>Iowa does not have a formal vegetation management program. Individual requests by sign owners are considered for specific locations on a case-by-case basis.</b></p> <p>2. Briefly describe your program criteria, i.e. what can be cut, how its cut, when its cut. <b>Sign owners who would like to trim or remove vegetation located within highway right of way can submit a written request, to the Department's District Engineer (Iowa is divided into six districts) responsible for the site in question, outlining what vegetation they would like to trim / remove and why the alteration is necessary. The District Engineer reviews the request (with input from the Department's Roadside Development and Advertising Management Sections as appropriate) and renders a decision. If the material is deemed beneficial (whether volunteer or planted) the applicant may be required to plant or pay for replacement material in another location, in a quantity that represents the value of the material removed.</b></p> <p>3. In order to participate in your program, does the applicant have to submit a vegetation permit application or sign a contract? If it is a</p>

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			<p>contract, please email me a copy. <b>NA</b></p> <p>4. Cost to participate in the vegetation maintenance program, i.e. initial fees, annual fees, renewal fees. <b>The applicant pays all costs associated with approved requests (such as replacement materials, labor , landscape design, etc.).</b></p> <p>5. Cost to DOT to administer the program - cost to cut, administrative costs, etc. <b>Cost unknown, as there have been a limited number of requests.</b></p> <p>6. How long can a sign owner participate in the vegetation maintenance program? <b>The sign owner must submit a request each time they want to trim or remove vegetation located on the right of way.</b></p> <p>7. How can the vegetation maintenance program/contracts be terminated? <b>NA</b></p> <p>8. What amount of vegetation can be removed? <b>Determined by the District Engineer on a case-by-case basis.</b></p> <p>9. Who cuts the vegetation, DOT crews or out sourced? <b>In most cases the sign owner or their contractor.</b></p> <p>10. Requirements of the sign owner to participate in program. <b>Follow stipulations outlined in any approval given by District Engineer.</b></p> <p>11. Requirements of the DOT in running program and approving participants. <b>NA</b></p> <p>12. Do you have any incentives/disincentives for not participating in the program? <b>NA</b></p> <p>13. What office in your DOT handles the billboard vegetation maintenance program? <b>Requests are handled by appropriate District Engineer.</b></p>
9.	PA	Vogel, Gerry [hvogel@state.pa.us]	<p>1. What states have a vegetation maintenance program? <b>[Pennsylvania responds]</b></p> <p>2. Briefly describe your program criteria, i.e. what can be cut, how its cut, when its cut. <b>[See #8]</b></p> <p>3. In order to participate in your program, does the applicant have to submit a vegetation permit application or sign a contract? If it is a contract, please email me a copy. <b>[Permit application only, no contract]</b></p> <p>4. Cost to participate in the vegetation maintenance program, i.e. initial fees, annual fees, renewal fees. <b>[Permit application fee averages \$ 90.00]</b></p> <p>5. Cost to DOT to administer the program - cost to cut, administrative costs, etc. <b>[No cost for cutting, administration cost varies between engineering districts -there are 11- averages \$ 8,000 per year per district]</b></p> <p>6. How long can a sign owner participate in the vegetation maintenance program? <b>[N/A]</b></p> <p>7. How can the vegetation maintenance program/contracts be terminated? <b>[N/A]</b></p> <p>8. What amount of vegetation can be removed? <b>[Only that amount which will allow a 5 second viewing zone at the posted speed limit]</b></p> <p>9. Who cuts the vegetation, DOT crews or out sourced? <b>[Sign owner or his contractor]</b></p> <p>10. Requirements of the sign owner to participate in program. <b>[See #11]</b></p> <p>11. Requirements of the DOT in running program and approving participants. <b>[There is no "program" as such. Each request handled on an individual basis]</b></p>

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			<p>12. Do you have any incentives/disincentives for not participating in the program? [N/A]</p> <p>13. What office in your DOT handles the billboard vegetation maintenance program? [Handled by each individual engineering district's maintenance unit's roadside vegetation specialist]</p>
10.	NE	jtodd@dor.state.ne.us	<p>1. What states have a vegetation maintenance program? Nebraska does not allow vegetation maintenance on right-of-way for billboards.</p>
11.	OH	Kerry Yoakum [Kerry.Yoakum@dot.state.oh.us]	<p><b>1. What states have a vegetation maintenance program?</b> ODOT has a vegetation maintenance program.</p> <p><b>2. Briefly describe your program criteria, i.e. what can be cut, how its cut, when its cut.</b> As it pertains to outdoor advertising: What can be cut-brush, foliage, and trees How is it cut-removing, trimming, cutting, spraying, using chain saw/trees, chemically-by using a licensed pesticide applicator operator or trained servicemen When can it be cut-"Only in special circumstances" and it is "not encouraged."</p> <p><b>3. In order to participate in your program, does the applicant have to submit a vegetation permit application or sign a contract?</b> Yes, the application is M&amp;R 505 and M&amp;R 509. They are attached. The 505 is an application and the 509 is the actual permit.</p> <p><b>4. Cost to participate in the vegetation program, i.e. initial fees, annual fees, renewal fees.</b> There is no program. There are no application fees. It has been determined that it is a "win-win" because the expense of cutting, removal, etc, is at the expense of the permit holder, and ODOT is benefiting as it relates to highway beautification.</p> <p><b>5. Cost to DOT to administer the program-cost to cut, administrative costs, etc.</b> The cost is incurred by the permittee in regards to cost of cutting. In regards to administrative costs, each district (12 in all) is responsible for issuing vegetation permits and tracking administrative costs. The administrative costs are not tracked as it relates to vegetation permits and advertising.</p> <p><b>6. How long can a sign owner participate in the vegetation maintenance program?</b> As long as they continue to meet the requirements of the program. This is monitored via quarterly inspections.</p> <p><b>7. How can the vegetation maintenance program/contracts be terminated?</b> If the permit holder should decide not to act on the permit the permit will expire 6 months after the date of issuance. Additionally, the permit may be terminated if the sign owner is not performing the maintenance in a satisfactory manner.</p> <p><b>8. What amount of vegetation can be removed?</b> This information is specified on the permit application. It is determined on a case by case basis.</p> <p><b>9. Who cuts the the vegetation, DOT crews or out sourced?</b> The sign owner.</p> <p><b>10. Requirements of the sign owner to participate in the program.</b> The same requirements as any other applicant. Fill out an application, with specific information, and submit it to the district for approval.</p> <p><b>11. Requirements of the DOT in running program and approving permits.</b> The requirements are bound on the Ohio Revised Code. Specifically, 5501.42, 5516.14, 5529.11, 5529.12, 5579.04, and 5579.08.</p> <p><b>12. Do you have any incentives/disincentives for not participating in the program?</b> No</p> <p><b>13. What office in your DOT handles the billboard vegetation maintenance program?</b> There are 12 districts in Ohio and each district has a permit section which is responsible for the vegetation permits.</p>
12.	NC	Derek Smith	<p>1. What states have a vegetation maintenance program?</p>

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		<p>[dcsmith@dot.state.nc.us]</p>	<p>North Carolina has criteria for vegetation management associated with outdoor advertising. We operate in accordance with the 1967 "Outdoor Advertising Control Act" as written by the North Carolina General Assembly.</p> <p>2. Briefly describe your program criteria, i.e. what can be cut, how its cut, when its cut.          North Carolina's Department of Transportation receives, applications for selective vegetation thinning, pruning, or removal (exclusive of grasses) within specifically described vegetative zones. Applications are submitted by the owner of the outdoor advertisement structure to the appropriate Division Engineer. Trees greater than four inches in diameter (measured six inches off of the ground) may not be cut. The sign owner is responsible for all cutting and debris removal. Applications may be approved anytime during the year.</p> <p>3. In order to participate in your program, does the applicant have to submit a vegetation permit application or sign a contract? If it is a contract, please email me a copy.          In North Carolina, we require a Selective Vegetation Removal Permit and related fees.</p> <p>4. Cost to participate in the vegetation maintenance program, i.e. initial fees, annual fees, renewal fees.          For selective vegetation removal, a one time fee per request of \$200.00 must accompany permit requests.</p> <p>5. Cost to DOT to administer the program - cost to cut, administrative costs, etc.          A fee of two hundred dollars (\$200) must accompany each selective vegetation removal application in order to defer the costs of the administrative and inspection expenses incurred by the Department of Transportation in administering the permit procedures.</p> <p>6. How long can a sign owner participate in the vegetation maintenance program?          Participation is on a voluntary basis. Permits, once approved, are typically valid for 30 days.</p> <p>7. How can the vegetation maintenance program/contracts be terminated?          Within 30 days following receipt of the application, the Division Engineer shall approve or deny the application. If the application is denied, the Division Engineer shall advise the applicant, in writing, of the reasons for denial.</p> <p>The application shall be denied by the Division Engineer if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) It requires removal of trees that were in existence before the business or advertisement was established. An existing tree shall be one that is four inches in diameter as measured six inches from the ground.</li> <li>(2) The application is for the opening of view to a sign or business which has been declared illegal or is currently involved in litigation with the department.</li> <li>(3) It is determined that the facility or advertisement is not screened from view.</li> <li>(4) The application is for the opening of view to an outdoor advertising sign which was obscured from view at the time of erection of the sign.</li> <li>(5) Removal of vegetation will adversely affect the safety of the traveling public.</li> <li>(6) Trees, shrubs, or other vegetation of any sort were planted in accordance with a local, State, or Federal beautification</li> </ol>
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			<p>project.</p> <p>(7) Planting was done in conjunction with a designed noise barrier.</p> <p>(8) The applicant has not performed satisfactory work on previous requests under the provisions of the Rules in this Section (this may not be cause for denial if the applicant engages a landscape contractor to perform the work).</p> <p>(9) It involves opening of views to junkyards.</p> <p>(10) The application is contrary to ordinances or rules and regulations enacted by local government, within whose jurisdiction the work has been requested to be performed.</p> <p>8. What amount of vegetation can be removed? Under the permit all woody vegetation except trees larger than four inches may be removed provided they are within the permitted area and are blocking sight views.</p> <p>9. Who cuts the vegetation, DOT crews or out sourced? The actual vegetation removal and clean up is performed by the sign owner or a subcontractor hired by the sign owner.</p> <p>10. Requirements of the sign owner to participate in program. In recognition of the State of North Carolina's desire to assure that high quality and aesthetically pleasing views are provided highway users, along with recognizing that, within certain specified limitations, businesses and certain business advertising are legitimate commercial uses of property adjacent to the highways and are an integral part of the State's business and marketing economy, permits for opening views to office, institutional, commercial, and industrial developments and legally erected forms of outdoor advertising, which border State highways, are provided by this Section. Selective thinning, pruning, replacement, relocation, or removal of vegetation within highway rights of way may be permitted only for opening views to office, institutional, commercial and industrial facilities and legally erected forms of outdoor advertising which are located directly adjacent to State highway rights of way. When such thinning, pruning, replacement, relocation, or removal of vegetation is allowed, it shall be performed by the permittee or his agent at no cost to the Department of Transportation.</p> <p>11. Requirements of the DOT in running program and approving participants.</p> <p>1. The initial inquiries are received by various methods: phone call, letter, etc. All initial inquiries should be directed to the DREE. The initial inquiry, if received by mail, may include all or a portion of the required information from the requesting party. (See 4 below for list of required information.)</p> <p>2. The initial correspondence received, if it includes the Form SVR-1 (8-1-00), will be forwarded to the PA III to stamp the "Date Received" on each Form SVR-1 (8-1-00). The PA III will then return the Form SVR-1's to the DREE.</p>
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3. The DREE will evaluate the initial inquiry and information received. If necessary, the DREE will direct the PA III to send requesting party a form letter with appropriate comments, that lists the required information, or balance thereof, needed in order to begin the process of the selective vegetation removal permit. The request for additional information may also be handled by phone call, e-mail, fax, etc.

4. The required information to be submitted by the requesting party is as follows:

- A completed and signed Form SVR-1 (8-1-00), including notarization of the form by a notary public.
- A check to NCDOT for \$200.00. This is an application fee; each Outdoor Advertising Permit sign # and commercial/business facility requires a \$200.00 fee (non-refundable after approval).
- If required by NCDOT, applicant also is to submit a performance bond to run concurrently with the SVR permit(s). The bond can be in the form of a continuing indemnity bond of at least \$500.00 (usually through an insurance company) or can be a check written to NCDOT in the amount of \$500.00. One (1) \$500.00 check or indemnity bond may cover multiple permit applications if submitted together as a package.
- A sketch of the location showing the sign or business, the vegetation requested for removal, the highway, and general location description.
- Signatures of adjacent property owners are required on the Form SVR-1 (8-1-00) for sign requests. This is not required on business requests.
- It is desirable for the requesting party to include their phone # on the Form SVR-1, just below their name and address.

Please note: Applicant may submit multiple Form SVR-1's together as a package.

The requesting party returns all required information to the DREE.

The DREE reviews and evaluates the information received.

If the requesting party has not included all requirements, the DREE or PA III will contact them by phone, mail, fax, e-mail, etc. to request submittal of all information.

When all information is received, the DREE will again review the submittals for accuracy of the information and make sure e requested locations are in compliance with

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			<p>the “Active Tags” printout.</p> <p>The DREE will give the PA III the information received. The PA III will begin preliminary processing as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Stamp the “Date Rec’d” on each application Form SVR-1 received (this step may have already been handled previously).</li><li>■ E-mail or fax to the appropriate District Offices to inquire as to status of each O.A. Permit# (to determine if it is in “good standing”).</li><li>■ Initial log-in of information on computerized SVR Permit Log (for one (1) calendar year period beginning January 1 – December 31). The initial log-in will include these columns on the log: <u>Div.</u> through <u>Date Rec’d</u>, and <u>Bond Req’d</u>, <u>Bond Amount</u>.</li><li>■ Prepare a list of all sites in the request to be forwarded to the TS III for on-site marking/review, etc. This should include date erected, which is available on the “Active Tags” printout.</li><li>■ Keep applicant’s package of application forms, checks, sketch, bonds, cover letter, etc. together and in a <u>holding</u> location until further notice from DREE. (<u>Do not process checks at this time.</u>)</li></ul> <p>The PA III will forward the list of sites to the TS III.</p> <p>The TS III, along with the prospective R.E. inspector, makes arrangements to review the requested sites along the highway. The TS III may choose to do preliminary markings and review of site(s) <u>without</u> the presence of the requesting party <u>OR</u> may elect to make an appointment for an on-site, joint review <u>with</u> requesting party. If a preliminary review is done, it must be followed up by a later joint review.</p> <p>The DREE and AREE will be notified by the TS III of the joint review appointments with the requesting party. The DREE and/or the AREE may or may not choose to attend the joint review meetings. NOTE: It is very important for the TS III to verify the permit # is correct for the location. If not, need to clarify before proceeding.</p> <p>The TS III will complete the following information during the preliminary or joint review (diagram and form described below to be stapled together for each permit number):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ NCDOT’s Diagram for each site.</li><li>■ Tree Inventory Form (include on this form a summary of Zone III inches, less Zone I and II credit inches, and a net total</li></ul>
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			<p>number of inches for compensation/replanting).</p> <p><i>During the joint site reviews, it is important to note that applicant may choose to salvage some trees in Zone III to reduce his/her overall cost burden; if this is the case, a statement needs to be entered on the Tree Inventory Form by the TS III to note this for later reference. Applicant will have only one (1) more SVR permit opportunity to change this initial decision. At the second opportunity, if the applicant still chooses not to cut some Zone III trees, a written statement needs to be prepared and signed by the applicant, stating that applicant understands and agrees that these trees are not to be cut in the future.</i></p> <p><i>NOTE: (Tree Inventory Form is not applicable for commercial/business requests.)</i></p> <p>After completing the joint site review(s), the TS III will return the sites list, NCDOT diagram(s), and the Tree Inventory Form(s) to the DREE. Note: TS III should charge all SVR work time to: W.O. #5.0017022, Function Code 437 on FR-11's.</p> <p>If "SVR and Compensation Inventory" form is applicable, the DREE will consult with The AREE and TS III to complete this form and obtain decision and signature from requesting party, through US Mail or fax correspondence. (See further information on this procedure in #'s 23 and 24.)</p> <p>DREE will review the submittals from the TS III and direct the PA III to issue a <u>recommendation letter</u>, along with the permits to the Division Engineer for approval of SVR permits. <i>Please Note: The DREE will forward all Tree Inventory Form(s) and Diagrams to the TS III to be held until the approved permits are issued.</i> Before sending to the Division Engineer, the PA III will assign the SVRP # and fill in other uncompleted spaces in the blocked-in "DOT Use Only" area on the Form SVR-1 (8-1-00) form.</p> <p>At this time the PA III will also complete these columns on computer log: Appr./Denied, Sel. Veg. Permit number.</p> <p>(If there are <u>pending</u> or <u>denied</u> permit applications at this time, the approved permits will be issued and the <u>pending</u> or <u>denied</u> permits will be held back).</p> <p><u>Submittal of checks</u>: Under same cover (the recommendation letter), the PA III will submit application fee (\$200.00) checks to the Division Office (Wendi Hawley). The letter needs to indicate correct charge account for credit of fees received, which is: 43048-997-5.0017022-438.</p>
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			<p>PA III may <u>hold</u> performance bond checks for up to 30 days <u>OR</u> submit to Division Office for further handling with the Fiscal Section. If sent to Division Office, include an explanation in the same recommendation letter to explain.</p> <p>Division Office will issue approved permits with cover letter to the requesting parties, with cc's to DREE, Lacy Love, W.D. Johnson, etc. In the cover letter, requesting party is reminded to contact the TS III for scheduling of work. <u>Before forwarding the approved permit(s) to the DREE, the PA III will record the "Date Issued" and log-in this information. The PA III will also log-in a 90-day expiration date at this time.</u></p> <p>DREE will forward approved SVR permit copies to the TS III to be held until requesting (private) party calls for appointment to begin work.</p> <p>When above appointment is made, TS III sends SVR permit copies, Tree Inventory Forms, and Diagrams to the R.E. Inspector for use while SVR work is being done.</p> <p>The R.E. Inspector is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• being on-site during the SVR work, with the permit</li><li>• taking before and after instant photos of each site.</li><li>• record an Inspector's Daily Report.</li><li>• follow guidelines of the TS III and /or DREE and the SVR Policy in the implementation of what is to be salvaged and/or removed.</li><li>• apply herbicide as a cut-stump treatment on hardwood stumps</li><li>• make sure that safety of the traveling public is adhered to at the site(s), using DOT signs if needed</li><li>• make sure the permittee's private work crew follows all established rules/guidelines/conditions of the policy and permit.</li><li>• advise permittee of any damages to highway property (such as the C/A fence or other) and require permittee to repair same to acceptable condition</li></ul> <p>Upon completion of all sites on SVR permit(s), the R.E. Inspector will return the SVR permits to the PA III, along with labeled photographs, the Tree Inventory Forms, and Diagram(s), and a copy of the "Inspector's Daily Report".</p> <p>The PA III will then file the permits and related information (under company names) and</p>
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			<p>also request refund of bond, if applicable, to the requesting (private) party. This requires a letter sent to the Division Engineer. <u>P.A III will log-in date of bond refund request letter.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• THIS STEP SHOULD COMPLETE THE PROCESS (FOR SVR PERMITS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE COMPENSATION OR RE-PLANTING OF TREES).</li></ul> <p>REMINDER: Refer to #29, 30.</p> <p>REFER BACK to #14 above concerning <u>pending</u> or <u>denied</u> permit applications.</p> <p><u>Pending</u>: This could be for a variety of reasons. Pending applications will be resolved in some way by the DREE as needed. When resolved and if approved, follow applicable steps in 1 through 21 above.</p> <p><u>Denied</u>: When the TS III recommends denial of a SVR permit, the DREE will instruct the PA III to send a letter to the applicant advising about the denial and stating that the application fee (\$200.00 each) and performance bond, if applicable, will be refunded to the applicant.</p> <p>REFER BACK to #11, 12, 13 concerning locations that are reviewed by the TS III that will require compensation or re-planting of trees by the applicant.</p> <p>If determined during the preliminary and/or joint review(s) that there will be a net loss of trees at the site, a "SVR and Compensation Inventory" form will be completed by the DREE, in consultation with the AREE. The proposed replanting location can also be determined at this time.</p> <p>THE "SVR and Compensation Inventory" form will be sent by the DREE to the applicant, along with a cover letter. The applicant will be requested to indicate on the form the option chosen (re-planting or compensation), as well as signing and dating the form, in the appropriate spaces. Other requirements in this process are as follows:</p> <p><u>If re-planting is chosen</u>, the DREE and the TS III will need to develop and maintain a method of checking for full compliance by the applicant from the initial re-planting through the one-year establishment.</p> <p><u>If compensation is chosen</u>, the applicant will need to furnish a check for the specified amount (payable to NCDOT) <u>before the SVR permit can be approved and issued.</u></p> <p>The applicant should return the completed and signed "SVR and Compensation Inventory" form to the DREE, with the compensation check(s) if applicable.</p>
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			<p>AFTER the applicant returns the form signed and dated with one of the two options chosen (with a compensation check if compensation is chosen), the SVR permit would then need to be approved and issued via the normal <u>recommendation</u> letter to the Division Engineer as well as the other related processes described in 14 and 15 above. The compensation check is to credited to account: 43048-953-5.0017027-546, by way of so noting in the recommendation letter to the Division Engineer.</p> <p>At this point, the PA III needs to complete the last four (4) remaining columns on the computer log: Veg. Lost (\$), Repl. Planting by Permittee/DOT, Compens. Check#, and Plant Comple. Date (on this last entry, Plant Comple. Date, the TS III will need to advise the PA III of this planting completion date).</p> <p>After the compensation check is received by NCDOT and forwarded for crediting, the DREE will need to order the replacement trees on Form LD-15 (or purchase locally on a small bill). When the trees are received, the DREE will assign the TS III to schedule planting work.</p> <p>12. Do you have any incentives/disincentives for not participating in the program? The Department does not offer any incentives for participating in the SVR permit process.</p> <p>13. What office in your DOT handles the billboard vegetation maintenance program? Issues affecting the Statewide Selective Vegetation Management Program are handled by the Central Roadside Environmental Unit in Raleigh. The actual permitting process, subsequent inspections and record keeping are handled by the Roadside Environmental Engineers within the 14 individual Divisions.</p>
13.	CO	<p style="text-align: center;">Riley, Tom [Tom.Riley@dot.state.co.us]</p>	<p>1. CDOT does not have a vegetation maintenance program. We have a Noxious Weed spraying program, that is entirely state funded and carried out primarily by CDOT eminence employees (some contractors for specialized spraying).</p> <p>CDOT does have a set of vegetation clearance guidelines established 1990 in response to an FHWA memorandum of that same year, that allow to advertising agency /permit holder to request CDOT landscaping personnel to evaluate a location for trimming or clearance.</p> <p>However, CDOT will not take action solely because sign visibility is impaired. Action will only be taken if it is for the preservation of the subject vegetation (trimming) or surrounding vegetation (removal of diseased and contagious or unsafe vegetation). CDOT maintenance crews take the authorized action and bill the party that made the initial request (advertising agency /permit holder).</p> <p>#2 Only vegetation that needs trimming for its own benefit or removal for the benefit of surrounding vegetation or safety may be cut. The how and when is up to the CDOT landscape specialist.</p>

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			<p>#3 N/A  #4 N/A  #5 Part of overall Region Maintenance budget- not broken out  #6 N/A  #7 N/A  #8 See #2  #9 DOT crews</p> <p>#10 Just pay for the cost of action if they requested action and action was taken.  #11 N/A  #12 N/A  #13 N/A</p>
14.	KS	Susan Barker [SusanB@ksdot.org]	<p>1. What states have a vegetation maintenance program? Kansas does not have billboard visibility vegetation management program.</p> <p>2. Briefly describe your program criteria, i.e. what can be cut, how its cut, when its cut. KDOT does not allow good trees to be cut down to increase visibility to a billboard. KDOT has allowed on a case-by-case base some tree pruning, and replacement of scrub trees with shorter growing ornamental trees. This is done by permit and at no cost to KDOT. Permits applications are submitted to an Area Office and then issued from the District Office. Area offices contacts can be obtained from our web site-<a href="http://www.ksdot.org/offtransinfo/haycontacts.htm">http://www.ksdot.org/offtransinfo/haycontacts.htm</a></p> <p>3. In order to participate in your program, does the applicant have to submit a vegetation permit application or sign a contract? If it is a contract, please email me a copy. N/A</p> <p>4. Cost to participate in the vegetation maintenance program, i.e. initial fees, annual fees, renewal fees. N/A</p> <p>5. Cost to DOT to administer the program - cost to cut, administrative costs, etc. N/A</p> <p>6. How long can a sign owner participate in the vegetation maintenance program? N/A</p> <p>7. How can the vegetation maintenance program/contracts be terminated? N/A</p> <p>8. What amount of vegetation can be removed? N/A</p>

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			<p>9. Who cuts the vegetation, DOT crews or out sourced? N/A</p> <p>10. Requirements of the sign owner to participate in program. N/A</p> <p>11. Requirements of the DOT in running program and approving participants. N/A</p> <p>12. Do you have any incentives/disincentives for not participating in the program? N/A</p> <p>13. What office in your DOT handles the billboard vegetation maintenance program? See question #2.</p>
15.	DE	Keller, James N. (DeIDOT) [JKeller@mail.dot.state.de.us]	<p>Delaware does not have a vegetation maintenance program. Delaware DOT's current Outdoor Advertising Program rules and regulations specifically prohibit any destruction of trees or shrubs within the right of way of any highway for the purpose of increasing or enhancing the visibility of an outdoor advertising sign. Penalties provide for criminal prosecution, revocation of sign permit(s) involved and appropriate corrective action for tree/shrub replacements.</p>
16.	SD	Scott.Pretzer@state.sd.us	<p>South Dakota does not have a billboard vegetation maintenance program. However, DOT personnel rely on a common-sense approach of vegetation removal/thinning when the situation warrants.</p>
17.	IN	BHARVEY@indot.state.in.us	<p>1. What states have a vegetation maintenance program? <b>Indiana does not have a vegetation maintenance program</b></p> <p>2. Briefly describe your program criteria, i.e. what can be cut, how its cut, when its cut. <b>When trimming does occur it is by permit, usually the billboard company's contractor. Access on limited access highways must be from the private property side and typically INDOT requires the permittee to plant up to 10 plantings for each larger growth removed. These are to be placed in a more desirable location.</b></p> <p>3. In order to participate in your program, does the applicant have to submit a vegetation permit application or sign a contract? If it is a contract, please email me a copy. <b>Done by a Cut Road Permit.</b></p> <p>4. Cost to participate in the vegetation maintenance program, i.e. initial fees, annual fees, renewal fees. <b>\$55 per site per cutting.</b></p> <p>5. Cost to DOT to administer the program - cost to cut, administrative costs, etc.</p>

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			<p style="color: red;">Cannot estimate. Administrative cost on all and some have cleanup labor.</p> <p>6. How long can a sign owner participate in the vegetation maintenance program? <span style="color: red;">Owner can always re-apply.</span></p> <p>7. How can the vegetation maintenance program/contracts be terminated? <span style="color: red;">Permit is terminated upon completion of work.</span></p> <p>8. What amount of vegetation can be removed? <span style="color: red;">Varies, plans generally required.</span></p> <p>9. Who cuts the vegetation, DOT crews or out sourced? <span style="color: red;">Contractor for the Billboard company.</span></p> <p>10. Requirements of the sign owner to participate in program. <span style="color: red;">Trimming of vegetation is not required by INDOT. If the sign owner feels the need he sends in an application for a permit.</span></p> <p>11. Requirements of the DOT in running program and approving participants. <span style="color: red;">District Permit Regulatory Engineers are required to administer the permit.</span></p> <p>12. Do you have any incentives/disincentives for not participating in the program? <span style="color: red;">No.</span></p> <p>13. What office in your DOT handles the billboard vegetation maintenance program? <span style="color: red;">District Offices.</span></p>
18.	ID	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan Strough [JStrough@itd.state.id.us]</p>	<p>1. What states have a vegetation maintenance program?  <b>The Idaho Outdoor Advertising Program does not allow the clearing of vegetation in the right-of-way for the visibility of billboard sign faces. Idaho does not have a vegetation maintenance program.</b></p> <p>2. Briefly describe your program criteria, i.e. what can be cut, how its cut, when its cut.  <b>Idaho's rules governing outdoor advertising are found in the Idaho Administrative Procedure Act (IDAPA 39.03.60). IDAPA 39.03.60.100.05 states "the erection or maintenance of signs from the highway right-of-way; or the destruction of trees or shrubs within the highway right-of-way will be cause for permit or license revocation."</b></p> <p><b>Item Nos. 3 through 13 were deleted because they do not apply in Idaho.</b></p>

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19.	SC	Melvin, Keith C melvinkc@dot.state.sc.us	<p>1. What states have a vegetation maintenance program? <b>South Carolina has a vegetation maintenance program</b></p> <p>2. Briefly describe your program criteria, i.e. what can be cut, how its cut, when its cut. <b>Upon approval of the vegetation application, the applicant will be allowed to enter upon SCDOT'S right of way to cut the 300 foot vegetation window, as designated by SCDOT; provided, prior to and within forty eight (48) hours of entering upon the SCDOT'S right of way, the applicant contacts the appropriate Outdoor Advertising Coordinator and gives notice of the approximate time that applicant will enter upon the SCDOT'S right of way. The applicant agrees to cut vegetation under the following criteria: (a) applicant will not cut hardwoods which are in excess of six (6) inches in diameter; (b) all hardwoods larger than six (6) inches in diameter must be examined by the SCDOT Outdoor Advertising Coordinator for the District to determine if they will hinder routine mowing; (c) all cutting by the applicant will be performed from the sign side of the right of way (private property) to avoid distractions to the traveling public; (d) all cuttings and debris will be immediately removed from SCDOT'S right of way by applicant at applicant's expense. The applicant agrees to comply with all state, federal and local laws and regulations when issued a vegetation maintenance permit and accepted for participation in the program. SCDOT Outdoor Advertising office will be responsible for reviewing the all documents submitted and determining whether applicant is accepted for participation in the program. Sign owners will be responsible for the costs and performance of the initial cutting and clearing of each sign location. After the initial cutting of all locations, the SCDOT will be responsible for mowing the locations until the end of the contract. This mowing will be in conjunction with the routine maintenance of the right of ways.</b></p> <p>3. In order to participate in your program, does the applicant have to submit a vegetation permit application or sign a contract? If it is a contract, please email me a copy. <b>The applicant must submit a vegetation maintenance application and sign a ten year agreement.</b></p> <p>4. Cost to participate in the vegetation maintenance program, i.e. initial fees, annual fees, renewal fees. <b>Cost to participate is a \$200.00 entrance fee and a \$200.00 annual renewal fee for each permit in the program. Permits are renewed automatically each year.</b></p> <p>5. Cost to DOT to administer the program - cost to cut, administrative costs, etc. <b>SCDOT is currently reviewing the cost of administering the program with maintenance staff.</b></p> <p>6. How long can a sign owner participate in the vegetation maintenance program? <b>The applicant signs a ten year agreement to participate in the program.</b></p> <p>7. How can the vegetation maintenance program/contracts be terminated? <b>Failure of applicant to meet the federal, state, or county laws and Regulations regarding outdoor advertising vegetation maintenance will terminate this Agreement. Any violation of this Agreement or the Outdoor Advertising Vegetation Maintenance Policy or permit will be grounds for the termination of this agreement, the cancellation of the vegetation maintenance permit, and the cancellation of the outdoor advertising sign permit.</b></p> <p>8. What amount of vegetation can be removed? <b>Each location will be allowed a 500' longitudinal working area from</b></p>
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			<p>each sign facing. The sign owner will develop a vegetation maintenance plan for this area. This plan may include a 300' clear cut window within the 500' working area. This will allow the applicant to determine the most advantageous area to be cut to allow for the best visibility of the sign.</p> <p>9. Who cuts the vegetation, DOT crews or out sourced? Sign owners will be responsible for the costs and performance of the initial cutting and clearing of each sign location. After the initial cutting, the SCDOT will be responsible for mowing the locations until the end of the contract. This mowing will be in conjunction with the routine maintenance of the right of ways.</p> <p>10. Requirements of the sign owner to participate in program. Any sign owner with a permitted outdoor advertising sign adjacent to South Carolina interstates routes may participate in the program.</p> <p>11. Requirements of the DOT in running program and approving participants. Upon receipt of the application package, the Outdoor Advertising office will review the application and bond for approval. The SCDOT District Outdoor Advertising Coordinator will field review all locations. The SCDOT will mark the 500' longitudinal working area, measuring from the sign's support nearest the main traveled way along a line parallel with the main traveled way. The 300' window will then be marked according to the application and any trees that are to remain will be flagged. Following completion of the field review, the SCDOT will mail successful applicants a letter of approval and a signed/approved application.</p> <p>12. Do you have any incentives/disincentives for not participating in the program? Two (2) vegetation control permit fees will be waived for the life of the contract for each SCDOT permitted non-conforming sign voluntarily removed. All non-conforming sign structures to be removed must be at least one hundred fifty (150) square feet. If less than 150 square feet, then the removal of two (2) non-conforming sign structures will be required to enact the ten (10) year waiver.</p> <p>13. What office in your DOT handles the billboard vegetation maintenance program? The Outdoor Advertising Office handles the vegetation maintenance program, which is under the Office of the Director of Maintenance.</p>
20.	MI	Seema Taneja [TanejaS@michigan.gov]	Michigan does not have a vegetation management plan in place at this current time.
21.	WV	Bill Light [BeLight@dot.state.wv.us]	West Virginia does not have a vegetation program.
22.	TX	Tim Anderson [TANDER3@dot.state.tx.us]	Texas does not allow a sign owner to remove vegetation on state right of way that impairs the visibility of a sign. We have cancelled permits of sign owners caught doing so.
23.	MO	Robert.Taylor@modot.mo.gov	Missouri does not have a maintenance program. We do however issue permits for cuttings by the sign owner, but no formal program.

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24.	WA	O'Leary, Pat [OLEaryP@wsdot.wa.gov]	Washington state doesn't have such a program. I can't find any historical documentation allowing such activities. I did find a court case where a sign company was required to pay to replace trees cut for such purposes.
25.		Rod Boehm [Rod.Boehm@state.tn.us]	<p>Statutory information concerning vegetation control can be found in Tennessee Code Ann. 54-21-119 &amp; 54-21-120. Please notice the specific required limits for surety and running surety bonds, and certificate of insurance limits. The limits are found on the vegetation control application forms.</p> <p>Vegetation Maintenance Permit Application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- nonrefundable \$50.00 fee application</li> <li>- current permit renewal form</li> <li>- color 8 x 10 or larger photo showing area of proposed vegetation control</li> <li>- scale drawing showing proposed vegetation to be cut</li> <li>- written proposal</li> <li>- last vegetation control permit and inspection report</li> </ul> <p>Vegetation Control Permit (initial cut)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- non refundable \$100 fee application</li> <li>- non refundable \$150 fee per face for supervision of work</li> <li>- current permit renewal form</li> <li>- color 8x10 photo showing area to be controlled</li> <li>- scale drawing of vegetation to be cut</li> <li>- scale drawing of proposed replacement vegetation</li> </ul>
26.	WI	Brucaya, Deborah [deborah.brucaya@dot.state.wi.us]	<p>1. What states have a vegetation maintenance program? <b>Vegetation policies are developed and administered in Wisconsin's Bureau of Highway Operations, with staff in the eight Transportation District offices carrying the policies out. A policy exists to guide district personnel when they receive a request from a sign owner or business owner to cut vegetation in a highway right of way to enhance the view to a sign, building, or some other object.</b></p> <p>2. Briefly describe your program criteria, i.e. what can be cut, how it's cut, when it's cut. <b>In Wisconsin, an object is not considered screened and eligible to have a request to cut/alter vegetation reviewed if it is visible for 350 feet within the 1000 feet in advance of the object, as viewed from the travel lanes. Under the policy discussed here, Wisconsin currently treats all vegetation as greenery. However, Wisconsin does make a distinction between deliberately planted vegetation and naturally emerging vegetation. Requests to alter vegetation that pre-dated the object to be daylighted are denied. Requests to alter vegetation that came to exist after the object to be daylighted was erected are reviewed to determine whether the vegetation was planted for a highway purpose [visual barrier to on-coming traffic, visual barrier to adjacent land uses, snow control, wind control, erosion control, aesthetics, etc.] OR whether it simply emerged. When the vegetation is needed for an overriding highway purpose, the request will be denied although in some cases Wisconsin will, at the applicant's expense, allow higher growing vegetation to be replaced with lower growing vegetation that will achieve the same purpose. When the vegetation voluntarily emerged, the</b></p>

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			<p>request is likely to be approved. An alternative is that sign owners may raise the height of their signs, if eligible and appropriate.</p> <p>3. In order to participate in your program, does the applicant have to submit a vegetation permit application or sign a contract? If it is a contract, please email me a copy. To have a request for vegetation alteration considered by the department, a "Work on Highway Right of Way" permit must be submitted with other documents [sketch, photos, plan sheet, etc.] to make the proposed work clear, for which there is no charge.</p> <p>4. Cost to participate in the vegetation maintenance program, i.e. initial fees, annual fees, renewal fees. Not applicable to Wisconsin.</p> <p>5. Cost to DOT to administer the program - cost to cut, administrative costs, etc. When Wisconsin agrees that specific vegetation may be altered to daylight an object, then the applicant must agree to pay for: 1) the value of the existing vegetation that will be removed, 2) the cost of removal of the existing vegetation, 3) the costs of replacement vegetation including an additional 10% to cover expected plant loss, 4) the costs of having the replacement vegetation planted, mulched, and watered periodically [about every 10-14 days] during two growing seasons, and 5) the value of any time spent by non-program staff time on the effort, such as a Bureau landscape architect or a district area assistant. An estimate of these costs is developed. The applicant must commit to paying these costs before further work will occur.</p> <p>6. How long can a sign owner participate in the vegetation maintenance program? Not applicable to Wisconsin.</p> <p>7. How can the vegetation maintenance program/contracts be terminated? Not applicable to Wisconsin.</p> <p>8. What amount of vegetation can be removed? As little as possible to achieve the necessary outcome.</p> <p>9. Who cuts the vegetation, DOT crews or out sourced? Both options are available, but WisDOT decides which is most appropriate for the location.</p> <p>10. Requirements of the sign owner to participate in program. Not applicable. Anyone may submit a permit application.</p> <p>11. Requirements of the DOT in running program and approving participants. No answer.</p>
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			<p>12. Do you have any incentives/disincentives for not participating in the program? <b>Not applicable.</b></p> <p>13. What office in your DOT handles the billboard vegetation maintenance program? <b>Two work units or sections within the Bureau of Highway Operations.</b></p> <p>14. Is clearing allowed to make nonconforming signs more visible? <b>Yes, if the criteria appearing in question 2. above are met.</b></p> <p>15. Nonconforming signs on Scenic routes? <b>This hasn't been specifically discussed, but would probably be answered the same as question 14.</b></p>
27.	AZ	Wendy LeStarge [wlestarge@dot.state.az.us]	<p>1. What states have a vegetation maintenance program? <b>Arizona does not have a formal statewide program.</b></p> <p>2. Briefly describe your program criteria, i.e. what can be cut, how its cut, when its cut. <b>Case by case basis.</b></p> <p>3. In order to participate in your program, does the applicant have to submit a vegetation permit application or sign a contract? If it is a contract, please email me a copy. <b>It is done by encroachment permit with mutually agreed upon requirements.</b></p> <p>4. Cost to participate in the vegetation maintenance program, i.e. initial fees, annual fees, renewal fees. <b>No cash fees.</b></p> <p>5. Cost to DOT to administer the program - cost to cut, administrative costs, etc. <b>None.</b></p> <p>6. How long can a sign owner participate in the vegetation maintenance program? <b>A sign owner can ask anytime, but without a formal program, then it is case by case.</b></p> <p>7. How can the vegetation maintenance program/contracts be terminated? <b>Boilerplate language in the encroachment permit.</b></p> <p>8. What amount of vegetation can be removed? <b>Case by case determined by ADOT interests/benefits.</b></p> <p>9. Who cuts the vegetation, DOT crews or out sourced? <b>Normally sign owners contractor.</b></p> <p>10. Requirements of the sign owner to participate in program. <b>None.</b></p> <p>11. Requirements of the DOT in running program and approving participants. <b>None.</b></p> <p>12. Do you have any incentives/disincentives for not participating in the program? <b>None.</b></p> <p>13. What office in your DOT handles the billboard vegetation maintenance program? <b>Normally the requests are for the Phoenix and Tucson areas since signs are concentrated there. Engineering review and encroachment permits are handled through District Maintenance offices and not the Central Permits Office.</b></p>
28.	MA	Burns, Mary (MHD) [Mary.Burns@state.ma.us]	

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29.	GA	Wright, William [William.Wright@dot.state.ga.us]	<p>1. What states have a vegetation maintenance program? The Georgia Department of Transportation is currently working on a vegetation maintenance program.</p> <p>2. Briefly describe your program criteria, i.e. what can be cut, how its cut, when its cut. The proposed policy for vegetation management allows for certain trees to be cut or pruned within 500 feet of the face of the sign parallel to the right of way. This area is called the sign viewing zone. All vegetation less than 4 inches in diameter may be cut from the entire sign viewing zone. Hardwood trees greater than 8 inches in diameter may not be removed from the sign viewing zone. In half of the sign viewing zone (250') pine trees having a 12 inch diameter or greater may not be removed in such numbers as to reduce stocking (a forestry term) to less than the minimum standard for full stocking for such trees. Trees may be cut or pruned any time of the year. A certified arborist or forester must be present during all on site activities to ensure proper pruning techniques are used and that the trees to remain are protected.</p> <p>3. In order to participate in your program, does the applicant have to submit a vegetation permit application or sign a contract? If it is a contract, please email me a copy. The applicant has to submit an application.</p> <p>4. Cost to participate in the vegetation maintenance program, i.e. initial fees, annual fees, renewal fees. There is a \$400 application fee. There is a \$50 annual renewal fee. There is a \$500 required fee for removal of any vegetation that is less than 4 inches in diameter. Trees 4 inches and diameter that are to be removed or pruned are priced individually using the Cost Approach method in the <i>Guide for Plant Appraisal</i> book published by the International Society of Arboriculture.</p> <p>5. Cost to DOT to administer the program - cost to cut, administrative costs, etc. The applicant pays for all tree removal and clean up activities. The \$400 application fee helps the DOT cover administration costs.</p> <p>6. How long can a sign owner participate in the vegetation maintenance program? As long as the applicant renews their permit, they will be allowed to ensure that trees do not grow in the areas initially cut.</p> <p>7. How can the vegetation maintenance program/contracts be terminated? If an applicant violates any terms, conditions or provisions of the permit, the DOT has the right to terminate the permit. Any person engaged in unauthorized pruning, trimming, or removal of vegetation is subject to a penalty of \$10,000 to \$20,000 per incident and restitution in a amount equal to the appraised value of the trees or vegetation.</p> <p>8. What amount of vegetation can be removed? See answer #2.</p> <p>9. Who cuts the vegetation, DOT crews or out sourced? The applicant hires someone to remove the vegetation.</p> <p>10. Requirements of the sign owner to participate in program. The applicant's sign must have been permitted a minimum of 5 years prior to receiving a permit for vegetation removal. The sign must be in good standing with the DOT's Outdoor Advertising Permit Office and there can be no outstanding legal issues with the applicant. The applicant must submit a complete application with attachments for approval. Requirements of the DOT in running program and</p>
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			<p>approving participants. Coordinated administration of several offices within the DOT including: District Maintenance Office, District Administration Office, District Area Offices, District Environmentalist.</p> <p>12. Do you have any incentives/disincentives for not participating in the program? <b>No.</b></p> <p>13. What office in your DOT handles the billboard vegetation maintenance program? <b>The program has not officially begun as of 4-20-2004. The Office of Maintenance in each of our 7 district offices will handle the program.</b></p>
30.	MD	KEN OLDHAM [KOldham@sha.state.md.us]	The Maryland State Highway Administration does not have any programs regarding vegetation management for outdoor advertizing.
31.	OR	Amy.B.JOYCE@odot.state.or.us	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What states have a vegetation maintenance program? <b>Oregon has a vegetation control permit program.</b></li> <li>2. Briefly describe your program criteria, i.e. what can be cut, how it's cut, when it's cut. <b>An outdoor advertising sign permit holder may apply for a permit to control vegetation in the right of way to keep signs visible. These are administered by ODOT Districts, which have discretion to issue these permits. The permit holder does the cutting. Any person (not necessarily a sign permit holder) who wants to trim or remove a tree on right of way must apply to ODOT for a permit. The trimming/removal must not affect scenic beauty, and must not affect the highway.</b></li> <li>3. In order to participate in your program, does the applicant have to submit a vegetation permit application or sign a contract? If it is a contract, please email me a copy. <b>They must submit a permit application.</b></li> <li>4. Cost to participate in the vegetation maintenance program, i.e. initial fees, annual fees, renewal fees. <b>ODOT may charge fees only to cover the cost of issuing the permit. In practice, districts usually do not charge a fee.</b></li> <li>5. Cost to DOT to administer the program - cost to cut, administrative costs, etc. <b>No costs to cut – the permit holders arrange for the cutting. The only cost is the time spent by ODOT personnel in viewing the site and writing the permit. This varies greatly depending on location/complexity of the site.</b></li> <li>6. How long can a sign owner participate in the vegetation maintenance program? <b>The permits can be for a one-time trimming, or can be continuous. If the permit holder fails to maintain the site as agreed in a continuous permit, ODOT may trim the vegetation and charge the permit holder for the work, and may cancel the permit.</b></li> <li>7. How can the vegetation maintenance program/contracts be terminated? <b>See #6.</b></li> <li>8. What amount of vegetation can be removed? <b>The permits are for removal of specific vegetation or areas. The permits are issued at the discretion of the district.</b></li> <li>9. Who cuts the vegetation, DOT crews or out sourced? <b>The permit holder.</b></li> <li>10. Requirements of the sign owner to participate in program. <b>See #2.</b></li> <li>11. Requirements of the DOT in running program and approving participants. <b>Each district makes its own</b></li> </ol>

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			<p><b>determination depending on the unique needs of the area.</b></p> <p><b>12.</b> Do you have any incentives/disincentives for not participating in the program? <b>No.</b></p> <p><b>13.</b> What office in your DOT handles the billboard vegetation maintenance program? <b>Each of the 14 ODOT districts.</b></p> <p><b>14.</b> Is clearing allowed to make nonconforming signs more visible? <b>Each district makes that determination.</b></p> <p><b>15.</b> Nonconforming signs on Scenic routes? <b>State law prohibits issuing a vegetation control permit for signs in Designated Scenic Areas. There is no state law prohibiting issuance of such a permit in Scenic Byways, and in practice, permits are issued in Scenic Byways.</b></p>
32.	HI	Martin Okabe Martin.Okabe@hawaii.gov	No billboards in Hawaii
33.	ME	Bob Sinclair Bob.Sinclair@maine.gov	No billboards in Maine
34.	VT	Roger Koniuto <a href="mailto:Roger.Koniuto@state.vt.us">Roger.Koniuto@state.vt.us</a>	No billboards in Vermont
35.	PR	Paquito Rivera p-rivera@act.dtop.gov.pr	No billboards in Puerto Rico
36.	AL		
37.	AK		
38.	AR		
39.	CA		
40.	CT		
41. .	IL		
42.	LA	ClaySwift@dotd.louisiana.gov	<p>1. What states have a vegetation maintenance program? <b>Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) does not have a designated vegetation maintenance program. However, we do allow vegetation removal by permit.</b></p> <p>2. Briefly describe your program criteria, i.e. what can be cut, how its cut, when its cut.  <b>Requests for visibility improvements are made to LADOTD's Right-of-Way Permit group on the Vegetation Enhancement Permit form. The LADOTD Landscape Architect reviews the permit and makes a recommendation to the Headquarters Right-of-Way Permit Engineer. Thinning from the bottom of trees is permitted, but topping is never allowed. LADOTD may allow complete removal of vegetation for a maximum distance of 500 ft. from each sign face, but a mitigation plan for replacement vegetation that would not interfere with sign visibility is required. The removal of any trees designated as a 'significant tree' will not be permitted. A significant tree is a Live Oak, Red Oak, White Oak, Magnolia or Cypress that is considered aesthetically important, 18" or greater in diameter at breast height (4'-6" above</b></p>

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			<p>the ground), and having a form that separates it from the surrounding vegetation or is considered historic. Access to the site is not permitted from the roadway. A copy of the permit with the complete standards is attached. These standards have recently been revised to strengthen the standards.</p> <p>3. In order to participate in your program, does the applicant have to submit a vegetation permit application or sign a contract? If it is a contract, please email me a copy. <b>Vegetation clearing is by permit.</b></p> <p>4. Cost to participate in the vegetation maintenance program, i.e. initial fees, annual fees, renewal fees. <b>There is no fee to submit a Vegetation Enhancement Permit. In the event that the vegetation removed has a market value, the permittee must compensate LADOTD for the market value of the timber. The permittee must also pay for mitigation plantings.</b></p> <p>5. Cost to DOT to administer the program - cost to cut, administrative costs, etc. <b>All costs included in vegetation removal are the responsibility of the permittee.</b></p> <p>6. How long can a sign owner participate in the vegetation maintenance program? <b>A new permit must be issued for each requested clearing. No blanket permits are allowed.</b></p> <p>7. How can the vegetation maintenance program/contracts be terminated? <b>Permittees who fail to comply with the standards may have their permit revoked and would not receive any new permits until the situation is rectified.</b></p> <p>8. What amount of vegetation can be removed? <b>LADOTD may allow complete removal of vegetation for a maximum distance of 500 ft. from each sign face.</b></p> <p>9. Who cuts the vegetation, DOT crews or out sourced? <b>Out sourced. LADOTD never cuts the vegetation. LADOTD in cooperation with LA Department of Agriculture and Forestry is instituting a Forestry Management Plan whereby stands of trees in selected areas of the Interstate system will be harvested and more appropriate species of trees will be planted. This work will also be out sourced</b></p> <p>10. Requirements of the sign owner to participate in program. <b>N/A</b></p> <p>11. Requirements of the DOT in running program and approving participants. <b>N/A</b></p> <p>12. Do you have any incentives/disincentives for not participating in the program? <b>N/A</b></p> <p>13. What office in your DOT handles the billboard vegetation maintenance program? <b>Vegetation Enhancement permits are issued by the Right-of-Way Permit Group.</b></p> <p>14. Is clearing allowed to make nonconforming signs more visible? <b>No.</b></p> <p>15. Nonconforming signs on Scenic routes? <b>No.</b></p>
16.	MN		
17.	MS	Lee, John [JohnL@mdot.state.ms.us]	<p>1. What states have a vegetation maintenance program? <b>Mississippi does have a vegetation maintenance program.</b></p> <p>2. Briefly describe your program criteria, i.e. what can be cut, how its cut, when its cut. <b>Sign owners are allowed to cut or trim vegetation that has grown into the face of existing boards after they have been up for 3 years. They</b></p>

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			<p>are required to upthane a vegetation removal permit which in handled on a per sight bases. There is a \$50 charge per sight granted a permit. Photos are taken of each proposed sight to document existing vegetation.</p> <p>3. In order to participate in your program, does the applicant have to submit a vegetation permit application or sign a contract? If it is a contract, please email me a copy. <b>They must have a permit but we acutely right the permit.</b></p> <p>4. Cost to participate in the vegetation maintenance program, i.e. initial fees, annual fees, renewal fees. <b>\$50 per sight.</b></p> <p>5. Cost to DOT to administer the program - cost to cut, administrative costs, etc. ?</p> <p>6. How long can a sign owner participate in the vegetation maintenance program? <b>They have 1 year from tome the permit is issued.</b></p> <p>7. How can the vegetation maintenance program/contracts be terminated? <b>Permit can be canceled at any time if there are known violations of our regulations.</b></p> <p>8. What amount of vegetation can be removed? <b>That is determined on a per sight bases, we will allow a 3 to 5 second read on a board but will not permit cuts more than 500 feat from sign.</b></p> <p>9. Who cuts the vegetation, DOT crews or out sourced? <b>The sign owner is responsible for all cutting and clean up.</b></p> <p>10. Requirements of the sign owner to participate in program. <b>To follow guidelines set out in permit.</b></p> <p>11. Requirements of the DOT in running program and approving participants. <b>There are only 2 people in the state otherised to give vegetation removal permits and each sight is inspected and the owner is told what can be cut and what can't and is given a diagram showing trees or shrubs to be removed or pruned</b></p> <p>12. Do you have any incentives/disincentives for not participating in the program? <b>No</b></p> <p>13. What office in your DOT handles the billboard vegetation maintenance program? <b>Maintenance Division.</b></p>
18.	NV	McClellan, Walter C. [wmcclellan@dot.state.nv.us]	What states have a vegetation maintenance program? We do not have a formal program, however, Nevada does not allow the removal of vegetation to provide better viewing.
19.	NJ		
20.	NM		
21.	NY		
22.	ND		
23.	RI		
24.	UT	Shawn Debenham [sdebenham@utah.gov]	<p>1.What states have a vegetation maintenance program? <b>UTAH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DOES NOT HAVE A VEGETATION MAINTENANCE PROGRAM. ALTHOUGH, UDOT ALLOWS TREES THAT ARE CONSIDERDED TO BE A NOXIOUS WEED, TO BE REMOVED FROM THE UDOT RIGHT-OF-WAY.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NOTE: TREE REMOVAL IS HANDLED THE SAME BE IT FOR BILLBOARD OR UTILITY LINE.</b></p>

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			<p>2. Briefly describe your program criteria, i.e. what can be cut, how its cut, when its cut.  <b>IF A TREE IS REMOVED THAT IS NOT CLASSIFIED AS NOXIOUS THEN:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>TREE REPLACEMENTS (LIKE KIND) WILL REQUIRE A MINIMUM OF ONE ONE-INCH DIAMETER TREE FOR EACH INCH OF CALIPER OF THE TREE REQUESTED TO BE REMOVED.</b></li> <li>b. <b>TREE REPLACEMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED AND ACCEPTED BEFORE TREE REMOVAL WORK BEGINS.</b></li> </ul> <p>3. In order to participate in your program, does the applicant have to submit a vegetation permit application or sign a contract? If it is a contract, please email me a copy. <b>ENCROACHMENT PERMIT WITH LIMITATIONS</b></p> <p>4. Cost to participate in the vegetation maintenance program, i.e. initial fees, annual fees, renewal fees.  <b>ENCROACHMENT PERMITS COSTS \$20.00</b></p> <p>5. Cost to DOT to administer the program - cost to cut, administrative costs, etc.  <b>CONTRACTOR THAT HAS PULLED THE PERMIT TO DO THE WORK PAYS UDOT A \$40.00 PER HOUR CHARGE FOR INSPECTION</b></p> <p>6. How long can a sign owner participate in the vegetation maintenance program? <b>N/A</b></p> <p>7. How can the vegetation maintenance program/contracts be terminated? <b>N/A</b></p> <p>8. What amount of vegetation can be removed? <b>REFERE BACK TO 1 AND 2</b></p> <p>9. Who cuts the vegetation, DOT crews or out sourced? <b>PERMITTED CONTRACTOR</b></p> <p>10. Requirements of the sign owner to participate in program. <b>N/A</b></p> <p>11. Requirements of the DOT in running program and approving participants. <b>N/A</b></p> <p>12. Do you have any incentives/disincentives for not participating in the program? <b>N/A</b></p> <p>13. What office in your DOT handles the billboard vegetation maintenance program? <b>UDOT PERMITS OFFICE HANDLES TREE REMOVAL AND TRIMMING OPPERATIONS IN REGARDS TO NON-UDOT CREWS.</b></p> <p>14. Is clearing allowed to make nonconforming signs more visible? <b>NO</b></p> <p>15. Nonconforming signs on Scenic routes? <b>UDOT HAS SIGNS LOCATED ON SCENIC ROUTES</b></p>
25.			