

DATE: December 2, 2016

DEPARTMENT POC: Camille Mittelholtz
Lia Cattaneo

EMAIL: camille.mittelholtz@dot.gov
lia.cattaneo@dot.gov

A. *Update on the implementation of past recommendations/action items*

#137 Inventory and Control of Highway Corridor Vegetation

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has completed posting of a web-based version of its handbook [Roadside Use of Native Plants](https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/ecosystems/vegmgmt_rdsduse.asp) (https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/ecosystems/vegmgmt_rdsduse.asp). This handbook is a reference for those who restore, design, or manage native plants in State-owned rights of way. The handbook's State by State organization of information is a beginning point in decision-making. This resource can help state employees and local experts make site by site decisions within a State. The information is aimed at preserving the native remnants that still exist and restoring natural heritage where necessary.

B. *Departmental news of relevance to ISAC priorities*

The Federal Highway Administration continues its vegetation management efforts. Recent activities include:

- Roadside pollinator habitat BMPs (includes recommendations for controlling invasives and establishing native plants) – published on our pollinator page: https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/ecosystems/vegmgmt_pollinators.asp
- Updating the Western Federal Lands Roadside Revegetation with native plants handbook to expand the geographic area covered and broaden the audience to include all roadside designers and managers (e.g. DOTs and Federal land managers). Activity is in progress.
- Developing an ecoregional database of native workhorse plants as a companion to the revegetation handbook (this will ultimately be an interactive map). This activity is in progress.
- The Federal Aviation Administration continues its efforts to support NEPA practitioners in considering invasive species issues in FAA facilities and FAA-supported airport projects. FAA has a Biological Resources chapter in its NEPA Desk Reference, and FAA NEPA documents address mitigation measures for construction vehicles and when planting greenery as appropriate.

C. *Departmental notes of relevance to ISAC*

No Report