

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### ***Roadside Revegetation: An Integrated Approach to Establishing Native Plants***

Roadside revegetation with native plants has become a key practice for managing environmental impacts and improving conditions for healthy ecosystems. When roads are being modified, constructed, or obliterated, the challenge is to move beyond regulation-driven mitigation approaches and into proactive environmental stewardship. Native plants are a foundation of ecological health and function. The report *Roadside Revegetation: An Integrated Approach to Establishing Native Plants* presents an integrated approach to effectively revegetate roadsides and other disturbance areas associated with roads. The report will be of interest to public- and private-sector practitioners, as well as to transportation and planning professionals, land managers, policy makers, and owners and operators of roads. The report can be consulted during any phase of a revegetation project. It is also intended to serve as a foundation for future trainings.

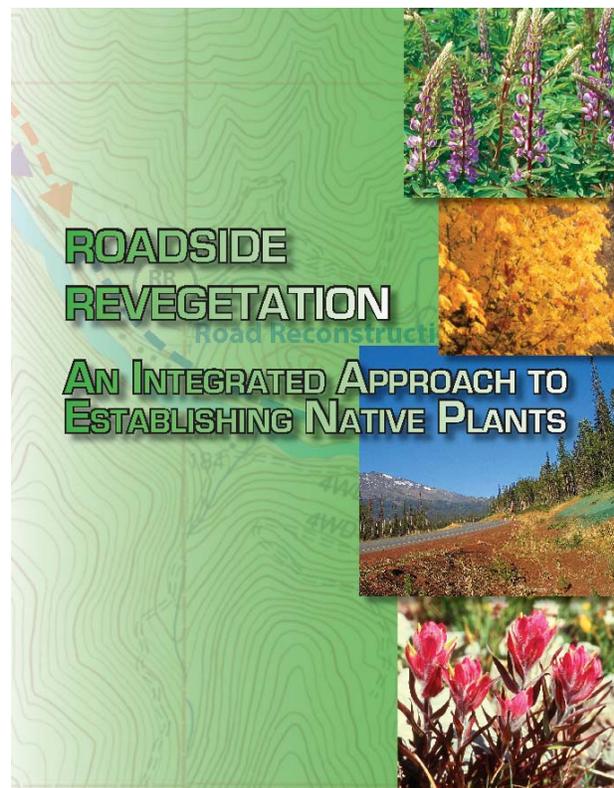
*Roadside Revegetation* provides a systematic, interdisciplinary guide through four stage process of revegetation. The *Initiation* section helps the user bridge terminology and technical expertise between non-engineers and engineers, identify key relationships, and develop a decision process for initiating a project. Essential steps to coordinate revegetation efforts with road planning and construction are detailed, including budgetary and scheduling issues.

Next, the *Planning* section guides the reader through the process of defining project objectives, assessing the site, overcoming site limitations, strategizing revegetation procedures, and integrating the re-vegetation activities with the road project.

The *Implementation* section provides information on how to make a project unfold in the field, from coordinating contracts and creating budgets and timelines to caring for the plants as they mature. It includes a series of *Implementation Guides* which are filled with practical how-to information for many cost-effective site treatments and tactics that are used to revegetate roadsides.

Finally, the *Monitoring and Management* section describes how to assess the effectiveness of the revegetation project to correct any shortcomings, improve practice, and add to future knowledge. *Monitoring Protocols* guide readers in selecting appropriate monitoring methods for assessing how well project goals are achieved.

When planned well, the successful establishment of desirable vegetation supports transportation goals for safety and efficiency, stabilizing slopes, reinforcing infrastructure, and improving the road user's experience by creating natural beauty and diversity along the roadside. Healthy native plant communities are often the best long-term defense against invasive and noxious weeds. Maintenance costs for managing problematic vegetation are reduced, as is



the controversy that sometimes results when weeds from roadsides invade neighboring lands, or where pollution from herbicide use is a concern.

Revegetation success is a key factor in determining whether the millions of acres that make up the transportation corridor of the United States will be hospitable environments to plants and other forms of life — or a wasteland. *Roadside Revegetation: An Integrated Approach to Establishing Native Plants* brings theoretical and practical information to bear on the challenge of revegetating road-related disturbances. The user-friendly report is designed to help fill current information and technology gaps, share strategies and techniques, facilitate interagency and interdisciplinary coordination, and guide readers through the process of effectively establishing native plant communities. The report is especially intended to serve practitioners and planners of diverse backgrounds whose goal is to establish locally appropriate, low-maintenance native plant communities on road-related disturbances.

*Roadside Revegetation* was developed through a partnership between the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA's) Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD) and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS). The report is available by contacting Tom Landis at 541-210-8108 or nurseries@aol.com.