



IN REPLY REFER TO

# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
 Blue Ridge Parkway  
 199 Hemphill Knob Road  
 Asheville, North Carolina 28803

## Application Procedure for Right-of Way Permits

This information was assembled to assist applicants in preparing requests for temporary right-of-way permits on Blue Ridge Parkway land and in seeking approval for modifications to existing permits. We hope this guide will provide an understanding of our procedures, policies, and limitations.

**Authority** All rights-of-way must be issued under legislative authority. Specific authorities exist for most utilities. *Issuance of a revocable permit is discretionary based on National Park Service (NPS) findings that the proposed use is not incompatible with natural, cultural, or visual resources, the public interest, or park policies.*

**Application** Applications must be made in writing to the Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway, 199 Hemphill Knob Road; Asheville, NC 28803. **All applicants must fully complete Standard Form-299 (attached below) and return a signed copy of Appendix C - Blue Ridge Parkway Vegetation Management Guidelines for Right-of-Ways (attached below),** and adequately describe the proposed location and use of Parkway land. Applicants must furnish a certified copy of corporate entity for inclusion in the permit file.

**Fees** With few exceptions, the NPS is mandated by law to recover all costs associated with issuance and management of right-of-way permits. A non-refundable application fee of \$100 must accompany all applications. If a new permit is issued or converted from a Special Use Permit, applicants will be billed for:

- (1) An administrative document preparation fee based on the actual costs the government incurred to issue or reissue the permit-minimum \$550 (36 CFR-14.22), and
- (2) An annual monitoring fee based on the actual cost the government incurs each year to administer the permit- minimum \$260 (36 CFR-14.22), and
- (3) An annual use and occupancy fee based on the fair market value for use of National Park Service lands (36 CFR 14.26).

All fees are payable to the **National Park Service**.

**Drawings** Provide final drawings and plans in AutoCAD format. Parkway Land Use Maps (PLUMS) can be used to show preliminary locations for inclusion in the application package.

**Construction Specifications** Provide detailed specifications of planned construction and maintenance activities such as length/width/depth of installation as well as any other ancillary structures, type and size of construction equipment to be used, access needs, potential impacts to vegetation, expected maintenance requirements, etc. Detailed information will greatly expedite the review process.

**Survey Costs** All costs associated with natural or cultural resource compliance must be borne by the applicant. The applicant may desire to contract this work with private consulting firms with the NPS acting as the reviewing agency. If the NPS completes this work the applicant will be billed as part of the administrative documentation fee.

<b>Process Time</b>	Following the Superintendent's approval of the application and completion of the appropriate level of environmental and cultural compliance, permits are drafted at Parkway headquarters and forwarded to the Regional Solicitor's Office in Atlanta for legal review and then to the Southeast Field Office for approval and signature by the Southeast Regional Director, National Park Service, and returned to the Parkway for distribution and implementation. <b>Dependent on the level of compliance required the permit process may take 6 months to 2 or more years to complete.</b>						
<b>Resources</b>	Environmental and cultural compliance is a required preliminary step in the right-of-way permitting process. The appropriate level of compliance and public comment will be determined by the Park upon review of the application form. The park must have an approved environmental/cultural assessment document or a statement citing an appropriate categorical exclusion to issue a permit. Generally, the use of previously disturbed lands, such as existing utility corridors or road shoulders, not requiring the removal of significant vegetation will involve less environmental documentation.						
<b>Erosion Plan</b>	An Erosion and Sedimentation Control (E&SC) plan is required by the state if ground disturbance is as follows: <table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Virginia</td> <td>1/4 acre</td> <td>(10,000 sq ft) or more</td> </tr> <tr> <td>North Carolina</td> <td>1 acre</td> <td>(40,000 sq ft) or more</td> </tr> </table> <p>If an E&amp;SC plan is not required by the state, the permittee shall follow the Parks <i>General Erosion &amp; Sedimentation Control Standards</i> included in the right-of-way permit terms and conditions.</p>	Virginia	1/4 acre	(10,000 sq ft) or more	North Carolina	1 acre	(40,000 sq ft) or more
Virginia	1/4 acre	(10,000 sq ft) or more					
North Carolina	1 acre	(40,000 sq ft) or more					
<b>Term</b>	Right-of-way permits are written for a maximum term of 10 years. Permits are revocable and do not grant any property right or interest in land.						
<b>Cancellation</b>	Permits may be cancelled upon expiration or at any time for any one of the following reasons: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Permittee has no further need for the permit.</li> <li>(2) Permittee fails to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the permit.</li> <li>(3) The permit conflicts with National Park Service plans or objectives.</li> <li>(4) At the discretion of the National Park Service.</li> </ol>						
<b>Installation</b>	All utility line installation will be underground in conduit unless specifically authorized by the Superintendent.						
<b>Chemical Use</b>	<b>See Notification requirement: Blue Ridge Parkway Vegetation Management Guidelines for Right-of-Ways.</b>						
<b>Easement/</b>	<b>See Notification requirement: Blue Ridge Parkway Vegetation Management Guidelines for Right-of-Ways.</b>						
<b>Maintenance</b>	See permit for guidelines/restrictions.						
<b>Modifications</b>	The Superintendent must provide written authorization prior to any line replacement, service upgrade, or other modification.						

Please refer any questions to Herbert Young, Permits Coordinator at the above address or by telephone (828) 348-3441 or by email: BLRI\_Permits@nps.gov

**APPLICATION FOR TRANSPORTATION AND  
 UTILITY SYSTEMS AND FACILITIES  
 ON FEDERAL LANDS**

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

**NOTE:** Before completing and filing the application, the applicant should completely review this package and schedule a preapplication meeting with representatives of the agency responsible for processing the application. Each agency may have specific and unique requirements to be met in preparing and processing the application. Many times, with the help of the agency representative, the application can be completed at the preapplication meeting.

Application Number

Date Filed

1. Name and address of applicant (*include zip code*)

2. Name, title, and address of authorized agent if different from item 1 (*include zip code*)

3. TELEPHONE (*area code*)

Applicant

Authorized Agent

4. As applicant are you? (*check one*)
- a.  Individual
  - b.  Corporation\*
  - c.  Partnership/Association\*
  - d.  State Government/State Agency
  - e.  Local Government
  - f.  Federal Agency

5. Specify what application is for: (*check one*)
- a.  New authorization
  - b.  Renewing existing authorization No.
  - c.  Amend existing authorization No.
  - d.  Assign existing authorization No.
  - e.  Existing use for which no authorization has been received \*
  - f.  Other\*

\* If checked, complete supplemental page

\* If checked, provide details under item 7

6. If an individual, or partnership are you a citizen(s) of the United States?  Yes  No

7. Project description (describe in detail): (a) Type of system or facility, (*e.g., canal, pipeline, road*); (b) related structures and facilities; (c) physical specifications (*Length, width, grading, etc.*); (d) term of years needed; (e) time of year of use or operation; (f) Volume or amount of product to be transported; (g) duration and timing of construction; and (h) temporary work areas needed for construction (*Attach additional sheets, if additional space is needed.*)

8. Attach a map covering area and show location of project proposal

9. State or Local government approval:  Attached  Applied for  Not Required

10. Nonreturnable application fee:  Attached  Not required

11. Does project cross international boundary or affect international waterways?  Yes  No (*if "yes," indicate on map*)

12. Give statement of your technical and financial capability to construct, operate, maintain, and terminate system for which authorization is being requested.

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13a. Describe other reasonable alternative routes and modes considered.

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b. Why were these alternatives not selected?

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c. Give explanation as to why it is necessary to cross Federal Lands.

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14. List authorizations and pending applications filed for similar projects which may provide information to the authorizing agency. *(Specify number, date, code, or name)*

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15. Provide statement of need for project, including the economic feasibility and items such as: (a) cost of proposal (construction, operation, and maintenance); (b) estimated cost of next best alternative; and (c) expected public benefits.

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16. Describe probable effects on the population in the area, including the social and economic aspects, and the rural lifestyles.

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17. Describe likely environmental effects that the proposed project will have on: (a) air quality; (b) visual impact; (c) surface and ground water quality and quantity; (d) the control or structural change on any stream or other body of water; (e) existing noise levels; and (f) the surface of the land, including vegetation, permafrost, soil, and soil stability.

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18. Describe the probable effects that the proposed project will have on (a) populations of fish, plant life, wildlife, and marine life, including threatened and endangered species; and (b) marine mammals, including hunting, capturing, collecting, or killing these animals.

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19. State whether any hazardous material, as defined in this paragraph, will be used, produced, transported or stored on or within the right-of-way or any of the right-of-way facilities, or used in the construction, operation, maintenance or termination of the right-of-way or any of its facilities. "Hazardous material" means any substance, pollutant or contaminant that is listed as hazardous under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq., and its regulations. The definition of hazardous substances under CERCLA includes any "hazardous waste" as defined in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq., and its regulations. The term hazardous materials also includes any nuclear or byproduct material as defined by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq. The term does not include petroleum, including crude oil or any fraction thereof that is not otherwise specifically listed or designated as a hazardous substance under CERCLA Section 101(14), 42 U.S.C. 9601(14), nor does the term include natural gas.

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20. Name all the Department(s)/Agency(ies) where this application is being filed.

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I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I am of legal age and authorized to do business in the State and that I have personally examined the information contained in the application and believe that the information submitted is correct to the best of my knowledge.

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Signature of Applicant	Date
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Title 18, U.S.C. Section 1001, makes it a crime for any person knowingly and willfully to make to any department or agency of the United States any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

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SUPPLEMENTAL

NOTE: The responsible agency(ies) will provide instructions	CHECK APPROPRIATE BLOCK	
I - PRIVATE CORPORATIONS	ATTACHED	FILED*
a. Articles of Incorporation		
b. Corporation Bylaws		
c. A certification from the State showing the corporation is in good standing and is entitled to operate within the State		
c. Copy of resolution authorizing filing		
e. The name and address of each shareholder owning 3 percent or more of the shares, together with the number and percentage of any class of voting shares of the entity which such shareholder is authorized to vote and the name and address of each affiliate of the entity together with, in the case of an affiliate controlled by the entity, the number of shares and the percentage of any class of voting stock of that affiliate owned, directly or indirectly, by that entity, and in the case of an affiliate which controls that entity, the number of shares and the percentage of any class of voting stock of that entity owned, directly or indirectly, by the affiliate.		
f. If application is for an oil or gas pipeline, describe any related right-of-way or temporary use permit applications, and identify previous applications.		
g. If application is for an oil and gas pipeline, identify all Federal lands by agency impacted by proposal.		
II - PUBLIC CORPORATIONS		
a. Copy of law forming corporation		
b. Proof of organization		
c. Copy of Bylaws		
d. Copy of resolution authorizing filing		
e. If application is for an oil or gas pipeline, provide information required by item "I-f" and "I-g" above.		
III - PARTNERSHIP OR OTHER UNINCORPORATED ENTITY		
a. Articles of association, if any		
b. If one partner is authorized to sign, resolution authorizing action is		
c. Name and address of each participant, partner, association, or other		
d. If application is for an oil or gas pipeline, provide information required by item "I-f" and "I-g" above.		

\* If the required information is already filed with the agency processing this application and is current, check block entitled "Filed." Provide the file identification information (e.g., number, date, code, name). If not on file or current, attach the requested information.

**NOTICE**

The Privacy Act of 1974 provides that you be furnished the following information in connection with information required by this application for an authorization.

**AUTHORITY:** 16 U.S.C. 310; 5 U.S.C. 301.

**PRINCIPAL PURPOSE:** The information is to be used to process the application.

**ROUTINE USES:** (1) The processing of the applicant's request for an authorization. (2) Documentation for public information. (3) Transfer to appropriate Federal agencies when concurrence is required prior to granting a right in public lands or resources. (4)(5) Information from the record and/or the record will be transferred to appropriate Federal, State, local or foreign agencies, when relevant to civil, criminal or regulatory investigations or prosecutions.

**EFFECT OF NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION:** Disclosure of the information is voluntary. If all the information is not provided, the application may be rejected.

**DATA COLLECTION STATEMENT**

The Federal agencies collect this information from applicants requesting right-of-way, permit, license, lease, or certification for the use of Federal lands.

The Federal agencies use this information to evaluate the applicant's proposal.

The public is obligated to submit this form if they wish to obtain permission to use Federal lands.

A reproducible copy of this form may be obtained from the Bureau of Land Management, Division of Lands, 1620 L. Street, Room 204, Washington, DC 20036.

AND FACILITIES ON FEDERAL LANDS

GENERAL INFORMATION  
ALASKA NATIONAL INTEREST LANDS

This application will be used when applying for a right-of-way, permit, license, lease, or certificate for the use of Federal lands which lie within conservation system units and National Recreation or Conservation Areas as defined in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. Conservation system units include the National Park System, National Wildlife Refuge System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, National Trails System, National Wilderness Preservation System, and National Forest Monuments.

Transportation and utility systems and facility uses for which the application may be used are:

1. Canals, ditches, flumes, laterals, pipes, pipelines, tunnels, and other systems for the transportation of water.
2. Pipelines and other systems for the transportation of liquids other than water, including oil, natural gas, synthetic liquid and gaseous fuels, and any refined product produced therefrom.
3. Pipelines, slurry and emulsion systems, and conveyor belts for transportation of solid materials.
4. Systems for the transmission and distribution of electric energy.
5. Systems for transmission or reception of radio, television, telephone, telegraph, and other electronic signals, and other means of communications.

Department of Transportation  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Alaska Region AAL-4, 222 West 7th Ave., Box 14  
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7587  
Telephone: (907) 271-5285

NOTE - The Department of Transportation has established the above central filing point for agencies within that Department. Affected agencies are: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Coast Guard (USCG), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

OTHER THAN ALASKA NATIONAL INTEREST LANDS

Use of this form is not limited to National Interest Conservation Lands of Alaska.

Individual department/agencies may authorize the use of this form by applicants for transportation and utility systems and facilities on other Federal lands outside those areas described above.

For proposals located outside of Alaska, applications will be filed at the local agency office or at a location specified by the responsible Federal agency.

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS  
(Items not listed are self-explanatory)

Item

- 7 Attach preliminary site and facility construction plans. The responsible agency will provide instructions whenever specific plans are required.
- 8 Generally, the map must show the section(s), township(s), and range(s) within which the project is to be located. Show the proposed location of the project on the map as accurately as possible. Some agencies require detailed survey maps. The responsible agency will provide additional instructions.
- 9, 10, and 12 - The responsible agency will provide additional instructions.
- 13 Providing information on alternate routes and modes in as much detail as possible, discussing why certain routes or modes were rejected and why it is necessary to cross Federal lands will assist the agency(ies) in processing your application and reaching a final decision. Include only reasonable alternate routes and modes as related to current technology and economics.
- 14 The responsible agency will provide instructions.
- 15 Generally, a simple statement of the purpose of the proposal will be sufficient. However, major proposals located in critical or sensitive areas may require a full analysis with additional specific information. The responsible agency will provide additional instructions.
- 16 through 19 - Providing this information in as much detail as possible will assist the Federal agency(ies) in processing the application and reaching a decision. When completing these items, you should use a sound judgment in furnishing relevant information. For example, if the project is not near a stream or other body of water, do not address this subject. The responsible agency will provide additional instructions.

Application must be signed by the applicant or applicant's authorized representative.

Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to vary from 30 minutes to 25 hours per response, with an average of 2 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, (Alternate) Bureau Clearance Officer, (WO-873), 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240, and the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503

If additional space is needed to complete any item, please put the information on a separate sheet of paper and identify it as "Continuation of Item".

## **Blue Ridge Parkway (BLRI): Vegetation Management Guidelines for ROWs**

### **Section I.**

**Introduction** - – The Blue Ridge Parkway currently has more than 400 utility rights-of-way that utilize portions of the park. These ROW permits represent approximately 90 different companies with differing maintenance cycles and methods of vegetation management. These methods range from companies which may have comprehensive vegetation management plans, to those which have no management plan, or others which leave vegetation management to the discretion of various contractors. Objectives of utility companies are to maximize reliability of provided services, minimize operating costs of the same, and reduce public safety hazards. In order to meet these objectives, power companies seek to permanently remove all tree and vine species which have potential to come into contact with power lines. While small clear cuts may enhance conditions and habitat for some species, clear cutting can have significant environmental and community character impacts, particularly for scenic corridors and high integrity forested watersheds. As a unit of the National Park Service, the Blue Ridge Parkway is mandated to meet mission and policy statements that require protection of cultural, natural and visual resources. These guidelines shall be used as a tool for preserving park resources while meeting the objectives for utility services.

### **Section II.**

**Authorities** – The following regulatory documents provide for definition and allowance for right of ways within national park lands.

- Energy Policy Act of 2005 –addresses energy production in the US, including development and incentives.
- MOU with IEEE – Memorandum of Understanding with the Edison Electric Institute and the US Forest Service, EPA, Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service to help establish sound Integrated Vegetation Management practices as the standard for utility rights-of-way management.
- 36 CFR, part 14- the Code of Federal Regulations provides guidance on issues of trespass for Rights of Way
- 16 USC 5 - provides for rights-of-way through parks or reservations for power and communications facilities.
- NEPA- the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 assures that all branches of the federal government give proper consideration to the environment prior to undertaking major federal action that significantly affects the environment.
- 16 USC 79 – Governs rights-of-way for public utilities.

### **Section III.**

#### **Objectives**

- To ensure effective vegetation management along permitted rights of way and park lands immediately adjacent to them, while protecting the cultural, natural and visual resources within the park.

- To provide a single document to guide management of utility corridors, while addressing the protection of threatened and endangered species, wetlands and other sensitive habitats, and to maintain or promote species diversity.
- To encourage a sustainable plant community within the ROW that will provide:
  - visual screening for maintaining aesthetic appearance
  - food and cover for wildlife and bird species
  - erosion control
  - promotion of native over non-native species
- To control and manage invasive species which may utilize corridors to spread and threaten protected resources.

#### **Section IV.**

##### **Terminology:**

**Emergency** - A situation which poses immediate threats to life or property. Examples include: downed power line, broken pole, broken or leaking pipeline. Emergencies do not include cyclic or routine maintenance or trimming.

**Hazard Trees** – Only those trees determined to be hazard trees will be managed adjacent to the ROW corridor. Hazard trees are defined as any tree which scores an 8 or greater on the Blue Ridge Parkways Risk Rating Criteria for Hazard Tree Determination, which is included in Appendix A.

**Targeted vegetation**- all native woody species present within the ROW which are tall enough or have the potential to become tall enough to touch conductor or reach into sag zone. In addition, all invasive species are considered target species whether or not they have the potential to reach the conductor or extend in to the sag zone.

*As it has been established that ROW corridors are vectors for the introduction and spread of invasive species, management of these species is required to prevent further invasion in the park.*

A list of invasive species currently known within the park is included in the parks Exotic Vegetation Management Plan, which is attached as Appendix B. If, during construction or maintenance of the utility line, known invasive species are encountered which are not included on this list, the permittee is required to notify the park of their presence.

**Non-target vegetation** – native species that occur in the geographic vicinity of the ROW that do not reach a height sufficient to come in contact with utility lines including the sag of the lines during peak ambient temperatures. Elevation of the line above the ground will be taken in to consideration when identifying non-target vegetation, i.e., a tree species that would not meet non-target specifications on level ground might be considered non-target where the line crosses a valley or ravine and conductor height is much farther from the ground. Examples of non-target vegetation include rhododendron, mountain laurel, witch hazel, dogwood, dog hobble and spicebush.

**Integrated Pest Management** – The NPS follows Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy. IPM is a process for managing pest populations (non-desirable vegetation) that includes the following activities:

- ✓ Planning and managing ecosystems to prevent organisms from becoming pests
- ✓ Identifying pest problems and potential pest problems
- ✓ Monitoring populations of pests and beneficial organisms, damage caused by pests and environmental conditions
- ✓ Using injury thresholds in making treatment decisions
- ✓ Suppressing pest populations to acceptable levels using strategies based on consideration of biological, physical, cultural, mechanical, behavioral, and chemical controls in appropriate combinations and environmental and human health protection
- ✓ Evaluating the effectiveness of pest management strategies

## **Section V.**

### **NPS ROW Requirements:**

**Alternatives** –Whenever possible, before ROW renewal or new maintenance cycle, the alternative of putting an overhead line underground must be considered.

**Prior notification** – the park must be notified at least 30 days before any ROW management. No work, (i.e. mowing, removal of trees, trimming of vegetation, proposed herbicide application, vegetation planting, vehicular access, etc.) is to occur until approval is granted. Exception: Emergency, as defined above.

**Authorization** - Maintenance crews must have a copy of the ROW permit as well as the letter authorizing maintenance on site with them and vehicles should have identifying marks. If a contractor is used by the utility to perform the maintenance, the contractor shall be familiar and compliant with all conditions in the permit and **these vegetation management guidelines**.

**Access** – Right-of-way access will be through the use of established roadways whenever possible. Access shall be from outside park boundaries whenever possible. The contractor will obtain prior permission to enter a right-of-way by any other means in advance.

**Site damage** – Damage to any boundary tree, sign, survey marker, or boundary monument shall be reported immediately to park personnel.

**Chipping** – Wood chips shall be no more than 3-4 inches deep, no chips shall be deposited in wetlands.

**Materials left within ROW** – all trees shall be chipped or slash cut –i.e., limbed and cut so that tree lies no more than 20 inches off of the ground.

**Safety** - All pruning and cutting shall be to ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) and ANSI (American National Standards Institute) standards.

## Herbicide Use

**If herbicide use is approved by park the following is required:**

- **Prior notification – The park must be notified at least 30 days before any ROW management work is to occur, which includes use of herbicides.**
  - The utility company will identify the herbicide and exotic plant in writing to the Permits Coordinator. (See list in *Appendix B. Blue Ridge Parkway Invasive Exotic Plants – High Priority For Management*)
  - The Permits Coordinator will work with park staff to determine if the requested herbicide is allowed for use within the park.
  - If herbicide is not allowed, then utility company may submit another herbicide for consideration.
  - If herbicide is allowed, a letter will be written to the utility company authorizing a **one-time only use.**
- Herbicide use –Requests for any herbicide use must be included in the notification letter and submitted to the park at least 30 days before any planned work is to occur.
- Applicator qualifications – Employees on site must have the appropriate state license to apply herbicides. Crew members shall be able to accurately identify both target and non-target species.
- MSDS -All MSDS sheets and labels for products used shall be available on site in the field.
- Pesticide storage, mixing and loading – All mixing shall be done outside park boundaries. In addition, herbicides applied in the park should be mixed at the lowest effective concentrations.
- Spills – A spill plan, which includes both emergency and park personnel notification will be on hand and available upon request.
- Herbicide applications - Applications shall be cut stump or hack and squirt treatments. No foliar spray will be allowed.
- Record keeping - All records shall be maintained and the following shall be sent electronically to the Park Permit Coordinator (BLRI\_permits@nps.gov) within 48 hours of an herbicide application: Trade name, EPA # ,active ingredient, amount applied, specific targets (especially if invasive), application method, date applied, area covered (or number of stems?), weather, including current air temp, average wind speed, and time of day. Physical location and ROW Permit Number, example 5:140:1234, must also be included.

**Signage** –The Blue Ridge Parkway is currently in the process of installing signs at ROWs to inform contractors and utility companies that they are entering National Park Service Lands, and need prior approval before work is to be done.

**Resources Protection Measures** - work shall be done according to the following guidelines.

- Wetlands – NO trees will be felled into wetlands. If any cut vegetation falls into or onto the wetland or wetland vegetation, it will be hand trimmed and removed from the wetland.
- Trout streams – ROWs crossing streams will be managed to ensure that no erosion or deposition into the stream occurs. Mechanized equipment will not be used in trout streams. Care shall be taken to protect riparian vegetation and maintain shading of stream.
- Archeology – no ground disturbance will be allowed in areas determined to have potential for underground resources
- In higher elevations (above 4000 feet) within the park, all ROWs will be inspected individually by resource management personnel and a prescribed plan developed before any initial work is done.

**Section VI.**

**Appendices:**

**Appendix A. Blue Ridge Parkway Risk Rating Criteria for Hazard Tree Determination**

**Appendix B. Blue Ridge Parkway Invasive Exotic Plants – High Priority for Management**

**Appendix C. Acknowledgment of Blue Ridge Parkway – Vegetation Management Guidelines for ROWs (to be returned with SF299 application form)**

## Appendix A. Risk Rating Criteria for Hazard Tree Determination – Blue Ridge Parkway

**Instructions:** score tree based on following four categories. Risk Rating = Probability of Failure (1-4 points) + Size of Defective Parts (1-3 points) + Probability of Target Impact (1-3 points) + Other Risk Factors (0-2 points). **Any tree scoring 8 or greater is defined as a hazardous tree.**

### PROBABILITY OF FAILURE: 1-4 points (choose one)

1. **Low:** some minor defects present:
  - Minor branch/crown dieback
  - Minor defects or wounds
2. **Moderate:** several moderate defects present
  - Stem decay or cavity within safe shell limits: shell thickness > 1 inch of sound wood for each 6 inches of stem diameter
  - Crack(s) without extensive decay
  - Defect(s) affecting 30-40% of tree's circumference
  - Crown damage/breakage: hardwoods up to 50%; pines up to 30%
  - Weak branch union: major branch or co-dominant stem has included bark
  - Stem girdling roots: <40% tree's circumference with compressed wood
  - Root damage: <40% of roots damaged within the common root radius [CRR = DBH\*1.5]
3. **High:** multiple or significant defects present:
  - Stem decay or cavity at or exceeding shell safety limits: shell thickness < 1 inch of sound wood for each 6 inches of stem diameter
  - Cracks, particularly those in contact with the soil or associated with other defects
  - Defect(s) affecting > 40% of the tree's circumference
  - Crown damage/breakage: hardwoods >50%; pines > 30%
  - Weak branch union with crack or decay
  - Girdling roots with > 40% of tree's circumference with compressed wood
  - Root damage: >40% of roots damaged within the common root radius (CRR)
  - Leaning tree with recent root breakage or soil mounding, crack or extensive decay
  - Dead tree: standing dead **without** other significant defects
4. **Extremely High:** multiple **and** significant defects present.
  - Stem decay or cavity exceeding shell safety limits **and** severe crack
  - Cracks: when a stem or branch is split in half
  - Defect(s) affecting > 40% of the tree's circumference or common root radius (CRR) **and** extensive decay or cracks(s)
  - Weak branch union with crack **and** decay
  - Leaning tree with recent root breakage or soil mounding **and** a crack or extensive decay
  - Dead branches: broken (hangers) or with a crack

- Dead trees: standing dead **with** other defects such as cracks, hangers, extensive decay, or major root damage
- Physical obstruction of pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

### SIZE OF DEFECTIVE PART(S): **1-3 points (choose one)**

1. Parts less than **4** inches in diameter
2. Parts from **4 to 20** inches in diameter
3. Parts **greater than 20** inches in diameter

### PROBABILITY OF TARGET IMPACT: **1-3 points (choose one)**

1. Occasional Use:
  - Low use roads and park trails; parking lots adjacent to low use areas; transition areas with limited public use
2. Intermediate Use:
  - Picnic areas, parking lots adjacent to moderate use areas.
3. Frequent Use:
  - High use areas such as park motor road, mowing zone adjacent to motor road, adjacent landowner property, emergency access routes, moderate to low use park trails within moderate to high use areas (for example leg stretcher trails), campgrounds, handicap access areas, visitor centers, maintenance areas, park administrative buildings and residences, parking areas adjacent to high use areas.

### OTHER RISK FACTORS: **0-2 points**

- This category can be used if professional judgment suggest the need to increase the risk rating
- It is especially helpful to use when tree species growth characteristics become a factor in risk rating. For example, some tree species have growth patterns that make them more vulnerable to certain defects such as weak branch unions (tulip poplar) and branch shedding (scarlet oak).
- It can also be used if the tree is likely to fail before the next scheduled risk inspection.

**EXAMPLE:** a tree with stem decay that exceeds shell safety limits and leans with recent root breakage and soil mounding - score **3** points under probability of failure; the defective parts are between 4 and 20 inches in diameter - score **2** points under size of defective parts; the target location is along a low use park trail - score **1** point under probability of target impact; no special circumstances are present - score **0** points for other risk factors. The tree risk rating would be **8!!!!!!** and the tree should be removed.

**Appendix B. Blue Ridge Parkway INVASIVE EXOTIC PLANTS – HIGH PRIORITY FOR MANAGEMENT.**

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven
<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	Mimosa Tree
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>	Porcelain Berry
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Oriental Bittersweet
<i>Centaurea biebersteinii</i>	Spotted Knapweed
<i>Coronilla varia</i>	Crown Vetch
<i>Dioscorea oppositifolia</i>	Chinese Yam
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	Autumn Olive
<i>Elaeagnus pungens</i>	Russian Olive
<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	Chinese Privet
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese Honeysuckle
<i>Lonicera fragrantissima/maackii</i> morrowii	Bush Honeysuckle
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife
<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Japanese Stilt grass
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Japanese Plume Grass
<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>	Princess Tree
<i>Pueraria montana var. lobata</i>	Kudzu
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Multiflora Rose
<i>Rubus phoenicolasius</i>	Wineberry
<i>Spiraea japonica</i>	Japanese Spiraea
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Coltsfoot
<i>Wisteria floribunda</i>	Japanese Wisteria

**Appendix C. Acknowledgment of Blue Ridge Parkway – Vegetation Management Guidelines for ROWs (to be returned with SF299 application form)**

I have reviewed, understand, and will follow the Blue Ridge Parkway – Vegetation Management Guidelines for Right-of-Ways as described above.

Please return along with completed SF299.

ACCEPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

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Full Name of Applicant / Company

(Name/Title)