

## **Invasive Species Management: Decontamination Guidelines for Equipment and PPE**

### Preliminary Statement Examples:

1. The contractor shall require all personnel to practice proper sanitation procedures for all equipment (including personal protective gear) to avoid unnecessary spreading of invasive and exotic pest plant species within and from the treatment sites.
2. Contractors working on invasive exotic removal projects must adhere to the following protocol:
  - a. Mandatory decontamination protocols must be followed for vehicles and equipment prior to entering XXXXX County from areas outside of the County.
  - b. When moving equipment from site to site within XXXXX County, decontamination requirements will be at the discretion of the project manager and will be dependent upon the exotic species that were treated at the previous site, and on the nature of the treatment sites.
  - c. If decontamination is required by the project manager then the contractor must utilize a designated decontamination site within XXXXX County. The project manager shall supply the contractor with a list of designated decontamination sites (these may include XXXXX County Transfer Stations and DOT storage sites).
3. Prior to the commencement of an invasive plant removal project, the site manager shall address the necessity for a decontamination plan. If the project manager requires a plan, then the contractor shall submit a brief decontamination plan in writing, to the project manager for approval. The decontamination plan shall identify specific decontamination procedures and decontamination locations. Decontamination protocols may vary depending upon the nature of the treatment site, type of treatment conducted at the site, and the exotic species that are scheduled for treatment.
  - a. It will be the responsibility of the site manager to inspect all equipment prior to work commencing on the first day at the project site, on any occasion that the equipment leaves the project site, and any time during the course of the control operation.
  - b. Failure to comply with decontamination protocols constitutes reason for contract cancellation and dismissal of the contractor.

## Protocol Examples

1. All equipment including but not limited to vehicles, trailer, ATV's, and chippers must be cleaned with a pressure washer (at a facility approved by the managing agency's project manager). Decontamination protocols include spraying down all equipment surfaces including the undercarriage and tires to insure that mud, vegetative debris and other debris is not transported from the previous treatment site. Special attention will be paid to equipment that has worked at sites where *Lygodium*, Cogon grass and other exotics specific to the mainland were treated to prevent the spread of these species into Monroe County.
  - a. Equipment such as chain saws, loppers, etc. used for cut stump treatment must be wiped down and cleaned so that they are free of debris.
2. All equipment including but not limited to vehicles, trailers, ATV's, and chippers must be cleaned with a pressure washer to reduce the spread of exotic vegetation prior to initiating work activities on public lands. Decontamination protocols include spraying down all equipment surfaces including the undercarriage and tires to insure that mud, sand, dirt muck and vegetative debris and other debris is not transported from the previous treatment site. All hand-held equipment such as chain saws, loppers, etc. to be used for treatment activities must be wiped down and cleaned so that they are free of debris.
  - a. In areas of known *Lygodium* populations, concerted effort will be made to remove spores from clothing and boots by use of compressed air on garments and cleaning boot lugs prior to leaving the treatment site.
3. Quarantine equipment at a 'staging area' and spray equipment thoroughly, including the undercarriage and tires.
  - a. Logging trucks that arrive from off-site must stay on the main grade until reaching the staging area. Property manager provides a 'pre-hauler' to pick up the full trailers at the logging decks and take them to the trucking staging area where they will be picked up by 'outside' trucks and hauled off-site.

For more in depth information on Decontamination Protocols, go to: [Floridainvasives.org](http://Floridainvasives.org) under the "How To.." tab, subheading: How to prevent invasive species...

[The Forest Service Guide to Noxious Weed Prevention Practices](#)

[Inspection and Cleaning Manual for Equipment and Vehicles to Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species](#)