

Poison Ivy management at State Parks – Steps to success

State Parks staff will work with Protection foresters to manage Poison ivy populations.

Goal:

To manage poison ivy populations in state parks and other high use areas to increase park visitor safety by reducing exposure to this plant which causes a rash to occur on skin exposed to plant oils.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Parks staff are responsible for delineating areas for treatment each year.
- Parks staff will provide maps with areas for treatment by June 1st.
- Parks staff will assist on the day of management by putting up signage , and accompanying the protection forester to help locate areas and interact with the public as needed
- Protection foresters are responsible for contacting parks staff to schedule all treatments
- Protection foresters are responsible for maintaining pesticide certification
- Protection forester is responsible for transporting, mixing, and utilizing pesticides according to the label and the law
- Protection foresters are responsible for tracking usage of pesticides daily – pesticide use form link**

Steps:

Preparing

- Parks staff contact protection forester and provide a map delineating area(s) for treatment by June 1 (ideally end of the year activities for parks would include delineation for next season)
- Protection forester schedules days for possible treatment with the Park Manager.
 - Treatments will not take place during times of high park usage; work with parks staff to identify days when treatments will not occur.
 - Tuesday through Thursday are preferred; morning is preferred.
 - Park Manager shall block out effected campsites in reservation software.
- Protection foresters will provide pesticide, all needed personal protective equipment, backpack sprayer, spill kit, etc.
- Parks staff will prepare signage and obtain needed flagging for identifying treatment areas

PPE – required – READ THE LABEL – the label is the law – suggestions below

- Rubber boots
- Tyvek suit * optional
- Nitrile gloves
- Respirator with carbon filtration system * optional
- Safety glasses

Day of treatment

- Protection forester observes weather conditions to determine if conducive to treatment on the specific day (go/no go decision)
- Protection forester will communicate directly with parks staff whether the day is a go or no go based on weather (other conditions?)
- Treatments should not be done XX number of feet from occupied sites (this would be our determination, not required but makes sense)
- Post signage and utilize flagging to discourage entry for 4 hours or until dry.

Treatment

- Protection foresters will apply herbicide to poison ivy
- Parks staff will interface with the public as needed to answer questions if they arise.

Post-treatment

- Parks staff will remove signage and flagging after re-entry interval has been passed
- Parks staff will report any issues to protection staff as warranted
- Protection staff will update all documentation