

MANAGING IOWA'S COUNTY ROADSIDES WITH FIRE

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Abstract: The use of native vegetation to establish and maintain a safe, stable, low maintenance roadside has become common practice throughout the State of Iowa. The use of prescribed fire is one of many management techniques used to establish native prairie species and manipulate plant communities in general. Though there are numerous challenges associated with the process, prescribed burning can be executed safely and effectively in the roadside environment. County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) programs in Iowa have been successful using prescribed burning as a vegetation management tool. It can be a cost effective means by which to promote native species, while discouraging the growth of woody and invasive plants. In this presentation we will discuss benefits and unique challenges associated with developing and implementing a prescribed burning program as part of a roadside vegetation management plan.