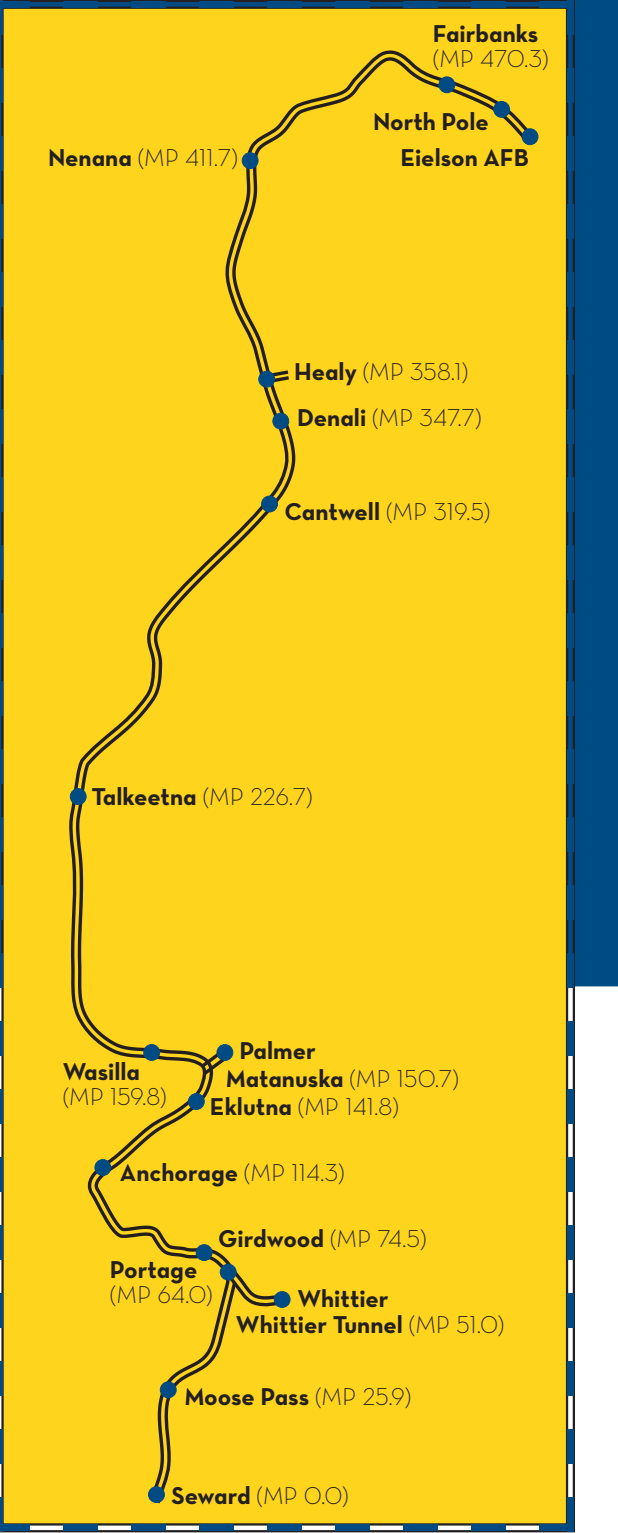


Track & Yard Vegetation Management: Integrated Approach



COMBINATION OF METHODS

- › The Alaska Railroad had been unsuccessful in controlling vegetation to regulatory standards through the use of non-chemical means alone. A combination of chemical and non-chemical methods is needed to efficiently and economically control plant growth along the nearly 500 miles of main track, more than 50 miles of sidings and spur track and within the nearly 100 miles of yard track.
- › The Alaska Railroad has spent millions of dollars over the past two decades to rebuild and modernize aging track and infrastructure, and it is in the public's interest to protect this investment. Chemical vegetation control, in conjunction with non-chemical control, is far more effective for preventing track and ballast deterioration.
- › Vegetation control with regulated and common agricultural weed killers, applied by licensed companies, is the industry standard throughout the United States and abroad.



Ineffective mechanical / manual vegetation control in the Seward Yard prior to herbicide application.

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

- › Chemical agents used by the Alaska Railroad are approved by the Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for vegetation management.
- › Chemical vegetation control gives the Alaska Railroad the additional assistance it needs to comply with federal regulatory safety requirements regarding vegetation management.
- › The ADEC pesticide regulations require agencies to establish an Integrated Pest Management Plan before applying herbicides on their land. The Alaska Railroad has developed an Integrated Vegetation Management Plan (IVMP) that meets ADEC regulatory requirements. The goal of the IVMP is to control vegetation with a combination of mechanical and, where and when necessary, chemical methods. The IVMP is available on the ARRC and ADEC web sites.



Post herbicide control near Seward. Note the clear distinction at the herbicide control area boundary at the end of the ties indicating that the herbicide does not migrate.

Bottom Line: Vegetation Control = Risk Control

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