

# ROW Field Personnel

The First Line of Environmental Stewardship

## Environmental Message

July 2026

**Invasive Species Can Create Safety Risks.** The spread of invasive species does more than impact biodiversity. Some species can also increase wildfire risk, such as cheatgrass in fire-prone areas, while others may create worker health and safety concerns through thorns, irritating sap, dense growth, or airborne particles during cutting or mowing. These risks reinforce the importance of proper PPE, safe work practices, and awareness before work begins.



**Plant Identification Starts with Training.** ROW field personnel—including planners, inspectors, and VM crews—are often the first to encounter changing site conditions. That makes plant identification an important part of both environmental awareness and jobsite safety. Training helps field personnel recognize priority invasive species, understand which plants may require special handling or PPE, and know when to pause and communicate concerns before continuing work. Accurate plant identification supports early detection, helping VM teams catch invasive infestations before they become harder, more costly, or more hazardous to manage.

**Field Observations Support Stewardship.** When field personnel report invasive species, they help VM departments and environmental teams turn observations into action. Timely reporting can support informed decision-making, prevent spread, protect sensitive areas, and strengthen the connection between vegetation management and environmental protection. ROW field personnel are the eyes and ears of environmental stewardship. With the right training, awareness, and communication,

ROW field personnel don't just work on the ROW—they help protect it.



Provided By:

