ARRC did not use chemical weed control from 1983 to 2009, instead employing other methods of management. The railroad continues to employ non-chemical methods of vegetation control in conjunction with herbicides.

**Mechanical Cutting** — using chain saws and clippers, rail-mounted brush cutters and mowers, and off-track brush cutters.

**Grubbing** — pulling or cutting weeds by hand. Cutting and Grubbing are slow, labor intensive methods, with temporary results.

**Ballast Cleaning** — cleaning or completely replacing the ballast. Expensive ($30,000-$50,000 per mile) and only possible in open track.

The Alaska Railroad has made considerable efforts and spent considerable money to research, test and implement alternative methods for weed control. These include the use of:

- Steam
- Hot water
- Radiant heat
- Flaming and burning
- Abrasion

None of these methods, nor any of the methods still employed, provide a broad spectrum of control with a thorough and lasting effect.

They are not enough...