



File Code: 1950-3

Date: January 8, 2007

Dear Reader:

The Forest Service has been developing a plan to control existing infestations of invasive plants on the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests, and Crooked River National Grassland. Our proposal involves treatment at 1,892 sites totaling approximately 14,500 acres. We have completed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which assesses activities proposed and discloses the expected environmental consequences of the plan.

Enclosed you will find your copy of the *Deschutes and Ochoco National Forest/Crooked River National Grassland Invasive Plants Treatment Draft Environmental Impact Statement*. This DEIS will also be published on the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests' Web site <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/invasiveplant-eis/site-specific/DES/>. There are three alternatives proposed in the DEIS, including the No Action Alternative. The Forest Supervisors have determined that Alternative 2 is the preferred alternative.

This DEIS is made available for a 45-day Comment Period, under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1500-1508). The Forest Service will accept comments as provided in §215.6(a)(4), beginning on the day following the date of publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) in the *Federal Register*, scheduled to occur on February 2, 2007. In order to be considered in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, comments must be received within the formal comment period. The official comment period timelines will be posted in the *Federal Register*, and on the Website indicated above.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available following the close of the comment period for public review at the Deschutes National Forest Headquarters (see address and business hours below).

Commenters must submit comments or other expressions of interest in order to have standing to appeal the forthcoming decision (215.6). For appeal eligibility, each individual or representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Comments may be submitted electronically to comments-pacificnorthwest-deschutes@fs.fed.us. Electronic comments will only be accepted at this e-mail address, and may be part of the e-mail or in an attachment using only Microsoft Word, rich text format or Adobe PDF. The project name must be written in the subject line of the e-mail.

Written comments may be mailed to Deschutes National Forest Headquarters, 1001 SW Emkay Drive, Bend, OR 97702. Comments will also be accepted by phone, number 541-383-5300, or by facsimile, number 541-383-5531. Comments may be hand-delivered to the Deschutes National Forest Headquarters during regular business hours, which are



Monday through Friday, 7:45 AM to 4:30 PM (except legal holidays). Please identify the comment with the project name.

Thank you for your participation in this Invasive Plant Treatment project. Your comments will help guide this decision. For more information, contact Beth Peer, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, at 541-383-5572.

Sincerely,

/s/ Leslie A.C. Weldon
LESLIE A.C. WELDON
Forest Supervisor, Deschutes National Forest

/s/ Jeff Walter
JEFF WALTER
Forest Supervisor, Ochoco National Forest