



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

January 2007



# **Invasive Plant Treatments**

## **Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

### **Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests, Crooked River National Grassland**

Deschutes, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Crook, Wheeler, Grant Counties, Oregon



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DS 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



**Draft Environmental Impact Statement**  
**Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and Crooked River**  
**National Grassland**  
**Deschutes, Jefferson, Crook, Wheeler, and Grant Counties, Oregon**

**Lead Agency:** USDA Forest Service

**Responsible Officials:** Leslie Weldon, Supervisor, Deschutes National Forest,  
Jeff Walter, Supervisor, Ochoco National Forest and Crooked  
River National Grassland

**For Information Contact:** Beth Peer, Interdisciplinary Team Leader  
1001 S.W. Emkay Dr.  
Bend, OR 97702  
(541) 383-5300

**Abstract:** This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) contains the Forest Service's proposal for treatment of Invasive Plants within the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and the Crooked River National Grassland. It also includes two alternatives to that proposal including a "No Action" alternative.

The overall purpose of and need for action is to reduce the extent of specific invasive plant infestations at identified sites, and to protect areas not yet infested from future introduction and spread of invasive plant species from these sites. As a connected action, there is sometimes a need to restore treatment sites with non-invasive vegetation to prevent the re-infestation of those sites. There is a need to provide a mechanism to allow quick detection and response to spreading invasive plant infestations.

The basis for accomplishing this project is contained in Federal Laws, Forest Service Policy Directives, The Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1990), and the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland Land and Resource Management Plan (1989). Analysis will tier to the R6 Invasive Plant Program Final Environmental Impact Statement (USFS 2005a).

Three alternatives were analyzed in this DEIS:

1. A No-Action Alternative, which forms a basis for comparison with the action alternatives.
2. The Proposed Action, which was designed to address the Purpose and Need with the treatment of about 1,892 inventoried weed sites across the Forests and Grassland with integrated prescriptions that combine the use of herbicides with mechanical, manual, and cultural control methods.
3. An alternative designed to address the Purpose and Need in the same manner as the Proposed Action, with an emphasis on reducing risk of herbicides entering the water

The No-Action Alternative does not respond to Purpose and Need; however, it provides a baseline against which to evaluate the action alternatives.

The issues studied in this DEIS include: Concerns associated with chemical herbicides and their effects on human health, a desire to see the Forest Service utilize the methods necessary to implement effective treatment (i.e. more herbicides used where they are the most effective treatment, and to avoid delay), concerns for economics when choosing methods of treatment,

concerns with impacts to water quality and fish from applying herbicides and other treatment methods, concerns with impacts to non-target vegetation and wildlife from applying herbicides.

The preferred alternative, Alternative 2, is designed to meet the Purpose and Need in this way:

It allows for the effective treatment across 52,015 acres of Project Area Units, which accounts for 1,892 inventoried invasive plant sites totaling about 14,500 acres, plus the areas around and in between them having a high potential of being infested.

The treatments identified are expected to be effective in reaching the objectives (e.g. eradicate, control, suppress, contain) of the sites and will lead to a reduction in the use of herbicides over time.

It provides a framework for annual implementation planning, early detection/rapid response of new infestations, and monitoring.

**Comments:** This DEIS is made available for a 45-day Comment Period, under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Notice, Comment, and Appeal Procedures for National Forest System Projects and Activities, (36 CFR 215). 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. The official comment period timelines will be posted in the Federal Register, and on the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests' Web site <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/invasiveplant-eis/site-specific/DES/>.

**Mail Comments to:** **Leslie Weldon, Forest Supervisor, Deschutes NF**  
**Deschutes National Forest Headquarters**  
**1001 SW Emkay Drive**  
**Bend, OR 97702**

**E-mail Comments to:** **comments-pacificnorthwest-deschutes@fs.fed.us**

**Fax:** **541-383-5531**

**Date Comments Must Be Received:** **March 19, 2007**

**Important Notice:** Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who only comment anonymously will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Part 215. Reviewers must provide the Forest Service with their comments during the review period of this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This will enable the Forest Service to analyze and respond to the comments at one time and to use information acquired in the preparation of the final environmental impact statement, thus avoiding undue delay in the decision-making process. Reviewers have an obligation to structure their participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process so that it is meaningful and alerts the agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement. *City of Angoon, v. Hodel* (9th Circuit, 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be specific and should address the adequacy of the statement and the merits of the alternatives discussed (40 CFR 1503.3).



## Reader's Guide

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) contains information about project proposals that will address the problems posed by invasive plants that compromise our ability to manage native ecosystems, and will adopt new treatment strategies for invasive plants made available for use in Region 6 by the R6 Invasive Plant Program Final Environmental Impact Statement (USDA FS 2005).

The information in this DEIS is organized to facilitate consideration of the environmental effects by the public, and by the Forest Supervisors of the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests, who are responsible for deciding whether or not to implement the Proposed Action or alternatives to this proposal.

Understanding the structure of this document is important to an overall understanding of the information required in an EIS. The following provides an overview of the components of this document.

**Executive Summary:** The summary of the Draft EIS provides a concise overview of the Purpose and Need for action, the Key Issues studied herein, and a comparison of the three alternatives.

**Table of Contents:** A table of contents is presented at the beginning of the document. Lists of tables and figures is included.

**Chapter 1 – Purpose and Need:** Chapter 1 describes the Purpose and Need for the proposal, and the Proposed Action. It includes Management Direction for the project, and the Decision Framework. Public Involvement and the Issues generated by public comments are explained here.

**Chapter 2 – Alternatives:** Chapter 2 includes a description of the alternative development process, and discussions on alternatives and actions considered but eliminated from detailed analysis. The focus of this chapter is Alternatives Considered in Detail, including the No Action (Alternative 1), the Proposed Action (Alternative 2), developed by the Forest Service that drove analysis for this project, and one additional alternative developed by the Forest Service, Alternative 3, which responds to the issue of fish and water quality. The potential mitigation measures to reduce impacts are documented in this chapter. The final section of this chapter includes a summary of data and a comparison of alternatives considered in detail, in a table format.

**Chapter 3 – The Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences:** Chapter 3 describes current physical, biological, and social and economic environments within the area of influence of the Proposed Action (termed the Project Area Units). This information provides the baseline for assessing and comparing the potential impacts of the action alternatives. In addition, this chapter provides a comprehensive scientific and analytical comparison of the potential environmental impacts of Alternatives 2 and 3 relative to the No Action Alternative. In order to facilitate comparison of information provided, this chapter is organized and subdivided into resource areas/disciplines in a manner appropriate to the affected environment for this area.

**Chapter 4 – List of Preparers and Coordination:** Chapter 4 lists the individuals, Federal, State and local agencies and tribes that the Forest Service consulted during the development of this DEIS. It also discloses the distribution of the document including Federal Agencies, federally recognized tribes, State and local governments and organizations representing a wide range of views. The references, glossary, and index are in the last part of this chapter.

**Appendices:** The appendices provide more detailed information to support the analyses presented in the EIS.

Additional documentation, including more detailed analyses of project area resources, may be found in the project planning record located at Deschutes National Forest Headquarters in Bend, Oregon.

**Appendix A** – Table of Project Area Units with Species Present, Objectives, and Treatment

**Appendix B** – Common Control Measures

**Appendix C** – Management Direction and Compliance with Forest Plan

**Appendix D** – Herbicide Information and PDF Crosswalk

**Appendix E** – Revegetation Planning and Implementation; Excerpts from 2003 Draft Guidelines for Revegetation

**Appendix F** – Annual Implementation Guide Including Mandatory and Optional Forms

**Appendix G** – Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests Prevention Practices

## List of Frequently Used Acronyms

AI	Active Ingredient
APHIS	Agricultural Plant Health and Insect Service
BCF	Bioconcentration Factor
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
EA	Environmental Assessment
EDRR	Early Detection / Rapid Response
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code
IDT	Interdisciplinary Team
INFISH	Inland Native Fish Strategy
IWM	Integrated Weed Management
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NF	National Forest
NFMA	National Forest Management Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOA	Notice of Availability
NOI	Notice of Intent
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPE	Nonylphenol Polyethoxylate
NRIS	Natural Resource Information Systems
NWFP	Northwest Forest Plan
ODA	Oregon Department of Agriculture
OHV	Off Highway Vehicle
OR	Oregon
PACFISH	Pacific Fish Strategy
PDF	Project Design Feature
PNW	Pacific Northwest
RHCA	Riparian Habitat Conservation Area
ROD	Record of Decision
RR	Riparian Reserve
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
TES	Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USDI	U.S. Department of Interior
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service