



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Colville
National
Forest

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File Code: 2080

Date: February 27, 2006

Route To:

Subject: Noxious Weed Prevention - EO 13112 Compliance

To: Doug Daoust

This letter is in response to the February 6, 2006 letter requesting a list of invasive plant practices and procedures on the Colville National Forest as directed by Executive Order 13112.

The Colville has continued to implement direction for preventing or reducing the infestation of noxious weeds. Here are specific examples:

We prevent the introduction of invasive species by considering and addressing the potential spread of noxious weeds in all of our ground disturbing NEPA documents. We require off-site washing of heavy equipment that leaves developed roads. We take gravel from pits only after they have been inspected and treated for noxious weeds. We require weed-free mulch in our service contracts. Each year we survey frequently and treat as needed the parking areas of each office to help reduce the spread of weeds. We only pull that part of a road ditch that does not properly drain.

We detect and respond rapidly to control populations of invasive species in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner. New infestations are treated immediately by hiring a contractor using small purchase authorities. We inventory and treat noxious weeds within new timber sales before operations begin. We have used the Wyden Authority to treat small infestations on adjacent private property to keep the weed from moving onto the national forest.

We monitor invasive species populations accurately and reliably. We require our spray contractors to map not only the infestations they treat but others they find while traveling to the worksite. We map weed infestation cooperatively with the county weed boards. New infestations and treated areas are mapped on a forest GIS layer. Our range permittees watch for weeds spreading within their allotments. Recent meadow inventories documented noxious weed populations.

We provide for restoration of native species and habitat conditions in ecosystems that have been invaded by using native species for re-establishing vegetative cover on freshly disturbed slopes. If erosion is a concern, we may also use a sterile wheat seed. Seeding usually occurs the same year as the disturbance.

We conduct research on invasive species and develop technologies to prevent introduction and provide for environmentally sound control of invasive species by cooperating with Washington



State University and the Quad County Noxious Weed Consortium. Together we watch for new infestations and transplant approved biological control agents.

We promote public education on invasive species and the means to address them by cooperating in the funding of many public forums. We help sponsor local license re-certification classes and a four county noxious weed program that focuses on treatment and education. Numerous Title II projects have treated noxious weeds that threaten national forest land. All employees are taught noxious weed identification. Invasive species notices are placed at trailheads and boat ramps. Noxious weeds are always discussed at annual range permittee meetings.

The forest will continue to diligently address noxious weed issues. Our EMS will address noxious weed problems associated with grazing, mechanical vegetation treatments, and use of system roads.

If you have any questions about our report, please contact Don Gonzalez at 509-684-7106. Our new noxious weed program coordinator will be on forest in June. Until then Joe Alexander is our coordinator and can be reached at 509-775-7415.

/s/ Rick Brazell
RICK BRAZELL
Forest Supervisor

cc: Joseph G Alexander