

Table of Contents

Abstract.....	ii
Summary.....	iii
Alternatives-Comparison Summary of Activities.....	v
Chapter 1 – Purpose and Need for Action	1
1.1 Background.....	1
1.2 Desired Future Conditions.....	7
1.3 Purpose and Need	7
1.4 Proposed Action	8
1.5 Management Direction	9
1.5.1 Regional Direction.....	10
1.5.2 Forest Direction	10
1.6 Decision Framework.....	12
1.7 Tribal Involvement	12
1.7.1 Introduction.....	12
1.7.2 Tribal Concerns.....	13
1.8 Public Involvement.....	14
1.8.1 Scoping	14
1.9 Issues	14
1.9.1 Human Health	15
1.9.2 Treatment Effectiveness:.....	16
1.9.3 Social and Economic.....	16
1.9.4 Non-target Botanical Species and Wildlife.....	16
1.9.5 Soil, Water Quality, Aquatic Biota	17
1.9.6 Non-Significant Issues	18
1.10 What This Proposal Does Not Include	19
Chapter 2 – Alternatives	21
2.1 Introduction	21
2.2 Alternatives Considered in Detail.....	22
2.2.1 Proposed Action and Alternative Development Process	22
2.2.2 Alternative A - No Action.....	24
2.2.3 Alternative B - Proposed Action.....	25
2.2.4 Alternative C	77
2.2.5 Alternative D.....	78
2.3 Alternatives Not Considered in Detail.....	78
2.3.1 High Potential for Spread Areas or Priority 1 and 2 Species.....	78
2.3.2 Invasive Plants Managed through Natural Processes.....	79
2.3.3 No Herbicides	79
2.3.4 1994 Guidelines Applied Forest-wide	80
2.3.5 Restricted Use – No Herbicides in Riparian or Special Areas.....	80
2.3.6 Deviations from Existing Approved Herbicide List	83
2.4 Alternatives Compared	84
Chapter 3 – Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences.....	89
3.1 Introduction	89
3.1.1 Project Area	89
3.1.2 Basis for Cumulative Effects Analysis	89
3.1.3 Life of the Project	91
3.1.4 Herbicide Risk Assessments	92
3.1.5 Climate Change.....	93

3.1.6 Treatment Strategy, Type, and Effectiveness Common to All Alternatives	95
3.2. Botany	109
3.2.1 Introduction	109
3.2.2 Affected Environment	109
3.2.3 Environmental Consequences	124
3.3 Terrestrial Wildlife.....	150
3.3.1 Introduction	150
3.3.2 Affected Environment	150
3.3.3 Alternatives Analyzed	176
3.3.4 Environmental Consequences	177
3.3.5 Effects to Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive (TES) Species	197
3.3.6 Effects to Sensitive Species	201
3.3.7 Effects to Management Indicator Species	233
3.3.8 Effects to Other Species of Interest	244
3.4 Soil and Water.....	248
3.4.1 Introduction	248
3.4.2 Affected Environment	250
3.4.3 Environmental Consequences	262
3.5 Aquatic Organisms and Habitat	294
3.5.1 Introduction	294
3.5.2 Affected Environment	294
3.5.3 Environmental Consequences	318
3.6 Recreation Resources	357
3.6.1 Introduction	357
3.6.2 Affected Environment	358
3.6.3 Environmental Consequences	368
3.7 Effects of Herbicide Use on Workers and the Public.....	384
3.7.1 Introduction	384
3.7.2 Affected Environment	386
3.7.3 Environmental Consequences	387
3.8 Rangeland Resources	392
3.8.1 Introduction	392
3.8.2 Affected Environment	393
3.8.3 Environmental Consequences	396
3.9 Project Costs and Financial Efficiency	401
3.9.1 Introduction	401
3.9.2 Methodology	401
3.9.3 Affected Environment	403
3.9.4 Environmental Consequences	407
3.10 Heritage Resources	417
3.11 Impacts to Cultural Uses and Treaty Rights.....	418
3.11.1 Introduction	418
3.11.2 Affected Environment	418
3.11.3 Environmental Consequences	419
3.12 Irreversible or Irretrievable Use of Resources	421
3.13 Effects of Short-term uses and Maintenance of Long-term Productivity	421
3.14 Consistency with Forest Service Policies and Plans	422
3.15 Conflicts with Other Plans	422
3.16 Adverse Effects That Cannot Be Avoided.....	422
Chapter 4 – List of Preparers.....	423
4.1 List of Preparers	423

4.2 Consultation with Regulatory Agencies	424
4.3 Consultation with Tribes	424
4.4 Consultation with Counties	424
4.5 Consultation with Others	424
4.6 Glossary	427
4.7 References	444
4.8 Index	482

Table of Tables

Table 1-Number of Invasive Plant sites by species identified by District on the Wallowa-Whitman NF....	2
Table 2-Acres of invasive plants by species and district	3
Table 3-Acres of treatment methods by Ranger District	27
Table 4-High, Typical, and Low Application Rates for Herbicides	37
Table 5-Common Control Measures Summary - Range of Effective Treatment Options and Site-Specific Considerations by Target Species	41
Table 6-Design features specific to the ten herbicides approved for use in Region 6, gross acres and percentage of known sites where each herbicide would be effective	48
Table 7-Herbicide Use Buffers in Feet -Perennial and Wet Intermittent Streams -Proposed Action.....	70
Table 8-Herbicide Use Buffers in Feet -Dry Intermittent Streams -Proposed Action	70
Table 9-Herbicide Use Buffers in Feet – Lakes and Wetlands	71
Table 10-Buffer widths required for aerial applications	71
Table 11-Comparing acres of proposed herbicide treatment for Alternative B and “Restricted Use” alternative.....	81
Table 12-Alternatives compared by activity	84
Table 13-Alternative comparison relative to significant issues	85
Table 14-Risk assessments for herbicides considered in this EIS	92
Table 15-Summary of the influence of various factors on spray drift	101
Table 16-Treatment type, method of application and acres proposed for treatment by alternative	103
Table 17-Herbicide formulations, invasive plant sites, total acres treated and treatment effectiveness by alternative.....	104
Table 18-Invasive plant species sites identified on each district within the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest	111
Table 19-Invasive plant species and acres by district	113
Table 20-Range of acreage of infested sites documented on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest....	115
Table 21-Potential vegetation groups on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest’s 2.3 million acres and their susceptibility to invasive plants	116
Table 22-Regional sensitive plant species for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest	118
Table 23-Hells Canyon National Recreation Area - Threatened, Endangered or Proposed; Candidate, Sensitive, Endemic and Disjunct Species	120
Table 24-Invasive plant species treatment acres comparison between the No Action Alternative, Proposed Action Alternative, and additional action alternatives	131
Table 25-Number of SOLI within 100 feet of an invasive plant species site and proposed treatment by alternative.....	132
Table 26-Existing Vegetation Types In Proposed Aerial Treatment Sites	136
Table 27-Invasive weeds located adjacent to National Forest System land	144
Table 28-SOLI determination statements by Alternative	146
Table 29-Federally listed or candidate species known to occur on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest	153
Table 30-Lynx Habitat types and acres of invasive plants	154

Table 31-Suspected (S) or Documented (D) Wildlife of the Wallowa-Whitman NF on the Regional Forester’s Sensitive Species List (July 2004).....	155
Table 32-Bighorn sheep locations and the approximate number of acres of invasive plants.....	159
Table 33-Management Indicator Species and their associated habitat for the Wallowa-Whitman NF.....	171
Table 34-Elk Habitat affected by invasive plants.....	172
Table 35-Priority and Unique Habitats on the Forest and the associated Focal Species.....	175
Table 36-Treatment methods by alternative.....	177
Table 37-Wildlife Determination Summary.....	195
Table 38-Water quality impaired streams within the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest on the Oregon or Idaho 303(d) list that have invasive plant sites within 100 feet of the stream.....	255
Table 39-Invasive Plant Acres within 100 feet of lakes and reservoirs.....	258
Table 40-Infested acres proposed for treatment by watershed.....	259
Table 41-Herbicide Properties.....	263
Table 42-Potential surface erosion for 2 year storm with groundcover at 10, 30 and 50 percent.....	266
Table 43-Acres proposed for treatment by location and method by alternative.....	270
Table 44-Drift distance versus drop diameter.....	278
Table 45-Potential herbicide concentrations in water for different precipitation ranges and soil types.....	285
Table 46-Parameters used for model by location.....	288
Table 47-GLEAMS-Driver Model results for aerial sites.....	288
Table 48-Concentrations of herbicide in a small stream with a 300 foot buffer.....	289
Table 49-Concentrations of herbicide with additional buffer widths.....	290
Table 50-Additions to buffer widths under specified conditions (PDF-8).....	290
Table 51-Watersheds with largest percent of proposed treatments.....	292
Table 52-Fifth-field watersheds proposed for treatment in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.....	295
Table 53-Threatened, Endangered and Proposed fish species, and critical habitat.....	299
Table 54-Sensitive Species.....	299
Table 55-Toxicity Indices for Listed Fish.....	320
Table 56-Hazard quotient values for acute exposure estimates for sensitive aquatic organisms broadcast spray scenarios.....	322
Table 57-Potential herbicide concentrations in water for diverse precipitation ranges and soil types.....	331
Table 58-Herbicide treatment areas within 100 feet of streams with listed fish.....	333
Table 59-MPI for Primary Constituent Elements Crosswalk.....	344
Table 60-Effects Determination for Herbicide Treatment, Non-Herbicide Treatment and EDRR.....	351
Table 61-Potential effects to commercially important fish species under the proposed action.....	357
Table 62-Wilderness areas and acres of invasive plants.....	360
Table 63-Wild and Scenic Rivers on the W-W National Forest and their outstandingly remarkable values.....	361
Table 64-Wild and Scenic Rivers, designation, and acres of invasive plants.....	364
Table 65-Ranger District, Developed Recreation Site Name, and Acres of Proposed Treatments.....	365
Table 66-Acres of invasive plants by recreation area.....	367
Table 67-Acres of proposed treatments in HCNRA.....	370
Table 68-Acres of proposed treatment by wilderness.....	371
Table 69-Aerial application information for Hells Canyon Wilderness.....	372
Table 70-Acres of proposed treatments by WSR name and designation.....	376
Table 71-Acres of proposed treatment by ranger district and site name.....	379
Table 72-Acres of proposed treatment by recreation area.....	383
Table 73-Herbicides and potential effectiveness.....	388
Table 74-Invasive weed acres presently identified within each allotment type.....	393
Table 75-Invasive species acres in Wallowa-Whitman National Forest grazing allotments.....	395
Table 76-Range improvements and fencelines with potential for invasive species spread on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.....	396

Table 77-Cumulative Effects on Grazing and Range Management within the project area..... 401
 Table 78-Cost per acre of invasive species treatment methods (All costs are in 2006 dollars)..... 403
 Table 79-Analysis Area Population by County, 2000 Census..... 404
 Table 80-Race and Ethnicity by County, 2000 Census..... 404
 Table 81-Analysis Area Population below Poverty Level by Race, 2000 Census 405
 Table 82-Alternative A Estimated Acres by Treatment Method 407
 Table 83-Discounted costs and years to contain or control of forest-wide infestations under Alternative A
 in 2006 dollars (Shaded line represents the projected annual treatment level) 409
 Table 84-Summary of Effects by Alternative 417

Table of Figures

Figure 1 – Example Map of Proposed Invasive Plant Treatments..... 23
 Figure 2 – Proposed invasive plant treatments for Baker Ranger District..... 28
 Figure 3 – Proposed invasive plant treatments for Wallowa Valley Ranger District 29
 Figure 4 – Proposed invasive plant treatments for HCNRA..... 30
 Figure 5 – Proposed invasive plant treatments for Eagle Cap Ranger District..... 31
 Figure 6 – Proposed invasive plant treatments for La Grande Ranger District 32
 Figure 7 – Proposed invasive plant treatments for Pine Ranger District 33
 Figure 8 – Proposed invasive plant treatments for Unity Ranger Station..... 34
 Figure 9 – Proposed herbicide aerial application invasive plants treatments 35
 Figure 10 – Potential percent of acres available for use per herbicide 50
 Figure 11 – Illustration of how herbicide selection and application methods in the established buffer
 widths are more limited in Aquatic Influence Zones 72
 Figure 12 – EDRR Herbicide Use Decision Process 74
 Figure 13 – Acres of invasive plants over time-treatment effectiveness 83
 Figure 14 – Aerial application 98
 Figure 15 – Droplet size and drift distance 99
 Figure 16 – Comparison of estimated invasive plant spread between Alternatives A and B 107
 Figure 17 – Starthistle on inaccessible site 108
 Figure 18 – Proposed Aerial site otherwise inaccessible 136
 Figure 19 – Example of spot treatment areas within RHCA, and broadcast treatment areas for diffuse
 knapweed on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. 138
 Figure 20 – Contract worker spraying invasive plants in wilderness from a horsepack-mounted spray
 system 373

Volume II-Appendices

Appendix A – Direction

Appendix B – Botany Resources

Appendix C – Wildlife Resources

Appendix D – Soil and Water Resources

Appendix E – Aquatic Resources

Appendix F – Aerial Guidelines

Appendix G – Adjuvants and Surfactants

Appendix H – Social/Economics

List of Acronyms

APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
ATV	All terrain vehicle
BA	Biological Assessment
BE	Biological Evaluation
BECA	Bald Eagle Consideration Area
BEMA	Bald Eagle Management Area
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BO	Biological Opinion
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CWA	Clean Water Act
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DN	Decision Notice
DO	Dissolved oxygen
DPS	Distinct Population Segments
EA	Environmental Assessment
EEC	Expected exposure concentration
EDRR	Early detection rapid response
EFH	Essential fish habitat
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESU	Ecologically Sustainable Unit
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FIFRA	Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act
FOSS	Federal OSHA Safety Standard
FS	Forest Service
FSH	Forest Service Handbook
FSM	Forest Service Manual
FWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
GIS	Geographical Information System
GLEAMS	Groundwater Loading Affects of Agricultural Management Systems
GPS	Global positioning system
HQ	Hazard quotient
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Codes
ICBEMP	Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project
IDT	Interdisciplinary Team
INFISH	Inland Native Fish Strategy
IWM	Integrated weed management
LAU	Lynx analysis units
LCAS	Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy
LOAEL	Lowest observed adverse effect level
LOC	Level of concern
LOP	Limited operating period
LRMP	Land and Resources Management Plan
LWD	Large Woody Debris
LWM	Large woody material
MIG	Minnesota IMPLAN Group
MIS	Management Indicator Species
MPI	Matrix of Pathways and Indicators
MSA	Magnuson Stevens Act
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NF	National Forest
NFMA	National Forest Management Act
NFS	National Forest System
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service

NOA	Notice of Availability
NOAEL	No observed adverse effect level
NOEC	No observable effect concentration
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPE	Nonylphenol Polyethoxylate
NVUM	National Visitors Use Monitoring
ODA	Oregon Department of Agriculture
ODEQ	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
OHV	Off-highway vehicles
OR	Oregon
ORV	Off-road vehicles
PA	Proposed Action
PACFISH	Pacific Native Fish Strategy
PCE	Primary Constituent Elements
PDF	Project design feature
PETS	Proposed Endangered Threatened and Sensitive
PNV	Present Net Value
PNW	Pacific Northwest
POEA	Polyoxyethylene alkylamine
PVG	Potential vegetation groups
R6	Forest Service Region Six
RHCA	Riparian Habitat Conservation Area
RM	River mile
RMO	Riparian management objective
ROD	Record of Decision
SERA	Syracuse Environmental Research Associates, Inc
SOLI	Species of local interest
SRI	Soils Resource Inventory
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TCP	trichloro-2-pyridinol
TDS	Total dissolved solids
TES	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive
TMDL	Total maximum daily load
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDI	United States Department of Interior
USFS	United States Forest Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
WSDOA	Washington State Department of Agriculture
WQMP	Water Quality Management Plan
WSR	Wild and Scenic River