

Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and
Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management
Office of Communications
Working as One to Serve Central Oregon

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**Invasive Plant Final Environmental Impact Statement and
Record of Decision Released**

Bend—The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) Part 1 for Invasive Plant Treatment on the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and the Crooked River National Grassland were recently published and released to the public. The ROD Part 1 was signed December 5, 2007 by Deschutes National Forest Supervisor John Allen and Ochoco National Forest Supervisor Jeff Walter. The legal notice of the decision was published in the newspaper of record, the Bulletin, on January 4, 2008.

The ROD Part 1 covers approximately sixty percent of the planning area—most of the Ochoco National Forest, the Grassland and the Bend/Ft. Rock and Crescent Districts of the Deschutes National Forest. A second decision on the remainder of the planning area will follow later this year after consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the effects to federally listed fish species.

This first decision applies only to watersheds where there will be no effect to listed fish species. Treatment of approximately 8,883 acres of invasive plant sites is authorized by the decision. Invasive plant sites occur primarily along roadways. The decision also authorizes implementation of the “Early Detection/Rapid Response Strategy,” which allows treatment of invasive plant sites that are not yet discovered, and become identified through an annual review process.

The ROD allows for effective treatments to reduce the amount of invasive plants that are currently degrading National Forest System (NFS) lands in Central Oregon. Treatment methods include the use of herbicides that were approved for use on NFS lands with the 2005 Region Six (Pacific Northwest) Invasive Plant Treatment and Prevention ROD. Effective treatments usually involve a combination of methods, such as herbicide spraying with manual follow-up.

A risk reduction framework ensures the safe and effective use of herbicides. In addition to label requirements, federal and state laws and Forest Plan standards further minimize or eliminate risks to people and the environment.

The public appeal period for this decision will end February 19, 2008.

The FEIS, ROD and maps are available on the Forest Service website at **<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/invasiveplant-eis/site-specific/DES>**.