



MT. BAKER-SNOQUALMIE NATIONAL FOREST

NEW INVADERS-2008

New Noxious Weed Sites: Analysis, Proposed Treatment, and Site Restoration

Introduction

Welcome to the third edition of “New Invaders”—an annual report to meet the requirements of our Forest Plan, New Invaders Strategy.

In April 2005, the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Supervisor made a decision to treat high-priority invasive plants (noxious weeds)*. As part of his decision, the Forest Plan was amended and the *New Invaders Strategy* was added to the Forest-wide standards and guidelines for noxious weed management. This allows rapid assessment and a decision on appropriate treatment for newly-discovered weed sites, before they start to expand uncontrollably. The Strategy will also contribute to meeting the goals and objectives of our Forest Plan.

The key parts of the New Invaders Strategy include:

- Each year, surveys are done for new invasive weed sites by our Forest botanists, other specialists, and our partners (such as The Nature Conservancy and various county weed boards).
- New weed sites are prioritized, using the process described in the 2005 Decision. High priority sites are added to the list for treatment.

- For the new sites, an initial proposed treatment and restoration plan is selected—based on the type of weed, and the size and location of the infestation. Only the methods included in the 2005 Decision are available for both treating the weeds and restoring the site.
- The effects of treating the new sites are estimated: **they must fall within the scope of the 2005 analysis to be added to the list (with no additional NEPA decision)**. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service must review the new sites and concur. The new sites are also reviewed by the Forest Archaeologist.
- Finally, an annual newsletter listing the new sites is to be produced and mailed to interested parties. This document is the newsletter for 2008.

Increased Treatment Effectiveness Proposed for FY2008

This newsletter includes a table showing new sites in 2008 and the proposed treatment at those sites. Revisits are also planned to existing sites that were described in previous newsletters. At some of the existing sites, we are proposing to change the treatment from glyphosate to either clopyralid or imazapyr, depending on the species. Clopyralid is far more effective than glyphosate on composites

*Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact, Proposed Treatment of Invasive Plants and New Invaders Strategy – Forest Plan Amendment #26, June 3, 2005.

(on the MBS this includes knapweeds, thistles, hawkweeds, daisies, and tansy) - and it is more environmentally friendly because it does not damage other desirable species such as grasses. For knotweeds, the use of imazapyr in conjunction with glyphosate has proven far more effective than glyphosate alone.

The use of clopyralid and imazapyr have already undergone comprehensive risk assessments and have been approved under the Region 6 Invasive Plant EIS (USDA Forest Service 2005), and through letters of concurrence and Biological Opinions from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service (USDI Fish and Wildlife Service 2007; USDC National Marine Fisheries Service 2007). When mitigation measures are implemented, these chemicals have been shown to have equal or lesser impact on both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems than glyphosate. The Biological Opinions apply to the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (and other Forests) and the Record of Decision for the Region 6 Invasive Plant EIS amends our Forest Plan.

New Weed Sites and Selected Treatment and Site Restoration

Table 1 and 2 list the general locations of the newly-documented weed infestations that have been added to the 2005 Decision for priority treatment (added as addenda to Table Decision-3, from the 2005 EA). The selected treatments at these newly-documented sites—as shown in the table below—all fall within the scope of the April 2005 Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact in that, when mitigation measures are applied, the effects are expected to be equal or less than those described in that document. The April 2005 decision remains in place; adding the newly-documented sites to Table Decision-3, under the New Invaders Strategy, does not constitute a new decision and is not subject to appeal.

Treatment of New Weed Sites: Effects on Aquatic Resources

In March 2008, USDC NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reviewed and concurred with the newly surveyed weed sites and their proposed treatment. For sites within 300 feet of streams, the selected treatments *May Affect*, but are *Not Likely to Adversely Affect* listed threatened or endangered fish species. Treatment of sites farther than 300 feet from streams were determined to have *No Effect*. All mitigation measures specified in the original Biological Assessment still apply and are required for all treatment sites. Documentation is in the Project Record in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Supervisor's Office in Everett, Washington.

Treatment of New Weed Sites: Effects on Wildlife

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Wildlife Biologist reviewed the new sites and selected treatment and determined that treatment would have *No Effect* on threatened or endangered wildlife species. All mitigation measures specified in the original Biological Assessment still apply and are required for all treatment sites. Documentation is in the Project Record in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Supervisor's Office in Everett, Washington.

Treatment of New Weed Sites: Effects on Heritage Resources

The Forest Archaeologist analyzed the new sites and raised no concerns with respect to heritage resources. The few weed sites near any heritage sites would be treated with herbicide, which has no effect on heritage resources (see 2005 EA, pages 3–52 and 3–53 for further information on herbicide effects). Therefore, treatment of all sites meets the conditions listed under the

Programmatic Agreement Regarding Cultural Resources Management on National Forests in the State of Washington (Appendix A). All mitigation measures originally identified in the 2005 Decision apply to the treatment of these new sites.

**Treatment of New Weed Sites:
Effects on Sensitive and other rare
and uncommon plant species**

There will be *No Impact* on Sensitive or other rare and uncommon plant species with treatment of these newly-surveyed sites. Refer to the 2008 Botanical Evaluation at the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Supervisor's Office in Everett, Washington for the complete analysis.

Your Opportunity to Comment

To comment on any of these sites, please contact: Laura Potash Martin, Forest Botanist, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, at 42404 SE North Bend Way, North Bend, WA 98045, 425-888-1421, ext 245 or llmartin@fs.fed.us

The Forest always welcomes information from any source on infestations of invasive plants. Please contact the nearest Ranger District office with information on newly found sites.

The tables below show the new weeds to be treated and the chosen treatment method.

These sites become addenda to the 2005 Environmental Assessment Table Decision-3.

Table 1. North Zone Sites. 2008 Addenda to Table Decision-3.

Site name/District DRD = Darrington MB = Mt. Baker	Species	Proposed treatment method	NRIS ID#	Selected restoration with rationale
Koma Kulshan Guard Station/MB	Sulphur cinquefoil, Canada thistle	<p>Cinquefoil: spot application with backpack sprayer of dilute solution (2.5-5%) of aquatic formulation glyphosate with Agri-Dex® surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye.</p> <p>Canada thistle: spot application with either clopyralid or aquatic glyphosate, with back pack sprayer, depending on distance from water.</p> <p>If water is present clopyralid will be used, staying at least 15 feet from the high water mark of the channel or ditch. If a dry stream channel or ditch, clopyralid can be used to the edge of the high water mark.</p> <p>Below the high water mark, spot application with backpack sprayer of dilute solution (2.5-5%) of aquatic formulation glyphosate with Agri-Dex® surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye.</p>	01-AR-074, 01-AR-074	Passive restoration (site is 0.1 acre or less in size).
Miners quarry/MB	Meadow hawkweed, and spotted knapweed	Same as for Canada thistle.	01-AR-075, 01-AR-076	Restoration N/A: site is not naturally vegetated and receives chronic disturbance
SR 542 @ MP 36.3 rock pit/MB	Herb Robert and Himalayan blackberry	Spot application with backpack sprayer of dilute solution (2.5-5%) of aquatic formulation glyphosate with Agri-Dex® surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye.	01-AR-077, 01-AR-078	Restoration N/A: site is not naturally vegetated and receives chronic disturbance

Site name/District DRD = Darrington MB = Mt. Baker	Species	Proposed treatment method	NRIS ID#	Selected restoration with rationale
Road 17 @ MP 14.2/MB	Meadow hawkweed	Same as for Canada thistle	01-AR-079	Passive restoration (site is 0.1 acre or less in size).
Marblemount boat launch/MB	Common tansy and scotchbroom	Common tansy: Same as for Canada thistle. Scotch broom: Small plants can be hand pulled or removed with a weed-wrench. On larger bushes, cut stump to ground level, paint aquatic glyphosate on stump. Use a dilute solution (2.5-5%) of aquatic formulation glyphosate with Agri-Dex® surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye. Treat before seed pods form.	01-AR-083 01-AR-084	The site may be planted with trees but this will require some additional analysis outside the scope of this project.
Wild & Scenic River acquisition – Ovenell property/MB	Common tansy, bull thistle, and Canada thistle	Same as for Canada thistle.	01-AR-085, 01-AR-086	The site may be planted with trees but this will require some additional analysis outside the scope of this project.
Wild & Scenic River acquisition – Schaffer property/MB	Cutleaf blackberry, bull thistle, and Canada thistle	Blackberry: Spot application with backpack sprayer of dilute solution (2.5-5%) of aquatic formulation glyphosate with Agri-Dex® surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye. Thistles: Same as for Canada thistle.	01-AR-087, 01-AR-088	Passive restoration (site is 0.1 acre or less in size).
Dan Creek horse pasture/DRD	Herb robert	Spot application with backpack sprayer of dilute solution (2.5-5%) of aquatic formulation glyphosate with Agri-Dex® surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye.	02-AR-048	Site has been planted with trees.
Road 2642 from MP 3.0 to 3.7/DRD	Meadow hawkweed	Same as for Canada thistle.	02-AR-025	Passive restoration (site is 0.1 acre or less in size).
Road 18 from MP 6.4 to 21/DRD&MB	Meadow hawkweed	Same as for Canada thistle.	02-AR-020	Restoration N/A: site is not naturally vegetated and receives chronic disturbance

Table 2. South Zone Sites. 2008 Addenda to Table Decision–3.

Site Name/District SKY = Skykomish SNO = Snoqualmie	Species	Proposed Treatment Method	NRIS ID Number	Selected Restoration and Rationale
Rd 6500-104 stockpile	Canada thistle and Herb Robert	For Canada thistle, same as first entry in Table 1. For herb Robert, Spot application with backpack sprayer of dilute solution (2.5-5%) of aquatic formulation glyphosate with Agri-Dex® surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye.	06-KW-021 06-KW-022	Restoration N/A: site is not naturally vegetated and receives chronic disturbance.
Rd 6512-105 (Sky Fork Sale)/SKY	Canada thistle	Described earlier.	06-LP-037	Restoration N/A: site is not naturally vegetated and receives chronic disturbance.
Rd 6334, MP 2.8 (Sky Forks Sale)/SKY	Diffuse knapweed	Same as for Canada thistle.	06-KW-027	Passive restoration (site is 0.1 acre or less in size).
Road 63, 2.2 miles west of Road 65/SKY	Bohemian knotweed	Spraying of aquatic imazapyr and aquatic glyphosate by backpack sprayer.	06-KW-026	Passive restoration (site is 0.1 acre or less in size).
Road 6300-310 spur/SKY	Bohemian knotweed	Spraying of aquatic imazapyr and aquatic glyphosate by backpack sprayer.	06-KW-028	Passive restoration (site is 0.1 acre or less in size).
Road 63, 3.3 miles east of Hwy 2/SKY	Bohemian knotweed	Spraying of aquatic imazapyr and aquatic glyphosate by backpack sprayer.	06-KW-030	Passive restoration (site is 0.1 acre or less in size).
Road 6020, entrance to Mt. Index river sites/SKY	Bohemian knotweed	Spraying of aquatic imazapyr and aquatic glyphosate by backpack sprayer.	06-KW-031	Passive restoration (site is 0.1 acre or less in size).
Hwy 2/Rd 65 junction (Sky Forks Sale)/SKY	Bohemian knotweed	Spraying of aquatic imazapyr and aquatic glyphosate by backpack sprayer.	06-TF-001	Passive restoration (site is 0.1 acre or less in size).

Site Name/District SKY = Skykomish SNO = Snoqualmie	Species	Proposed Treatment Method	NRIS ID Number	Selected Restoration and Rationale
Road 6020/junction with Hwy 2/SKY	Bohemian knotweed	Spraying of aquatic imazapyr and aquatic glyphosate by backpack sprayer	06-KW-032	Passive restoration (site is 0.1 acre or less in size).
Lake Serene Trail/SKY	Bohemian knotweed	Spraying of aquatic imazapyr and aquatic glyphosate by backpack sprayer.	06-TD-046	Passive restoration (site is 0.1 acre or less in size).
Rd 6512-105 (Sky Forks Sale)/SKY	Scotchbroom	Hand pull small plants, cut larger plants at ground level and paint stumps with aquatic glyphosate.	06-LP-031	Passive restoration, native species already colonizing
Access to Elk Forage unit 18, RD 7200-226 jct with Rd 70/SNO	Bull thistle	Same as for Canada thistle.	Not yet assigned	Passive restoration (site is 0.1 acre or less in size).
Access to Elk Forage Unit 18, Rd 7200-226 east/west segment/SNO	Herb robert	Spot application with backpack sprayer of dilute solution (2.5-5%) of aquatic formulation glyphosate with Agri-Dex® surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye.	Not yet assigned	Passive restoration (site is 0.1 acre or less in size).
Access to Elk Forage Unit 18, Rd 7200-226 N of jct with Rd 70/SNO	Tansy ragwort	Same as for Canada thistle.	Not yet assigned	Passive restoration (site is 0.1 acre or less in size).
Cow Flats stock pile/SNO	Scotch broom	Hand pull small plants, cut larger plants at ground level and paint stumps with aquatic glyphosate.	Not yet assigned	Restoration N/A: site receives chronic disturbance.
28 Mile pits/SNO	Canada thistle	Described above.	Not yet assigned	Restoration N/A: site receives chronic disturbance.
Tacoma Creek stockpile/SNO	?	Needs surveys. Treatment may not be necessary.	Not yet assigned	Restoration N/A: site receives chronic disturbance.
Evans Creek stockpile/SNO	?	Needs surveys. Treatment may not be necessary.	Not yet assigned	Restoration N/A: site receives chronic disturbance.
I-90 Thin, Exit 42/SNO	Bohemian knotweed	Spraying of aquatic imazapyr and aquatic glyphosate by backpack sprayer.	Not yet assigned	Seed and mulch
Mt. Rainier viewpoint on Hwy 410/SNO	Scotchbroom	Hand pull small plants, cut larger plants at ground level and paint stumps with aquatic glyphosate.	Not yet assigned	Seed and mulch