



TO:	White Pass MDP FEIS Project File
FROM:	Kate Plant (via Jodi Leingang, USFS)
CC:	SE GROUP Project Files
DATE:	March 19, 2007
RE:	White Pass MDP FEIS BMPs for invasives from Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forest's Weed Management and Prevention Strategy and Best Management Practices 2002 and the 2005 ROD Standards from FEIS Preventing and Managing Invasive Plants – Pacific Northwest Region Invasive Plant Program Memo

The following presents the BMPs for invasives from the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest's Weed Management and Prevention Strategy and Best Management Practices 2002 and the 2005 ROD Standards from FEIS Preventing and Managing Invasive Plants – Pacific Northwest Region Invasive Plant Program. These management practices and standards were provided by the USFS (J. Leingang, personal communication March 19, 2007) to be referenced with Management Requirement MR7.

BMPs for invasives from Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forest's Weed Management and Prevention Strategy and Best Management Practices 2002

- Complete Weed Risk Assessments and Prevention Analysis for each project.
- Revegetate all disturbed soil (except the travel way on surfaced roads) in a manner that optimizes plant establishment for that specific site.
- Use only weed-free plant materials and mulch for revegetation and site stabilization (FSM 2081.03, 36 CFR 261.50 [a], 261.58 [f]). (Required) All seed purchased or otherwise designated or accepted for the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forest's will be required to be tested for "all states noxious weeds" according to Association of Official Seed Analysts standards. Test results from all seed lots will be inspected to ensure that no noxious weeds are present prior to application. Seed lots containing noxious weeds will not be used.
- Utilize native species in revegetation projects wherever possible.

- Reduce the time lag between completion of an activity and rehabilitation of the area by: 1) developing better communication between all departments involved in creating and restoring disturbed areas, and 2) requiring seeding within ten days of activity completion.
- Incorporate mulch into revegetation efforts by utilizing weed-free straw, curlex matting, and wood chips or hyrdomulch whenever possible.
- Monitor and evaluate success of revegetation efforts. Mow, remove seedheads or remove weeds to reduce weed seed production (whenever) possible in areas that will experience disturbance.
- Do not draft water (e.g., for dust abatement) from weed infested water sources.
- Remove all mud, dirt, and plant parts from all off-road equipment before moving into project area. Cleaning must occur off National Forest lands (this does not apply to service vehicles that will stay on the roadway, traveling frequently in and out of the project area).
- Clean all equipment prior to leaving the project site, if operating in areas with new invaders (as determined by the Forest Weed Specialist).
- Inspect and approve all gravel, fill, sanding stockpiles, quarries, and borrow sources before use and transport.
- Revegetate disturbed soil due to construction and reconstruction activity.
- If straw is used for road stabilization and erosion control, it must be as weed-free or weed-seed-free as possible.
- Use education programs and signing to increase weed awareness and prevent weed-spread by recreationists.
- Revegetate bare soil resulting from special use activity.

2005 ROD Standards from FEIS Preventing and Managing Invasive Plants – Pacific Northwest Region Invasive Plant Program

1. Prevention of invasive plant introduction, establishment, and spread will be addressed in watershed analysis, roads analysis, fire and fuels management plans, Burned Area Emergency Recovery Plans, emergency wildland fire situation analysis, wildland fire implementation plans, grazing allotment management plans, recreation management plans, vegetation management plans, and other land management assessments.

2. Actions conducted or authorized by written permit by the Forest Service that will operate outside the limits of the road prism (including public works and service contracts), require the cleaning of all heavy equipment (bulldozers, skidders, graders, backhoes, dump trucks, etc.) prior to entering National Forest System Lands.
3. Use weed-free straw and mulch for all projects conducted or authorized by the Forest Service, on National Forest System Lands. If State certified straw and/or mulch is not available, individual Forests should require sources certified to be weed free using the North American Weed Free Forage Program standards or a similar certification process.
6. Use available administrative mechanisms to incorporate invasive plant prevention practices into rangeland management. Examples of administrative mechanisms include, but are not limited to, revising permits and grazing allotment management plans, providing annual operating instructions, and adaptive management. Plan and implement practices in cooperation with the grazing permit holder.
7. Inspect active gravel, fill, sand stockpiles, quarry sites, and borrow material for invasive plants before use and transport. Treat or require treatment of infested sources before any use of pit material. Use only gravel, fill, sand, and rock that is judged to be weed free by District or Forest weed specialists.
12. Develop a long-term site strategy for restoring/revegetating invasive plant sites prior to treatment.
13. Native plant materials are the first choice in revegetation for restoration and rehabilitation where timely natural regeneration of the native plant community is not likely to occur. Non-native, noninvasive plant species may be used in any of the following situations: 1) when needed in emergency conditions to protect basic resource values (e.g., soil stability, water quality and to help prevent the establishment of invasive species), 2) as an interim, non-persistent measure designed to aid in the reestablishment of native plants, 3) if native plant materials are not available, or 4) in permanently altered plant communities. Under no circumstances will nonnative invasive plant species be used for revegetation.