



Forest  
Service

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Forest

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**File Code:** 1570  
**Route To:**

**Date:** August 23, 2012

**Subject:** Appeal Recommendation, Invasive Plant Treatment Project, Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests, Crooked River National Grasslands

**To:** Regional Forester

On May 2, 2012, John Allen and Kate Klein, Forest Supervisors for the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forest respectively, signed a record of decision (ROD) for the Invasive Plant Treatment Project Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS). Their decision to implement Alternative 2 includes:

- Invasive plant treatment of 1,892 inventoried sites across 14,547 acres with 289 project area units. Herbicides will be used alone or in combination with non-herbicide methods (manual, mechanical, cultural, burning) on a total of 13,814 acres. Buffers to protect species of concern and aquatic resources are prescribed. Extensive project design features (PDFs) are incorporated to reduce the risk to non-target organisms and to protect ecosystem and human health.
- Authorization of Early Detection-Rapid Response (EDRR) to treat new and/or previously unanalyzed sites.
- Treatment caps of 16,000 acres per year, including acreage assessed through EDRR.
- Site restoration, including both active and passive restoration of sites that have been rehabilitated.
- Monitoring of at least 50% of the treatment areas.
- Amending the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grasslands Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMP) to remove standards that were replaced by the 2005 R6 Invasive Plant Treatment ROD.

One appeal was received from the Blue Mountain Biodiversity Project/League of Wilderness Defenders (#12-06-00-499-215). They requested that the ROD be withdrawn and an adequate EIS be prepared that adequately states the purpose and need, analyzes a reasonable range of alternatives, and effectively details the impacts from any proposed herbicide application, including site-specific study and an evaluation of cumulative effects. Appellant urges the Forests to consider their comprehensive list of suggestions from their previous comments and taking a “far more precautionary approach to the use of toxic chemicals on National Forest lands.” Pursuant to 36 CFR 215.17, an attempt was made to seek informal resolution of the appeals. The record indicates that informal resolution was not reached with appellants.

### **Review and Findings**

My review was conducted in accordance with 36 CFR 215.19 to ensure that the analysis and decision are in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policies, and orders. The appeal record, including the appellant’s issues, has been thoroughly reviewed. Having reviewed the FEIS, FSEIS, ROD, and the project record as required by 36 CFR 215.19(b), I conclude the following:

1. The decision clearly describes the actions to be taken in sufficient detail that the reader can easily understand what will occur as a result of the decision.



2. The selected alternative as modified will accomplish the purpose and need established. The purpose and need stated in the FSEIS reflects consistency with direction to implement the Forest Plans, as amended.
3. The decision is consistent with policy, direction, and supporting evidence. The record contains documentation regarding resource conditions and the Responsible Officials' decision document is based on the record and reflects a reasonable conclusion.
4. The record reflects that the Responsible Officials provided adequate opportunity for public participation during the analysis and decision making process. The Responsible Officials' efforts allowed interested publics the opportunity to comment and be involved in the proposal.

After considering the claims made by the appellant and reviewing the record, I found that the Responsible Officials conducted a proper and public NEPA process that resulted in a decision that is consistent with the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland LRMPs, as amended. I found no violations of law, regulations, or Forest Service policy.

### **Recommendation**

After reviewing the appeal record, I recommend affirming the decision. I believe that the project documentation adequately supports the Forest Supervisors' decision with regards to all appeal points raised by the appellant. Enclosed with this memo are my responses to each appeal issue.

*/s/Amanda G, McAdams*  
AMANDA G. MCADAMS  
Acting Forest Supervisor  
Olympic National Forest

cc: Debbie Anderson