



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Black Hills
National
Forest

Highway 385 North
RR2, Box 200
Custer, SD 57730-9501
605-673-2251

File Code: 1950/2080

Date: January 18, 2003

Dear Weed Management Plan Participant:

Enclosed is your copy of the recently approved Decision Notice for the Black Hills National Forest Noxious Weed Management Plan Environmental Assessment. The project started in February 1999 with public scoping of proposals to control the spread and establishment of current and predicted noxious weed infestations on National Forest System lands. This plan is in effect until 2012.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action, was selected from the alternatives that were considered. This alternative controls 82,000 acres of existing infestations and mitigates establishment and spread of new infestations predicted to occur during the next 10 years. This alternative will treat an estimated 6,000 acres annually (2,400 acres more than at present). Under this alternative the Forest Service will work with counties and landowners through cooperative agreements to treat noxious weeds that cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Alternative 1, No Action, would continue implementation of current noxious weed management direction contained in the amended Revised Black Hills Forest Plan within project areas scheduled over the next 10 years. It would provide for limited treatment or retreatment of existing noxious weed infestations on 3,600 acres, but not take additional steps to increase treatment on Federal lands, nor work with counties and others in outreach and education. This alternative does not fully implement the amended Revised Forest Plan or Regional direction for the management of noxious weeds on the Forest.

The Decision Notice and Environmental Assessment with appendices is available on the Black Hills National Forest website at: www.fs.fed.us/r2/blackhills/, under Black Hills Noxious Weed Management Plan.

Please contact Craig Beckner, Forest Rangeland Management Specialist, at 605/673-9273 with specific questions about this program.

Thank you for your interest and involvement in this important program on the Black Hills National Forest.

Sincerely,

JOHN C. TWISS
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures

Cc: Regional Forester

