

MT. HOOD KIWANIS CAMP MASTER PLAN

Environmental Assessment

May, 2003

APPENDICES

Zigzag Ranger District
Mt. Hood National Forest
Clackamas County, Oregon

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APPENDIX A

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APPENDIX A. MANAGEMENT OF COMPETING AND UNWANTED VEGETATION

Management direction requires preparation of a noxious weed risk assessment and identification of mitigation actions to reduce the possibility of introducing or spreading noxious weeds. The Factors and Vectors considered in determining the risk level for the introduction or spread of noxious weeds are:

FACTORS

- A. Known noxious weeds in close proximity to project area that may foreseeably invade project.
- B. Project operation within noxious weed population.
- C. Any of vectors 1-8 in project area.

VECTORS

- 1. Heavy equipment (implied ground disturbance including compaction or loss of soil "A" horizon.)
- 2. Importing soil/cinders/gravel/straw or hay mulch.
- 3. ORVs or ATVs.
- 4. Grazing.
- 5. Pack animals (short term disturbance).
- 6. Plant restoration.
- 7. Recreationists (hikers, mountain bikers, etc...).
- 8. Forest Service or other project vehicles.

High, moderate, or low risk rankings are possible. For the high ranking the project must contain either a combination of factors A+C or B+C above. The moderate ranking contains any of vectors #1-5 in the project area. The low ranking contains any of vectors #6-8 in the project area or known weeds within or adjacent to the project area, without vector presence.

In this case, Factors A and B do not appear to be present, as no noxious weeds have been identified in or adjacent to the project area, though some have been identified several miles away. However, Vectors 1 and 2 are expected to apply during construction of improvements. As a result, this project would have a "moderate" weed risk rating.

As a result, to minimize the spread of noxious weeds, the following actions should be taken during the course of improvements where applicable:

- a. Control weeds as necessary at project sites.
- b. To reduce risk of spreading weed infestations, begin project operations in uninfested areas before operating in weed-infested areas.
- c. Locate and use weed-free project staging areas. Avoid or minimize all types of travel through weed-infested areas, or restrict to those periods when spread of seed or propagules are least likely.

- d. Determine the need for, and when appropriate, identify sites where equipment can be cleaned. The cleaning requirement applies to equipment or vehicles that are used off roads. Vehicles that remain on roads would not need to be cleaned. Clean equipment before entering National Forest System lands; a Forest Officer, in coordination with the Unit Invasive Species Coordinator, would approve use of on-Forest cleaning sites in advance. Seeds and plant parts would be collected when practical and incinerated. Remove mud, dirt, and plant parts from equipment before moving it into a project area.
- e. Clean equipment, before leaving the project site, if operating in areas infested with weeds. Determine the need for, and when appropriate, identify sites where equipment can be cleaned. Seeds and plant parts would be collected when practical and incinerated.
- f. Workers would inspect, remove, and properly dispose of weed seed and plant parts found on their clothing and equipment. Proper disposal means bagging the seeds and plant parts and incinerating them.
- g. Coordinate project activities with any nearby herbicide application to maximize cost effectiveness of weed treatments.
- h. Evaluate options, including closure, to regulate the flow of traffic on sites where desired vegetation needs to be established.
- i. Inspect and document the area where material from treated weed-infested sources is used, annually for at least three years after project completion, to ensure that any weeds transported to the site are promptly detected and controlled.
- j. Maintain stockpiled, uninfested material in a weed-free condition.
- k. Retain native vegetation in and around project activity to the maximum extent possible consistent with project objectives.
- l. Minimize soil disturbance to the extent practical, consistent with project objectives.
- m. Revegetate disturbed soil (except travelways on surfaced projects) in a manner that optimizes plant establishment for that specific site. Define for each project what constitutes disturbed soil and objectives for plant cover revegetation.
- n. Revegetation may include topsoil replacement, planting, seeding, fertilization, liming, and weed-free mulching as necessary. Use native material where appropriate and feasible. Use certified weed-free or weed-seed-free hay or straw where certified materials are required and/or are reasonably available. Always use certified materials in areas closed by administrative order. Where practical, stockpile weed-seed-free topsoil and replace it on disturbed areas (e.g., road embankments or landings)
- o. Use local seeding guidelines to determine detailed procedures and appropriate mixes. To avoid weed-contamination, a certified seed laboratory needs to test each lot against the all-State noxious weed list to Association of Seed Technologists and Analysts (AOSTA) standards, and provide documentation of the seed inspection test. There are plant species not on State and Federal noxious weed lists that the Forest Service would consider non-native invasive weeds. Check State and Federal lists to see if any local

weeds need to be added prior to testing. Seed lots labeled as certified weed free at time of sale may still contain some weed seed contamination. Non-certified seed should first be tested before use.

- p. Inspect and document all limited term ground-disturbing operations in noxious weed infested areas for at least three (3) growing seasons following completion of the project. For on-going projects, continue to monitor until reasonable certainty is obtained that no weeds have occurred. Provide for follow-up treatments based on inspection results.
- q. Avoid moving aquatic weed plants from one body of water to another.