



MT. BAKER-SNOQUALMIE NATIONAL FOREST

NEW INVADERS-2014

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

Introduction

Welcome to the eighth 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*. 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 Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group 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 and subsequent amendments are available for both treating the weeds and restoring the site.

- The effects of treating the new sites are estimated and **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. The new sites are also reviewed by the Forest Archaeologist.
- Finally, an annual newsletter listing the new sites is to be produced and made available to interested parties. This document is the newsletter for 2014.

New Weed Sites and Selected Treatment and Site Restoration

Table 1 lists 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

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

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

On August 20, 2014 new sites were cleared by forest fisheries biologist. 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 treatments on August 6, 2014 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 with the forest invasive plant specialist on August 18, 2014 and concerns with any sites or proposed treatments are further addressed in treatment prescriptions on site by site basis. Further questions about concerns can be directed to Shauna Hee. Treatment with herbicides has no effect on heritage resources (see 2005 EA, pages 3–52 and 3–53 for further information on herbicide effects). Therefore,

treatment of the sites as prescribed 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 Survey/Manage plant species

There will be *No Impact* on Sensitive or Survey/Manage plant species with treatment of these newly-surveyed sites. Refer to the 2014 Botanical biological Evaluation at the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Supervisors office in Everett, Washington for the complete analysis.

Your Opportunity to Comment

To comment on any of these sites, please contact: Shauna Hee, North Zone Botanist, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, at 810 State Route 20, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98225; 360-854-2635 or shee@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 table below shows the new weeds to be treated and the chosen treatment method.

Table 1. Forest-wide Sites. 2014 Addenda to Table Decision-3 in the 2005 Environmental Assessment.

Site name/District	Species	Proposed treatment method	NRIS ID#	Selected restoration with rationale
Excelsior Access Roads & mine/MBRD	herb Robert	Spot application with either clopyralid or aquatic glyphosate with backpack sprayer, depending on distance from water. If water is present, clopyralid will be used staying at least 15 feet from the high water mark of the channel or ditch. Below the high water mark spot application with backpack sprayer of 2.5-5% aquatic glyphosate with Agri-Dex® surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye will be used. If a dry stream channel or ditch, clopyralid can be used to the edge of the high water mark. Small areas can hand-pull.	6050100154	Passive restoration
Burnt Knob Pit/MBRD	common hawkweed	Spot application with either clopyralid or aquatic glyphosate with backpack sprayer, depending on distance from water. If water is present, clopyralid will be used staying at least 15 feet from the high water mark of the channel or ditch. Below the high water mark spot application with backpack sprayer of 2.5-5% aquatic glyphosate with Agri-Dex® surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye will be used. If a dry stream channel or ditch, clopyralid can be used to the edge of the high water mark.	6050100153	Passive restoration
Tarr Pit, 1140 Road/MBRD	poison hemlock; birdsfoot trefoil	Same as common hawkweed.	6050100151; 6050100152	Passive restoration
Sulphur Creek Campground/DRD	herb Robert ; bull thistle	<u>Herb Robert</u> : Same as previously described. <u>Bull thistle</u> : Spot application with either clopyralid or aquatic glyphosate with backpack sprayer, depending on distance from water. If water is present, clopyralid will be used staying at least 15 feet from the high water mark of the channel or ditch. Below the high water mark spot application with backpack sprayer of 2.5-5% aquatic glyphosate with Agri-Dex® surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye will be used. If a dry stream channel	06050200252; 06050200253	Passive restoration

		or ditch, clopyralid can be used to the edge of the high water mark. Small areas can hand-pull or dig for bull thistle.		
Camp Silverton, Beaver Creek, and Waldheim slide/DRD	common periwinkle; meadow hawkweed	<u>Common periwinkle</u> : Manual removal of above ground vegetation, followed by spot application with either clopyralid or aquatic glyphosate with backpack sprayer, depending on distance from water. If water is present, clopyralid will be used staying at least 15 feet from the high water mark of the channel or ditch. Below the high water mark spot application with backpack sprayer of 2.5-5% aquatic glyphosate with Agri-Dex® surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye will be used. If a dry stream channel or ditch, clopyralid can be used to the edge of the high water mark. <u>Meadow hawkweed</u> : same as common hawkweed.	6050200124; 06050200255	Passive restoration
2424 Road, Funnybone thin/DRD	orange hawkweed	Same as common hawkweed.	06050200231	Passive restoration
2423 Road, Funnybone thin/DRD	bull thistle	Same as previously described.	06050200236	Passive restoration
2420 Road, Funnybone thin/DRD	Canada thistle	Spot application with either clopyralid or aquatic glyphosate with backpack sprayer, depending on distance from water. If water is present, clopyralid will be used staying at least 15 feet from the high water mark of the channel or ditch. Below the high water mark spot application with backpack sprayer of 2.5-5% aquatic glyphosate with Agri-Dex® surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye will be used. If a dry stream channel or ditch, clopyralid can be used to the edge of the high water mark.	06050200237	Passive restoration

Gold Basin Campground & gravel bar/DRD	common hawkweed	Same as previously described.	6050200254	Passive restoration
North Bend Compound/SNO	common tansy; butterfly bush; Scotch broom; Himalayan blackberry; yellow archangel; herb Robert	<p><u>Common tansy</u>: Spot application with either clopyralid or aquatic glyphosate with backpack sprayer, depending on distance from water. If water is present, clopyralid will be used staying at least 15 feet from the high water mark of the channel or ditch. Below the high water mark spot application with backpack sprayer of 2.5-5% aquatic glyphosate with Agri-Dex® surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye will be used. If a dry stream channel or ditch, clopyralid can be used to the edge of the high water mark. <u>Scotch broom</u>: Small plants may be hand-pulled. Above ground vegetation may be removed from large plants. Spot application or wicking with either clopyralid or aquatic glyphosate with backpack sprayer, depending on distance from water. If water is present, clopyralid will be used staying at least 15 feet from the high water mark of the channel or ditch. Below the high water mark spot application with backpack sprayer of 2.5-5% aquatic glyphosate with Agri-Dex® surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye will be used. If a dry stream channel or ditch, clopyralid can be used to the edge of the high water mark.</p> <p><u>Himalayan blackberry</u>: Spot application with backpack sprayer of dilute solution (2.5-5%) of aquatic formulation glyphosate with Agri-Dex® surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye. <u>Butterfly bush</u>: Plants less than 1" diameter can be hand pulled. Replace/pack down any disturbed soil. For plants more than 1", cut stump to ground, apply to stump a 50% solution of aquatic glyphosate with Agri-Dex® surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye. <u>Herb Robert</u>: Same as previously described. <u>Yellow archangel</u>: Spot application with backpack sprayer of dilute solution (2.5-5%) of aquatic formulation glyphosate with Agri-Dex® surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye. Small areas may be hand-pulled.</p>	06050500392; 06050500393; 06050500394; 06050500395; 06050500396; 06050500397	Passive restoration

Snoqualmie Pass TH/SNO	spotted knapweed	Spot application with either clopyralid or aquatic glyphosate with backpack sprayer, depending on distance from water. If water is present, clopyralid will be used staying at least 15 feet from the high water mark of the channel or ditch. Below the high water mark spot application with backpack sprayer of 2.5-5% aquatic glyphosate with Agri-Dex® surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye will be used. If a dry stream channel or ditch, clopyralid can be used to the edge of the high water mark. Small areas may be hand-pulled.	05-KW-026	Passive restoration
Stevens Pass ski area/SKY and on Wenatchee River RD (area administered by MBS)	tall hawkweed	Same as for common hawkweed.	06050600480, 06050600481	Passive restoration
FS Rd 70 & Greenwater gravel bars and banks/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.	6050500388	Active restoration - seeding/mulching (analyzed in separate project NEPA)
Jennifer Dunn Trail/SKY	yellow hawkweed	Same as for common hawkweed.	6050600482	Passive restoration
Miller River Rd (FS RD 6412)/SKY	yellow hawkweed	Same as for common hawkweed.	6050600483	Passive restoration
Martin Creek TH	Orange hawkweed	Same as for common hawkweed.	6050600484	Passive restoration
28 mile creek/SNO	herb Robert	Same as previously described.	6050500389	Passive restoration
FS Road 6024/SKY	herb Robert	Same as previously described.	6050600477	Passive restoration

Beckler Rock Pit/SKY	sulfur cinquefoil; yellow hawkweed;Bohemian knotweed	<u>Sulfur cinquefoil</u> : Spot application with back pack sprayer of 2.5-5% aquatic formulation of glyphosate with Agri-Dex surfactant and non-toxic marker dye mid-season. <u>Yellow hawkweed</u> : same as for common hawkweed. <u>Bohemian knotweed</u> : 1% aquatic imazapyr, 2% aquatic glyphosate, 1% Agri-Dex surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye. If water is present, backpack sprayer is allowed if at least 15 feet from water's edge. If closer than 15 feet use stem injection or hand wipe. If no water is present, a backpack sprayer may be used.	06050600037, 06050600478, 06050600479	Passive restoration
McClellan Butte TH/SNO	orange hawkweed; tansy ragwort; sulfur cinquefoil; herb Robert; spotted knapweed	Same as previously described.	06050500390, 06050500391, 05-KW-022, 05-TF-005, 05- TF-006	Passive restoration
Ranger Creek airstrip/SNO	Scotch broom; spotted knapweed	Same as previously described.	05-LP-089, 05- TF-018	Passive restoration
Above Beckler Peak TH parking area/SKY	Yellow hawkweed	Same as for common hawkweed.	06-AR-085	Passive restoration