

**Burned Area Emergency Response Plan  
Saddle Fire  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest**

**Vegetation Report**

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**I. Objectives**

- Identify noxious weed populations identified before the fire, and determine possible locations where their spread is likely to occur
- Provide recommendations for management to prevent noxious weed spread
- Identify locations of sensitive and threatened plant species

**A. Background information**

**General Information**

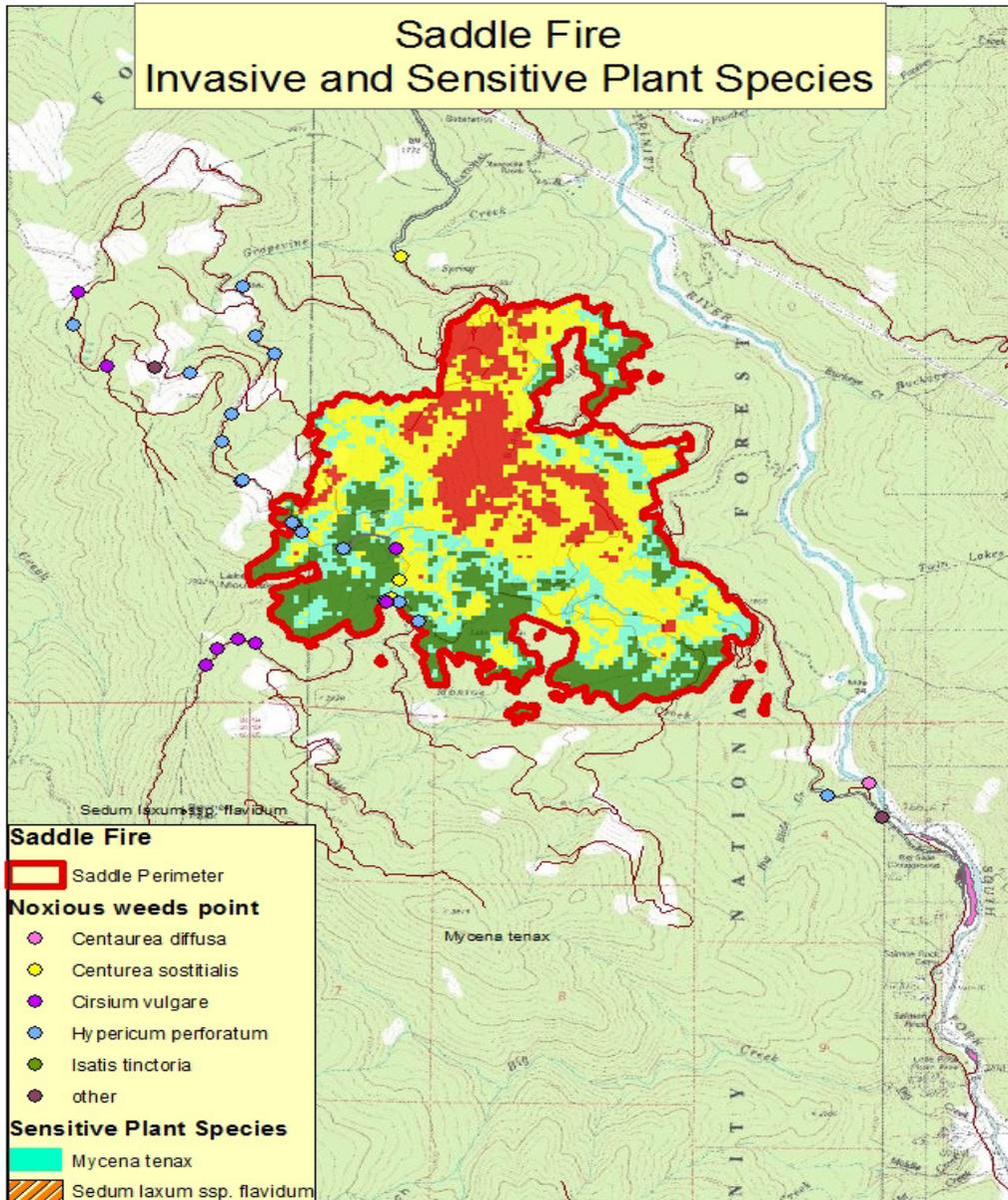
The Saddle fire burned a total of 1,542 acres located northwest of Hyampom, CA. A total of 1,178 acres of National Forest Service property was burned and the remaining 364 acres was private property. Two hundred and thirty acres burned at a high soil burn severity, 507 acres were moderate, 267 were low, and 555 were very low to unburned. The majority of the area burned by the Saddle fire was previously burned in 2004 during the Sims fire. The Sims fire's soil burn severity map is very similar to that seen on the Saddle fire. The Saddle burned area was mixed conifer and woodland consisting largely of tan oak and Douglas fir.

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### Rare Plants

No federally listed plant species were located within the fire perimeter. A sensitive plant population of *Sedum laxum ssp. flavidum*, is located on serpentine soils on Bennet Peak south of the fire. This plant is considered a “plant of limited distribution- a watch list”. No fire suppression activities occurred at this location.

### Noxious Weeds

Noxious weeds were identified within the fire perimeter. The majority of the populations were concentrated along the roadsides. See Table 1 for commonly found weed species in the fire area.

Scientific Name	Common Name	USDA Symbol	CDFW Weed Rating
<i>Centuarea solstitialis</i>	yellow starthistle	CESO3	C
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	bull thistle	CIVU	-
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	cheatgrass	BRTE	-
<i>Cynosurus echinatus</i>	hedgehog dogtail grass	CYEC	C
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	St. Johnswort/ Klamath weed	HYPE	C
<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	French broom	GEMO2	C

Table 1. Weeds identified within fire perimeter.

Other notable weeds in the area include spotted knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*), an A listed species, and barbed goatgrass (*Aegilops triuncialis*), a B listed species, approximately 2 and 6 miles from the fire perimeter, respectively.

## B. Reconnaissance Methods

Pre-fire noxious weed inventories were determined with NRIS (Natural Resource Inventory System) and FACTS (Forest Service Activity Tracking System) databases. Personal observations and surveys made by the Hayfork Watershed Center were made in 2014 while treating the 4N20 road for the *Centaurea solstitialis* on the Sims fire footprint. Observations were made during the fire from June 12-25.

## C. Findings/Description of Emergency

*Value at Risk:* Ecosystem stability of Native plant communities

*Priority Threats:* Dozer line construction and noxious weed introduction to the interior of the fire.

Invasion of noxious weeds can damage many functions of an ecosystem. The main concern for noxious weed invasion for this fire is erosion potential. When noxious weeds displace the native plants in an ecosystem, often times their root structures are not as adequately suited to hold onto the soil from erosion compared to the native species. Other concerns include degradation of wildlife habitat, changes in nutrient cycling, and changes to fire frequency and intensity.

A weed washing station arrived a few days after the fire began and was used at the basecamp in Hayfork on equipment being demobilized. As there was no weed washing required for incoming equipment, there is no guarantee that the equipment was free of weeds prior to working on the fire.

Vehicles are a main vector for weed transport, and the majority of the weeds found in the area are located along the roadsides, newly constructed dozer lines that intersect actively

used roads are the main concern for noxious weed spread. Previous to the fire suppression activities, vegetation acted as a barrier to prevent the noxious weeds found along the road from creeping into the interior. As part of suppression repair, the first 50 feet of intersections of dozer lines and actively used roads will be seeded with native seed and weed free rice straw during the fall of 2015 once the threat of the mulch burning is not a concern.

**Treatment Recommendations**

Weed detection surveys and treatments in 2016 are recommended at the intersections of actively used roads and dozer lines where seeding and mulching will occur. Early detection and rapid response methods will provide the best chance to prevent the colonization of noxious weeds into the interior of the fire area. Table 2 describes the locations of the seed and mulching sites to be completed as part of suppression repair and are the priority locations for weed detection surveys and treatment areas to take place. There were approximately 3.0 miles of dozer line that intersected with actively used roads throughout the fire that were on forest service lands.

ID#	hddd°mm.mmm'		Task	Completed			Comments
	Lat	Long		Y/N	Date	Date to be completed	
M1	40°40.418	-123°30.505	Seed & Mulch	N		Fall, 2015	intersection with county road 311, previously undisturbed
M2	40°40.437	-123°31.018	Seed & Mulch	N		Fall, 2015	4n15 road, previously a decommissioned road
M3	40°40.612	-123°32.452	Seed & Mulch	N		Fall, 2015	other side of arch site, previous undisturbed
M4	40°40.602	-123°32.862	Seed & Mulch	N		Fall, 2015	near arch site, previously undisturbed
M5	40°41.458	-123°33.023	Seed & Mulch	N		Fall, 2015	4n59 and 4n20, previously undisturbed
M6	40°41.473	-123°33.057	Seed & Mulch	N		Fall, 2015	4n59 and 4n20, previously undisturbed
M7	40°41.753	-123°32.198	Seed & Mulch	N		Fall, 2015	north of dp 12, prviously undisturbed
M8	40°41.743	-123°32.087	Seed & Mulch	N		Fall, 2015	drop point 12, previously used as a pullout/parking location
M9	40°42.023	-123°31.822	Seed & Mulch	N		Fall, 2015	dozer line between dp 12 and dp 10, previously undisturbed
M10	40°42.037	-123°31.818	Seed & Mulch	N		Fall, 2015	dozer line between dp 12 and dp 10, previously undisturbed

ID#	hddd°mm.mmm'		Task	Completed			Comments
	Lat	Long		Y/N	Date	Date to be completed	
M11	40°42.058	-123°31.788	Seed & Mulch	N		Fall, 2015	dozer line between dp 12 and dp 10, previously undisturbed
M12	40°42.022	-123°31.775	Seed & Mulch	N		Fall, 2015	dozer line between dp 12 and dp 10, previously undisturbed

Table 2. Seed and mulch locations.

### Treatment Costs

Item	Units	Unit Cost	# of Units	BAER \$
<b>Monitoring</b>				
Weed Detection Survey	Miles	700	3	2,100
<b>TOTAL ALL LINE ITEMS</b>				2,100

### References

- Cal-IPC 2012. California Invasive Plant Inventory Database, [Online]. California Invasive Plant Council, Berkeley, California. <http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/inventory/weedlist.php>
- CDFA 2010. Pest Ratings of Noxious Weed Species and Noxious Weed Seed, [Online]. California Department of Food and Agriculture, Division of Plant Health & Pest Prevention Services, Sacramento, California. [http://cdfa.ca.gov/plant/ipc/weedinfo/winfo\\_list-pestrating.htm](http://cdfa.ca.gov/plant/ipc/weedinfo/winfo_list-pestrating.htm)
- CNPS 2012. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants v8-01a, [Online]. California Native Plant Society, Sacramento, California. <http://www.rareplants.cnps.org>
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