



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

San Bernardino National Forest
Mountain Top Ranger District

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Fawnskin, CA 92333
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File Code: 1950

Date: July 29, 2005

Re: Invasive Weed Removal at Juniper Point
and the Big Bear Ranger Station

Dear Friend of the San Bernardino National Forest,

Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria genstifolia* ssp. *dalmatica*) and Sweet Pea (*Lathyrus latifolius*) are invasive, non-native shrubs found throughout areas of California. Existing populations on the Mountaintop Ranger District of the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) include Juniper Point and the Big Bear Ranger Station. Dalmatian toadflax is also found along the Pine Knot trail adjacent to the Aspen Glen Picnic Area. Forest Service personnel have tried to eradicate the plant by physical removal (hand pulling and hand tools) for the past four years with no success and I am considering using herbicides to protect the adjacent rare plant habitat these weeds are encroaching upon. These weeds have the ability to monopolize the rare meadow habitat in which they are encroaching and crowd out several rare and endangered species that reside there.

The Mountaintop Ranger District of the SBNF is proposing to remove and permanently eradicate these two populations, by a combination of physical removal and herbicide application at the Big Bear Ranger Station and Juniper Point located across from the Big Bear Ranger Station during the summer of 2005. We propose to remove individuals manually (with hand tools) and to spray new growth with Rodeo, a glyphosphate herbicide registered for use in or near aquatic sites. All cut reproductive material (flowers and seeds) will be securely bagged and burned at the Big Bear Ranger Station to prevent any live seeds from sprouting. We expect total control by 2006, but will follow up with annual monitoring and treatment if necessary. In all cases, herbicide use will be focused within a small area and applied directly to individual plants, not aerially broadcast. Herbicide application will conform to label requirements and be administered by a certified pesticide/herbicide applicator.

The decision to be made is whether to implement the proposed action as described, to modify the proposed action to meet the purpose and need for action through some other combination of activities, or to defer any action at this time. We are asking you to make written comments concerning the scope of the project, and any issues. Please be as specific as possible when describing your concerns. Please submit your comments by August 30, 2005. Send comments to:

Linda Stamer
Big Bear Ranger Station
P.O. Box 290
Fawnskin, Ca 92333



Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. For more details regarding submitting comments under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and rights under the Freedom of Information Act, please visit the NEPA webpage at <http://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/components/sopa-dscr.shtml#planning> or contact Linda Stamer.

If you have questions about the proposal please write or call Linda Stamer, Biologist at (909) 382-2827, lstamer@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jon C. Regelbrugge

JON C. REGELBRUGGE
Deputy District Ranger