



File Code: 1950

Date: July 13, 2010

Dear Interested Parties:

The US Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species (TIPS) Project. This project proposes to treat TIPS on National Forest System (NFS) lands managed by the LTBMU through manual, mechanical, thermal and chemical treatment.

**Summary of Alternatives:**

The EA evaluates two alternatives in detail. A summary of these alternatives is described below. A complete description of these alternatives is provided in the EA.

**Alternative 1 – No Action**

Under the No Action Alternative, the LTBMU would treat the 34 currently known TIPS (found in 493 locations and totaling approximately 8.9 acres) with the manual methods traditionally used (hand pulling, pulling using tools, and clipping). This would occur on all future infestations, as well as the currently known infestations. Nearly three-quarters of the infested acres include TIPS that do not respond well to manual treatment; however, there would be no mechanical, thermal, or chemical treatments of any TIPS populations on the Forest, so the current TIPS infestations would be expected to continue to expand.

**Alternative 2 – Proposed action**

Under the proposed action, LTBMU would treat the 34 currently known TIPS by manual, mechanical, thermal, or chemical (herbicides) methods, or by a combination of those methods. Currently, these TIPS are found in 493 locations, which together contain approximately 8.9 infested acres (weeds only) spread throughout 309 gross acres (weeds intermixed with other plants and bare earth). Manual, mechanical, and thermal treatments are proposed for the one-quarter of known infested acres that can be effectively treated by manual methods; these treatments are also proposed for infestations discovered in the future, on as many acres as are feasible with such methods. Chemical treatments are proposed for the TIPS that do not respond well to manual treatments; currently, three-quarters of the known infested acres fall into this category. Chemical treatments are proposed using hand selective, directed spray, or limited broadcast methods, on up to 100 infested acres annually. Only herbicides that have been approved for use in the respective states of California or Nevada would be used (aminopyralid, chlorsulfuron, glyphosate, and aminopyralid/triclopyr pre-mix (Milestone VM Plus)).

In addition to the 34 known TIPS, this project proposes to treat any new species of TIPS found on NFS lands in Lake Tahoe Basin, by manual, mechanical, thermal, or chemical methods.

The EA is available for review at the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 and online at <http://fs.usda.gov/ltbmu>, under "Land and Resources Management" and search "Projects." Additional information regarding this proposal can be



obtained from Cheryl Beyer at (530) 543-2842.

**How to Comment and Timeframe**

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of the legal notice in the Tahoe Daily Tribune. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.

Written comments must be submitted to: Terri Marceron, Forest Supervisor, re: TIPS Project, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Oral comments must be provided at the Forest Supervisor's office during normal business hours, via telephone (530) 543-2600, or in person, or at an official agency function (i.e. public meeting) that is designed to elicit public comments. No public meetings are planned at this time. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to [comments-pacificsouthwest-ltbmu@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificsouthwest-ltbmu@fs.fed.us) using Subject: TIPS Project. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for appeal eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 215.6.

This comment period is intended to provide those interested in or affected by this proposal an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to a decision being made by the Forest Supervisor. Those who provide comments or otherwise express interest in the proposal by the close of the comment period will be eligible to appeal the decision pursuant to 36 CFR part 215 regulations.

Sincerely,



TERRI MARCERON  
Forest Supervisor

cc: Cheryl Beyer, Joey Keely, Matt Dickinson