



MT. BAKER-SNOQUALMIE NATIONAL FOREST

NEW INVADERS-2011

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

Introduction

Welcome to the sixth 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 2011.

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 May 12, 2011 the Level 1 Team, including National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, met to review the new weed sites. With five exceptions, the sites were determined to have *No Effect* on listed fish or critical habitats and were not brought before the team. The five exceptions that were brought before the team were determined to *May Affect but would not likely adversely affect* threatened fish species or designated critical habitat. 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 treatment on May 16, 2011 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 on May 23, 2011 and had no concerns with these sites or proposed treatments. 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 April 6, 2011 Botanical Biological Evaluation at the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Supervisor's Office in Everett, Washington for the complete analysis.

Your Opportunity to Comment

To comment on any of these sites, please contact: Sarah Prince, Invasive Plant Specialist, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, at 2930 Wetmore Avenue, Suite 3A, Everett, WA 98201; 425-783-6042 or saprinco2@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. 2011 Addenda to Table Decision-3 in the 2005 Environmental Assessment.

Site name/District MB = Mt. Baker DRD = Darrington SRD = Skykomish SNO = Snoqualmie	Species	Proposed treatment method	NRIS ID#	Selected restoration with rationale
Illabot Road #16 @ MP 11.9, 12.5, 15.0 & 15.4/MB	Butterfly bush; orange hawkweed; yellow hawkweed; herb robert	For butterfly bush: plants less than 1" diameter can be hand pulled or removed with a weed-wrench. Replace/pack down any disturbed soil. For plants more than 1", cut stump to ground, plant with a 50% solution of aquatic glyphosate with Agri-Dex® surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye. For orange and yellow 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. For herb robert: hand-pull and carefully bag the plants, then remove to a landfill.	06050100132, 06050100127, 06050100128, 06050100126	Because of its size, the meadow hawkweed site will need to be seeded and mulched. All the others are less than 0.1 acre and require no active restoration.
SR 542 @ Road 3071	Orange hawkweed	Same as described above.	06050100125	Passive restoration; site is less than 0.1 acre

Monte Cristo town site/DRD	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.	06050200123	Passive restoration; site is less than 0.1 acre
Suiattle River Road #26 @ MP 7.6/DRD	Yellow hawkweed	Same as above	06050200178	Passive restoration; site is less than 0.1 acre
Road 2420 #2 and #3/DRD	Orange hawkweed	Same as for common hawkweed	06050200189, 06050200191	Passive restoration; site is less than 0.1 acre
Road 4020 @ MP 4.4/DRD	Yellow archangel	Spot application with backpack sprayer of 2.5-5% aquatic glyphosate with Agri-Dex® surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye in the fall	06050200130	Passive restoration; site is less than 0.1 acre
Road 4020 from MP 0.5 to 5.1/DRD	Common hawkweed	Same as previously described.	06050200131	This is a chronically disturbed road side and not intended to be vegetated.
Darrington Seed Orchard/DRD	Sulfur cinquefoil, Canada thistle, orange hawkweed	For sulfur cinquefoil: 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. For Canada thistle and orange hawkweed: same as described previously.	06050200195, 06050200197, 06050200198	Treatment of this site will occur over several years due to its size, and seeding and mulching will occur after the infestation is down by at least 50%.

Queensgate riparian restoration area/DRD	Cutleaf blackberry, herb robert,	For 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. For blackberries: same as for herb robert, but spray in the fall as the berries begin to ripen.	06050200141, 06050200142, 06050200144, 06050200145, 06050200161, 06050200146, 06050200148	Sites are part of an overall restoration project; passive restoration or planting of trees.
Queensgate riparian restoration area/DRD	Canada thistle	Same as for the hawkweeds	06050200147	Passive restoration: site is less than 0.1 acre
Queensgate riparian restoration area/DRD	Scotchbroom	Small plants can be hand pulled or removed with a weed-wrench. On larger bushes, cut stump to ground level, paint stump with a dilute solution (2.5-5%) of aquatic formulation glyphosate with Agri-Dex® surfactant, and non-toxic marker dye.	06050200140	Restoration N/A: site receives chronic disturbance.
Queensgate riparian restoration area/DRD	Sulfur cinquefoil	Same as described previously.	06050200143	Passive restoration: site is less than 0.1 acre
Road 65, MP 10.9/SRD	Orange hawkweed	Described previously.	06-KW-017	Passive restoration; site is less than 0.1 acre
Road 65, MP 11.0/SRD	Orange hawkweed	Described previously	06-KW-024	Passive restoration; site is less than 0.1 acre
Road 65/SRD	Sulfur cinquefoil	Described previously.	06-SS-068	Passive restoration; site is less than 0.1 acre
Lake Serene Trailhead/SRD	Orange hawkweed	Described previously.	06050600034	Restoration n/a; site receives chronic disturbance
Beckler pit/SRD	Herb robert	Described previously.	06050600036	Restoration n/a; site receives chronic disturbance
Beckler pit/SRD	Sulfur cinquefoil	Described previously.	06050600037	Restoration n/a; site receives chronic disturbance

Beckler pit/SRD	Canada thistle	Described previously.	06050600038	Restoration n/a; site receives chronic disturbance
Lake Serene/SRD	Jewelweed	Hand-pull, bag carefully, and remove to a land fill.	06050600035	Passive restoration, adjacent native vegetation will re-seed the site quickly.
Road 6514/SRD	Diffuse knapweed	Same as for the hawkweeds.	06050600202	Restoration n/a: site receives chronic disturbance.
Tinkham Campground/SNO	Herb robert	Described previously.	05-KW-023	Restoration n/a: site receives chronic disturbance.
South Fork Snoqualmie gravel bars/SNO	Tansy ragwort	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.	05-KW-024	Restoration n/a: site receives chronic disturbance on gravel bars. Passive restoration on stream banks as adjacent native vegetation will re-seed the site quickly.

Road 70 & 70-210/SNO	Canada thistle	Described previously.	06050500077	Passive restoration, adjacent native vegetation will re-seed the site quickly. Restoration n/a: along 4x4 roads as site receives chronic disturbance.
Upper Road 70/SNO	Spotted knapweed	Same as for the hawkweeds.	06050500076	Passive restoration: site is less than 0.1 acre and on disturbed roadside.