

**2014 - 2015 SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS  
PUBLIC LAW 110-343  
TITLE II PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM  
USDA FOREST SERVICE**

**Name of Resource Advisory Committee:** Prince William Sound  
**Project Number** (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):  
**Funding Fiscal Year(s):** 2016-2017

<b>2. Project Name:</b> Invasive Plant Control and Mitigation in Cordova and Copper River Delta	<b>3a. State:</b> Alaska <b>3b. County(s):</b>
<b>4. Project Submitted By:</b> Copper River Watershed Project	<b>5. Date:</b> June 15, 2016
<b>6. Contact Phone Number:</b> 907-424-3334	<b>7. Contact E-mail:</b> danielle@copperriver.org

<b>8. Project Location:</b>	
a. National Forest(s): Chugach	b. Forest Service District: Cordova
c. Location (Township-Range-Section) Township 15S, Ranger 3W, Section 27	

**9. Project Goals and Objectives:**  
 The goals of this two-year project, as laid out in the Cordova Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) Plan, are to prevent the introduction of invasive plants in the Cordova area, to eradicate whenever possible those invasive plants already in the Cordova area, and to minimize to the extent possible the impacts of invasive plants that cannot be eradicated.

**10. Project Description:**

a. Brief: *(in one sentence)*  
 This project will manage and control invasive plants in Cordova and on the Copper River Delta with an aim to protect the native and natural ecology of the region while reducing the impact of invasive plants on native flora and fauna and associated habitat.

b. Detailed:  
 The Copper River Watershed Project began its invasive weeds program in 2011 and has since been collaborating with public and private partners in Cordova and beyond. An initial investment of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) funds, with additional support from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's "Pulling Together" Initiative, set a solid foundation for control of three high priority aggressive invasive weed species in Cordova: reed canarygrass, Bohemian knotweed and orange hawkweed. Since then our invasive weeds program has been supported by SRS Title II funding from the PWS RAC, through a partnership agreement with the U.S. Forest Service Cordova Ranger District, and the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts. These funds enabled the establishment of the Cordova CWMA Plan and supported several control activities and projects. Early activities also included a pilot study to test different treatments for reed canarygrass growing in water. Our initial and continuing efforts revealed that the extent of invasive plants was much broader than originally thought, in addition to aiding in the identification of infestations of previously unknown or unstudied invasive plant species in the Cordova area (e.g., Elodea, oxeye daisy, common tansy, yellow toadflax,

pink weed). From the Cordova area in 2014, we submitted 39.85 acres of surveyed area and 28.16 acres of infested area; in 2015, we submitted 42.6 acres of surveyed area and 22.6 acres of infested area (these values include repeated site visits for multiple control techniques, i.e. seed head removal, digging, and/or herbicide application).

We propose to use additional SRS funds to continue the treatments on currently managed plots of invasive plants and to continue to work with partners to inventory new infestations and implement treatments when possible. By the end of an additional two years the Cordova CWMA Team will:

**Inventory new locations for invasive plants for treatment and long-term monitoring:**

Regular, thorough inventories and consistent monitoring of invasive plant infestations results in accurate documentation of species presence/absence and changes in distribution. This allows for better tracking of management efforts and results in improvements of control strategies, as well as an increase in understanding of the characteristics and threat of unique invasive plant species. All data are recorded on standardized datasheets and submitted annually to the Alaska Exotic Plant Information Clearinghouse (AKEPIC). AKEPIC is an online, public, statewide database of invasive plant infestations including species, location, and treatment effort. Data are also recorded in the USFS NRIS corporate database.

**Continue mechanical and chemical treatments of the primary invasive plant species:**

Our target invasive plant species include orange hawkweed, Bohemian knotweed, reed canarygrass, and bird vetch as well as a lesser degree of treatment on lower priority species such as yellow toadflax, oxeye daisy, common tansy, pink weed, and any new invasive plants identified. Treatment methods include seed head removal, mowing, digging, tarping, and herbicide application when permitted. Re-vegetation will also occur on lands where invasive plants have been eradicated, including an estimated 0.1 acres of land where reed canarygrass is currently being treated by tarping (2 mile on the Copper River Highway). Many of the current infestations in Cordova are located on roadsides and in private (residential) yards. These sites include the Copper River Highway 0 – 6 mile, 6 Mile Road, Vina Young subdivision, Whitshed Road 0 – 2 mile, Whiskey Ridge Subdivision, Eccles Lagoon, Nirvana Park, Odiak Pond, Skater's Cabin, Council Avenue, and various private lots. Our continued goal is to prevent the spread of invasive species onto the Copper River Delta and surrounding uplands, including the Mt. Eyak Ski Hill and Heney Range extending south to Point Whitshed. Invasive plant infestations on the Copper River Delta are currently limited to reed canarygrass at One-eyed Pond (18.2 mile Copper River Highway) and Sheridan Road, and yellow toadflax at 12 mile Copper River Highway. Treatment is ongoing at all locations. Successful eradication of aggressive invasive species requires a long-term, coordinated effort of diverse public and private partners. Community volunteers, USFS work crews, and youth program participants have been successful sources of assistance with treatment and we anticipate that will continue.

**Continue to participate in statewide collaborative efforts to control invasive plants:**

The CRWP Invasive Weeds Program Coordinator has been participating in the annual statewide Alaska Invasive Species Conference since 2012. This conference/workshop is hosted by the Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plants Management in Alaska and rotates annually between Anchorage, Fairbanks, and a remote location. Cordova has been suggested as a future conference location, in part because of our established Invasive Weeds Program efforts. The Program Coordinator also regularly participates in monthly CNIPM teleconferences. Funding is requested to support staff participation at this conference to continue networking and collaborating with partners located outside of Cordova. This allows the Program Coordinator to discuss lessons learned and share other resources, as well as stay involved in statewide invasive plant concerns.

Additionally, the Program Coordinator will continue to participate in statewide planning efforts to address Elodea, an aquatic invasive plant that has been identified as a statewide eradication priority. Elodea was identified in Eyak Lake in Cordova in the mid-1980s (Eyak Lake Area Meriting Special Attention Report, 1985), however, full inventories were only completed in recent years (2015/2016). Eyak Lake is used frequently for floatplane activity and poses a significant threat as a point of distribution for Elodea to more remote, pristine lakes and aquatic systems on the Copper River Delta, in the Copper Basin, and in Prince William Sound. There are currently a number of other lakes, ponds, and sloughs infested on the Copper River Delta, including Martin Lake, McKinley Lake, Bering Lake, and Eyak Cannery Ponds. Efforts to control the spread of this invasive plant will occur through coordinated education and outreach efforts facilitated by the CRWP with the U.S. Forest Service and Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

**Expand education and outreach efforts:**

The CRWP staff will continue to work with local partners, including the Alaska Department of Transportation, City of Cordova, Cordova Electric Cooperative, Cordova Telephone Cooperative, outfitter guides, and private landowners to ensure crews, educators, and residents are able to identify invasive plants, understand the threat they pose to native ecosystems, and ensure that they know the appropriate contacts to report infestations. Outreach will occur through community presentations, guided field trips, one-on-one contact, and community festivals. The CRWP and partners will also expand their education efforts to include youth participants in programs currently coordinated by Cordova School District, CRWP, and the Prince William Sound Science Center. Youth audiences will also assist with eradication activities to help instill a sense of ownership and responsibility for protecting our public lands from invasive plants.

**11. Types of Lands Involved?**

State/Private/Other lands involved?  Yes  No

**Land Status:**

If Yes, specify: AK DOT&PF rights-of-way, utility corridors, City of Cordova lands; homeowner lots, and other public and privately owned lands.

**12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? (Check at least 1)**

- Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure.
- Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems.
- Restores and improves land health.
- Restores water quality

**13. Project Type**

a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Road Maintenance                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Maintenance                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Road Decommission/Obliteration              | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Obliteration                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify): |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soil Productivity Improvement    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Health Improvement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Restoration & Maintenance         | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat Restoration         |

<input type="checkbox"/> Fish Habitat Restoration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Control of Noxious Weeds
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reestablish Native Species	<input type="checkbox"/> Fuels Management/Fire Prevention
<input type="checkbox"/> Implement CWPP Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Project Type (specify):
b. Primary Purpose (select only 1): Control of Noxious Weeds	

<b>14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish</b>
Acres of soil productivity improved: 15
Miles of stream/river restored/improved: 1
Acres of native species reestablished: 2
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction): 1
Acres of noxious weeds controlled: 15
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks: 1.5
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention): 500
Direct economic activity benefit:
Other:

<b>15. Estimated Project Start Date:</b> 1/1/2017	<b>16. Estimated Project Completion Date:</b> 12/31/2018
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**17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.**

The Cordova Invasive Weeds Program has been a collaborative effort since its inception in 2011. Our partners include City of Cordova, Cordova Electric Cooperative, Cordova Telephone Cooperative, Eyak Corporation, Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, US Forest Service, Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, Prince William Sound Science Center, and local homeowners.

**18. Identify benefits to communities.**

The CRWP anticipates that in addition to helping public and private landowners prevent their properties from being overtaken by aggressive monoculture plants, this project will protect public areas such as Mt. Eyak Ski Hill's alpine meadows and wetlands and the Copper River Delta's productive wetlands and streams. This project will assist with maintaining the native vegetative diversity and intact ecosystem that is critical to our sustainable dependence on our natural resources. This project will also create valuable stewardship opportunities for young participants, instilling a greater sense of responsibility and ownership for the protection of our natural ecosystems.

**19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?**

A number of noxious and highly invasive plant populations have been identified on the Chugach Forest and neighboring areas. However, Alaska, and particularly Cordova, is in a unique position to limit the spread of these species into natural and pristine areas which are largely free of non-native species. One of these areas is the Copper River Delta, a State Critical Habitat Area (Alaska Statute 16.20.600). Many of these introduced invasive species have the potential to disrupt natural ecological processes including out-competing and replacing native plant communities and degrading wildlife and fisheries habitats. Similarly, invasive plants can cause disruption and degradation to desired vegetation,

including those on lawns and road rights-of-way. Once invasive plants are established, the likelihood of eradication is significantly reduced and becomes much more expensive. The most efficient way by far to manage invasive plants is to prevent introduction, which can be done through education and vigilance. The next best management option is to limit spread of existing invasive plants through early detection and rapid response with control and eradication measures.

This project targets plants on private lands before they can spread to surrounding public lands. The top priority species and their invasiveness rankings (on a scale of 0 – 100 points) and potential impacts are (AKEPIC, <http://aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/botany/akepic/non-native-plants-alaska/>):

- Reed canarygrass (83): Reed canarygrass forms dense, persistent monocultures in wetlands and in disturbed areas. Dense stands can promote silt deposition and constrict waterways, and may even alter soil hydrology.
- Bohemian knotweed (87): Bohemian knotweed is a hybrid between Japanese knotweed and giant knotweed. It forms monocultures and reduce plant diversity by replacing and eliminating native vegetation. It can clog waterways and lowers the quality of habitat for wildlife and fish, reducing food supplies for juvenile salmon in the spring.
- Orange hawkweed (79): Orange hawkweed establishes dense monocultures, lowering biodiversity and outcompeting native species.
- Elodea (79): Elodea can form dense mats, displace native plants, decrease primary productivity, and lower biodiversity.
- Bird vetch (73): Bird vetch is a climbing perennial that can cling to structures and quickly overgrow over vegetation; it is extremely difficult to control.
- Yellow toadflax (69): Yellow toadflax is a persistent and aggressive invader. It can suppress native grasses and other perennial plants, and readily spreads into adjacent undisturbed areas. It reproduces both by seeds and creeping rhizomes.
- Oxeye daisy (61): Oxeye daisy forms dense colonies that decrease plant diversity. Heavy infestations increase potential for soil erosion.

<b>20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment?</b> (check at least 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce
<input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agreement
<input type="checkbox"/> Americorps	<input type="checkbox"/> YCC/CCC Crews
<input type="checkbox"/> Job Corps	<input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Contract
<input type="checkbox"/> Merchantable Timber Pilot	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):

**21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Timber?**  Yes  No

<b>22. Anticipated Project Costs</b>
a. Title II Funds Requested: \$130,335
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:**

Sources of other funding include:

- Alaska Association of Conservation Districts' Invasive Plant Program
- Time donated by Alaska DOT&PF Cordova Maintenance Station to control weeds in DOT rights-of-way
- Time donated by our CWMA partners in planning and executing invasive plant control efforts on respective lands
- Time donated by local utility cooperatives in learning about invasive plant species and identifying and notifying CRWP of infestation locations
- Time donated by volunteers that aid in control and management efforts during organized events

**24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment)**

- a. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above.

The Invasive Weeds Program Coordinator will track progress on invasive plant treatments in addition to coordinating education and outreach efforts. Following removal of tarps currently on reed canarygrass infestations, we will monitor the area for potential regrowth and the status of native species planted in the area as part of our re-vegetation efforts. The historical data that we have collected during our initial years of invasive plant work will be compared to data from future field seasons to understand the impacts that our control and eradication efforts have had on invasive plant populations in Cordova. We will also continue to maintain our database of invasive plant infestation locations. The data that we collect on invasive plant location and area will be submitted to the AKEPIC database for state-wide monitoring. We will also monitor the sensitive areas that we have identified (the Copper River Delta and Mt. Eyak Ski Hill) for any signs of invasive plants or severe disturbance that could become suitable habitat for invasive plants.

- b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring: Copper River Watershed Project
- c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k):

Included in annual salary requested for the Invasive Weeds Program Coordinator

**25. Identify remedies for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement.**

If project cannot be completed under the terms of this agreement:

- Unused funds will be returned to the RAC account.
- Other, please explain:

**Project Recommended By:**

*/s/ (INSERT Signature)*  
**Chairperson**

Resource Advisory Committee

**Project Approved By:**

*/s/ (INSERT Signature)*  
**Forest Supervisor**

National Forest

## Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

### Worksheet 1

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

Item	Column A Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution	Column B Requested Title II Contribution	Column C Other Contributions	Column D Total Available Funds
a. Field Work & Site Surveys	\$3,000			\$3,000
b. NEPA/CEQA				
c. ESA Consultation				
d. Permit Acquisition				
e. Project Design & Engineering				
f. Contract/Grant Preparation				
g. Contract/Grant Administration				
h. Contract/Grant Cost				
i. Salaries (incl. payroll taxes & Workers' Comp. insurance)	\$6,000	\$101,553	\$15,000	\$122,553
j. Materials & Supplies	\$1,000	\$900		\$1,900
k. Monitoring				
l. Other				
1. Travel		\$2,200		\$2,200
2. Partner Indirect Cost		\$25,682		\$25,682
m. Project Sub-Total	\$10,000	\$130,335	\$15,000	\$155,335
n. FS Indirect Costs				
<b>Total Cost Estimate</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$130,335</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$155,335</b>

#### NOTES:

- a. Pre-NEPA Costs
- g. Includes Contracting/Grant Officer Representative (COR) costs. Excludes Contracting/Grant Officer costs.
- i. Cost of implementing project
- l. Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.
- n. Forest Service indirect costs, including contracting/grant officer costs if needed.

## Recipient Performance Report

Agreement Number: 11-DG-11100400-095

Start Date: 8/12/11

Project Title: Preventing Copper River Delta Invasive Plant Infestations

Expiration Date: 12/31/15

Dates Covered by this Report\*: 1/1/15 to 8/18/15

Please provide brief information on the following:

### 1. Status Summary:

The Copper River Watershed Project (CRWP) completed invasive plant management and outreach efforts associated with this grant during 2015. The original period covered by the grant was extended to December 31, 2015, with additional funds awarded several times for a total of \$237,667. As of August 18, 2015, we have spent all funds allocated to this grant. We completed four field seasons of control work and led/participated in a variety of general public and volunteer activities. Our control projects focused on high priority species such as reed canarygrass, orange hawkweed, and bohemian knotweed with an aim to prevent further spread around Cordova and to the sensitive habitat of the Copper River Delta.

### 2. What has been accomplished to date? Please provide a comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives established in the project narrative (quantify where possible):

We have completed four field seasons through this grant agreement. The majority of our invasive plant control work was done through manual removal (i.e., digging, pulling, and seed head removal), although we also used mechanical methods such as tarping and mowing. Our priority species were reed canarygrass, orange hawkweed, and bohemian knotweed, however we also controlled invasive populations of yellow toadflax, oxeye daisy, common tansy, buttercup, bird vetch, common dandelion, and others. Since our primary goal was to prevent the spread of invasive plants onto the Copper River Delta, our priority control location was the right-of-way of the Copper River Highway. Specifically on the Copper River Highway, treatment locations for reed canarygrass included One-eyed Pond at 18.2 mile (this site is located on the Copper River Delta at a Forest Service recreation site), 4 mile, and 2 mile. In September 2014 we discovered a small (0.02 acre) infestation of reed canarygrass adjacent to Sheraton Road on the Copper River Delta on land owned by the Eyak Corporation. The extent of this infestation remained the same in 2015. Reed canarygrass and other species were also found and treated in a variety of locations around Cordova including the right-of-way of Whitshed Road, the Whiskey Ridge subdivision, the Vina Young subdivision, Odiak Pond, adjacent to Skaters Cabin on Power Creek Road, and residential yards.

We submitted our control and inventory data to the Alaska Exotic Plant Information Clearinghouse, a statewide database of invasive plant infestations. These data included infestation location, size, target species, and treatment methods used, including multiple site visits in a given year. In 2014, we submitted 39.85 acres of surveyed area and 28.16 acres of infested area. In 2015, we submitted 42.6 acres of surveyed area and 22.6 acres of infested area from Cordova.

Significant control projects that we completed during the period of this grant include:

The installation of high-excluding tarps stretching over a quarter of a mile in the right-of-way of the Copper River Highway at 4 mile, covering a roughly 2 acre infestation of reed canarygrass. In 2014, with help from an eight person crew from the Southeast Alaska Guidance Association, we manually removed plants growing adjacent to the tarps, removed the tarps, and revegetated the area with native red fescue seed. The infestation was significantly reduced and the revegetation was a success. Treatment continued on the regrowth of reed canarygrass plants in that section of right-of-way in 2015.

The installation of tarps over a 0.5 acre infestation of reed canarygrass at 2 mile on the Copper River Highway. The tarps were installed in October 2014 with the help of six volunteers and will remain in place for two to three growing seasons before removal and revegetation.

Tarping at two sites near Copper River Seafoods on New England Cannery Road and one site along 6 Mile Road between 2011 and 2013. These tarps were removed in 2015 and revegetated with a native seed mix provided by the Alaska Plant Materials Center.

A control and revegetation project of bohemian knotweed during August 2015, in coordination with the City of Cordova, the Alaska Plant Materials Center (PMC), DOWL Engineering, Eagle Contracting, and three homeowners. This site had been treated manually and chemically for several years with little impact to the 0.1 acre infestation.

Using as a model a similar project completed in Kodiak, project implementation occurred in several stages. First, per the requirement of the City of Cordova to work on City-owned right-of-way that runs diagonally through the infestation area, an engineer from DOWL visited the site and provided advice and drawings on re-contouring the slope and improving drainage on the site. The City deemed this necessary for site safety given the steep slope and adjacent residential homes. Second, the site was prepped by removing debris and excess vegetative material (knotweed plants were manually cut at the base and disposed of in the local burn pile). Third, Eagle Contracting removed the top layer of soil and vegetative material, including root mass, from most of the site. They gently re-contoured the slope, avoiding several sewer lines previously identified by the Public Works Department that crossed private property and City right-of-way. Poor drainage on the site was corrected by manually deepening drainage channels and adding rip-rap and fine sediments to facilitate water flow down the hillside. Lastly, agronomists traveling from the PMC in Palmer, AK, used a hydroseeder to apply a topsoil replacement product, fertilizer, and a native seed mix. Monthly follow-up visits showed an abundant growth of native grasses and a diminished return of knotweed. The knotweed regrowth was treated with herbicide using a sponge application method in September and a follow-up visit is planned for spring 2016.

The final treatment and removal of tarps in the Odiak Pond treatment trial initiated in 2012. The treatment trial was designed to document the effectiveness and effort required to control reed canarygrass in an aquatic environment using six 18' diameter plots. The plots were (1) control, no treatment, (2) hand digging, (3) mowing, (4) hand-digging and tarp cover, (5) mowing and tarp cover, and (6) herbicide. Effectiveness will be assessed in the 2016 field season.

Our education and outreach efforts shared information with the general public regarding identifying, managing, and preventing the introduction and spread of invasive weeds through a variety of media. We wrote several articles for The Cordova Times, aired radio ads, designed and disseminated brochures, shared up-to-date information through the Invasive Plant Management page and home page of our website, and shared related material on our Facebook page. We also engaged youth and adults by sharing information at our various fundraising events throughout the year and by providing volunteer opportunities, such as aiding a local high school student in completing 7.5 hours of community service by managing invasive plants. We provided training to the staff of the Cordova Electric Cooperative (17 people) and the ground crew of the Cordova Telephone Cooperative (5 people) about invasive plant reporting and management. We organized a one-day Gardener Class taught by a local Master Gardener and gave a lesson on invasive plants to participants. We worked with local youth at the Cordova native plant garden and led an activity during the Prince William Sound Science Center's camp for kids. We gave a presentation on invasive species and our management program at the Prince William Sound Science Center's Tuesday evening lecture series in both 2011 and 2013. We participated in monthly round-robin style teleconferences hosted by the Alaska Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plants Management. These teleconferences are designed to share updates and progress on invasive plant management from various organizations and regions throughout Alaska.

The CRWP's Cordova Invasive Weeds Coordinator, Roger, attended the Alaska Invasive Species Workshop in Kodiak in fall 2012. After our staff transition in July 2013, Danielle attended the workshop in Fairbanks in 2013, in Anchorage in 2014, and in Juneau in 2015. These workshops provided an opportunity to network with other invasive plant managers from throughout the state and to share an update on our efforts throughout the Copper River watershed, including Cordova. Danielle presented a poster on the development of our regional Cooperative Weed Management Areas in 2013 and the CRWP Copper Basin Invasive Weeds Coordinator, Don, presented a regional overview of the program in 2014.

We have continued to adapt the Cordova Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) Strategic Plan and have disseminated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to our CWMA partners. The purpose of the MOU is to allow us to further establish our relationship with the variety of landowners and interested parties in Cordova with a collective goal of identifying new infestations and implementing appropriate control strategies. We held personal meetings with each of our partners to discuss the MOU.

CRWP began planning and coordinating with partners to manage the aquatic invasive plant *Elodea* sp. in Eyak Lake and on the Copper River Delta. We worked closely with the U.S. Forest Service to submit the Cordova/Copper River Delta portion of the Statewide *Elodea* Management Plan currently being developed by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. We have assisted with snorkel and aerial surveying for *Elodea* in lakes and ponds on the Delta. With funds from this grant, we held the first public meeting and workshop concerning *Elodea* in and around Cordova in March 2015, with invited guests from the USFS, USFWS, ADNRR, SePRO, UAA, and others.

3. Any problems encountered? Explain delays or changed costs or conditions that significantly impair the ability to meet project objectives and timelines. If necessary, prepare a separate formal request for an extension of the agreement period.

Infestations of our top three target species are persisting throughout Cordova (reed canarygrass, orange hawkweed, bohemian knotweed), despite continued use of manual and mechanical control efforts (and the addition of chemical control with the use of non-federal funds). Our efforts to raise public awareness and to promote prevention techniques have been a direct result of our observations of the resistance and resilience of these species. Preventing or reducing the spread of invasive plants is the most effective method of control.

4. Any changes that you plan to propose? If the objectives would change, or if more than 10% of the total budget changes object class categories, please prepare a separate formal request to modify the current agreement.

5. Any other comments considered of importance but not discussed above?

Submitted by:	
Danielle Verna / Invasive Weeds Coordinator	November 30, 2015
<i>Name/Title</i>	<i>Date</i>

Report Accepted by Forest Service:	
<i>Name/Title</i>	<i>Date</i>