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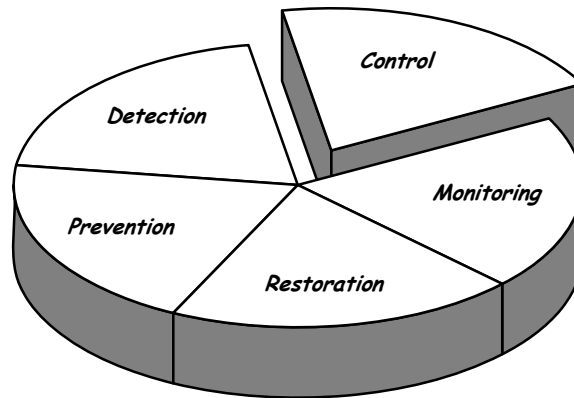


Final Environmental Impact Statement

Weed Management

Custer National Forest

Carbon, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Park, Powder River, Rosebud, and Carter
Counties of Montana and Harding County of South Dakota



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CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST WEED MANAGEMENT Final Environmental Impact Statement

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Abstract: The Forest Service is updating the 1987 weed control decisions. The Final Environmental Impact Statement documents the analysis for a reasonable course of action given new problems, options and opportunities to combat noxious weeds and other undesirable plants. Earlier decisions did provide the Forest with the ability to be more effective in treating increasing weed infestations. Noxious weeds and other invasive species are reducing ecological productivity, spreading to nearby non-infested lands, and increasing the economic burden on private landowners and state/federal taxpayers. The decision made involves these questions:

- Where and what kind of weed controls will be used
- What adaptive management and protective measures will be required to appropriately implement weed control methods
- Whether aerial application of herbicides can be implemented

Three alternatives were developed to address these objectives. Alternative 1 includes all integrated pest management (IPM) methods used for existing weed control, use of new herbicides, herbicide use within the Absaroka- Beartooth Wilderness Area, and aerial application of herbicides outside of Wilderness. Alternative 2 is to use all integrated pest management methods, but without the use of herbicides. Alternative 3 takes no action to change the current integrated pest management including ground based herbicide treatment with only four herbicide choices, and no herbicide use within the A-B Wilderness Area. The selected alternative is Alternative 1.

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