



Forest Service

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News Release



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Bridger-Teton National Forest to Update Noxious Weed Treatment

Western Wyo., January 17, 2018 – In the early winter of 2017 the Bridger-Teton National Forest along with partners from Wyoming Game and Fish Department and local county Weed and Pest managers held a series of public meetings to share the current status of cheatgrass on the Bridger-Teton, located in western Wyoming. An environmental impact statement (EIS) will be completed analysing the proposal to treat noxious weeds with aerial application of herbicides

The meetings described cheatgrass ecology and its effects on native vegetation communities, cheatgrass effects on wildlife populations and their habitat, problems with current treatment techniques, and techniques for treating cheatgrass that are working on State, private and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands across the state. Public response from the meetings were very supportive of adopting aerial herbicide application as a tool for treatment of invasive annual grasses on the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

The public response from the meetings was shared with Forest Leadership and it was determined that the Forest would update the 2005 Noxious Weed Treatment National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) decision to analyze the option for aerial herbicide application for the control of annual invasives. When deciding to address this concern Forest Supervisor Tricia O'Connor stated, "Our world class wildlands, Wilderness, watersheds and wildlife populations and their habitats are too important to the employees of the Bridger-Teton, and the communities we serve, for us to continue to allow cheatgrass and other invasive annual plants to invade this ecosystem unchecked. Aerial herbicide treatment could provide us with an effective tool to work on the steep, rocky slopes preferred by these annual invasives."

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The Forest Service will published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the invasive plant management proposal in the Federal Register on approximately January 17, 2018. The NOI initiates the scoping process for the analysis and contains more detailed information relative to the proposal.

To view the NOI, please visit the Forest Service website at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/btnf/landmanagement/projects>. Project area maps may also be viewed at this same site. To obtain paper copies of the map or the NOI after it is published, or to ask questions about the proposed action and the EIS, you may contact Chad Hayward, Interdisciplinary Team Leader , by e-mail chayward@fs.fed.us or at 307-276-5817.

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