

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
FOR THE  
NOXIOUS AND INVASIVE WEED TREATMENT  
BOISE DISTRICT AND JARBIDGE FIELD OFFICE  
EA# ID-100-2005-265**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

Based on the findings documented in Environmental Assessment ID-100-2005-265, implementation of the Proposed Action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, no Environmental Impact Statement is required.

**I base the above findings on the following:**

**1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.**

The environmental assessment has considered both beneficial and adverse impacts of the proposed action. Areas that require treatments may have short-term adverse effects caused by these treatments. Those effects will be slight compared to the adverse effects caused by not treating noxious and invasive weeds which would allow them to expand on public lands and onto adjacent private lands. The treatments will be beneficial in the long term and the proposed action will result in improved vegetative condition in treated areas.

Secondary effects of the proposed action include wildlife habitat improvement, increased biodiversity of native plants and animals, improved soil stability and water quality, and a return to a more ecologically functional sagebrush steppe habitat. Improving ecological conditions will enhance the quality of the human environment and is considered a benefit both in the short and long term. The adverse effects caused by the treatments are slight and will be beneficial in the long term.

**2. The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.**

High use areas where weed control occurs, such as campgrounds and recreation sites, will be appropriately posted to inform the public of this activity. Information on these signs will include the herbicide used, date of application, and a contact number for further information.

This action will protect the public and users from a potential dangerous situation and is designed to reduce adverse impacts to public health and safety. The impacts of the treatments in context of the weed infested areas are slight and will benefit the public in the long term. Implementation of the proposed action will not result in potentially substantial or adverse impacts to public health and safety.

**3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as, proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.**

Within the analysis area there exist many different unique areas such as ACECs, WSAs, cultural, etc. Within the context of this analysis these unique areas may contain weeds in need of treatment to minimize their potential negative effects.

There is minimal potential for impacts to cultural resources as a result of the Proposed Action by ground disturbance and impacts associated with the use of vehicles (trucks, ATVs) used for weed treatment or hand-pulling individual weeds. Impacts to cultural resources will be minimized by utilizing the general and specific design features discussed in the Proposed Action.

Treatments in Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness Study Areas and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern are designed to minimize effects to these unique areas. All treatments will adhere to policy and management criteria designed to protect special area values.

Public lands within the Boise District and Jarbidge Field Office areas do not contain any prime farm lands or Park Lands. Prime farmlands in the vicinity of treatments on public lands will not be adversely impacted.

**4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.**

All treatments outlined in the EA are actions that are taken on a normal and reoccurring basis. These treatments have been shown to be beneficial to areas infested with weeds in the long term and have not proven to be controversial in the past and are not expected to be controversial in the future. Treatments that have the potential to be controversial are outside the scope of this analysis and would require more extensive site-specific analysis and public input.

Weed treatments are intended to mitigate the adverse effects of noxious and invasive weeds and to stabilize the soil and vegetation resource, thus protecting the human environment. Weed control activities in socially or politically sensitive areas will be designed to protect the human environment by reducing degradation of soils and vegetation, and thus improving long-term vegetative condition.

**5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.**

The Boise District and the Jarbidge Field Office have a long history (40+ years) of conducting weed control activities. During this time, treatment techniques have evolved and have been applied over a broad landscape under a variety of conditions. Based on this experience, the effects of weed treatments are not uncertain and the risks associated with the treatment types are neither unique nor unknown.

**6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.**

The actions and treatments analyzed in the EA are normal practices that have a long history of implementation. This programmatic document does not set a precedent for future actions that have significant effects. Any future projects that may have significant impacts are outside the scope of this document and will require a separate analysis.

**7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.**

This EA considered potential cumulative impacts of treatments on all potentially affected resources. The documents cited and the analysis disclosed in the EA support the finding that treatments will not cause significant cumulative effects on biological or physical resources, even when considered in relation to other actions. The effects of weed treatments in relation to other past, present, and future actions are minimal.

**8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.**

Within the context of this analysis, treatment in these areas may be needed to minimize the potential deleterious effects of noxious and invasive weed infestations.

There is minimal potential for impacts to cultural resources as a result of the Proposed Action by ground disturbance and impacts associated with the use of vehicles (trucks, ATVs) used for weed treatment or hand-pulling individual weeds. Impacts to cultural resources will be minimized by utilizing the general and specific design features discussed in the Proposed Action.

Based on the analysis documented in the EA, the proposed action will not cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

**9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.**

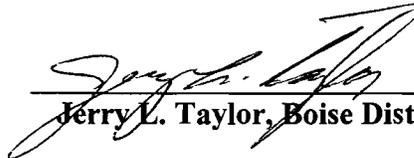
The Boise District and the Jarbidge Field Office completed formal consultation and informal conferencing with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Project design features have been included in the proposed action to avoid adverse impacts to federally listed and proposed species and critical habitats in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The USFWS has concurred with the “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” determination for listed, proposed, and candidate species, and designated critical habitat in the project area.

**10. Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law for requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.**

The proposed action was developed in accordance with Federal, State and Local Laws for the protection of the environment. The EA disclosed the effects of the proposed action on all critical and non-critical elements and it was determined the proposed action will not adversely affect any of these elements.

**SIGNATURES**

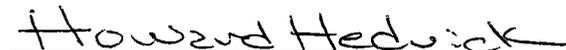
Approved by:

  
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**Jerry L. Taylor, Boise District Manager**

Date:

2/6/07

Approved by:

  
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**Howard Hedrick, Twin Falls District Manager**

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1/25/07