

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE DISTRICT
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW
WEW - Invasive Weed Control
OR-090-CE-04-34

Background

The activities herein include the removal and control of invasive weed species from a variety of habitats across the Bureau of Land Management within the Siuslaw Resource Area, in the West Eugene Wetlands. Active weed management is necessary to keep invasive species from further spreading on to adjacent BLM & private lands. Invasive weeds species can out compete native plant communities, impact healthy soils, change fuel loads and fire behavior, and threaten sensitive plant and animals species. Invasive weed species found on BLM sites include Himalayan blackberry, teasel, tansy ragwort, Scot's broom, English Ivy, and a mix of non-native grasses (reed canary grass).

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is the manual and mechanical removal of invasive weeds from approximately 400 acres per year for the next five years within the West Eugene Wetlands. Management techniques would include, but not be limited to, (1) the use of hand cutting and pulling using a variety of garden tools, (2) the use of shade cloth or plastic (solarization technique), (3) the use of small, hand-held mechanical tools, such as a weed whacker, (4) the use of thermal weed control equipment (no open flames), such as the Sunburst, Hoaf, Ecoweed & Waipuna, and (5) the use of a tractor with specialized head attachments for mowing, mulching, tilling & disking capabilities. The purpose of these actions is to reduce & control the invasive seed source and to prevent invasive species from out-competing native species on the BLM sites. The proposed action is consistent with the West Eugene Wetland Plan (2002) and the Eugene District ROD/RMP (June 1995), as amended.

Decision

The Proposed Action described above is approved to be implemented during the calendar years 2004 through 2009.

Rationale

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion as described in Departmental Categorical Exclusions Departmental Manual (516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4C (4), "Precommercial thinning and brush control using small mechanical devices." The proposed action does not meet any of the exception criteria and therefore an Environmental Assessment (EA) is not necessary. The proposed action is beneficial to the attainment of BLM's Strategies for the Management and Control of Invasive Plant Species (September 2003) and consistent with the Eugene's District ROD/RMP (June 1995), as amended.

Prepared by: Sally Vargas
Natural Resources Specialist

Date: 5/14/04

Approved by: [Signature]

Date: 5/14/04 Field Manager, Siuslaw R. A.

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Exception Criteria Review Checklist

Proposed Action: The Proposed Action is the manual and mechanical removal of invasive weeds from approximately 400 acres per year for the next five years within the West Eugene Wetlands.

Review the proposed action against each of the 10 criteria listed below. If the project meets one or more of the criteria, it is an exception from categorical exclusion and **MUST** be analyzed in an EA or EIS. To qualify as a Categorical Exclusion the proposed action may not meet any of the criteria. If the criterion does not apply, indicate "Not Applicable." Any mitigation measures (such as contract stipulations or terms and conditions on permits) necessary to ensure that the proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion should be identified at the bottom of the page.

Exception Criteria		Comments
1.	Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety	None
2.	Have adverse effects on unique resources (i.e., parks, recreation, refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, wetlands, flood plains, etc.)	None
3.	Have highly controversial environmental effects	None
4.	Have highly uncertain environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks	None
5.	Establish a precedent that could result in significant impacts	None
6.	Be directly related to other actions having cumulatively significant effects	None
7.	Have adverse effects on cultural or historical resources	None
8.	Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed as threatened or endangered or have adverse effect on designated critical habitat for these species.	None <i>Reviewed 5/14/04</i> <i>Sally Villegas 5/14/04</i>
9.	Require compliance with E.O. 11988 (flood plain management), E.O. 11990 (protection of wetlands), or the Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act	Not Applicable
10.	Threaten to violate Federal, State, Local or Native American law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment	None

Reviewed By: *Rick Colvin*
Rick Colvin, Planner

Date: *5/14/04*

The above mitigation measures have been adopted and will be implemented.

Area Manager: *Steve Paulich*
Field Manager, Siuslaw R. A.

Date: *5/14/04*