

Finding of No Significant Impact

Dalton Management Area Integrated Invasive Plant Strategic Plan Environmental Assessment (EA):
Control of invasive plants along the Dalton Highway using both chemical and physical control methods.
DOI-BLM-AK-03000-2010-0051-EA

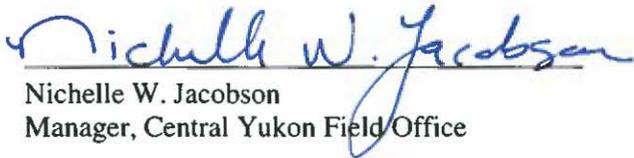
A few species of invasive plants are expanding their range northwards up the Dalton Highway Corridor. The spread of these species is of special concern due to the potential for spread away from the corridor and into natural vegetation communities. Manual control efforts have been conducted annually, but a need for more intensive management has been identified.

Three alternatives are considered in this Environmental Assessment (EA). Alternative A is a proposal to expand control efforts to include chemical control of invasive plants in addition to continued manual control efforts. Alternative B is a proposal to continue to conduct physical control efforts similar to those that have been ongoing; this method does not include chemical treatment. Alternative C is to cease control methods entirely so that neither chemical nor physical control efforts are applied to control invasive plants in the area. Alternative A is the Agency Preferred Alternative and proposed action.

BLM conducted public scoping to identify issues and discuss alternatives and concerns with communities, residents, organizations, and agencies that could be impacted by the proposed actions. In general, there was support for controlling or eradicating weeds. Some people supported use of herbicides, while others were uncertain and apprehensive over the use of herbicides.

Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge commented that manual control will likely be unsuccessful in the long term unless it is augmented by other more effective control measures. The refuge cited evidence that roadside infestations threaten to introduce invasive plants along rivers that flow into the refuge, and it encouraged the BLM to consider all available methods of control.

Finding of No Significant Impact: I have reviewed Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-AK-03000-2010-0051-EA. Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have concluded that the proposed action (Alternative A) with the mitigation measures and standard operating procedures described in section 2.1.1 of the EA will not have a significant effect on the human environment, and an environmental impact statement is not required.


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10/25/13
Date