

From: USDA Forest Service <forestservice@public.govdelivery.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 5:47 PM

Subject: Courtesy Copy: USDA Forest Service - Decision Signed - Invasive Plant Management Plan



Dear Planning Participant,

The Forest Service is pleased to announce that the final Decision Notice for the Wrangell-Petersburg Invasive Plant Management Project on the Tongass National Forest has been signed. The Decision Notice, Environmental Assessment and FONSI are available for review at the Wrangell and Petersburg Ranger District Offices and online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59576>.

The Decision Notice documents the Responsible Officials' decision to select the Proposed Action, hereafter, the Selected Alternative, and describes their rationale for the decision. In summary, this decision authorizes the Wrangell and Petersburg Ranger Districts to:

1. Treat invasive plants on National Forest System lands (including wilderness) and on lands of other ownership, as authorized.
2. Manage invasive plants using manual, mechanical and herbicide treatment methods to eradicate or control populations of weeds. Herbicides include aquatic formulations of glyphosate and imazapyr, and aminopyralid. Herbicides would be applied by broadcast spray, spot spray, wicking and wiping, foliar applications and/or cut-stump methods. Application rates for all three herbicides would be at or below the maximum rate stated on the product label.
3. Treat emergent vegetation to contain or eradicate invasive plant populations in riparian areas below the ordinary high-water mark and in the intertidal zone below mean high tide.
4. Include no limit on the acres of weed treatment within the project area. Continue to use the early detection-rapid response (EDRR) management strategy to provide the flexibility to treat new infestations.

The EA, FONSI and draft Decision Notice were available for public review prior to the final decision, pursuant to the pre-decisional administrative review process (objection process) under 36 CFR 218, subparts A and B, and one objection with standing was received during the 45-day objection filing period. The Reviewing Officer reviewed the objection in accordance with 36 CFR 218.3 (a) and found no violation of law, regulation, or policy and determined the final Decision Notice could be signed. The objection and response are available for review on the project website in the "Objection" folder.

For additional information on this project or decision, please contact Carey Case, Project Lead, at 907-772-3871 or email at carey.case@usda.gov.