



COUNTY OF CASSIA

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Dennis D. Crane, *Chairman*
Paul Christensen, *Commissioner*
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August 3, 2015

Sawtooth Forest Supervisor's Office
Attn: Invasive Species Project
2647 Kimberly Road East
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

Submitted via email: comments-intermtn-sawtooth@fs.fed.us

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Board of Commissioners for Cassia County Idaho we submit the following comments for the Initial Proposed Action-Treatment of Invasive Species Boise and Sawtooth National Forest, June 2015 Scoping. In your request for public comment, you state that "... the most useful comments will be specific concerns and those that can help us develop treatments that would be responsive to our goal to control, contain, or eradicate invasive plants cost effectively. The purpose of this proposed action is to provide a rapid and more comprehensive, up-to-date approach to control and eradicate invasive plants on both Forests."

With your above-stated purpose in mind, our first concern is that the proposed acreage slated for treatment is too insignificant to make any meaningful attempt to control, contain or eradicate invasive plants in a cost effective manner. The amount of acres to be treated must be drastically and significantly increased. The current proposal is a very small drop in a very large bucket.

After reviewing this matter with our County Weed Supervisor, we believe the proposed methods of treatment are acceptable, with the exception of concerns about the aerial application proposal. As proposed, the aerial application season, within one half mile from known raptor nests, is contrary to the needed aerial application season in order for treatment to be effective. For aerial treatment to be effective and to be a reasonable use of resources, then it needs to be applied early in the season, and continue to be a sustained effort throughout the season. Starting such treatment in August is too little and too late to be an effective method of treatment. Those rules affecting application need to be changed to allow earlier treatment, or a different method of treatment needs to be utilized.

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Finally, while not addressed specifically in your documents, funding for the treatment of invasive plants infestations, needs to be meaningful, it needs to be dedicated, and it needs to be used "on the ground" to effectively control, contain, and eradicate invasive plants. With adequate funding enough acres can be treated to affect positive change. With adequate funding meaningful follow up on treatment can be had to fight the battle that needs to be fought to treat invasive plant infestations.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

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FOR CASSIA COUNTY, IDAHO


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