



Twin Falls County Weed Control
1234 Highland Ave E
Twin Falls, ID 83301
Phone: 208-734-9000 Fax: 208-736-4200

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

To Whom It May Concern:

As Twin Falls County Bureau of Noxious Weed Control 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 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 the very large bucket.

After reviewing this matter, 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 earlier 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.

While not addressed specifically in your documents, funding for the treatment of invasive plant infestations, needs to be meaningful, it needs to be a 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 upon treatment can be had to fight the battle that needs to be fought to treat invasive plant infestations.



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With this in mind, we in Twin Falls County are seeing a drastic increase of noxious weed infestations on the Forest properties. Below are attached, pictures of Forest properties with noxious weed infestations that need to be addressed in the near future.

Thank you for your considerations of these matters.

Prepared by Michael Ottley
Weed Lead Twin Falls County

Kali Sherrill
Twin Falls County weed Superintendent