

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

Re: File Code 1950/2900
Request for Public Comment

We have been Permit Holders since 1961 in the Sawtooth National Forest for our cabin at the Valley View Tract, in Blaine County, Idaho. Our address is P.O. Box 148, Weiser, ID 83672. After careful review of the Initial Proposed Action-Treatment of Invasive Species, Boise and Sawtooth National Forests, June 2015, Scoping Letter Attachment 1, we have these comments:

1. Any use of herbicides shall require adequate warning notices at all access points to the area sprayed so that hikers and other recreation users can avoid the risks and harms to health and property that herbicides cause.

2. Change the methods to control invasive species to include the use of goats to remove weeds. Goats have been used successfully for several years to control weeds on the Weiser River Trail, a non-motorized trail, which goes from Weiser, Idaho about 85 miles north on a former railway right of way through private land and the Payette National Forest. The use of goats has minimal impact on the surrounding environment and present no toxic hazard or risk to human health. The use of goats has proven to be both effective and economical. Goats can be used in steep terrain and along trails where weeds are likely to invade.

3. Change the proposed number of acres for aerial application of herbicides to reduce it substantially. 8000 acres each year as the maximum amount by helicopter application is a misallocation of resources. This is a very expensive way to remove weeds. It is probably the least cost effective. It is the most likely method to cause harm to the environment, wildlife, humans and damage to property. Design criteria cannot take into account a sudden change in the weather. This method of weed control has the highest risk of causing a liability tort claim against the Forest Service.

4. Cabin owners at Valley View Tract are good stewards of their permit lots and the surrounding forest. On one occasion, Spotted Knapweeds were removed from a FS roadside in the tract and sent to the Blaine County agent.

Dated:



Douglas W. Fuller
Trustee,
Fuller Family Trust



Wayne P. Fuller



Margaret C. Fuller