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Organization:
Title:
Comments: The members of the Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative (OCCFC/Collaborative) would like to submit this letter containing their collective comments on the Integrated lnvasives Species Project Environmental Assessment proposed actions. First, the OCCFC would like to thank the United States Forest Service (USFS) for acknowledging the importance of treating invasive species. The Collaborative looks forward to working with the USFS on efficiently treating invasives in the Siuslaw National Forest. The OCCFC is in support of the public education measures described in the Draft Proposed Actions. Additionally, the OCCFC acknowledges that some spread of invasive weeds can happen along roads and as part of vegetation management activities such as logging and temporary roads. The OCCFC requests that more information on the current regulations and prevention resources for vegetation management activities be included in the proposed actions. he OCCFC requests increasing the documentation and transparency of invasive treatments in the Siuslaw National Forest. The Collaborative asks that information on invasive treatments be made more easily available to the public, including what control measures have been attempted in the past, data on the monitoring of those treatment locations, and how decisions are made about what control measures to use. OCCFC recommends more clarity on locations and details of infestations and suggests maintaining a map of invasive species locations that is available to the public and asks that USFS makes it a goal to work towards a publicly available method for easy reporting of invasive species locations. OCCFC supports community education and dialogue on research related to invasive species. OCCFC asks that USFS create a clear communication pathway through which the USFS can continue to accept peer-reviewed research, concerns, and other comments from the OCCFC and the public. OCCFC also asks that USFS communicate with immediate neighbors and interested community members about treatment method choices and reasoning, such as cost efficiency versus sensitive locations. Finally, regarding the topic of monitoring, OCCFC recommends the USFS commit to monitoring and data collection and seeking funding solutions for these activities. The members of the OCCFC respectfully submit this letter to the USFS and thank the Siuslaw National Forest staff for their consideration and continued collaboration.