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First name: Walter

Last name: Orchard

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on Project #66006. This is a great idea, long overdue, and I can only hope that it will produce real, positive results. It is so distressing to see first-hand the proliferation of invasive plants along our rivers, roadsides, clearcuts and other areas. And the longer the weeds are left to themselves, the worse the problem becomes.

Regarding the invasive weeds that are highlighted in the project description, I would like to comment on gorse. Some years ago, a few people with backpack sprayers treated gorse in the area of South View, just south of Heceta Head. To the best of my knowledge, there was little or no follow up to the initial spraying. This is a good example of wasted effort. To be successful against a major invasive weed problem, there needs to be regular follow-up treatment, annually at the very least, until the weed is well and truly under control. Once the weed is reduced to a small number of remaining plants, it becomes relatively easy to ensure that it does not get out of control again.

Tansy ragwort is a highly toxic invasive weed that should also be part of the Project #66006 effort. The Forest Service roads in the Yachats area are riddled with tansy. Along with several others, I pull tansy along these roads as well as the road to the Cape Perpetual viewpoint. With a small amount of effort, and annual follow up, tansy could be virtually eliminated from these roads. As an illustration, the Yachats Trails Crew has regularly cleared tansy from the Cummins Ridge Trail north trailhead end. When we started about 15 years ago, there were hundreds if not thousands of tansy plants along the first three-mile section of the trail. As a result of our regular, annual forays, our most recent trip counted only 8 plants. We have also reduced foxglove to a handful of plants along that trail.

Ivy is another invasive that should be part of the project. Just north of Devil's Churn in the Cape Perpetua Scenic Area, there is a serious ivy infestation. Yachatians have occasionally girdled the ivy on the trees there, but this is too big a project for a few retirees to manage. There are many other areas where ivy is a problem on USFS and State Park lands. Please make ivy control part of the project.

Would it be possible to get ODOT to support and participate in the project? I have noted with dismay how quickly weeds such as Scotch Broom proliferate on newly disturbed roadsides after construction work by ODOT. This should not be allowed to happen!

I realize that the Forest Service has limited funds and manpower. Would it be possible to recruit volunteers from the public and train them to deal with selected weeds? They could be assigned specific areas where they would be responsible for controlling a designated weed.