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Comments: I support the Forest Service's proposal to develop a comprehensive approach to treating invasive weeds in the Siuslaw National Forest. I strongly oppose the Forest Service's proposal to add new herbicides to those already being used and to permit drone spraying of herbicides.

The existing Siuslaw Forest Plan already permits the use of glyphosate and other pesticides of statewide concern. Unlike private timberlands that can be logged and sprayed solely for profit pursuant to the state Forest Practices Act and pesticide product labels, we citizen owners and stewards of our National Forests have a responsibility to advocate for what we believe best protects and preserves those lands, their flora and fauna, and the health of our communities. We need fewer herbicides in the Siuslaw, not more. We certainly don't need or want herbicides to be sprayed by drones or other aerial means. And we need more transparency from the Forest Service about their use of herbicides: what, when, where, how, and why, in a form easily accessible by the public.

I appreciate the Forest Service acknowledging that prevention is the most effective means of controlling invasive plant species. Studies have shown that the best way to reduce opportunities for invasive species to establish themselves in natural forest areas is to minimize disturbances to soil and native flora. That means preserving the integrity of mature forests and allowing previously logged forest areas to mature with minimal disturbance. I encourage the Forest Service to focus its efforts on nourishing and preserving healthy, mature forests, rather than using chemicals, as the best means of preventing and controlling invasive weeds.