

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/13/2024 6:49:06 PM

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Organization: Crooked River Weed Management Area

Title: Coordinator

Comments: Dear USDA FS-Ochoco National Forest;

The Crooked River Weed Management Area (CRWMA) would like to fully express our support for the Indaziflam Forest Plan Amendment (ONF-CRNG) #65406 being submitted to add Indaziflam to the Forest Plans. This modification will benefit sage-steppe and grassland communities that are progressively taken over by invasive annual grasses (medusahead rye, cheatgrass, and ventenata) and creating intense wildfires. The actions proposed by the USDA Forest Service Ochoco Nat'l Forest and Crooked River Nat'l Grasslands are consistent with regional and local plans and priorities for the Crooked River Watershed.

CRWMA has been working with private landowners over the years to reduce invasive annual grasses, using the best available science and technology. Landowners have shown a strong desire to make lasting changes to resource conditions on their property, including sage grouse habitat. Last year, CRWMA worked with both private landowners and the USDA FS Ochoco NF treating invasive annual grasses, adjacent to each other within the Beaver Creek area in Crook County. In this Cross Boundary project (23-PA-11060700-006), CRWMA treated annual grasses with indaziflam on private lands only, which has shown to be a new tool in the toolbox giving seed control for up to 4 years without another application, thus less pesticides used. Listed here is a few peer-review papers on the efficacy and the increase in native species biomass from invasive annual grass treatments with indaziflam herbicide.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1550742415001517>

<https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/2688-8319.12049>

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/invasive-plant-science-and-management/article/abs/effect-of-indaziflam-on-native-species-in-natural-areas-and-rangeland/3FD2EA4502D93E7EDF9C179B5EBADF2B>

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/invasive-plant-science-and-management/article/abs/evaluating-winter-annual-grass-control-and-native-species-establishment-following-applications-of-indaziflam-on-rangeland/5552D5E60F2AAF931BA353ACF30BEF12>

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/invasive-plant-science-and-management/article/abs/preemergence-control-of-six-invasive-winter-annual-grasses-with-imazapic-and-indaziflam/D58A5EB172E99FB8535EBE788DB73C13>

On behalf of the Crooked River Weed Management Area, we are pleased to offer our full support for this added herbicide, Indaziflam to the Forest Plan Amendment. Increasing the pace and scale of restoration work is essential to meeting many of our shared goals for fish and wildlife habitat, improved water quality, and resilient ecosystems. The success of invasive annual grass treatments means finding new solutions in an ever changing climate to maintain healthy, resilient, and productive forests and grasslands which result in long-term sustainability.