



United States Department of the Interior NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Crater Lake National Park
Post Office Box 7
Crater Lake, Oregon 97604

November 3, 2014

Project Proposal for Invasive Vegetation Management Plan

In order to guide management of non-native, invasive plant species within the Park, the National Park Service, Crater Lake National Park invites your participation in scoping for the forthcoming Invasive Vegetation Management Plan. This project involves an Environmental Assessment (EA), and the National Park Service is seeking general comments and concerns about issues that should be included within the scope of this plan. Comments on the scope of this plan are welcomed during the period of November 3, 2014, to December 3, 2014. Information gathered from this scoping will be used to draft preferred, no action, and possibly other contrasting alternatives for a Draft EA and/or other NEPA/NHPA documents. Once the EA has been drafted agencies, stakeholders and the public will then have an opportunity to comment on specific details of the plan during the public review and comment period of the EA. A map showing the location of Crater Lake National Park is included with this letter.

Purpose

The purpose of the Invasive Vegetation Management Plan is to provide a framework for managing non-native, invasive plants in order to protect the park's native ecosystems. This plan will provide guidance on preventing new infestations of invasive plant species and outline an adaptive management process for controlling existing populations of invasive plants within the park using manual, mechanical, cultural, and chemical methods. Additionally, the Invasive Vegetation Management Plan will establish methods for tracking and reporting invasive plant species' occurrence and their control in order to measure progress gained over many years. This plan will provide the park with tools to protect and enhance native vegetation and biodiversity, and maintain the integrity of park ecosystems and their associated processes.

Need

Invasive plant species are one of the biggest threats to the park's ecosystems. Sixty-six non-native plant species have been documented within the park, with new species found on an almost-annual basis. The park lacks a comprehensive strategy outlining goals and objectives for preventing the establishment of invasive plant species, controlling their spread, and monitoring the efficacy of control treatments. National Park Service policy directs park units to develop plans for managing invasive plant species as one of the fundamental ways to uphold its mission to protect and preserve park resources for future generations to experience and enjoy.

Goals

Goals of the Invasive Vegetation Management Plan are to:

1. Prevent the introduction of invasive plant species within Crater Lake National Park.

2. Control invasive plant species within the park through eradication, containment, and reduction of invasive plant population densities and abundance.
3. Use an adaptive management process based on the best available science and current knowledge to determine the best treatment options for controlling invasive plant species.
4. Monitor treatment efficacy, and use results of monitoring to inform management.
5. Educate and inform park visitors on the Invasive Vegetation Management program and involve them in prevention, control, and monitoring efforts.

Crater Lake National Park appreciates any comments and/or suggestions you have on the scope of this EA.

Anyone providing written comments should be aware their entire comment - including their personal identifying information such as personal address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying - may be made publicly available at any time. While anyone wishing to comment may ask the NPS in their comment to withhold their personal identifying information from public review, the NPS cannot guarantee it will be able to do so.

Please submit your comments, by December 3, 2014, in the following ways.

The best and preferred method for reviewing project information and submitting comments is on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/IVMP>

If unable to utilize the online comment tool mentioned above, comments may be mailed to:

Superintendent
Crater Lake National Park
P.O. Box 7
Crater Lake, Oregon 97604

Mailed comments must be postmarked by December 3, 2014

If necessary, comments may also be emailed by the December 3, 2014 deadline to Scott Burch at scott_burch@nps.gov.

Specific project questions should be directed to Park Botanist Jen Beck at (541) 594-3072 or jen_beck@nps.gov.



Craig W. Ackerman
Superintendent