

Redwood National Park
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
California

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Invasive Plant Management Plan/Environmental Assessment • Newsletter 1, Summer 2013



Dear Friends:

The National Park Service (NPS) is embarking on the development of a joint Invasive Plant Management Plan (IPMP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and Redwood National Park. The IPMP will determine how NPS will move forward with surveying, monitoring, and managing invasive plants in these two California parks.

Invasive nonnative plants now infest approximately 2.6 million acres in the National Park System, which covers over 84 million acres; many are highly invasive and can alter native plant communities and the wildlife that depends on them.

Development of an IPMP will:

- Provide comprehensive management guidance for park managers,
- Provide a forum for sharing information about invasive plant management with the public and park partners,
- Lay a course for the future by identifying additional measures needed to effectively combat non-native invasive plants, and
- Improve efficiency by focusing on species and practices that yield the greatest benefit.

The NPS has a variety of options for dealing with invasive plants. We invite you to participate in the planning process. NPS is preparing an EA that will consider various options for addressing invasive plants and will describe the environmental effects of each option. We hope you will join us in this important discussion regarding the future of your public lands by attending public informational meetings, submitting comments regarding issues of concern, and by providing us with suggestions for and comments on the preliminary alternatives we have developed.

As part of this planning effort, the NPS will also be assessing the effects of invasive plant management on historic properties per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Public Law 89-665; 16 USC 470 et seq) and its implementing regulations 36 CFR 800. To submit questions or comments about this process or concerns about effects to historic properties eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places, refer to the “How to Comment” box in this newsletter.

Thank you for your interest and participation in the development of the Invasive Plant Management Plan.

Sincerely,

David Szymanski

Superintendent

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

Stephen Prokop

Superintendent

Redwood National Park

Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of developing an Invasive Plant Management Plan is to provide a comprehensive and adaptive framework that guides a program for protecting the parks' natural and cultural resources from the impacts of invasive plants. The plan would identify invasive plant control techniques, strategies for prioritizing management, best management practices and other prevention measures, and monitoring strategies. The plan would also establish a framework for assessing the effectiveness of additional herbicides while meeting safety standards for workers, visitors and the environment.



Preliminary Alternatives: Different Ways to Manage Invasive Plants

We have developed three preliminary alternatives. One alternative is continue with our current management programs. This is the No Action Alternative. We are considering two other alternative approaches to manage invasive plants.

Alternative 1: No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would continue current programs and practices to control non-native invasive plant species. This would include an integrated approach comprised of maintaining prevention, survey, and treatment programs; recordkeeping and limited monitoring of invasive plants; and restoration of native plants in specific situations. Under the No Action Alternative, mechanical, cultural, and chemical treatments would continue to be used. Chemical treatments consist of using a limited number of herbicides that were selected for their effectiveness, minimal effects on wildlife, soil, and water, and for their minimal health risks for people applying them and the general public. Staff would continue to adhere to product label requirements developed to ensure human safety and minimal environmental impact.

Alternative 2: Additional Invasive Plant Management Tools

Alternative 2 would add a number of additional invasive plant management tools to the current management methods, such as:

- The use of grazing livestock or other biological control methods
- Additional herbicides for use on terrestrial invasive species
- Herbicides for controlling aquatic invasive species
- Aircraft for herbicide application (Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area only)
- Prescribed fire (Redwood National Park only).

Alternative 3: Additional Invasive Plant Management Tools with Adaptive Management

Alternative 3 builds on Alternative 2 by incorporating adaptive management, a process that promotes flexible decision-making to allow for program adjustments in the face of uncertainties and ecosystem variability. Adaptive management would allow the invasive plant management program to be constantly improved by using the results of monitoring and new information to respond proactively to changing conditions with improved and innovative techniques as appropriate. Adaptive management would provide a framework for evaluation, decision-making, and implementation of actions to control the impact of existing and as-yet unidentified invasive species on park resources. This plan would include a protocol for selecting and evaluating new Environmental Protection Agency-approved and field-tested herbicides to add the latest and best available science and technology to the invasive plant management toolbox.

Project Timeline

Below is the timeline for this project. Opportunities for public involvement are highlighted in green.

Planning Phase	Estimated Completion Timeframe
Internal Scoping Meetings	February 2013
Preliminary Alternatives	April 2013
Public Scoping/Comment Analysis	Summer - Fall 2013
Alternatives Refinement	Winter 2013/2014
Development of Environmental Assessment	Spring - Fall 2014
Publish Environmental Assessment	Winter 2014/2015
Public Meeting(s)	Spring 2015
Public Comment Analysis/Response	Summer 2015
Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)	Fall 2015
Release FONSI	Winter 2015/2016

← *Current phase of project*

Public Meeting Schedule

Location	Date
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Conejo Recreation and Park District Community Room 403 W. Hillcrest Drive Thousand Oaks, California 91360	August 27, 2013
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Temescal Gateway Park** Conference and Retreat Center Woodland Hall 15601 Sunset Boulevard Pacific Palisades, California 90272 **Parking passes are required and will be distributed free of charge to attendees upon arrival	August 28, 2013
Redwood National Park Humboldt Area Foundation, Emmerson Room 363 Indianola Road Bayside, California 95524	September 18, 2013

All public meetings are from 6:30-8:30 pm.

Meetings will be in an Open House format and will begin with a PowerPoint presentation and a question and answer session.

Sign language interpreters are available on request, but please make the request at least one week prior to the event.

How to Comment

You are invited to submit comments on what the Invasive Plant Management Plan/Environmental Assessment should address and analyze. You are encouraged to review the information available on the NPS park planning website (provided below) and to identify additional topics not covered there. Additionally, you are invited to comment on the Preliminary Alternatives that have been identified. There are several ways to provide comments:

- Attend and submit comments at a public scoping meeting
- Submit comments at the NPS park planning website: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/rs-inv-plants>, or
- Mail comments to:

Redwood National Park
ATTN: Invasive Plant Management Plan
PO Box 7
Orick, CA 95555

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
ATTN: Invasive Plant Management Plan
401 West Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Please submit comments by October 1, 2013.

Before including an address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be aware that the entire comment—including personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. Comments submitted by individuals or organizations on behalf of other individuals or organizations will not be accepted.

If you wish to receive future updates on this project, please send an email to npsinvplants@nps.gov and include your email address. Public comments will not be accepted at this email address. The mailing list will be used solely to communicate information related to this IPMP/EA planning effort.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Environmental Quality Division
PO Box 25287
Denver CO 80225-0287

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE & FEES PAID
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PERMIT NO. G-83

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

