



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**  
**FLAGSTAFF AREA NATIONAL MONUMENTS**  
6400 N. Highway 89  
Flagstaff, AZ 86004



H4217

August 5, 2009

Dear Interested Party:

The National Park Service has developed three alternatives to address the treatment of invasive plant species at Walnut Canyon, Sunset Crater Volcano, and Wupatki National Monuments. Various inventories have identified more than 43 invasive plant species in the park units. The environmental impacts of treating these species and those that may invade the monuments over the next 10 years have been analyzed.

Treatments will be specific to the biology of the invasive species and will be based on the best research available. Treatments will include: manual/mechanical, chemical, cultural and/or biological. Herbicides will be applied only under the supervision of a licensed applicator according to label directions. Restoration following treatments may be implemented to restore native plant communities and to prevent re-colonization by invasive plants.

A final draft Environmental Assessment entitled: *Flagstaff Area Monuments Invasive Plant Management Plan and Environmental Assessment* has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to provide the decision-making framework that 1) analyzes a reasonable range of alternatives to meet project objectives, 2) evaluates issues and impacts to park resources and values, and 3) identifies mitigation measures to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts.

The park encourages public participation throughout the planning process. We are currently in the public review phase wherein public comments are solicited on the final draft Environmental Assessment. The park invites the public to submit written suggestions, comments, and concerns regarding the proposed project online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/parkHome.cfm?parkId=53>.

If you are not able to submit comments electronically through this website, you may submit written comments at the address on this letterhead. Please provide comments by September 10, 2009. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Diane Chung  
Superintendent

