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## AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**TIME:** 2:30–5:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** ADF Headquarters.

**DATE:** Tuesday, 15 September 1998.

**STATUS:** Open.

### Agenda

2:30 p.m.—Chairman's Report

3:00 p.m.—President's Report

- Legislative Update
- FY 1998 Program Highlight
- Budget Request

5:30 p.m.—Adjournment

If you have any questions or comments, please direct them to Paul Magid, General Counsel, who can be reached at (202) 673–3916.

**William R. Ford,**

*President.*

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BILLING CODE 6116–01–P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Control of Noxious Weeds on Remote Sites, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and Umatilla National Forest; Columbia and Asotin Counties, Washington; Union, Baker, and Wallowa Counties, OR; Idaho County, ID

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The USDA, Forest Service, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on control of noxious weeds on remote sites on two National Forests including aerial application of herbicides as a treatment on specific sites and under specific constraints. These sites are generally unroaded, back-country sites with difficult access.

National Forest System lands within the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests, including lands within the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area (NRA) and Hells Canyon Wilderness, will be considered in the proposal. Management actions are planned to be implemented beginning in 2000. The agency gives notice of the full environmental analysis and decision-making process that will occur on the proposal so that interested and affected people may become aware of how they may participate and contribute to the final decision.

**DATE:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing by October 31, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments and suggestions concerning this proposal to Karyn L. Wood, Forest Supervisor, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, P.O. Box 907, Baker City, OR 97814.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Direct questions about the proposed action and EIS to Chuck Quimby, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, P.O. Box 907, Baker City, OR 97814, phone (541) 523–6391.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The proposed action is designed to treat existing populations of weeds to promote native and/or desirable plants, and treat existing populations of weeds to reduce weed seed sources. Projects will also evaluate means of avoiding the potential for spread of the existing infestations off-site. The action is needed to respond to the increased incidence, extent, and spread of unwanted nonnative noxious weeds in remote sites where access is difficult and hazardous, and where management of these infestations for control, containment, and reduction is consequently limited in effectiveness. These kinds of unwanted vegetation are legally designated as noxious weeds by State and Federal laws because they are generally unsuited as forage for either wildlife or livestock, may be hazardous if ingested, are often nonnative intrusions, compete with native plants, impact recreation and aesthetic values, and negatively impact wildlife habitat.

Treatment sites included in this proposal are scattered across uplands on the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests in northeastern Oregon. The primary management areas from the Forest Plans affected by this proposal include general forest, big game winter

range, HCNRA dispersed recreation/native vegetation, and wilderness. The primary targeted weed species for aerial application of herbicide is yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), although other noxious weeds will be included. All of the proposed treatment sites are being negatively impacted by the invading noxious weeds. For some of the sites, past impacts to the plant community may have contributed to the susceptibility of invasion by the noxious weeds through a reduction in native plant cover and vigor. Of the 14 sites to be considered in this analysis, six are within allotments where grazing by domestic livestock may occur, while the remainder are in areas either closed to domestic livestock or where no livestock have grazed for a number of years. All of the lands are used by big game, including elk and deer. Some of the sites are used by backcountry recreationists, while others are seldom used. All sites are upland sites located away from perennial water. These sites range in size from approximately 10 acres to 500 acres net, but cover several thousand gross acres because the weeds are scattered and do not necessarily fill all growing space. Estimated gross acreage covered for the 14 sites ranges from 4000 to 5000 acres with weed spread increasing this number each year.

The proposed action is intended to implement the Wallowa-Whitman Forest-wide integrated noxious weed environment (EA) and management plan, including supplemental decisions to incorporate additional sites, and the Umatilla integrated noxious weed EA. Both documents provide for management of noxious weeds throughout the Forests but have proven most effective on the more accessible sites (for example, along roads). The affected Forests are adjacent and share common habitats, noxious weed species, and problems associated with management of these infestations. These current environmental analyses and decisions for integrated noxious weed management on the two Forests provide for treatments described in an integrated weed management program. These include chemical, biological, manual, mechanical, and cultural. The treatment methods include backpack sprayer, wick application, and boom sprayer application of herbicides; release of approved biological agents; hand