

Navajo Nation Integrated Weed Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement

Scoping Report

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1.0 Introduction

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Region proposes to authorize new treatments of weed infestations spread across the Navajo Indian Reservation and to develop an Integrated Weed Management Plan. The BIA selected 21 priority noxious and invasive weed species that occur within the project area. These weed infestations range in size from single plants to a single species covering several thousand acres. The various methods to be analyzed in the integrated weed management plan include: mechanical (clipping, mowing, tilling, bulldozing, steaming, and burning); cultural control (grazing by livestock, fertilization, seeding or planting of competitive plants, and use of weed seed-free seed mixes, mulches and ballast); biological (approved insects or plant pathogens); and chemical (approved herbicides).

As part of the environmental review process, the BIA held public scoping meetings to obtain public, stakeholder and cooperating agency input required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. This scoping report summarizes comments, feedback, and input received prior to the close of scoping on March 20, 2013 and May 29, 2021 for the development of the Integrated Weed Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

1.1 Purpose of Scoping

The Council on Environmental Quality Regulations at 40 CFR 1501.7 requires an early and open process to determine the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. This process is termed “scoping.” The scoping process is used to learn the concerns of individuals, groups, and agencies about a proposed project. Scoping is an integral part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process because it allows interested parties an opportunity to help develop a list of issues to be discussed in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Bureau of Indian Affairs NEPA handbook, 30 BIAM Supplement 1, paragraph 6.3B, identifies that the preparation of an EIS begins with the scoping process. A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS is required to include the public notice for the scoping process.

2.0 Project Overview

2.1 Project Background

Exotic weed infestations have become an increasing problem on the Navajo Nation. Weeds have been introduced through a variety of methods, with the primary vectors of introduction being weed hay, grain, and seed; construction of roads; transport by livestock and wildlife; contaminated vehicles; and disturbance from infrastructure development. Weed expansion causes a decline in quality grazing habitat, decreases in property values, and declines in wildlife habitat quality.

2.2 Draft Purpose and Need of the Project

The purpose of this project is to contain and control, eradicate, and prevent weed infestations within the project area. The desired goal is to prevent new weed species from becoming established, to contain and control the spread of 11 known invasive species, and to eradicate 10 species that occur in a limited range but have the potential to increase in density and threaten biological diversity within the project area (**Table 1**). Controlling these invasive plants will help improve rangeland and agricultural land health by improving the growth of native forbs and grasses for the benefit of subsistence ranching and farming, increasing the diversity of native riparian trees and understory species in riparian corridors, preventing additional weed infestations to unaffected land and property, and maintaining and improving wildlife habitat. While noxious weeds have been documented throughout the project area, few areas have been inventoried and mapped. Therefore, weed inventory and mapping will be conducted concurrently with implementation of this plan to identify existing weed populations within the project area.

HIGH PRIORITY (A RATING)	
Common Name	Management Strategy
Leafy spurge (<i>Euphorbia esula</i>)	Prevent/Eradicate
Bull thistle (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>)	Eradicate
Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)	Eradicate
Dalmatian toadflax (<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>)	Eradicate
Musk thistle (<i>Carduus nutans</i>)	Eradicate
Perennial pepperweed (<i>Lepidum latifolium</i>)	Eradicate
Scotch thistle (<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>)	Eradicate
Spotted knapweed (<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>)	Eradicate
Whitetop (Hoary Cress) (<i>Cardaria draba</i>)	Eradicate
Yellow starthistle (<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>)	Eradicate
Camelthorn (<i>Alhagi camelorum</i>)	Contain & Control
Tamarisk, Saltcedar (<i>Tamarix</i> spp.)	Contain & Control
Diffuse knapweed (<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>)	Contain & Control
Russian knapweed (<i>Acroptilon repens</i>)	Contain & Control
Russian Olive (<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>)	Contain & Control
MEDIUM PRIORITY (B RATING)	
Common Name	Management Strategy
Field Sandbur (<i>Cenchrus incertus</i>)	Contain & Control
Halogeton (<i>Halogeton glomeratus</i>)	Contain & Control
LOW PRIORITY (C RATING)	
Common Name	Management Strategy
Cheatgrass (<i>Bromus tectorum</i>)	Contain & Control
Field bindweed (<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>)	Contain & Control
Jointed goatgrass (<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>)	Contain & Control
Puncturevine (<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>)	Contain & Control

Table 1. List of 21 targeted weed species for control on the Navajo Nation as prioritized by the BIA in 2009. High Priority Weeds (A Rating) have an imminent potential for widespread expansion. Medium Priority Weeds (B Rating) may occur in isolated patches and are not as a serious problem as the high priority weeds. Low Priority Weeds (C Rating) are wide-spread and well established.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Region has Conducted noxious weed inventories that have documented close to 80,000 acres of infestations on the Navajo Nation. With the current spread of exotic weeds across the Navajo Nation there is a need for federal funding to continue and expand these weed removal efforts. This EIS and Weed Management Plan is the first step in obtaining funding and resources to implement exotic weed removal projects using various control methods.

The BIA Navajo Region proposes to authorize new treatments for weed infestations on tribal trust lands administered by the BIA Navajo Regional Office, including Navajo Indian Allotments using any of the proposed methods. The annual combination of methods used would vary depending on site conditions, target weed species, population size, and cost. Repeated treatments or re-treatments would be necessary for most weed species because seeds in the soil can be viable for 10 years or more and many of these invasive weeds have aggressive root systems that are hard to kill after one treatment. Therefore, recurring actions would be authorized until the desired control objective is reached.

2.3 Project Location

The BIA Navajo Region is divided into five BIA agencies including:

- Western Navajo Agency (Tuba City, Arizona, 5.2 million acres),
- Eastern Navajo Agency (Crownpoint, New Mexico, 2.3 million acres),
- Fort Defiance Agency (3.3 million acres),
- Shiprock / Northern Navajo Agency (2.7 million acres),
- Chinle / Central Navajo Agency (1.4 million acres).

The Navajo Partitioned Lands (Pinon, Arizona, 910,000 acres) and the New Lands Area (310,000 acres) contain an additional 1.2 million acres. At the date of this writing, the New Lands Area is managed by the Office of Hopi and Navajo Indian Relocation but may come under the BIA in the foreseeable future. Thus, the New Lands Area is included in the project area. Additionally, there are approximately a million acres of land that may be in transition to allotment or trust lands on the Navajo Nation as part of land buy backs.

2.4 Alternatives Introduced at Scoping

There were three alternatives that were presented by the BIA during scoping. Input received during the scoping period, including comments related to the alternatives listed below, will be considered by the BIA in determining the characteristics and the range of the alternatives when they are prepared for the EIS.

Alternative 1. The Preferred Action

Alternative 1 would authorize new treatments of noxious weeds across the Navajo Nation. The various methods analyzed under an integrated weed treatment approach include: manual,

mechanical, cultural, biological and chemical. Under the preferred action every acre on the Navajo Nation will be evaluated for all proposed weed control methods.

Alternative 2. No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative is required by law (Code of Federal Regulations 1502.8) and would call for no additional Integrated Weed Management treatments applied to any Navajo Nation lands.

Alternative 3. No Chemical Method Alternative

Alternative 3 would rely on all treatment methods for noxious weed removal except for chemical.

2.5 Cooperating Agencies

A cooperating agency is any federal agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed action. For this proposed project the following agencies have agreed to be cooperating agencies: Navajo Nation, Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), National Park Service, and Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD).

3.0 Scoping Meetings

The BIA held public scoping meetings during February 5-12 and March 11-15, 2013 regarding the preparation of the Navajo Nation Integrated Weed Management Plan (IWMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). After the project was delayed, the BIA held a second public notice for comment period from April 29 to May 29, 2021, to seek additional comments. Below is a summary of the procedure and events that occurred during the scoping process.

3.1 Notice of Intent

The BIA informed agencies and the public about the IWMP/EIS and solicited their comments to identify issues and questions to consider when developing the integrated weed management plan. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the programmatic EIS for the Navajo Nation IWMP was published in the Federal Register on January 14, 2013 (Vol. 78, No. 9) with a 45-day comment period as required by NEPA. The original close of scoping date ended on February 27, 2013. However, the scoping period was extended after receiving several comments from the public and stakeholders requesting an extension to allow for additional public scoping meetings and more advertising. The Notice to Extend the Scoping Period to prepare the programmatic EIS for the Navajo Nation IWMP was published in the Federal Register on Friday, March 8, 2013 (Vol. 78, No. 4) with the end of the scoping comment period to close on March 20, 2013. Copies of the NOI and the Notice to Extend the Scoping Period can be found in Appendix A.

Since the project was delayed, another comment period was established from April 29-May 29, 2021 to gather current and additional public feedback on the Integrated Weed Management Plan. The BIA Regional Office provided a Factsheet about the project and Comment Card on their website (<https://www.bia.gov/regional-offices/navajo/navajo-nation-integrated-weed-management-plan>) to solicit additional comments specific to weed treatment on the Navajo Nation. The availability of the Factsheet and Comment form was advertised on the radio and in newspapers. No additional scoping meetings were provided during this comment period.

3.2 Scoping Meeting Schedule

Scoping meetings were conducted at five locations during the initial scoping period and six more meetings were added during the extended scoping period. Two of the additional six meetings were presented at District Grazing Meetings by BIA Weed Coordinators and were not advertised. The location, dates and times are listed below in **Table 2**.

Initial Scoping Schedule	Extended Scoping Schedule
Crownpoint, NM Chapter House February 5, 2013 5:00 – 7:00 pm MST	Round Rock, AZ Chapter House District 11 Grazing Meeting March 4, 2013 11:00 am DST
Shiprock, NM Chapter House February 6, 2013 5:00 - 7:00 pm MST	Nazalini, AZ Chapter House District 10 Grazing Meeting March 5, 2013
Chinle, AZ Chapter House February 7, 2013 1:00 – 5:00 pm MST	Navajo Nation Museum Highway 264 and Loop Road Window Rock, AZ 86515 March 11, 2013 12:00 – 3:00 pm DST
Fort Defiance, AZ Chapter House February 8, 2013 9:00 am – 12:00 pm MST	Kayenta, AZ Chapter House March 13, 2013 10:00 am – 1:00 pm DST
Tuba City, AZ Chapter House February 12, 2013 3:00 – 6:00 pm MST	Pinon, AZ Chapter House March 14, 2013 10:00 am – 2:00 pm DST
	Many Farms, AZ Chapter House March 15, 2013 1:00 – 5:00 pm DST

Table 2. Scoping meeting locations, dates, and times for the February and March 2013 scoping meetings.

3.3 Public Notification and Advertisement

During the scoping period, the commencement of the IWMP/EIS was announced through various forms of public outlet. The initial scoping meeting locations, dates and times were published in the printed and online events calendars of the following newspapers and radio

stations from February 4 - 8, 2013 (Appendix B): Also, emails announcing the public meetings were sent to the Navajo Nation Chapter Houses and Cooperating Agencies.

- Arizona Daily Sun, Flagstaff
- Navajo-Hopi Observer
- Farmington Daily Times
- Durango Herald
- East Valley Tribune News
- Albuquerque Journal
- KNAU (<http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/knau/events.eventsmain>)

Public flyers announcing the meetings were also placed in public locations around the towns where the scoping meetings were held one week prior to the meeting date (Appendix C). Also, the meeting location and times were published on the BIA Navajo Region website, <http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/RegionalOffices/Navajo/index.htm>.

The meetings held during the extended scoping period were published as a public service announcement in the following newspapers during the dates listed (Appendix D):

- Arizona Daily Sun, Flagstaff (March 11-15, 2013)
- Farmington Daily Times (March 11-15, 2013)
- Navajo Times (March 14, 2013)
- Cortez Journal (March 12 and 14, 2013)
- Durango Herald (March 11 – 15, 2013)
- Durango Telegraph (March 14 – 15, 2013)
- Albuquerque Journal (March 12 – 15, 2013)
- Gallup Independent (March 11 – 15, 2013)

Also, radio announcements on KTNN discussing the project, scoping meeting locations, dates, and times were aired three times per day from March 10 – 14, 2013. Public flyers announcing the meetings were distributed and posted in public locations in the towns where the public scoping meetings were held one week prior to the meeting date (Appendix E).

The additional public comment period for the Integrated Weed Management Plan on the BIA Navajo Regional website (<https://www.bia.gov/regional-offices/navajo/navajo-nation-integrated-weed-management-plan>) was advertised on the radio on KTNN and KGAK from April 29 – May 6 two times a day and published as a public service announcement in the following newspapers (Appendix L):

- Navajo Times (May 3 - 14, 2021)

- Navajo Hopi Observer (May 3 - 14, 2021)
- Gallup Sun (May 3 - 14, 2021)
- Gallup Independent (May 3 - 14, 2021)
- Farmington Daily Times (May 3 – 14, 2021)

3.4 Scoping Meeting Format and Content

Each scoping meeting was initiated with a sign-in sheet at the door or at a key access point to the seating locations. Along with the sign-in sheet, participants were encouraged to fill out a name tag and take a scoping meeting agenda and comment card. A copy of the sign-in sheet is located in Appendix F and the meeting agenda in Appendix G. The local Weed Coordinator for the area's BIA Agency gave an introduction to the project, introduced the consultants and key BIA personnel, described the presentation format, invited people to visit the poster displays, and requested that everyone fill out a comment card and/or voice their comments. Four poster displays were hung in the meeting locations that outlined the integrated weed management plan and EIS and provided information on the 21 priority weed species (Appendix H). A voice-over presentation discussing the development of the EIS and the Integrated Weed Management Plan, including the aspects of NEPA, was presented initially in Navajo and again in English. A PDF of the presentation is located in Appendix I. The two presentations lasted approximately one hour and 45 minutes. After the presentations finished, a question-and-answer session was held for the public.

The public could provide comments on the Integrated Weed Management Plan through various mechanisms. A Navajo Translator was present at each meeting to transcribe comments given in Navajo to English on the comment cards. Comment cards were distributed to the public when they entered the meeting to fill out and submit at the meeting or by mail to the following address:

Renee Benally
Acting Navajo Region Weed Coordinator
Western Navajo Agency
Branch of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 127
Tuba City, AZ 86045

Comment cards were designed to direct participants to provide substantive comments on specific areas of the Integrated Weed Management Plan and EIS (Appendix J). There was also an area for other concerns and comments. The focal areas included: proposed weed removal methods, priority sites for weed management, alternatives, concerns, and other. Verbal comments were accepted, and were not recorded verbatim, but notes were taken to summarize the speakers' comments and statements. Comments were also accepted by Renee Benally via phone, email and fax from January 14- March 20, 2013. A total of 129 people attended as least one of the eleven public scoping meetings during the Scoping Period.

4.0 Scoping Comment Summaries

This section provides an overview of the comments received during the scoping period for the Navajo Nation Integrated Weed Management Plan. Comments were categorized and separated by major issues raised by members of the public or government agencies in the scoping process. Specific issues and questions are discussed in each section and will be further addressed in the EIS. General comments, concerns, and questions not falling within one of the major issues identified, or comments that do not pertain to the scope of the EIS were not included, which is further discussed in section “4.13. Non-EIS Scoping Comments.” A total of 45 comments were received, including: 31 written comments, 12 verbal comments, one email comment, and one fax. An additional five comments were received through the email comment form during the April 29 – May 29, 2021, additional Scoping Period.

4.1 Removal Methods

4.1.1 Biological control

Biological control is a method of controlling pests (i.e. invasive plants) by using living organisms. In the case of invasive plant control several living organisms have been identified by U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), including mites, beetles, fungus, wasps, flies, moths, nematodes, and rusts. Several comments discussed interest and concern over bio-control, including:

- One commenter was interested in learning what kind of bio-control would work with different weed species.
- Two commenters were concerned about bio-control agents being difficult to eradicate after the host plant is exterminated and if they will need to do additional treatments to eradicate the bio-control agent.
- One commenter was concerned about bio-control agents being safe around livestock, farmlands, and horticulture.
- One commenter was in support of biological control.

4.1.2 Chemical Control

Chemical control will include using various approved herbicides for treatment of noxious weed species. Several commenters discussed their concerns over the effectiveness of chemical treatments and concern over the effects of chemicals on the community, other plants, and livestock. Another comment addressed elderly traditional concerns with chemical treatments. Other comments on chemical control included:

- Two commenters wanted to know what time of year was best for chemical treatment.

- One commenter inquired about how long after an application of chemical treatments could the area be used for grazing.
- One commenter was interested in the lingering effects of chemical control.
- One commenter was concerned about the effects on underground water contamination from chemical use.
- One commenter was worried about the human health effects of herbicides.

4.1.3 Mechanical Control

Mechanical control refers to the removal or cutting of weeds either by hand or through the use of mechanical tools such as mowers, bulldozers, loppers, etc. Mechanical methods can either trim the above ground portions of the weeds or involve the removal of the entire plant, including the below ground root system. Comments pertaining to mechanical control include:

- One commenter discussed their concern over the effectiveness of digging up weed species, since their experience showed that the weeds re-sprouted after digging.
- One commenter suggested that weeds should be burned in early spring because of the Navajo culture. They had concern over burning ants, lizards, snakes, and spiders.
- One commenter suggested using sheep to control weeds as a better alternative to chemical treatment.
- One commenter suggested using a mini excavator with a biting bucket to pull out saltcedar, recycle for firewood, and have the chapter labor cut it up for the community.
- Removal of thistles in areas around Burnham Chapter.
- One commenter proposed to use cut and burn treatments and recycle the cut material for firewood or mulch.

4.1.4 Cultural Control

As discussed above (Section 1.0), cultural control methods utilize cultural practices that prevent or out-compete invasive weed species. These include the use of grazing, cultural considerations for the timing of weed treatments, and planting native vegetation to outcompete weeds.

- One commenter supports using cultural control.
- One commenter discusses the need to remove livestock from washes to minimize impacts after tamarisk have been removed.
- One commenter noted that in one case a horse ate camelthorn plants to the root and provided a good means for control.

4.1.5 Integrated Weed Control

The proposed weed management plan includes an integrated approach of weed control using the methods described above. Several commenters recognized the need for integrated control of weeds. These comments included:

- Chemical, aerial, and mechanical methods may have to be used depending on effectiveness and accessibility to noxious weed sites.
- Pick an infected area locally and try different eradicating methods to find what works best.
- One commenter supports the integrated treatment of weeds using the methods proposed.

4.1.6 General Comments on Control Methods

The BIA received a number of general comments regarding control methods discussed during the presentation. These comments include:

- One comment discussed methods that they have found effective that they would like to see considered in the IWMP, including a stress method where a pick-up truck is used to drive over weed infested areas to stress the plants.
- Another comment was concerned with the timing of applying treatments.
- One commenter had concern with the effectiveness of any control methods being effective for the long-term control of weeds.
- One comment suggested that the Weed Management Plan consider using the NRCS Herbaceous Weed Control Program for mechanical, chemical, and biological treatment, NRCS Weed Control Practice Code 315.
- Many comments were interested in learning methods to control specific weed species.
- One comment suggested that weed removal will only work if the area is fenced.
- One commenter inquired if the proposed methods of weed extermination were currently being used somewhere else.
- One commenter was concerned about the removal of livestock to another location during weed treatments.
- One comment suggested that rainfall data be collected and used as a factor to determine the appropriate weed treatment methods.
- Some of the general requirements along linear rights-of-way and herbicide spray trucks are not practical such as requiring parking at designated areas during treatment, marking the boundaries of the treatment site, and requiring the use of dye markers when spraying along the roadside.

- ADOT would like to coordinate regarding the procedures and requirements for notifications ahead of treatments on rights-of-way.

4.2 Alternatives

In addition to the three alternatives discussed above, the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife, Navajo Natural Heritage Program requested that a fourth alternative be developed to consider weed control using cultural, chemical, and mechanical methods, but not biological control.

4.3 Priority Sites for Weed Control

Originally, the BIA was considering developing a list of priority sites for weed control to be evaluated in the EIS. However, after further discussions with cooperating agencies the BIA decided that every acre on the Navajo Nation would be evaluated for any of the proposed control treatments. Scoping was performed prior to this decision; therefore, the scoping comment card requested a list of priority sites for weed control from the public. While these sites will not be analyzed separately, they will be covered in the EIS. Several commenters provided suggestions for priority sites of weed control. These sites include the following:

- One commenter said that priority sites for weed removal will depend on farmland, home site lease or land use permittees.
- Two comments included range and farmland
- Chinle South Natural Dam and Red Reservoir Earth Dam west of Chinle.
- Watersheds
- Residential and harvest fields in Lupton, Houck, Klagetoh, Wide Ruins, and Sanders area.
- Areas near communities in Ganado, Kayenta, TC, Crownpoint.
- All open rangeland which have no management should be high priority.
- 15 dams in the Fort Defiance community.
- Cow Springs Wash
- Camelthorn around South Tuba City.
- Target Russian olive in water ways.
- Residential areas and homesteads
- Farms and canals
- Round Rock Lake and irrigation canals from the lake.
- Lukachukai, AZ- all the washes that come down from the mountains.

- Three comments suggested farms, lakes, ponds, washes, roads, and rangeland.
- Musk thistle located three miles northwest of Pinion High School and Sanddune Valley.
- Blue Gap Valley
- Bull thistle and cocklebur located three miles north of Pinion around Hwy 41- down Wash Valley. Typical names of the area are Tonikani, Tse Ha Nili, Sanddune Valley.
- Navajo Partitioned Land and Hopi Partitioned Land
- Many Farms Lake, Chinle Wash. Concerned about Russian olive debris taking out the Chinle Wash Bridge in a big flood event.
- Many Farms Lake and Farm Plot #10-2-46 NW of Sand Cone Spring Art Well.
- Little Colorado River-suggested that BIA should prioritize the Little Colorado River Invasive Species Management Plan.
- San Juan River corridor to treat the overgrowth of Russian Olive.
- Farms should be retired and returned to rangeland.
- Safe removal of saltcedar from earthen dams about 7 miles south of Burnham Chapter.
- Roadsides and riparian areas adjacent to bridges and culverts.
- Dulcon, AZ in the Chimney Butte area is infested with tumbleweed and others. Cheat grass came in during wet winters.

4.4 Re-planting/Restoring Sites after Weed Removal Treatments

Several commenters showed concern about re-seeding and restoring sites after weed removal treatments occurred. Below is a list of the comments and questions that were provided.

- Two commenters discussed the issues of what to do with livestock after an area is replanted with natives, one suggested that fencing should be a priority.
- Areas should be revegetated with more native trees.
- Four commenters were interested in the species of native plants that could be used to replant areas after weed removal.
- One commenter asked when an area can be re-seeded after treatment and where will funding come from.
- One commenter requested that re-seeding should occur.

4.5 Soil Erosion and Disturbance

Several commenters were concerned over the disturbance to soil when invasive weeds are removed and suggested that treated areas should be revegetated with native forage to stabilize soil, wind erosion, and cultural resources.

4.6 Education and Public Outreach

During the scoping presentation, the use of public education and outreach were discussed to help with prevention of new weed infestations.

- Four people commented on the need for greater public outreach and education and community engagement. The comments suggested that public education and outreach should emphasize weed prevention to increase native vegetation for livestock; educational awareness material could be distributed as brochures, fact sheets, and posters; and that more BIA and tribal participation should occur at the Local Work Group meetings.
- Two comments suggested that education be focused through the schools by designing a local projects and have kids participate and provide an avenue for the information to reach the family.
- Two comments requested more information on restoration, weeds, plants, and trees that are removed and on how to control certain invasive weeds.
- One commenter suggested that people should be informed about invasive weeds when they receive their grazing permits.

4.7 Priority Weed Species

The BIA selected 21 priority noxious weed species to focus on in the proposed integrated weed management plan. Many of the priority weeds identified by the commenters were already on the BIA's priority species list, including: Russian olive, saltcedar, camelthorn, spotted knapweed, puncturevine (bullhead), and musk thistle.

- One commenter discussed the dense thickets of Russian olive in washes provides ideal sites for parties, a hiding place for someone running from the law, and an area where cattle can hide from the owners.
- Another commenter discussed their concern of Russian olives taking over three acres of farmland near an artesian well where the community gets their water. Other species that were suggested by commenters to include on the weed priority list include: Russian thistle and cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*).
- Three commenters brought up an economic concern with the cocklebur getting stuck in sheep wool and decreasing the market value of the wool.

- Red willow was discussed as a concern by one commenter because they believe that the willow uses too much water.
- Milkweed was a concern of one commenter, because it is poisonous for livestock.
- One commenter suggested that the highest priority should be to create a noxious and invasive weed plant list for the grazing districts with the help of the NRCS Local Work Groups.
- Russian knapweed, camelthorn, and Russian olive are hard to control because of infestations outside of the Navajo Nation and that seeds drop each year and remain in the soil.

4.8 Economic Concerns

One of the resources to be analyzed in the EIS is the impact of the integrated weed management plan on economic concerns.

- One commenter proposed that an effective weed eradication plant could serve to create jobs and potential entrepreneurial opportunities.
- One commenter was concerned about the impact of weeds taking the water from a water source designated for farming and ranching.
- Several commenters were concerned over the impact of invasive weeds on the declined condition of rangeland for their livestock and decreased value of wool from their sheep due to cocklebur entanglement.
- Many commenters would like to see the rangeland restored with native grasses to improve grazing habitat.

4.9 Climate Change

Several commenters were concerned about the impacts of grazing pressure and climate change on the proliferation of weeds, and suggested that climate change be evaluated in the EIS. One commenter suggested that the EIS should analyze and quantify the effects of grazing, weed-infested hay, and drought on the establishment and proliferation of weeds.

4.10 Policy Concerns

Currently, the Navajo Nation allows weed infested hay to be sold and used on the Navajo Nation. This has been a source of exotic weed infestation. Several commenters discussed the need for a Navajo Nation weed law/policy that would only permit the sale and use of certified weed-free hay for livestock.

- One commenter suggested that invasive weeds should be included in a Livestock Management Plan.
- One commenter had concern over the grazing pressure and increase in noxious weeds and suggested that BIA enforce the grazing regulations.

- Two commenters had concern over why overgrazing was not addressed as the cause of the weeds and felt that desertification was advancing.

4.11 Maintenance and Monitoring

- One commenter asked how sites were going to be monitored after areas were treated.

4.12 Cooperating Agencies

As stated above in Section 2.5, a cooperating agency is any federal agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed action.

- One commenter suggested that the Navajo Nation government, particularly the Agricultural Department, needs to be more involved in this project.
- One commenter suggested that if partnering agencies were able to consider funding this project it would serve to strengthen the resurgence of natural vegetation and wildlife, restore underground water levels and create more favorable conditions for future agricultural initiatives thereby restoring and strengthen Navajo cultural farming traditions.
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) does herbaceous weed control. They have a plan and practice standards including biochemical and mechanical controls. They would like to form partnerships with the BIA agencies. One commenter recommended that the BIA incorporate aspects of the NRCS practice standard for control, priority species identification, and community coordination into the proposed integrated weed management plan.

4.13 Other Comments Relating to the EIS

Several commenters during the first round of scoping felt that the scoping period needed to be extended to include more scoping meetings in areas that would also be interested in the project. Also, several commenters suggested that a more aggressive advertising campaign was needed for the meetings. In response to these comments, the scoping period was extended to March 20, 2013 and the scoping presentation was given at four additional meeting locations and at two district grazing meetings (discussed above). The four scoping meetings were publicized in various media outlets, including radio, newspaper, and flyers.

- One commenter was interested in when the integrated weed management plan will take effect.
- One commenter would like it clearly stated what types of activities would fall into the category of ground disturbing activities that require cultural or biological surveys. Herbicide application, mowing, and hand/chain saw removal are not considered ground disturbing activities by ADOT.

4.14 Non-EIS Scoping Comments

NEPA regulations state that all significant issues relative to the proposed project should be addressed in the EIS. The comments and issues discussed above will be addressed in the EIS. However, comments that were beyond the scope of NEPA and CEQA, outside of the proposed project, value-type comments, or not related to the plan or EIS do not need to be addressed in the EIS. Therefore, these comments were not provided in this report.

Appendix A. Notice of Intent and the Notice to Extend the Scoping Period

review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended). This Notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

Title of Proposal: Annual Performance Report and Annual Homeless Assessment Report.

OMB Control Number: 2506-0145.

Description of the need for the information and proposed use: This information will enable HUD to assess the performance of individual projects and to determine project compliance with funding requirements. This information assists HUD in understanding homeless clients and service needs at the local level. HUD also uses this information to provide information on overall program performance and outcomes to HUD staff, other federal agencies, the Congress, and the Office of Management and Budget.

Agency Form Numbers: HUD-40118.

Members of the affected public: Grant recipients for the Supportive Housing Program (SHP), Shelter Plus Care (S+C) Program, and the Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation for the Single Room Occupancy Dwellings (SRO) Program.

Estimation of the total number of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response: APR Non-Profit recipients (3,250 responses × 1,680 minutes = 91,000 hours per annum) + APR State and Local Government recipients (3,250 responses × 1,680 minutes = 91,000 hours per annum) + AHAR with Automated Software Report (425 responses × 48 hours = 20,400 hours per annum) + AHAR with Manual Software Report (63 responses × 88 hours = 5,544 hours per annum) = 207,944 hours per annum.

Status of proposed information collection: Extension of currently approved package 2506-0145.

Authority: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: January 7, 2013.

Clifford Taffet,

General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.

[FR Doc. 2013-00564 Filed 1-11-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-67-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

Central Utah Project Completion Act; East Hobble Creek Restoration Project Draft Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The draft environmental assessment for the East Hobble Creek Restoration Project is available for public review and comment. The assessment analyzes the anticipated environmental effects of a proposed restoration effort on a portion of Lower Hobble Creek, near Springville, Utah. **DATES:** Submit written comments by February 13, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Ms. Sarah Sutherland, East Hobble Creek Restoration, 355 W. University Parkway, Orem, UT 84058-7303; by email to sarah@cuwcd.com; or by Fax to 801-226-7171.

Copies of the Draft Environmental Assessment are available for inspection at:

- Central Utah Water Conservancy District, 355 West University Parkway, Orem, Utah 84058-7303
- Department of the Interior, Central Utah Project Completion Act Office, 302 East 1860 South, Provo, Utah 84606

In addition, the document is available at www.cuwcd.com and www.cupcao.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Lee Baxter, Central Utah Project Completion Act Office, at (801) 379-1174; or email at lbaxter@usbr.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of the Interior, the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, and the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, are evaluating the impacts of the proposed East Hobble Creek Restoration project. The draft environmental assessment, being

completed in conjunction with the June Sucker Recovery Implementation Program, will analyze and present the anticipated environmental effects of a proposed restoration effort on a portion of lower Hobble Creek, near Springville, Utah. This restoration effort is intended to facilitate the recovery of the June sucker, a federally listed endangered species, through improvement of spawning habitat and maintenance of stream flow. The effort to be analyzed would include the potential restoration of approximately 2 miles of stream channel, modification or removal of several existing barriers to fish passage, and enhancement of the existing water supply.

Public Disclosure

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: January 9, 2013.

Reed R. Murray,

Program Director, Central Utah Project Completion Act, Department of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 2013-00656 Filed 1-11-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MN-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Navajo Nation Integrated Weed Management Plan Within Coconino, Navajo, and Apache Counties, Arizona; McKinley, San Juan, McGill, and Cibola Counties, NM; and San Juan County, UT

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) as lead Agency, with the Navajo Nation, National Park Service, and Arizona Department of Transportation serving as cooperating agencies, intends to prepare an EIS for a proposed weed management plan for the Navajo Indian Reservation. This notice also announces the beginning of the public scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

DATES: Comments on the scope of the EIS may be submitted in writing until February 28, 2013. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, including the Navajo Times, Arizona Daily Sun, Farmington Daily Times, Gallup Independent, and the Navajo Hopi Observer.

ADDRESSES: You may mail, email or hand carry comments to Renee Benally, Natural Resource Specialist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Navajo Agency, Branch of Natural Resources, PO Box 127, Tuba City, Arizona 86045; telephone: (928)283-2210; email: renee.benally@bia.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Renee Benally, Natural Resource Specialist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Navajo Agency, Branch of Natural Resources, PO Box 127, Tuba City, Arizona 86045; telephone: (928)283-2210; email: renee.benally@bia.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BIA is proposing to develop a ten-year integrated weed management plan for the Navajo Indian Reservation. The Navajo Indian Reservation lands are infested with noxious and/or invasive weeds that have social and economic impacts on the Navajo Nation. The BIA, in partnership with cooperating agencies, intends to develop an integrated weed management plan to prevent, control, reduce, and eliminate the detrimental impacts of weed infestations throughout the reservation. The proposed action would authorize new treatments of noxious and invasive weed infestations throughout the Navajo Indian Reservation. The number of infestations and amount of acreage treated will be determined by the annual funding allocations for project implementation. The various methods of noxious/invasive weed control that will be considered during development of alternatives for the integrated weed management plan include, but will not be limited to, mechanical, cultural, biological and herbicidal treatments, and other methods that may be identified during the public scoping process.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the process for developing the EIS. At present, the BIA has identified the following preliminary issues: Surface and ground water quality; environmental justice considerations; cultural and historic

resources; biological resources; public health; and socioeconomics.

The BIA will use and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Native American tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with the Department of the Interior's consultation policy, and tribal concerns will be given due consideration, including impacts on Indian trust assets. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the BIA's decision on this project are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BIA to participate as a cooperating agency.

Directions for Submitting Public Comments: Please include your name, return address and the caption "Navajo Nation Integrated Weed Management Plan EIS Comments" at the head of your letter or in the subject line of your email message.

Availability of Comments: Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BIA address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except holidays. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority: This notice is published in accordance with sections 1503.1 and 1506.6 of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508) implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and the Department of the Interior National Environmental Policy Act Implementation Policy (43 CFR part 46), and is in the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

Dated: December 19, 2012.

Kevin K. Washburn,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2013-00527 Filed 1-11-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-W7-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS-NRSS-GRD-12018; PPWONRADG0, PPMRSNR1N.NG0000]

Information Collection Request Sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval; Mining and Mining Claims and Non-Federal Oil and Gas Rights

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We (National Park Service, NPS) have sent an Information Collection Request (ICR) to OMB for review and approval. We summarize the ICR below and describe the nature of the collection and the estimated burden and cost. This information collection is scheduled to expire on February 28, 2013. We may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. However, under OMB regulations, we may continue to conduct or sponsor this information collection while it is pending at OMB.

DATES: You must submit comments on or before February 13, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments and suggestions on this information collection to the Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior at OMB-OIRA at (202) 395-5806 (fax) or OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov (email). Please provide a copy of your comments to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 I Street NW., MS 1237, Washington, DC 20005 (mail); or madonna_baucum@nps.gov (email). Please reference OMB Control Number 1024-0064 in the subject line of your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this ICR, contact Edward O. Kassman, Jr., Regulatory Specialist, Energy and Minerals Branch, Geologic Resources Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 25287, Lakewood, Colorado 80225 (mail); (303) 987-6792 (fax); or Edward_Kassman@nps.gov (email). You may review the ICR online at <http://www.reginfo.gov>. Follow the instructions to review Department of the Interior collections under review by OMB.

I. Abstract

The Organic Act of 1916 (NPS Organic Act) (16 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*) authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to develop regulations for national park

influence of liquor/alcoholic beverage, to the extent that control of the person's faculties is impaired shall be guilty of a violation of this ordinance.

.03 Consuming Liquor/Alcohol in Public Conveyance—Any person engaged wholly or in part in the public conveyance business of carrying passengers for hire and every agent, servant, or employee or such person, who knowingly permits any person to drink any liquor/alcohol in any vehicle that carries passengers for hire, while such vehicle is on Tribal land, shall be guilty of a violation of this ordinance. Any person who drinks any liquor/alcohol in any vehicle that carries passengers for hire, while such vehicle is on Tribal land, shall be guilty of a violation of this ordinance.

.04 Liquor/Alcohol may not be given as a prize, gift, premium or consideration for a lottery, contest, game of chance or skill, or competition of any kind.

Section 8.00—Enforcement and Jurisdiction

.01 Enforcement—The Tribe through its Tribal Council and Bishop Paiute Tribal Court (Tribal Court) and duly authorized security personnel, shall have the authority to enforce this Ordinance which shall include confiscating any liquor/alcohol manufactured, introduced, sold or possessed located on Tribal Lands in violation of this ordinance. The Tribal Council shall be empowered to sell confiscated liquor/alcohol for the benefit of the Tribe after receiving Tribal Court approval, and to develop and approve such regulations as may become necessary for the enforcement of this Ordinance.

.02 Jurisdiction—Any violations of this ordinance shall constitute a public nuisance under Tribal law. It shall be the Tribal Council or its duly authorized security personnel who may initiate and maintain an action in the Tribal Court to abate and permanently enjoin any nuisance declared under this ordinance and to enforce any and all provisions and penalties under this ordinance. The Tribal Council shall authorize and implement the development of Court rules and procedures that will ensure due process as to all Tribal Court proceedings under this ordinance. Any actions taken under this section 8 may be in addition to any other penalties provided in this ordinance or adopted by the Tribal Council from time to time. This ordinance when approved by the United States Department of the Interior and published in the **Federal Register** shall fall under the jurisdiction of the Tribal Court.

.03 General penalties—The Tribe through the Tribal Court may implement monetary fines not to exceed \$500 for each violation and/or causing the suspension or revocation of a liquor/alcohol license. The Tribal Court may adopt by resolution a separate schedule of fines for each type of violation, taking into account its seriousness and the threat it may pose to the general health and welfare of tribal members. This schedule will include violations for repeat offenders. Any penalties provided herein shall in addition to any criminal penalties, which may be imposed by the Tribal Court through an adopted separate ordinance that conforms to federal law.

.04 Conflicting provisions—Whenever any conflict occurs between the provisions of this ordinance or the provisions of any other ordinance of the Tribe, the stricter of such provisions shall apply.

.05 Severability—If any provision or application of this ordinance is determined invalid such determination shall not invalidate the remaining portions of this ordinance.

Section 9.00—Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity

By enacting this ordinance, the Tribe does not waive, or limit or modify its sovereign immunity from unconsented suit or any other judicial or administrative proceeding except as specifically provided herein.

The Tribe agrees and grants a limited waiver of its sovereign immunity solely for the purpose of authorizing the State of California through or on behalf of the California State Department of Alcohol Beverage Control or any other appropriate sState agency to bring an action in courts of appropriate jurisdiction with the State of California or California State Administrative Proceedings, for the purpose of providing the State of California with remedies to enforce all laws, rules, regulations and rights the state has relating to the issuance of a liquor/alcohol beverage license to the Tribe.

Section 10.00—Revocation/Suspension of License

The Tribal Council may revoke or suspend the license for reasonable cause after providing the licensee with notice and an opportunity to participate in a hearing at which time the licensee is given an opportunity to respond to any claims against it alleging a violation of this Ordinance, and to demonstrate why the license should not be revoked or suspended. Any determination of the Tribal Council concerning revocation or suspension of a license is final. The

Tribal Council shall direct its authorized representatives to prepare appropriate rules of procedure concerning how a revocation/suspension hearing is to be held and the form of notice to be given to a licensee subject to potential revocation or suspension of its license.

Section 11.00—Inspection of Licensed Premises

The premises on which liquor is sold or distributed shall be open for inspection by the Tribal Council and/or its authorized representative with respect to the enforcement of this Ordinance at all reasonable times for the purpose of ascertaining whether the rules and regulations of the Tribal Council and this Ordinance are being complied with.

[FR Doc. 2013–05499 Filed 3–7–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–4J–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Extending Scoping Period To Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Navajo Nation Integrated Weed Management Plan Within Coconino, Navajo, and Apache Counties, AZ; McKinley, San Juan, McGill, and Cibola, Counties, NM; and San Juan County, UT

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is extending the public scoping period to prepare an EIS for the Navajo Nation Integrated Weed Management Plan on the Navajo Indian Reservation.

DATES: Scoping comments are due on March 20, 2013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Renee Benally at (928) 283–2210; email: renee.benally@bia.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BIA published a Notice of Intent in the **Federal Register** on January 14, 2013, (78 FR 2685) and ended the scoping comment period on February 28, 2013. The BIA is extending the comment period to March 20, 2013. Please refer to the January 14, 2013, (78 FR 2685) Notice of Intent for project details and commenting instructions.

Dated: February 28, 2013.

Kevin K. Washburn,
Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2013–05398 Filed 3–7–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–W7–P

Appendix B. Newspaper advertisement for the initial scoping meeting locations, dates, and times



Navajo Region Integrated Weed Management Plan Public Meetings

Event occurred on Thu, Feb 7 2013, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm MST

Department of the Interior - Bureau of Indian Affairs—Navajo Region

Announces Public Scoping meetings for an Integrated Weed Management Plan to tackle invasive weeds on the Navajo Nation.

Meetings will be held at the following Navajo Nation Chapter Houses:

- * Crownpoint (Feb 5th 5pm-7pm)
- * Fort Defiance (Feb 8th 9am-12noon)
- * Shiprock (Feb 6th 5pm-7pm)
- * Tuba City (Feb 12th 3pm-6pm)
- * Chinle (Feb 7th 1pm-5pm)

Call or email BIA Natural Resource Specialist, Renee Benally for more information (928)283-2210, renee.benally@bia.gov

Help us fight weeds on the Navajo Reservation!

Venue

Chinle Chapter House

220 S. Main St.
Chinle, AZ 86503



Cost

This is a **free** event.

Schedule

Event has ended.

Contact Info

Renee Benally

- 9282832210
- renee.benally@bia.gov

More Public Meetings Events

[Flagstaff area springs](#)

[Flinn Scholars Program to host informational meeting March 28 at NAU](#)

[Northern Arizona Audubon Meeting](#)

[Flagstaff](#)

[Flagstaff Public Library Board Meeting](#)

[Flagstaff Communicators meeting](#)

[District Advisory Board Meeting](#)

[Immigration Awareness Week: Multi-media Presentation](#)

Appendix C. Public flyer announcing the scoping meetings

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Bureau of Indian Affairs

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Navajo Nation Integrated Weed Management Plan Within Coconino, Navajo, and Apache Counties, Arizona; McKinley, San Juan, McGill, and Cibola Counties, NM; and San Juan County, UT

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

Summary: This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) as lead Agency, with the Navajo Nation, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, and Arizona Department of Transportation serving as cooperating agencies, intends to prepare an EIS for a proposed weed management plan for the Navajo Indian Reservation. This notice also announces the beginning of the public scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

DATES: Comments on the scope of the EIS may be submitted in writing until **February 28, 2013**. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, including the Navajo Times, Arizona Daily Sun, Farmington Daily Times, Gallup Independent, and the Navajo Hopi Observer.

February 05, 2013 – Crownpoint Chapter House	Crownpoint, NM	5:00 PM to 7:00 PM MST
February 06, 2013 – Shiprock Chapter House	Shiprock, NM	5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, MST
February 07, 2013 – Chinle Chapter House	Chinle, AZ	1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, MST
February 08, 2013 – Fort Defiance Chapter House	Fort Defiance, AZ	9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, MST
February 12, 2013 – Tuba City Chapter House	Tuba City, AZ	3:00 PM to 6:00 PM, MST

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Renee Benally, Natural Resource Specialist,
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Navajo Agency, Branch of Natural Resources,
PO Box 127, Tuba City, Arizona 86045;
telephone: (928)283-2210; email: renee.benally@bia.gov.

Dated: December 19, 2012.

Kevin K. Washburn, Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2013-00527 Filed 1-11-13; 8:45 am] **BILLING CODE 4310-W7-P**

Appendix D. Public service announcement in newspapers and radio for the extended scoping period

AFFIDAVIT/PROOF OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF ARIZONA

} ss.

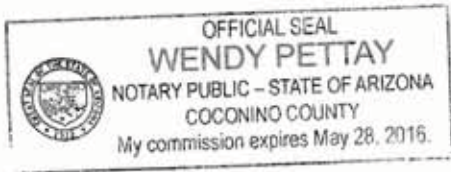
County of Coconino

Bobbie Crosby being duly sworn deposes and says:

That she is the legal clerk of the Arizona Daily Sun a newspaper published at Flagstaff, Coconino County, Arizona; that the legal 16735 a copy of which is hereunto attached, was first published in said newspaper in its issue dated the 12 day of March, 2013, and was published in each one issue of said newspaper for two consecutive days the last publication being in the issue dated the 15 day of March, 2013.

Legal No. 16735 Department of the Interior - Bureau of Indian Affairs-Navajo Region The BIA has extended the Public Scoping period for a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for an Integrated Weed Management Plan to control noxious weeds on the Navajo Nation. Comments on the Plan and EIS will be accepted until March 18. Meetings will be held at the following locations: * Navajo Nation Museum, Window Rock (March 11th 12pm-3pm DST) * Kayenta Chapter House (March 13th 10am-1pm DST) * Pinon Chapter House (March 14th 10am-2pm DST) * Many Farms Chapter House (March 15th 1pm-5pm DST) Call BIA Natural Resource Specialist, Renee Benally for more information (928) 283-2210 Help us fight weeds together! PUB: Mar, 12, 13, 14, 15, 2013 16735

[Signature] Subscribed and sworn to before me this 25 day of March, 2013



[Signature] Wendy Pettay Notary Public

My Commission expires 05/28/2016



Department of the Interior – Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Region

The BIA has extended the Public Scoping period for a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for an Integrated Weed Management Plan to control noxious weeds on the Navajo Nation. Comments on the Plan and EIS will be accepted until March 18.

Meetings will be held at the following locations:

- Navajo Nation Museum, Window Rock
(March 11th 12pm-3pm DST)
- Kayenta Chapter House (March 13th 10am-1pm DST)
- Pinon Chapter House (March 14th 10am-2pm DST)
- Many Farms Chapter House (March 15th 1pm-5pm DST)

Call BIA Natural Resource Specialist, Renee Benally for more information (928) 283-2210

Help us fight weeds together!



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS NAVAJO REGION

Farmington Daily Times

The BIA has extended the Public Scoping period for a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for an Integrated Weed Management Plan to control noxious weeds on the Navajo Nation. Comments on the Plan and EIS will be accepted until March 18.

Meetings will be held at the following locations:

Navajo Nation Museum, Window Rock

(March 11th 12pm-3pm DST)

Kayenta Chapter House

(March 13th 10am-1pm DST)

Pinon Chapter House

(March 14th 10am-2pm DST)

Many Farms Chapter House

(March 15th 1pm-5pm DST)

**Call BIA Natural Resource Specialist, Renee Benally
for more information (928) 283-2210**

Help us fight weeds together!

Durango Telegraph Advertisement
March 14th, 2013 edition

classified

fied ads is **Tuesday at noon**. Ads are a bargain at **40 cents per word with a \$4 minimum**. Due to an increase in unusually long **URL/email addresses**, these will now be charged **10 cents/character**, with an additional **\$1 to provide a link on our web site**. Prepayment is required via cash, credit card or check.

(Sorry, no refunds or substitutions.)

Ads can be submitted via several easy ways:

- E-mail (classifieds@durangotelegraph.com)
- Phone (259-0133)
- 1309 E. 3rd Ave., # 25

Approximate office hours:

Mon., 9ish - 6ish
Tues., 9ish - 6ish
Wed., 9ish - 3ish
Thurs., On delivery
Fri., 10:30ish - 2ish
please call ahead 259-0133.

Found

Gold Ring with a Blue Stone
in Town Plaza Laundromat. Call 303-513-8055 to ID.

Lost

Prescription sunglasses
Grey case, Monday night on 9th Street. 970-769-4248.

Red Fischer Xcountry Skis
and blue poles lost at Falls Creek/Hidden Valley meadow parking area Sun., Feb. 10. Please call Wendy 608-446-6009 with any information.

HelpWanted

Americana rock band
looking for experienced bass player to join band and play gigs. Call John at 769-2113 if interested.

Karyn Gabaldon Fine Arts
Seeking full-time, dynamic sales person with social media and computer skills. Bring resume on Fri. or Sat. only, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. 680 Main Ave.

Wanted

Used message tables
970-769-8389.

Reasonably priced, good to excellent condition, 970-946-1478.

Pets

Spring Break is coming!
Make your boarding reservations now! Paws 'N Playtime 970-422-8019.

Got Dog? New Puppy?
Classes by Certified Professional Dog Trainer Juliet Whitfield at the Durango Rec Center. Free class: Your New Dog & You, March 24. www.durangodogs.com 382-2542 Durango Dogs where Dog Training is Fun & Effective.

March Madness Is Here!
\$5 off all baths and groomings during the month of March. Make your reservations today! Paws 'N Playtime 970-422-8019.

Announcements

Serious Delights Bakehouse
located inside of Nature's Oasis, is now taking orders for wedding and other special occasion cakes! info@seriousdelights.com

Department of the Interior - Bureau of Indian Affairs - Navajo Region

The BIA has extended the public scoping period for a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for an Integrated Weed Management Plan to control noxious weeds on the Navajo Nation. Comments on the Plan and EIS will be accepted until March 18. Meetings will be held at the following locations: Piñon Chapter House (March 14, 10am-2pm DST); Many Farms Chapter House (March 15, 1-5pm DST). Call BIA Natural Resource Specialist Renee Benally for more information (928) 283-2210. Help us fight weeds together!

Cliffside Ski & Bike @ Needles
End of season sale! All ski apparel & accessories for men/women/kids 40-50% off. Demo/rental skis for sale, great prices. 970-385-1461 or info@cliffsideski.com.

Kimonos & Haori Jackets
Upcycled vintage silk @ Verell's, 1021½ Main Ave.

New Treasures are Here
Eco-friendly butterfly earrings. N Castille Creation's, 1021½ Main Ave.

Be a massage therapist next ski season
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Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Region

The BIA has extended the Public Scoping period for a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for an Integrated Weed Management Plan to control noxious weeds on the Navajo Nation. Comments on the Plan and EIS will be accepted until March 18.

Meetings will be held at the following locations:

- * Pinon Chapter House (March 14th 10am-2pm DST)
- * Many Farms Chapter House (March 15th 1pm-5pm DST)

Call BIA Natural Resource Specialist, Renee Benally for more information (928) 283-2210
Help us fight weeds together!

3/14/13



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Right now, government officials have to publish their intentions in the newspaper, including where they intend to build facilities you don't want down the block. But that will change if some politicians get their way. They want to put public notices online instead, buried on some little-seen, rarely visited government website. Don't let the government keep you in the dark.

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Affidavits

1

Department of the Interior -
 Bureau of Indian Affairs-
 Navajo Region

The BIA has extended the Public Scoping period for a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for an Integrated Weed Management Plan to control noxious weeds on the Navajo Nation. Comments on the Plan and EIS will be accepted until March 18. Meetings will be held at the following locations:
 * Navajo Nation Museum, Window Rock (March 11th 12pm-3pm DST)
 * Kayenta Chapter House (March 13th 10am-1pm DST)
 * Pinon Chapter House (March 14th 10am-2pm DST)
 * Many Farms Chapter House (March 15th 1pm-5pm DST)
 Call BIA Natural Resource Specialist, Renee Benally for more information (928) 283-2210
 Journal, March 12-15, 2013

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is conducting scoping meetings to develop an Integrated Weed Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement to control noxious weeds across the Navajo Nation. The public is invited to participate at the following meetings:

- March 11th from 12:00pm to 3:00pm at the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock
- March 13th from 10:00am to 1:00pm at the Kayenta Chapter House
- March 14th from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the Pinon Chapter House, and
- March 15th from 1:00pm to 5:00pm at the Many Farms Chapter House

For more information contact Renee Benally [*Ben-ollie*] at (928) 283-2210.

Appendix E. Public flyer announcing the extended scoping

Public Scoping Meeting for Integrated Weed Management Plan for the entire Navajo Nation:

The BIA is requesting the participation of the public at:

Daylight Savings Time

March 11, 2013	Window Rock, AZ Museum	12 pm to 3 pm
March 13, 2013	Kayenta, AZ Chapter House	10 am to 1 pm
March 14, 2013	Pinon, AZ Chapter House	10 am to 2 pm
March 15, 2013	Many Farms, AZ Chapter House	1 pm to 5 pm



The Bureau of Indian Affairs is conducting scoping meetings to discuss the development of the Integrated Weed Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement to control noxious weeds across the Navajo Nation.

For more information contact Renee Benally at (928) 283-2210.

Appendix F. Scoping meeting sign-in sheet

Appendix G. Scoping meeting agenda

**Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Navajo Nation
Integrated Weed Management Plan**

Chinle, AZ

February 7, 2013, 1:00- 5:00 pm

Scoping Meeting Agenda

- 1:00 PM Welcome Remarks- Renee Benally, Bureau of Indian Affairs Western Region
- 1:05 PM Introduction- Renee Benally
- 1:10 PM Integrated Weed Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement
Presentations (Navajo/English)
- 2:40 PM Closing Remarks
- 2:45 PM Provide your comments

Contact Information: Renee Benally, Acting Navajo Region Weed Coordinator, Western Navajo Agency, Branch of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 127, Tuba City, AZ 86045, Renee.Benally@bia.gov, (928) 283-2210

Appendix H. Posters displayed at meeting locations

Integrated Weed Management Plan for Navajo Indian Reservation



Camelthorn
(*Alhagi maurorum*)

Introduced through contaminated seed and livestock. Can injure livestock and decrease property values. Follows waterways and can penetrate building walls and plumbing.



Knapweed
(*Centaurea* spp.)

Introduced through contaminated seed and ballast. Crowds out native species and forage for livestock. Causes “chewing disease” in horses. Increases surface run-off and sedimentation.

Education will be an important part of implementing the IWMP and controlling priority invasive weeds across the Navajo Indian Reservation. Fred Phillips Consulting conducted a two-day workshop to educate youth on how to remove invasive species along Ganado Wash.



The different techniques considered for removing invasive weeds include mechanical, biological, cultural, and chemical treatments

The Integrated Weed Management Plan (IWMP) will be developed by the BIA in order to accomplish noxious/invasive weed control on the Navajo Indian Reservation.

The IWMP will:

1. Comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and other associated regulations.
2. Will be a 10-year plan.
3. Can be revised through an adaptive management approach.

The primary purpose of the IWMP is to:
is

- Identify the noxious weeds of concern,
- Evaluate the best management practices for control and eradication,
- Provide procedures and protocols to conduct weed removal,
- Provide an approach to project implementation,
- Identify pilot projects.
- Control Techniques that will be considered include:
mechanical, biological, cultural, and chemical treatments



Saltcedar
(*Tamarix* spp.)

Introduced by seed along waterways. Crowds native species and creates single species habitat. Not palatable to many wildlife and range species.



Yellow Starthistle
(*Centaurea solstitialis*)

Introduced through contaminated seed, spread by equipment and animals. Reduces livestock forage. Toxic to horses and sheep.



Bureau of Indian Affairs
Navajo Region

HIGH PRIORITY INVASIVE WEEDS

These weeds are considered a high priority for eradication and control within the Navajo Nation and Navajo Tribal Trust Lands

MOENKOPI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA
NOXIOUS WEED "A" RATING HIGH PRIORITY WEED

WANTED DEAD
TAMARISK, SALTCEDAR
Tamarix sp. - a different name

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
Tamarix family (LAM.) - TAMARISK
FAMILY: Tamaricaceae

DESCRIPTION:
Deciduous or evergreen shrubs or small trees, 5 to 20 feet tall. Bark on saplings and stems is reddish-brown. Leaves are small and scale-like, on highly branched slender stems. Flowers are pink to white, 5 petalled. Smooth woody stems are dark brown to reddish-brown.

Origin: Eurasia.

Distribution/Comments: Tamarisk family can be found near streams (Little Colorado River, San Juan River, Colorado River, Little Pueblo Colorado Wash and other tributaries), fields, and open areas in AZ. Ranchers, farmers, and highway departments found this as a pest for range and road management which becomes bio-hazard along roads and fire fuel for streams with communities nearby. Wildlife are adapting to this weed infestation as a "natural" habitat, outcompeting native woody species such as willows and cottonwoods. Internixed with Russian olive, willow, and cottonwoods.

Control/Methods: Mechanical, Herbicide use, Aerial application, for more information <http://agsvnr1.nmsu.edu/saltcedar/>

Biological Control: Monitoring of the Tamarisk Leaf Beetle, <http://www.tamariskcoalition.org/>

Reference: Weeds of the West. 9th Edition 2002.



Weed Outta here!!

Address:

MOENKOPI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA
NOXIOUS WEED "A" RATING HIGH PRIORITY WEED

WANTED DEAD
SCOTCH THISTLE

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
Oenoporus acanthoides (L.) - ONAC
FAMILY: Asteraceae (Sunflower)

DESCRIPTION:
Scotch thistle is an aggressive biennial forb that ranges in height from 2 to 12 feet. Rosette leaves are very large (up to 2 feet long and 1 foot wide), spiny, and covered with a dense mat of hairs that give the plant a grayish color. Stem leaves are also hairy, alternate, and coarsely lobed. Flowers are violet to reddish, grow up to 2 inches in diameter, and look like a "shaving brush". Spiny bracts surround each flower head.

Origin: Europe.

Distribution/Comments: It's present in every northern counties in AZ. It's an imposing thistle due to its size and formidable spines which negatively impacts livestock forage production, wildlife habitat, farm land (Shonto Wash), highways (N-16, HWY 87, N-41, N-13), and recreational values.

Control/Methods: Mechanical using shovel for 2 years; herbicide, for more information <http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/nr/2002/FS0257.pdf>
http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/publications/publications.htm?seq_no_115=203356

Reference: Non-native Invasive Plants of AZ. 2009. Weeds of the West, 9th Ed. 2002.



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Address:

MOENKOPI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA
NOXIOUS WEED "A" RATING HIGH PRIORITY WEED

WANTED DEAD
DALMATIAN TOADFLAX

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
Linaria genistifolia ssp dalmatica (L.) - LIDA
FAMILY: Scrophulariaceae (Figwort)

DESCRIPTION:
Dalmatian toadflax is a creeping perennial forb with an extensive root system that grows up to 3 feet tall. Even though it's a prolific seed producer that can reproduce both by seed and vegetative reproduction, its deep-penetrating and horizontally spreading root system accounts for much of its spread once seedlings mature. Leaves are alternate, waxy, broad-based, and clasp the stem. Yellow flowers, similar to snapdragons, are borne in the axils of upper leaves. Flowers are striking with an orange bearded throat and a characteristic spur. It prefers dry sites at mid-to-high elevations.

Origin: Europe.

Distribution/Comments: Dalmatian toadflax was probably introduced as an ornamental due to its pretty yellow "snapdragon" flower but looks can be deceiving. It's extremely difficult to control once its creeping root system is established. It is very problematic in communities north of the Mogollon Rim (Flagstaff, Payson, Prescott, N-15, Hwy 98 near Kaibeto, N-59).

Control/Methods: Mechanical, Herbicide use, bio-control, for more information <http://www.mtwweed.org/dalmatian-toadflax/>

Reference: Non-native invasive plants of AZ. 2009. Weeds of the West. 9th Edition 2002.



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Address:

MOENKOPI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA
NOXIOUS WEED "A" RATING HIGH PRIORITY WEED

WANTED DEAD
SPOTTED KNAWEED

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
Centaurea maculosa (LAM.) - CEBB12
FAMILY: Asteraceae (SUNFLOWER)

DESCRIPTION:
Spotted knapweed is a simple perennial forb that grows 1 to 3 feet tall. It reproduces from seed (primary means of spread), and forms a new shoot each year from a taproot. Basal rosette leaves can be up to 5 inches long and are deeply lobed (similar to diffused knap-weed). Pinkish-purple, lavender, sometimes cream-colored, flower heads are solitary at the end of branches, and are about the same size as diffuse knapweed flowers. Floral bracts are fringed and "comb-like" with stiff dark tips that give the appearance of "spots". Bracts have obvious vertical veins below the tip and a reduced central spine.

Origin: Eurasia.

Distribution/Comments: Spotted knapweed is sometimes confused with diffuse knapweed but control practices are similar for both species. Both species have been confirmed around Shonto, Flagstaff, and are aggressive competitors that displace native vegetation in rangelands, meadows, pastures, wildlife habitat, and recreational areas. One Montana study documented severe soil erosion losses on watersheds infested by this spotted knapweed.

Biological control: Mechanical, Herbicides, Biocontrol using insects

<http://www.fcwp.org/BioControl/Spottedknapweed.html>

Reference: Non-native Invasive Plants of AZ. 2009. Weeds of the West, 9th Ed. 2002.



Weed Outta here!!

Address:

MOENKOPI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA
NOXIOUS WEED "A" RATING HIGH PRIORITY WEED

WANTED DEAD
RUSSIAN KNAWEED
Chir'ildash'Y'liba'hi'

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
Acroptilon repens (L.) - ACRE3
FAMILY: Asteraceae (Sunflower)

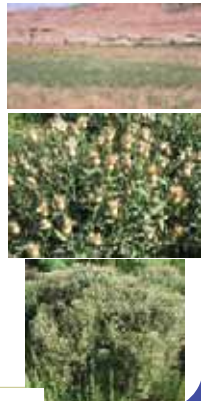
DESCRIPTION:
Russian knapweed is a creeping perennial forb that forms dense colonies from a deep tap to 20 to 30 feet) spreading root system. Roots are typically black or dark brown. Aboveground portions of the plant grow up to 4 feet. Lower leaves range from entire to lobed. Upper leaves are smaller, entire, and directly attached to the stem. Cone-shaped, pink to lavender flower heads are up to 1/2 inch in diameter and are borne at the end of leafy branches. Floral bracts are papery thin and smooth, greenish with a rounded or pointed margin.

Origin: Eurasia.

Distribution/Comments: It's a serious problem in northeastern (Chinle, Farmington, Dennehotso) and southeastern AZ. Like yellow starthistle, Russian knapweed can cause "chewing disease" in horses. Its deep, perennial root system makes control efforts difficult once established.

Control/Methods: Mechanical, Herbicide use (Milestone), new approved biocontrol, for more information <http://www.fcwp.org/BioControl/Russianknapweed.html>

Reference: Non-native invasive plants of AZ. 2009. Weeds of the West. 9th Edition 2002.



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Address:

MOENKOPI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA
NOXIOUS WEED "A" RATING HIGH PRIORITY WEED

WANTED DEAD
CAMELTHORN
Ch'ill'hooshi'

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
Alhagi pseudalhagi (Bieb. Desv.) - ALMA12
FAMILY: Fabaceae (PEA)

DESCRIPTION:
Camelthorn is an aggressive creeping perennial shrub with an extensive root system. It's a "nitrogen fixer" that reproduces by seeds and by extensive, deep-penetrating and horizontally spreading roots. Seeds are housed in jointed seedpods that appear maroon to red in color. Greenish stems are typically tipped with slender greenish-yellow spines that grow 1/4 to 1 3/4 inch long. Leaves are alternate, hairless on the upper surface, but pubescent on the underside.

Origin: Asia, India, Russia.

Distribution/Comments: Camelthorn currently has a scattered distribution throughout the northern counties of AZ. It's especially problematic near the town of Winslow and Holbrook (Tuba City, Leupp, Little Colorado River) where it has caused extensive damage to highways, walkways, and housing foundations. Its creeping root system helps form dense monocultures creating problems for farmers, ranchers, and recreationist.

Control/Methods: Mechanical, Herbicide use (Milestone), no approved biocontrol. <http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/nr/2002/FS0241.pdf>
http://www.aadot.gov/Highways/Natural_Resources/Camelthorn.as

Reference: Non-native Invasive Plants of AZ. 2009. Weeds of the West, 9th Edition. 2002.



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Address:

MOENKOPI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA
NOXIOUS WEED "A" RATING HIGH PRIORITY WEED

WANTED DEAD
RUSSIAN OLIVE

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
Elaeagnus angustifolia (L.) - ELAN
FAMILY: Elaeagnaceae (Oleaster)

DESCRIPTION:
Russian olive can grow as a small, thorny shrub or as a deciduous tree that can grow up to 40 feet tall. All parts of the stems, buds, and leaves have a dense covering of silvery to rusty scales. The bark is smooth and gray when young, but develops ridges and furrows with age. The leaves are 1 to 3 inches long and about 1/2 inch wide, are simple, alternate, and are usually egg or lance-shaped with smooth margins. Flowers are aromatic, creamy-yellow, and bell-shaped. Fruits are like silver berry achenes about 1/2 inch long that appear in clusters usually during late summer and early fall.

Origin: Eurasia.

Distribution/Comments: Russian olive can be found near streams, fields and open areas in AZ. Its fruit is readily eaten and disseminated by many species of birds. It has the ability to "fix" nitrogen and is easily established on bare soils and in riparian areas. Establishment and reproduction is primarily by seed although some vegetative propagation also occurs.

Control/Methods: Mechanical, Herbicide use, Aerial application, for more information <http://agsvnr1.nmsu.edu/saltcedar/>

Reference: Non-native invasive plants of AZ. 2009. Weeds of the West. 9th Edition 2002.



Weed Outta here!!

Address:



HIGH PRIORITY INVASIVE WEEDS



These weeds are considered a high priority for eradication and control within the Navajo Nation and Navajo Tribal Trust Lands

MOENKOPI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA NOXIOUS WEED "A" RATING HIGH PRIORITY WEED

WANTED DEAD
LEAFY SPURGE

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
Euphorbia esula L. - EUES

FAMILY: Euphorbiaceae

DESCRIPTION:

An aggressive creeping, perennial forb with a root system that can extend into the soil as far as 30 feet. Leaves are 1 to 4 inches long, are linear, alternate, and entire (several times long as wide). Stems are thickly clustered and smooth, and exude a milky latex juice when broken. Small, yellow-green flowers are enclosed by paired, heart-shaped yellow-green bracts. The fruiting structure is a 3-celled capsule, with each capsule containing a single seed. Capsules rupture at maturity and disperse seeds for up to 15 feet.

ORIGIN: Eurasia

DISTRIBUTION/COMMENTS:

Widespread throughout most of the United States. This plant can cause severe eye and skin irritations in livestock and in some people. Its encroachment on rangelands has cost millions of dollars due to losses in forage for livestock and habitat for wildlife, and as a result, can diminish recreational values on infested land. It is a serious problem near Flagstaff and Springville, Arizona. It can invade a variety of areas including pastures, rangeland, woodlands, floodplains, prairies, wetlands, and roadsides.

CONTROL/METHODS: Mechanical, biological and herbicide use.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
http://weeds.cmas.edu/pdf/leafy_spurge_factsheet_11-06-05.pdf

REFERENCE:

Non-native Invasive Plants of Arizona. 2009. Weeds of the West, 9th Edition. 2002



MOENKOPI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA NOXIOUS WEED "A" RATING HIGH PRIORITY WEED

WANTED DEAD
BULL THISTLE

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
Cirsium vulgare (Savi Tenore) - CIU

FAMILY: Asteraceae

DESCRIPTION:

A biennial forb that forms a rosette in its first year and then bolts and produces seed in its second year. Second-year leaf lobes are double toothed and end in a spine. Leaves have wavy margins with prickles on the surface and pubescence on the underside. Stems are very pubescent and have dark purple veins. Flower heads produce red or purple flowers that can grow up to 2 inches wide. The root system is short and fleshy.

ORIGIN: Eurasia

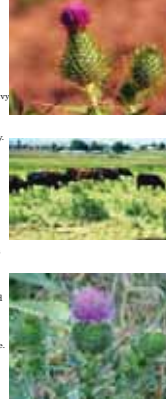
DISTRIBUTION/COMMENTS:

Although widespread in the Southwestern U.S., it is less aggressive than other non-native thistles in the area. It typically grows as a few scattered individual plants or populations, primarily at higher, moister sites above 2000 feet. Bull thistle can invade any type of disturbed area including forest clearcuts, riparian areas, and pastures. It is unpalatable to wildlife and livestock and can reduce forage potential by crowding out native vegetation.

CONTROL/METHODS: Mechanical, herbicide use, approved biocontrol

FOR MORE INFORMATION
http://www.na.fs.fed.us/hpinvasive_plants/weeds/bull_thistle.pdf

REFERENCE:
Non-native Invasive Plants of Arizona. 2009.



MOENKOPI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA NOXIOUS WEED "A" RATING HIGH PRIORITY WEED

WANTED DEAD
CANADA THISTLE

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
Cirsium arvense (L. Scop.) - CIAR4

FAMILY: Asteraceae

DESCRIPTION:

An erect perennial forb, which can grow to 1.5 to 4 feet tall, with ridged stems becoming hairy and branching at maturity. Leaves are alternate, lance-shaped, and irregularly lobed with spiny toothed margins. Flowers can be purple or white and typically bloom from June to September. Canada thistle does not have spines on its flowers or stems. Fruits are small flattened brown achenes with bristly plumes. Horizontal roots may extend 15 feet or more and vertical roots may grow to 15 feet deep. Male and female flowers develop on separate plants.

ORIGIN: Eurasia

DISTRIBUTION/COMMENTS:

Widespread throughout the U.S. Vegetative reproduction from its root system contributes to local spread but seeds can contribute to long distance dispersal. Once established, Canada thistle can crowd out and replace native vegetation, reducing rangeland and agricultural land values. It does best in barren disturbed areas such as wastelands, meadows, fields, and streambank sedge meadows.

CONTROL/METHODS: Cultural, Mechanical, Herbicide use, and approved biocontrols

FOR MORE INFORMATION
<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/natres/03108.html>

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/ciar.htm>

REFERENCE:
Non-native Invasive Plants of Arizona. 2009.



MOENKOPI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA NOXIOUS WEED "A" RATING HIGH PRIORITY WEED

WANTED DEAD
MUSK THISTLE

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
Carduus nutans (L.) - CANU

FAMILY: Asteraceae

DESCRIPTION:

Musk thistle is a biennial forb that can also grow as an annual. It has a thick tap root from which a rosette of basal leaves emerges. Rosettes grow 3 to 5 feet in diameter. Leaves are hairless and have deep lobes, are dark green with a light green midrib, and a spiny margin. Leaves extend beyond the stem, giving the appearance of a "winged" stem. Large "powder puff" flowerheads (1.5 to 3 inches in diameter) can be deep rose, purple, or white. Flower head weight bends the stems downward, giving the appearance of a nodding flowerhead in windy weather. It can grow up to 5 ft tall with adequate soil moisture.

ORIGIN: Europe

DISTRIBUTION/COMMENTS:

Widespread throughout the U.S. Musk thistle has broad ecological amplitude, growing in dry open rangeland and in wetlands. The key to controlling them is to destroy them before they set seed. Infestations are often spotty in the Southwestern U.S. Musk Thistle is unpalatable to wildlife and livestock. It colonizes disturbed areas such as landside areas, meadows, and prairies.

CONTROL/METHODS: Mechanical, Biological, Herbicide use, approved biocontrol

FOR MORE INFORMATION
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/canu.htm>

REFERENCE:
Non-native Invasive Plants of Arizona. 2009.



MOENKOPI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA NOXIOUS WEED "A" RATING HIGH PRIORITY WEED

WANTED DEAD
PERENNIAL PEPPERWEED

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
Lepidium latifolium L. - LELA2

FAMILY: Brassicaceae

DESCRIPTION:

Plants are multi-stemmed and grow in erect masses up to 5 ft. in height. Leaves are lanceolate, bright green to gray-green. Basal leaves are long (up to 10) and have serrate margins. Flowering occurs from early summer to fall with abundant small white 4-petaled flowers in dense clusters near the stem tips. The base of the stems is semi-woody. Roots can grow up to 6 ft in length and are creeping. It can often be confused with hoary cross (see right).

ORIGIN: Eurasia

DISTRIBUTION/COMMENTS:

Widespread throughout the U.S. It can establish in a wide range of habitats and is commonly a problem in disturbed areas such as roadsides, pastures, wetlands, and flood plains. It can rapidly form dense clusters, crowding out native vegetation. Plants can spread quickly along waterways and stream corridors.

CONTROL/METHODS: Mechanical, Cultural, Herbicide use

FOR MORE INFORMATION
<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PAG/PESTNOTES/pn74121.html>

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/lela1.htm>

REFERENCE:
Plant Conservation Alliance - Alien Plant Working Group Least Wanted, Perennial Pepperweed. 2009. <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/lela1.htm>



MOENKOPI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA NOXIOUS WEED "A" RATING HIGH PRIORITY WEED

WANTED DEAD
WHITE TOP (HOARY CROSS)

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
Cardaria draba (L. Desv.) - CADR

FAMILY: Brassicaceae

DESCRIPTION:

A creeping perennial forb that can grow up to 3 ft. tall. It reproduces by seed and its extensive, deeply penetrating root system. Leaves are elliptical, gray-green, clasping, and lightly pubescent. Stems are erect and greatly branching near the flower. It has 4-petaled small flowers at the top of the plant. Heart-shaped seed pods have a slender, persistent beak in the upper cell of the seed pod. Two small, flat, reddish brown seeds are contained in each pod.

ORIGIN: Europe

DISTRIBUTION/COMMENTS:

Distribution is limited to the Four Corners area. It easily establishes in moist sites and is difficult to control once established. It has been introduced in urban settings as a filler for dry flower arrangements. Hoary cross is especially invasive in rangeland and agricultural areas. The plant also produces compounds, known as glucosinolates, which are toxic to cattle.

CONTROL/METHODS: Mechanical, Cultural, Herbicide use, and approved biocontrol

FOR MORE INFORMATION
http://abwr.usgs.gov/ressearch/projects/wepier/factsheets/cadr_info.pdf

REFERENCE:
Non-native Invasive Plants of Arizona. 2009.



MOENKOPI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA NOXIOUS WEED "A" RATING HIGH PRIORITY WEED

WANTED DEAD
YELLOW STAR THISTLE

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
Centaurea solstitialis L. - CES03

FAMILY: Asteraceae

DESCRIPTION:

An aggressive cool season annual forb. It germinates during cooler temperatures and grows 2 to 3 ft tall as temperatures warm. Deeply lobed basal leaves form a rosette, while stem leaves are linear or tapered at both ends and attach directly to the stem. An extension of the leaf runs down the stem, giving a "winged" appearance. Flowers are yellow and are held by bracts that produce stiff, sharp spines that can grow up to 1 in. long. Seeds are produced from ray-shaped flowers and are dark colored and lack bristles.

ORIGIN: Mediterranean Region

DISTRIBUTION/COMMENTS:

Widespread throughout the U.S. Yellow starthistle is found in areas with full sunlight and deep, well-drained soils and is especially common in disturbed sites, such as roadsides, wastelands, and rangelands. Can cause "chewing disease" in horses. As it is a strong invader, it can choke out native vegetation, reducing wildlife habitat and forage.

CONTROL/METHODS: Mechanical, Biological, Herbicide use, approved biocontrol

FOR MORE INFORMATION
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/ces03.htm>

REFERENCE:
Non-native Invasive Plants of Arizona. 2009.



MOENKOPI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA NOXIOUS WEED "A" RATING HIGH PRIORITY WEED

WANTED DEAD
DIFFUSE KNAPWEED

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
Centaurea diffusa (Lam.) - CED13

FAMILY: Asteraceae

DESCRIPTION:

Diffuse knapweed can grow as an annual, biennial, or short-lived simple perennial forb with multiple branches. It ranges in height from 1 to 3 ft. at maturity and can have white, rose, or purple flowers. Yellow-green bracts are tipped with slender terminal spines that curve outward and are typically light brown with a margin like a comb. Basal leaves are finely divided while the stem leaves are entire and smaller.

ORIGIN: Eurasia

DISTRIBUTION/COMMENTS:

Widespread throughout the U.S. Diffuse knapweed quickly invades disturbed sites and undisturbed grasslands, shrublands, and riparian habitats. It quickly outcompetes native vegetation and releases allelopathic chemicals that prevents competitive plant growth, allowing it to take over. It dramatically reduces the productivity of rangelands and forage quality of habitats.

CONTROL/METHODS: Mechanical, Cultural, Herbicide use, approved biocontrol

FOR MORE INFORMATION
<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/natres/03110.html>

<http://parks.state.az.us/SiteCollectionImages/parks/Programs/ParkResourceStewardship/Diffuse%20Knapweed.pdf>

REFERENCE:
Non-native Invasive Plants of Arizona. 2009.





Bureau of Indian Affairs
Navajo Region

MOENKOPI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA
NOXIOUS WEED "C" RATING LOW PRIORITY WEED

WANTED DEAD
CHEATGRASS (DOWNY BROME)
SHEEPGRASS

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

Bromus tectorum (L.) - BRTE

FAMILY: Poaceae (Grass)

DESCRIPTION:

Cheatgrass is a cool-season annual that can grow between 2 inches to 2 feet tall. Like most annuals, it's a prolific seed producer. It germinates during cooler temperatures and rapidly grows and sets seed before most other species. Seedling are bright green with conspicuously hairy (downy) leaves, sheaths, glumes, and lemmas. Seed heads are open, drooping, multiple-branched panicles with moderately awned spikelets. Auricles are absent. At maturity the foliage and seed heads often turn purplish before drying to brown or tan.

Origin: Eurasia.
Distribution/Comments: Cheatgrass is widely adapted and can be found from desert valley bottoms all the way to the highest peaks (i.e. Mt. Lemmon). It quickly invades heavily grazed rangeland, roadsides, waste places, burned areas, and disturbed sites. Cheatgrass can still flower and produce viable seed even when environmental conditions are poor and/or when grazing animals crop the plants. Spikelets readily attach to fur, clothing, & vehicles.

Control/Methods: Mechanical, Herbicide use, for more information

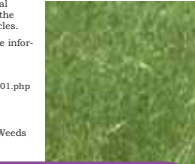
<http://extension.usu.edu/range/Grasses/cheatgrass.htm>

<http://wildlife.utah.gov/watersheds/literature/literaturesub01.php>

Biocontrol: Using fungal pathogens.

<http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/31305>

Reference: Non-native invasive plants of AZ. 2009. Weeds of the West. 9th Edition 2002.



MOENKOPI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA
NOXIOUS WEED "C" RATING LOW PRIORITY WEED

WANTED DEAD
FIELD BINDWEED

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

Convolvulaceae arvensis (L.) - COAR

FAMILY: Convolvulaceae (Morning glory)

DESCRIPTION:

Field bindweed is a drought tolerant, perennial creeping plant (vine) with climbing stems of 1 to 4 feet. Mature plants form dense tangled mats. Leaves are generally 1 to 2 inches long, are smooth, and shaped like a spade or an arrowhead. Roots reach 20 feet below ground, and extensive lateral roots have buds that initiate new plants. Fruits are small, round capsules, each containing 4 seeds. Flowers are 1 to 1 1/2 inches wide, trumpet-shaped, white or pink in color, typically with 2 small bracts located on the petiole. Flowers close each afternoon and reopen the following day.

Origin: Europe.

Distribution/Comments: Widespread throughout AZ. It's difficult to eradicate due to its extensive & deep root system & seeds remain viable inside the soil for 60+ years.

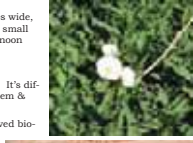
Control/Methods: Mechanical, Herbicide use, approved bio-control.

<http://www.msusextension.org/ruraliving/Dream/PDF/Weed/bindweed.pdf>

Biocontrol: Using insects (gall mites) to control this plant

<http://www.fcwp.org/BioControl/Fieldbindweed.html>

Reference: Non-native Invasive Plants of AZ. 2009. Weeds of the West, 9th Edition. 2002.



MEDIUM PRIORITY
INVASIVE WEEDS

These weeds are considered a medium priority for control and containment on Navajo Nation and Navajo Tribal Trust Lands

MOENKOPI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA
NOXIOUS WEED "B" RATING MEDIUM PRIORITY WEED

WANTED DEAD
HALOGETON

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

Halogeton glomeratus (Stephen ex Bieb.) - HAGL

FAMILY: Chenopodiaceae (Goosefoot)

DESCRIPTION:

An annual weed ranging from a 2 to 18 inches. Main stems branch from the base, spreading at first, and then becoming erect. Plants are blue-green in the spring like tumbleweed and early summer, turning red or yellow by late summer. Leaves are small, fleshy, and nearly tubular, ending inconspicuous, borne in leaf axis.

Origin: Asia.

Distribution/Comments: It's a serious problem in alkaline soils and semi-arid environment of high-desert winter livestock range. Spreads rapidly across range near roads/highways (N-15, N-24, Hwy 89, 160, 163, 1-40, N-27), highly disturbed areas, waterline (Monument Valley), and power lines. Halogeton produces toxic oxalates which are poisonous to sheep and may affect cattle. Hay produces from Utah are selling infested hay bales at local flea markets since Utah & Colorado have WEED FREE Laws and Navajo Nation does not. Hauling bales of hay spreads the seeds into rangelands. Buyer be aware!!

Control/Methods: Mechanical, Herbicide use, for more information

<http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/nr/2000/F80020.pdf>

<http://extension.usu.edu/range/forbs/halogeton.htm>

Reference: Non-native invasive plants of AZ. 2009. Weeds of the West. 9th Edition 2002.



MOENKOPI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA
NOXIOUS WEED "B" RATING MEDIUM PRIORITY WEED

WANTED DEAD
FIELD SANDBUR

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

Cenchrus incertus (CAV.) - CESP4

FAMILY: Poaceae

DESCRIPTION:

A warm season annual herb that can sometimes also be a short-lived perennial. Height ranges from 8 to 24 inches. Leaf blade is 2 to 6 inches long and flat. The stem is erect, but can also grow along the ground. The seedhead is a raceme with 6 to 20 spiny burs covered with fine hair, each enclosing 2 spikelets, and often topped with leaves.

ORIGIN: Southern portion of US (classified as noxious in CA and AZ)

DISTRIBUTION/COMMENTS:

Sandbur growth starts in early spring with seedheads appearing in July. Plants may become semi-dormant when moisture is scarce and green up and produce seeds after a rain. It grows in tufts and dense mats in dry sandy and sandy loam soils. This grass is well-adapted to waste places, old fields, and sandy flood plains. Presence usually indicates severely overused range. The burs are injurious to livestock and can greatly reduce the value of wool and mohair.

CONTROL/METHODS: Mechanical, Biological, Planting competitive grasses and grazing in the spring can control its growth and spread.

For more information

http://plants.usda.gov/factsheet/pdf/fs_cesp4.pdf

<http://cafs.arizona.edu/yavapai/nr/shortbyg/archive/fieldsandbur.html>

Reference:

Percy Magee, Plant Fact Sheet: Mat Sandbur. USDA NRCS National Plant Data. 2002.



LOW PRIORITY
INVASIVE WEEDS

These weeds are considered a low priority for control and containment on Navajo Nation and Navajo Tribal Trust Lands

MOENKOPI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA
NOXIOUS WEED "C" RATING LOW PRIORITY WEED

WANTED DEAD
JOINTED GOATGRASS

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

Aegilops cylindrical (Host) - AECY

FAMILY: Poaceae

DESCRIPTION:

A winter annual reaching heights of 15 to 30 inches. It is closely related to, and can interbreed with wheat. Its flowering portion is slender and segmented and closely resembles what until spikes appear. Spikelets (joints) contain 1 to 3 viable seeds and disarticulate at maturity. Plants produce 1 to many erect stems. Leave have finely spaced, fine hairs along the leaf edge and the sheath opening.

ORIGIN: Eurasia

DISTRIBUTION/COMMENTS:

Jointed goatgrass is found primarily in the north central part of Arizona and New Mexico in both cultivated and uncultivated areas. It can impede wheat production by outcompeting wheat for resources and seeds can be hard to separate from wheat seeds in the soil. Also commonly grows in areas with disturbed soils such as highway right-of-ways, vacant lots, and abandoned fields. Also common in pasture, wheat crops, waste areas, fence lines, and alfalfa fields.

CONTROL/METHODS: Mechanical, Biological, Herbicide use, approved bio-control

For more information

http://www.southwestlearning.org/download_load_product/11600

Reference:

Non-native Invasive Plants of AZ. 2009. Weeds of the West. 9th Edition 2002.



MOENKOPI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA
NOXIOUS WEED "C" RATING LOW PRIORITY WEED

WANTED DEAD
PUNCTUREVINE

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

Tribulus terrestris L. - TRTE

FAMILY: Zygophyllaceae

DESCRIPTION:

An annual warm season weed. Plants have several stems up to 3 feet long radiating from the root with opposite leaves divided into 4 to 7 pairs of oblong leaflets 1/8-1/2 inch long. Stems and foliage often have silky bristly silver hairs. Solitary bright yellow flowers have 5 petals and occur on short stalks. The seedpods separate into wedge-shaped burs or nutlets, each with two stout spines 1/8 - 1/4 inch long. Seedlings can produce deep root systems in a few weeks; flowers within 3 weeks of germination and burs within 6 weeks. The seeds remain viable for decades until sufficient moisture is present for germination.

ORIGIN: Europe

DISTRIBUTION/COMMENTS:

Widespread throughout the Southwestern U.S. Their deep root systems make them difficult to eradicate. Large quantities can be toxic to livestock, especially sheep. The seedpods can puncture shoes and bicycle tires. Plants often produce innumerable numbers making it hard to prevent from falling on the ground.

CONTROL/METHODS: Mechanical, Biological, Herbicide use, approved bio-control

For more information

<http://cafs.arizona.edu/backyards/articles/spring08p13.pdf>

Reference:

McCloskey, W.B. Puncturevine Fact Sheet. University of Arizona. 2008.



Appendix I. Scoping presentation

PEIS and Integrated Weed **ch'il** Management Plan **nahat'á** for the Navajo Nation **Naabeehó Bináhásdzo**

Bureau of Indian Affairs **Wááshindoon**



U.S. Department of Interior,
Bureau of Indian Affairs- Navajo Region

Yá'át'ééh dóó ahéhee'.



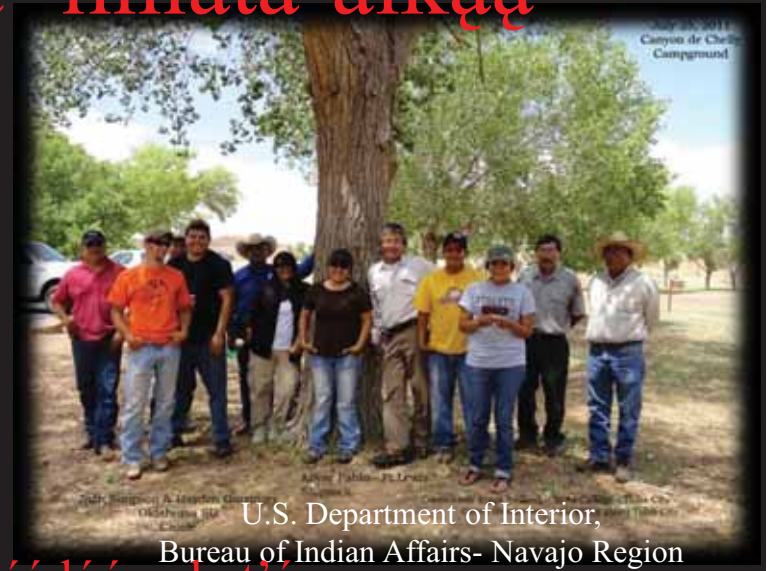
Diné bizaad

'áká 'análwo'í

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Presentation Outline – t'áá 'ííniáta'alkáá' siláago

- Project Background baahane' éi 'aláají' dooleel
- Project Purpose bi'neena
- Project Need a'sin
- Addressing Needs a'sin ee' bahanie
- What is NEPA, EIS and IWMP bibee haz'áanii áadóo nahat'á
- The Scoping Process bi'kei go' oo gal
- Project Timeline bi'kei go' ná'oolkií
- Priority Weed Species ch'il ba na te a gee
- Proposed Methods bi'kei go' bi naashii
- Proposed Alternatives haa'ta go' bi nahat'á
- Resources Considered nahasdzaán bi'kai gee bi'ho dił do ti'agee
- Comments and Questions binda'idółkido 'akée'di dooleel



Background of the Plan (**nahat'á baahane'**)

- Controlling exotic weeds is a concern for land owners
 - Can out-compete native vegetation
 - Can harm livestock (**naaldlooshii**)
- Weed infestations have increased **ch'il dóó yá'át'ééh á'ge 'ayóo hazlǫ́**
 - Roads (**'atiin bikáá' hóló**)
 - Weed hay (**tł'oh bááh hóló**) and grain
 - Infrastructure development
 - Natural (wildlife **ałchini**, wind **niłch'ł**, water **to'**)
- BIA Navajo Region has currently controlled 16,967 acres
 - Need for federal funding (**béeso a'kaa**)
 - Various control methods



What is a noxious weed ch'il dóó yá'át'ééh á'ge hóló?



Photo taken in Shonto Wash.



Photo taken in Shonto road.



Tamarisk occurs in drainages throughout Navajo Nation.



Photo taken in Chinle Agency.



Photo taken in Monument Valley.



Photo taken along State Route 98 between Kaibeto and Page

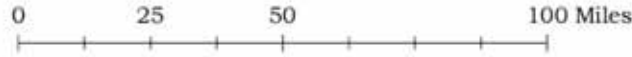


- Legend**
- CHIBOLE NAVAJO AGENCY, 1.7 million acres
 - EASTERN NAVAJO AGENCY, 1.2 million acres
 - FORT HIRSHMAN AGENCY, 2.2 million acres
 - NORTHERN NAVAJO AGENCY, 2.7 million acres
 - NAVAJO PARTITIONED LAND, 908,831 acres
 - WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY, 3.4 million acres

Legend

- Noxious Weed Data Centroid

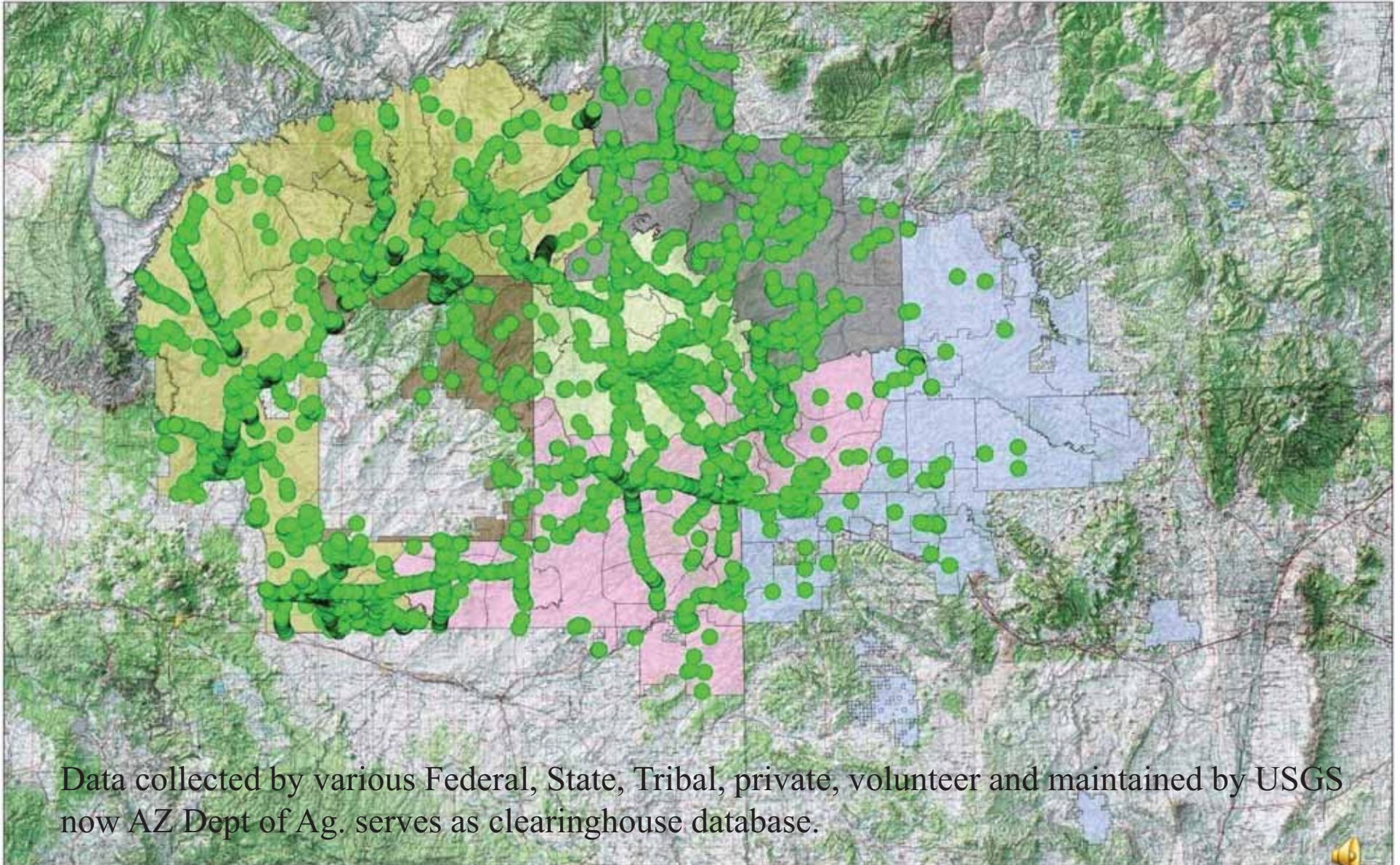
INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR NAVAJO INDIAN RESERVATION
27,000 square miles +/-200



1:695,878



Dootł'izh éii' hazlǫ́



Data collected by various Federal, State, Tribal, private, volunteer and maintained by USGS now AZ Dept of Ag. serves as clearinghouse database.



Project Need (**yii'zin**)

- Control and contain weed infestation
- Maintain livestock forage production
- Maintain high quality wildlife habitat
- Improve and protect native vegetation communities
- Stabilize and protect riparian areas
- Prevent declines in appraised land value **dóó a'íí' da**
- Prevent soil (**leezh**) loss from erosion due to the loss of cover vegetation
- Obtain federal funding (**béeso**) to control weeds



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In Order to Address Needs (**nizin**):

- Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - Comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and Noxious Weed Control and Eradication Act of 2004 (**Kin Náhálgaidéé' Wááshindoon bibee haz'áanii**)
 - Develop a Programmatic EIS
 - Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act will be completed concurrently with the NEPA process
- Integrated Weed Management Plan (**ch'il ba'nahat'á 'ahilgó**)
 - Developed using the most current and effective data available
 - 10-year plan (**neeznáá nááhai nahat'á**) that can be revised through adaptive management
 - Living document (**iiná naaltsoos liná**)



United States Law - **Wááshindoon bibee haz'áanii**

Executive Order 13327 (2004) – Federal Real Property Asset Management

Executive Order 13287 (2003) - Preserve America

Executive Order 13175 (2000) – Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Govern

Executive Order 13007 (1996) – Sacred Sites

Native American graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA)
Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979 as amended (ARPA)

American Religious Freedom Act (1978)



Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974
Executive Order 11593 (1972)

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (NHPA)

Reservoir Salvage Act or 1960
Historic Sites Act of 1935
Antiquities Act of 1906



National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

- Federal law (**bee haz'áanii**) that requires all Federal agencies to assess the environmental impacts of major Federal projects.
- Evaluation process to help determine if a Federal project has a significant impact on the environment.
- If significant impact is determined an environmental impact statement must be prepared.
- This impact must be considered in making decisions.
- Requires public disclosure of environmental impacts. **bila'ashda'ii t'áá ąłtsoh bił naha'nie**



Environmental Impact Statement

- The document required by NEPA **bee haz'áanii** that assesses the environmental impact of a significant Federal action that affects the environment.
- BIA is mandated to ensure proper conservation resource management practices on all trust property in compliance with NEPA **bee haz'áanii**
- Large land base **nitsaa keyah hozaa**
- Weed control adjacent to residential areas
- Many environmental resources considered



Integrated Weed Management Plan

ch'il dóó yá'át'ééh á'ge bá nahat'á 'a'lah'ge

- A document that enables land managers to be more efficient and cost effective at controlling weeds
- Identify priority invasive weeds across the Navajo Nation
- Evaluate the best management practices for control and eradication
- Provide procedures and protocols to conduct weed removal
- Provide approach to project implementation
- Develop a comprehensive education and prevention strategy that considers climate change



The Scoping Process

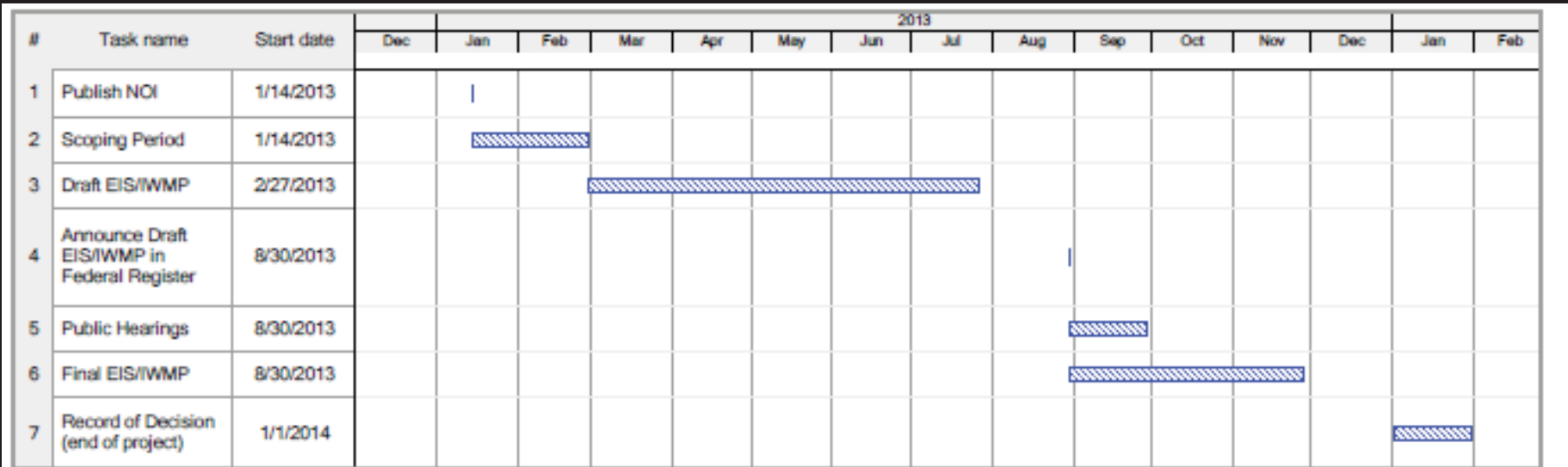
- Publication of Notice of Intent is the first step in scoping process
- Scoping is an early an open process to address the significant issues and alternatives of the project
- Identify significant issues and reasonable alternatives
- Eliminate issues that are not potentially significant impacts, not related to the project, or are covered by other environmental documents.



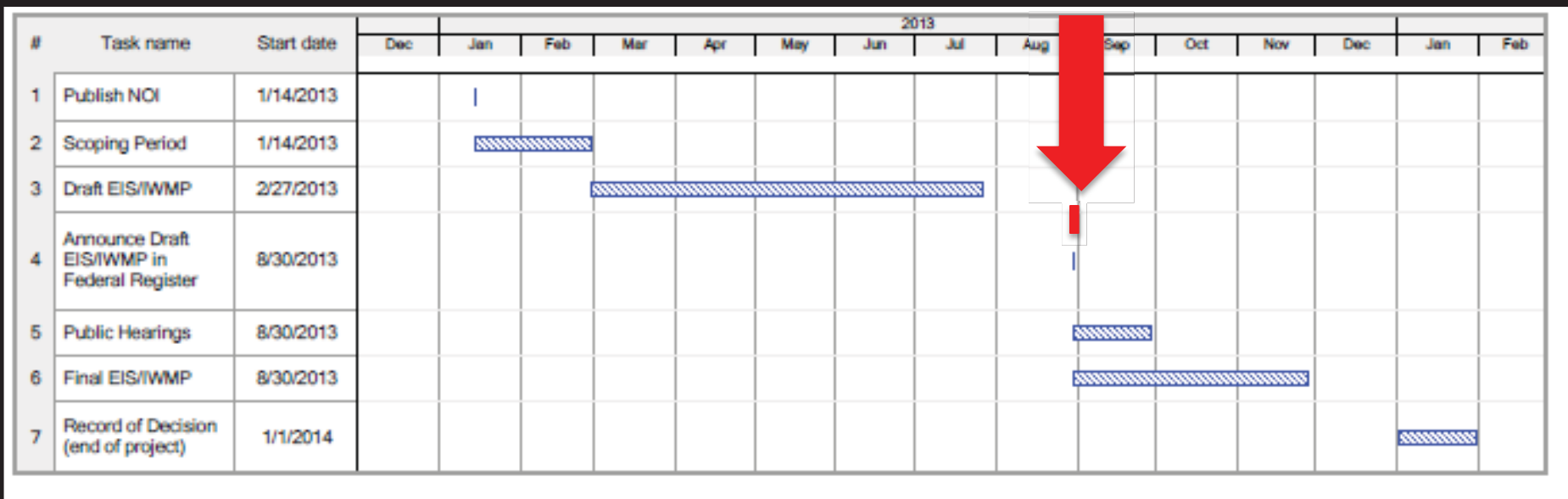
Scoping Schedule – ‘álah ‘ádooleeł

Scoping Location	Date	Time (ná'oolkíí)
Crownpoint Chapter House (T'iists'ózí)	February 05, 2013 Atsábiyáázh	5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Shiprock Chapter House (Naatáaniinééz)	February 06, 2013	5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Chinle Chapter House (Ch'íníí)	February 07, 2013	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Fort Defiance Chapter House (Tséhootsooí)	February 08, 2013	9:00 am- 12:00 pm
Tuba City Chapter House (Tónaneezdizí)	February 12, 2013	3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

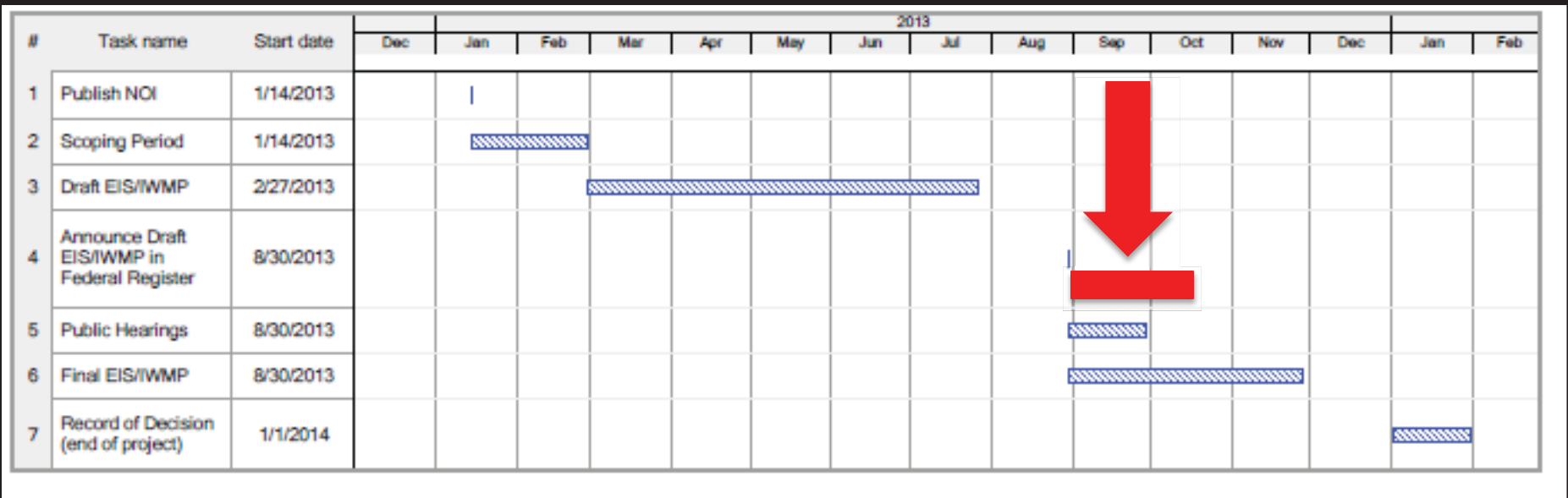
Navajo EIS and (dóó) Integrated Weed Management Plan (nahat'á) Timeline (ná'oolkíí)



Navajo EIS and (dóó) Integrated Weed Management Plan (nahat'á) Timeline (ná'oolkíí)



Navajo EIS and (dóó) Integrated Weed Management Plan (nahat'á) Timeline (ná'oolkíí)



Priority Noxious Weeds for Navajo

ch'il dóó yá'át'ééh á'ge

High Priority –A RATING

Common Name	Navajo Name	Management Strategy
Leafy spurge	Ch'il bizhi'	Prevent/Eradicate
Bull thistle		Eradicate
Canada thistle		Eradicate
Dalmatian toadflax		Eradicate
Musk thistle		Eradicate
Perennial pepperweed		Eradicate
Scotch thistle		Eradicate
Spotted knapweed		Eradicate
Whitetop (Hoary Cress)		Eradicate
Yellow starthistle		Eradicate
Camelthorn	Ch'ilhoshi'	Contain & Control
Tamarisk, Saltcedar	K'ei'lichii'its'ooz	Contain & Control
Diffuse knapweed		Contain & Control
Russian knapweed	Chi'ildich'I'iliba'hi'	Contain & Control
Russian Olive		Contain & Control

Priority Noxious Weeds for Navajo

ch'il dóó yá'át'ééh á'ge

Medium Priority- B RATING

Common Name	Navajo Name	Management Strategy
Field sandbur		Contain & Control
Halogeton		Contain & Control

LOW Priority-C RATING

Common Name	Navajo Name	Management Strategy
Cheatgrass	Shi'yina'ldzidi'	Contain & Control
Field bindweed		Contain & Control
Jointed goatgrass		Contain & Control
Puncturevine		Contain & Control



Control Methods **bee na'anishí 'ał'aa** **'át'é**

- Cultural Control aldóó
 - Planting **k'iidiilá dá'ák'eh go'**
 - Fertilizing
 - Encouraging growth of desired vegetation
- Biological Control aldóó
 - Approved insects (**ch'osh 'áká 'análwo'í**) or plant pathogens
- Mechanical Control aldóó
 - Hand-pulling or digging up individual plants
 - Picking off flower heads
 - Mowing or Bulldozing **chidí naa'na'í**
- Chemical Control aldóó
 - Herbicide **ch'il bi'azee' dóó chi'il bi'jona á'ge**



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Control Methods - continued

- Prevention Methods aldóó
 - Vehicles (**chidí**)
 - Contaminated seed '**ak'óó' doo' bináá'**, hay, livestock
 - Heavy Equipment (**chidí naa'na'í**)
 - Additional activities that transport weed, seed, dirt (**łeezh**) or plant parts
- Public Education and Awareness **óhoo'aah dóó éé'deetijh ba'ákonízin**
 - Meetings
 - Training (**tł'óódéé óhoo'aah**)
 - Workshops (**naniísh óhoo'aah**)
 - Educational information materials (**tł'óódéé óhoo'aah naaltsoos éí bił ałhii'siláago**)
 - Early detection/rapid response



Proposed Alternatives



Preferred Action-Alternative 1 t'áála'í 'aláąjį ei

- BIA would authorize new treatments of noxious weeds ch'il dóó yá'át'ééh á'ge bi'nadiinish

- Types of Method 'alaa 'át'éego bídá'níish aídóó baa'áháyaa

- Manual
- Mechanical
- Cultural
- Biological
- Chemical



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Proposed Alternatives – continued



No Action-Alternative 2 (**naaki**)

- No Integrated Weed Management treatments applied to any Navajo Nation (**Naabeehó Bináhásdzo**).

No Herbicide-Alternative 3 (**táá**)

- All treatment methods except for chemical



Resources to Consider for Environmental Impact Statement - *báhas'tił áádóó bił'ho'dil tił*

- Soil, Water and Air
- Watersheds and soils
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Climate Change
- Vegetation
- Endangered, Threatened, Candidate, and Sensitive Plant Species
- Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, and Sensitive Fish Species
- Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive and Management Wildlife Species
- Public Health
- Social concerns and economic influences - *bila'ashda'ii t'áá ałtsoh yiník'ehgo*
- Cultural Resources
- Areas with Special Designation
- Critical Habitat



Air **niłch**'l Quality Effects – **báhas**'tił áádóó bił'ho'dil tił



Preferred Action

- Minimal impacts to air quality when using chemical treatments
- Broad impacts to vegetation with aerial non-selective chemical spraying
- Temporary impact of increased dust from mechanical treatment

No Action **'éí doodago** – No Integrated Weed Management treatments applied

- No expected change to air quality



Climate Change - **báhas'tił áádóó bił'ho'dil tił**



Preferred Action

- Provide native vegetation an advantage over noxious weeds to expand in density
- Best Management Practices will encourage productive range and wildlife habitat



No Action **'éí doodago** - No Integrated Weed Management treatments applied

- Drought tolerant noxious weeds will expand in density
- Noxious vegetation will out-compete native vegetation
- Decrease biodiversity
- Decrease quality range and wildlife habitat



Social and Economic Effects - **bila'ashda'ii t'áá** **altsoh yiník'ehgo** báhas'tił áádóó bił ho'dil dótił

Preferred Action

- Improve range and agricultural lands
- Protect livestock
- Potential negative effects to livestock from
- Increase property values



No Action **'éí doodago** - No Integrated Weed Management

- Continue to reduce forage for livestock
- Continue to pose a threat to livestock
- Decrease productivity of agricultural lands
- Depreciate buildings, property value



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Listed, Proposed, Candidate or Sensitive Species Effect – **báhas'tił áádóó bił'ho'dil tił**



Preferred Action

- Disturbance from people or equipment may impact
- No herbicide spraying during breeding season or in areas with L,P,C,S plant species
- Buffer zones and limited application

No Action **'éí doodago** – No Integrated Weed Management treatments applied

- Long-term degradation of habitat and weed expansion
- Lowers plant diversity
- Loss of forage **ch'il hóyéé'**
- Indirect negative effects on food chain



Cultural Resources Effect

naha'se, chá'd éi báhas'tił aadóó bił'ho'dil tił

Preferred Action

- People or equipment may disturb sites
- Buffer zones around cultural resources
- Minimal application
- Conserve and protect sites

No Action 'éí doodago - No Integrated Weed Management treatments applied

- Prevent access to cultural resources
- Loss of natural heritage and traditional plants
- Potential loss of artifacts from erosion



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Surface Water

To' bikáá'góó báhas'tił aadóó bił'ho'dil tił

Preferred Action

- Stabilize banks **cháshk'eh dó hó'le da**
- Decrease turbidity and increase water quality **tó nítóligó**
- Support natural geomorphology and hydroregime

No Action 'éí doodago – No Integrated Weed Management treatments applied

- Continue to increase erosion and bank line incision **bikook dóó cháshk'eh ho'le**
- Increase surface runoff **tó'ni'go 'ayóo'dóóleeh**
- Increase water turbidity **tó'bi'tsa dóóleeh**
- Change in channel geomorphology



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Substantive Comments



- We welcome your substantive comments, including:
 - Presents new information to the project and/or alternatives
 - Development of a new alternative not considered
- Comments that are not substantive include:
 - Value-type comments that do not have data to back up (i.e. I do not like biological control)
 - Do not pertain to the Plan (**nahat'á**)
 - Other comments that do not require response in EIS (i.e. extend scoping period)



Comments and Questions

binda'idółkido dóó nitsáhákees dóó
siihasin

Address further comments to:

Renee Benally

Renee.Benally@bia.gov

(928) 283-2210



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Ahé'hee.



Appendix J. Comment Card

COMMENT CARD
Public Scoping Meetings
Bureau of Indian Affairs – Navajo Region
Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and
Integrated Weed Management Plan (IWMP)

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Meeting Location: _____

Date: _____

Please indicate any comments/questions/concerns you may have on the following:

Proposed Weed Removal Methods: _____

Priority Sites for Weed Management: _____

Alternatives: _____

Concerns: _____

Other: _____

PLEASE LEAVE CARD AT THE SCOPING MEETING or MAIL TO: Renee Benally, Acting Navajo Region Weed Coordinator, Western Navajo Agency, Branch of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 127, Tuba City, AZ 86045, Renee.Benally@bia.gov, (928) 283-2210.

Appendix K. Additional Public Scoping (April 29 – May 29, 2021) Factsheet and Comment Card

NAVAJO NATION INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Project Information and FAQs

Background

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is preparing a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to evaluate potential impacts of the proposed Navajo Nation Integrated Weed Management Plan for Navajo Nation tribal trust and allotment lands. The PEIS will be prepared in accordance with the requirements set forth in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA ensures that federal agencies, in this case the BIA, considers every significant aspect of a proposed action on the human environment, and that the public is informed regarding potential environmental concerns through the agency's decision-making process.

While public scoping for this project was initially conducted in 2013, the BIA would like to provide an additional opportunity for the public to submit substantive comments on this project. This comment period will last for 30-days, beginning on April 29, 2021 through May 29, 2021. More information on the project and information on how to submit a comment are available at the project website here:

<https://www.bia.gov/regional-offices/navajo/navajo-nation-integrated-weed-management-plan>

What is an Integrated Weed Management Plan?

An integrated weed management plan provides a variety of recommended techniques and approaches for managing and controlling exotic weed species. An integrated approach uses different weed control methods together to provide the greatest level of control. This could mean cutting a dense population with a mower and then applying herbicide immediately after to the cut part of the plant. It can also mean releasing a permitted biological control agent on a remote population for a season before returning to remove dead material and replanting open areas with native plant seeds. Using an integrated approach gives managers options for treating weeds based on various factors including community concerns, project location, weed species present, and avoidance or protection measures to prevent impacts to valuable resources and the environment while still providing effective control.

What weeds will be treated under this plan?

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has identified 45 different weed species for management. These species are all non-native plants that are not naturally occurring in the region. The Bureau of Indian Affairs, as a federal agency, is required to manage non-native species as part of its trust responsibility. All the species identified for control are problematic. Some can cause serious injury to livestock or wildlife. Others displace more desirable native plants, lowering native plant cover and production. There are also some that can increase the frequency and severity of fire on the Navajo Nation in areas where they have become overgrown and dense. While there are a number of native weed species that occur on the Navajo Nation, such as silverleaf nightshade or cocklebur, these species will not be addressed under this plan but may be addressed through other natural resource planning efforts.

Where will weed treatments take place?

The BIA is prioritizing weed treatments in six key areas: designated rangeland, designated farmland, rights-of-way, roads, riparian habitats, and Community Development Areas. Exotic weed populations currently occur in many of these areas and have negatively impacted them, either by increasing maintenance costs, harming production, or impacting important natural processes. Under the Plan, treatments in these areas will be prioritized. However, weed management projects in other areas will still be considered based on their location, size, and which weed species are being treated.

What alternatives are being considered for the Plan?

The BIA is considering three alternatives for weed management on the Navajo Nation. The first is the No Action Alternative, which will continue current weed management efforts on the Navajo Nation. Treatments include the use of herbicide, mechanical, and manual removal treatments with little to no coordination between projects or with other weed

management efforts. The second alternative is the main integrated weed management plan. This plan will provide guidance on controlling 45 noxious weed species using manual, mechanical, chemical, biological, and cultural control methods. A key feature of this alternative are requirements for coordination with communities, Navajo Nation Programs, and neighboring federal agencies when planning and implementing projects. The third alternative is similar to the second, with the exception of using biological control agents for weed treatments. Under this alternative, the use of USDA-approved agents would not be used, thus requiring other weed control methods to be used instead.

How does this comment period differ from Public Scoping?

Originally, the BIA conducted public scoping in 2013 through a series of community meetings organized across the Navajo Nation. Since that time, the BIA has prepared initial drafts of both the Plan and the PEIS. However, given the fact that scoping was conducted over 7 years ago, the BIA would like to ensure that it has considered any other comments or concerns the public may have regarding weed management on the Navajo Nation as it finalizes the Plan and the EIS for public review. For these reasons, the BIA has decided to open a brief comment period to solicit additional comments or concerns from the public. As part of this effort, the BIA will not conduct any public meetings or provide any documents for review. However, meetings are planned when the draft Plan and PEIS are available for the public in Summer 2021.

How do I submit a Comment? What is a substantive comment?

You can submit a comment at the project website until **May 29, 2021**:

<https://www.bia.gov/regional-offices/navajo/navajo-nation-integrated-weed-management-plan>

Click on the “Comment Form” button to submit a comment on weed management or the BIA’s proposed weed management approach.

The BIA will address any substantive comments it receives. A substantive comment is one that presents new information for the project or may develop a new alternative not currently considered. Comments not considered are those that do not pertain to the plan, are value-type comments that do not provide data to support its claims (i.e. I do not like herbicides), or comments that may not require a response.

Written comments may also be sent to:

Bureau of Indian Affairs – Navajo Regional Office
Branch of Environmental Quality Act Compliance and Review
C/O Leonard Notah, NEPA Compliance Specialist
P.O. Box 1060
Gallup, New Mexico 87301

Or by email to

nniwmp@bia.gov

Where can I find out more about the Integrated Weed Management Plan?

You may contact the BIA Navajo Regional Office NEPA Specialist using the information provided below:

Leonard Notah
NEPA Compliance Specialist
Leonard.notah@bia.gov
505-863-8287



Bureau of Indian Affairs
Navajo Region
Gallup, New Mexico



Public Notice

April 29, 2021

Contact: Leonard Notah (505) 863-8287, Leonard.Notah@bia.gov

BIA Seeks Additional Comments for the Navajo Nation Integrated Weed Management Plan

GALLUP, NM (Navajo Nation) - The Bureau of Indian Affairs is seeking additional public comments to develop an Integrated Weed Management Plan and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to control noxious weeds across the Navajo Nation. This project has been in development since 2012, with the Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the Federal Register on January 14, 2013 and Public Scoping completed on March 20, 2013. The plan and PEIS analysis were delayed after scoping was completed and are currently being updated. Due to this delay, BIA is requesting public comment to determine if there are any additional relevant issues that would influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including the alternatives.

The Navajo Indian Reservation lands are infested with noxious weeds that have social and economic impacts on the Navajo Nation. The BIA, in partnership with cooperating agencies, is developing an integrated weed management plan to prevent, control, reduce, and eliminate the detrimental impacts of weed infestations throughout the reservation. The proposed action would authorize new treatments of noxious weed infestations throughout the Navajo Nation. Mitigation measures were developed with Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency, Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect air and water quality and listed and sensitive wildlife species during weed treatments. The number of infestations and amount of acreage treated will be determined by annual funding allocations for project implementation.

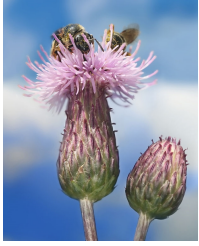
The various methods of noxious weed control considered for the integrated weed management plan include, but are limited to, manual, mechanical, cultural, biological, and herbicide treatments. The BIA will not be considering the use of dicamba as an option for chemical treatment due to the June 8, 2020 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cancellation order for dicamba use. The BIA identified the following resources to evaluate the effect of the proposed action: surface and ground water, soils, air, environmental justice considerations, cultural and historic resources, biological resources, public health, resource use, and socioeconomics.

Tribal consultations are being conducted in accordance with the Department of the Interior's Consultation Policy. Tribal concerns will be given due consideration, including impacts on Indian trust assets. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the BIA's decision on this project are invited to comment and, if eligible, may request to participate as a cooperating agency.

During the next 30 days, ending on May 29, 2021, the public is invited to provide feedback using the Comment Form posted on the BIA Navajo Region Integrated Weed Management Plan website:

<https://www.bia.gov/regional-offices/navajo/navajo-nation-integrated-weed-management-plan>

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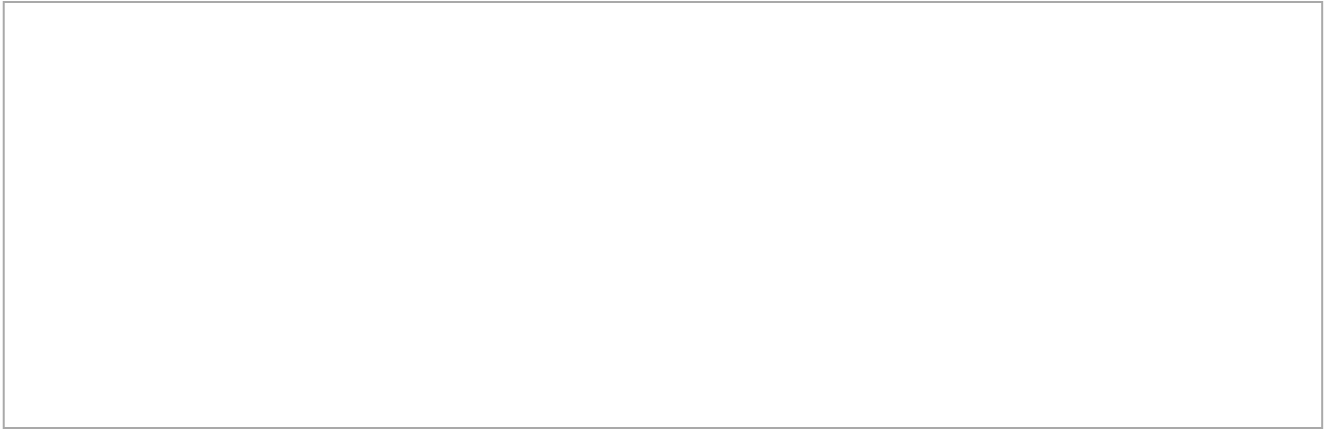
Navajo Nation Integrated Weed Management Plan Public Feedback

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Region is preparing an Integrated Weed Management Plan to address the control, management, and eradication of several non-native invasive weed species on the Navajo Nation. Due to delays in finalizing the plan and conducting the required environmental analysis, the BIA is seeking additional feedback from the public for this project.

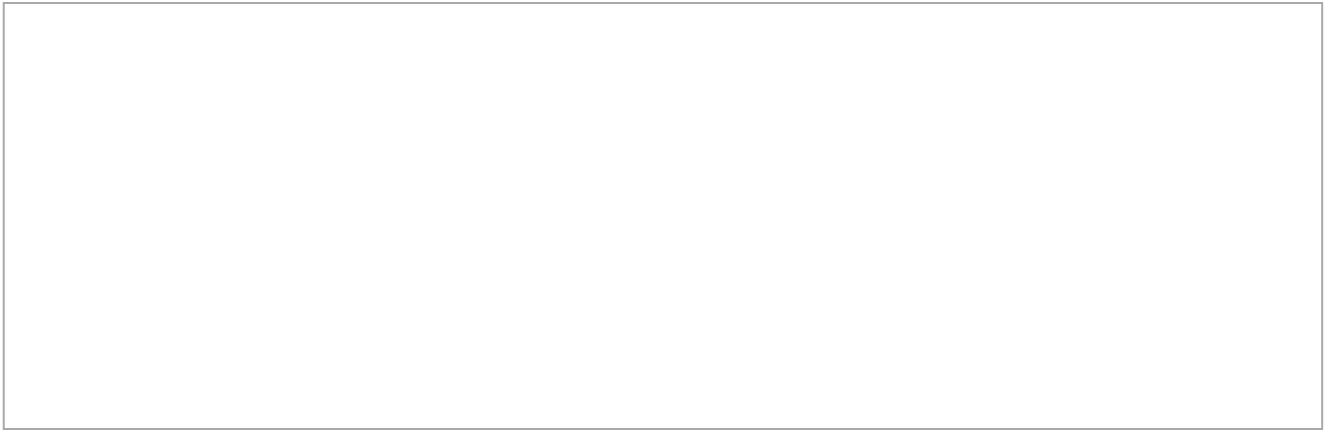
Please provide your comments and concern you may have regarding the following topics:

1. Proposed weed removal methods:

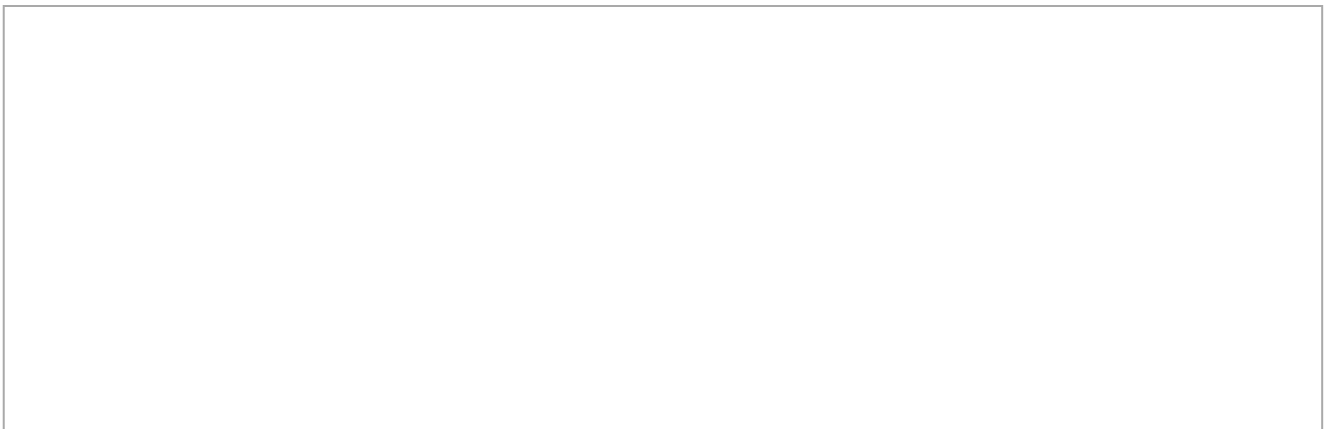
2. Priority sites for weed management:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for listing priority sites for weed management.

3. Proposed EIS alternatives:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for describing proposed EIS alternatives.

4. Additional weed management concerns:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for listing additional weed management concerns.

5. Other topics:

6. Name

7. Address

8. Telephone

9. Email address

10. Would you like to receive updates on this project? (You will only receive electronic emails related to this project. Your information will not be used or sold to outside organizations)

Yes

No

Maybe

Appendix L. Additional Public Scoping (April 29 – May 29, 2021) Radio and Newspaper Advertisements

LEGAL NOTICE
Window Rock - Apache County
Arizona

**Department of the Interior -
Bureau of Indian
Affairs—Navajo Region**

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is seeking additional public feedback to develop an Integrated Weed Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement to control noxious weeds across the Navajo Nation. The methods proposed for weed control, management, and eradication include a combination of cultural, manual, mechanical, chemical, and biological methods. This project has been in development since 2012 but the final plan and analysis were delayed. The public is invited to provide feedback at the following website until May 29, 2021:

<https://www.bia.gov/regional-offices/navajo/navajo-nation-integrated-weed-management-plan>

Call Leonard Notah, BIA NEPA Coordinator for more information (505) 863-8287
Help us fight weeds together!

Legal# XXXXX Published in The Independent May 3 & 7 & 10 & 14, 2021.



Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Region

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Call Leonard Notah, BIA NEPA Coordinator for more information
(505) 863-8287

Help us fight weeds together!

Farmington Daily Times

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Affidavit of Publication

Ad # 0004713050

This is not an invoice

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, NAVAJO REGION
PO BOX 1060

GALLUP, NM 87305

I, being duly sworn say: **Farmington Daily Times**, a daily newspaper of general circulation published in English at Farmington, said county and state, and that the hereto attached Legal Notice was published in a regular and entire issue of the said DAILY TIMES, a daily newspaper duly qualified for the purpose within the State of New Mexico for publication and appeared in the internet at The Daily Times web site on the following days(s):

05/03/2021, 05/07/2021, 05/10/2021, 05/14/2021



Legal Clerk

Subscribed and sworn before me this May 14, 2021:



State of WI, County of Brown
NOTARY PUBLIC



My commission expires

KATHLEEN ALLEN
Notary Public
State of Wisconsin

Ad # 0004713050

PO #:

of Affidavits 1

This is not an invoice

Department of the Interior - Bureau of Indian Affairs—Navajo Region

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Call Leonard Notah, BIA NEPA Coordinator for more information (505) 863-8287

Help us fight weeds together!

#4713050, Daily Times, May. 3, 7, 10, 14 2021

CONFIRMATION

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, NAVAJO REGION
 PO BOX 1060
 GALLUP NM 87305-

PO#:

<u>Account</u>	<u>AD#</u>	<u>Ordered By</u>	<u>Tax Amount</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>	<u>Payment Method</u>	<u>Payment Amount</u>	<u>Amount Due</u>
9282832252BUR1	0004713050	Alana	\$20.01	\$258.97	Credit Card	\$0.00	\$258.97

Ad Order Notes:

Sales Rep: CSauer

Order Taker: CSauer

Order Created 04/28/2021

Product	Placement	Class	# Ins	Start Date	End Date
ELP-daily-times.com	ELPW-Legals	Legal Notices	4	05/03/2021	05/14/2021
ELP-FM Daily-Times	ELP-Legals	Legal Notices	4	05/03/2021	05/14/2021

Text of Ad: 04/28/2021

Department of the Interior - Bureau of Indian Affairs—Navajo Region

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#4713050, Daily Times, May. 3, 7, 10, 14 2021

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Call Leonard Notah, BIA NEPA Coordinator for more information (505) 863-8287
Help us fight weeds together!

Navajo Nation Integrated Weed Management Plan

Public Notice for Additional Comments – Social Media

Facebook Post

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Region is seeking additional public comments for the Navajo Nation Integrated Weed Management Plan. The plan will provide a programmatic approach for the management and control of 45 noxious weed species using manual, mechanical, biological, chemical, and cultural control methods. Visit the project website at:

<https://www.bia.gov/regional-offices/navajo/navajo-nation-integrated-weed-management-plan> to learn more about the project and leave a comment.

Twitter

BIA Navajo Region is seeking additional comments for the Navajo Nation Integrated Weed Management Plan. Learn more at

<https://www.bia.gov/regional-offices/navajo/navajo-nation-integrated-weed-management-plan>.



Photo Credit: Renee Benally – Halogeton along in Monument Valley.