



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF  
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

June 17, 2010

Steven A. Ellis  
Supervisor,  
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest  
1550 Dewey Avenue  
Baker City, Oregon 97814

Re: Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Invasive Plant Treatment project EPA Project  
Number 06-022-AFS.

Dear Mr. Ellis:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Invasive Plant Treatment project (CEQ No. 20100174) on Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in Wallowa, Baker, Malheur and Grant Counties, OR and Adams and Nez Perce Counties, ID. Our review was conducted in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Clean Air Act § 309.

In our comments on the draft EIS in April 2009, EPA expressed environmental concerns with the project due to its potential adverse impacts from herbicide treatments to water quality, especially to impaired waters. One of our recommendations for the final EIS was to include mitigation measures ensuring weed treatments would not degrade water quality.

The final EIS included additional information and was responsive to our concerns of the draft EIS. In particular, we appreciate additional clarifying information about updated water quality data and measures to prevent water quality degradation within 303(d) listed streams within the forest. Also, we are pleased that Forest Service made additional changes to the final EIS based on other agencies' and the public's comments. Your responses address our concerns.

If you have questions or you would like to discuss the above comments, please contact Theo Mbabaliye of my staff at (206) 553-6322 or me at (206) 553-1601.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine B. Reichgott".

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager  
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit