

Debra Thompson

From: USDA Forest Service <forestservice@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 8:25 AM
To: Debra Thompson
Subject: Opportunity to Comment - Wrangell/Petersburg Invasive Plant Mgmt Proposal



Dear Planning Participant:

The Wrangell and Petersburg Ranger Districts are seeking comments on the proposed Wrangell-Petersburg Invasive Plant Management project. This proposal was included as part of the Central Tongass Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). However, since the timing of a decision on the Central Tongass Project is currently uncertain, we are proposing the Wrangell-Petersburg Invasive Plant Management project separately to keep it moving forward for implementation this year.

The proposed action includes: 1) no annual treatment limit, 2) herbicide, manual and mechanical treatment tools 3) coverage of the 3.7 million project acres on both NFS (including wilderness) and non-NFS lands, 4) treatment of emergent vegetation, 5) the use of aminopyralid and the aquatic formulations of glyphosate and imazapyr and 6) the Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) management strategy.

To review the need for the proposal, the full description of the Proposed Action, and a map of the project area, see the project's webpage under the "scoping" tab (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59576>).

We have decided to combine the scoping and 30-day comment periods; therefore, another comment period is not expected to occur before the draft decision is released. Your input and ideas are important in designing, analyzing, and implementing the Wrangell-Petersburg Invasive Plant Management project. Comments will help the project interdisciplinary team identify concerns, questions, and information needs related to the Proposed Action. When writing comments, please explain why you have a concern or a suggestion.

How to Comment and Timeframe

Specific written comments on the proposed project will be accepted for 30 days following the date of publication of the Wrangell-Petersburg Invasive Plant Management project legal notice in the *Wrangell Sentinel* and the *Petersburg Pilot*, the newspapers of record for the Wrangell and Petersburg Ranger Districts. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for a proposed action documented in an Environmental Assessment (EA). Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and is subject to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. Only individuals or entities who submit timely and specific written comments about this proposed project or activity during this or another public comment period established by the Responsible Official will be eligible to file an objection. Comments must be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider. Persons submitting comments must provide the following information: name and address; title of the proposed project; specific written comments; and signature or other verification of identity upon request. Other requirements to be eligible to submit an objection are listed at 36 CFR 218.25(a)(3). It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted.

Specific written comments for the Responsible Official may be submitted via mail, other delivery service, or fax to:

Joni Johnson
Attn: "Wrangell-Petersburg Invasive Plant Management"
PO Box 1328
Petersburg, AK 99833
907-772-5995 (fax)

Comments may also be submitted through the project's comment database at: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=59576>. Electronic comments shall be in a format that is compatible with the current version of MS Word.

Hand-delivered comments can also be received at either district office in Wrangell (525 Bennett St.) or Petersburg (12 North Nordic Dr.), Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., except holidays. For continued public safety during the ongoing pandemic, hand-delivered comments will be accepted by appointment only. In Wrangell call 907-874-2323. In Petersburg call 907-419-6158.

For more information about the project, please contact Joni Johnson at 907-772-5926 or joni.m.johnson@usda.gov.

Your input and ideas are appreciated and help ensure a successful project.

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