



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge  
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Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge is preparing an amendment to the environmental assessment (EA) “Integrated Pest Management of Invasive Plants on Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge and Vicinity”. This EA governs Refuge management of invasive plants. The EA was approved in November 2010 and describes the purpose and need for management, the approved strategy, potential environmental consequences associated with implementation, and best management practices. To access the EA and related decision document (Finding of No Significant Environmental Impact) see: [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Kodiak/what\\_we\\_do/resource\\_management.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Kodiak/what_we_do/resource_management.html).

The purpose of the amendment is to clarify the scope of Refuge-led and Service-supported invasive plant control on non-Refuge lands. In the 2010 EA, we defined non-Refuge lands as (1) private lands inside Refuge legislative boundaries and (2) private, municipal, and State lands outside Refuge legislative boundaries. The amendment would add Tribal and non-Refuge federal lands outside the Refuge’s legislative boundaries to the second component of the definition. Additionally, in the 2010 EA, we outlined several ways in which the Service would facilitate cooperation between private landowners, the Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Refuge. These methods included: 1) advocate for use of an adaptive management approach to manage documented infestations of highly invasive plant species; 2) provide technical assistance, demonstration of management methods, and participation in management actions; and 3) provide financial or direct management assistance. The EA amendment would add “leading a control action” to the list of techniques we could employ to facilitate habitat conservation on private lands. The EA amendment would outline the specific criteria under which such an action would be employed. Specifics of proposed modifications are addressed below.

## Proposed Action

We may support requests for assistance from the Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District or other conservation partner to conduct an invasive plant control action on (1) private land inside the legislative boundaries of the Refuge, and (2) private, municipal, state, Tribal, and federal land (e.g., U.S. Coast Guard) outside the legislative boundaries of the Refuge. Service support, which may consist of funding, technical, or field operations assistance, would be contingent upon compliance with requirements identified in the approved EA governing target species, action threshold, herbicide, worker safety, and landowner and Service approval.

If the District or other conservation partner cannot take action due to lack of funds or personnel, the Refuge may lead a control action on (1) private land inside the legislative boundaries of the Refuge and (2) private, municipal, state, Tribal, or federal land outside the legislative boundaries of the Refuge. We anticipate that the need for such action would be infrequent because other organizations would usually have sufficient resources to accomplish the control objective. However,

cases may arise when partner capacity is insufficient and there is a need for prompt control to prevent potential spread of an infestation to Refuge lands. Such an action would require landowner approval and compliance with requirements identified in the approved EA.

We believe the proposed amendment would not significantly change the analysis of impacts for any of the resource areas evaluated in the 2010 EA, nor would it result in a new set of alternatives, and therefore we are not proposing to conduct a new environmental analysis. We believe the proposed amendment falls within the scope of analysis documented in the 2010 EA and that the potential impacts resulting from the amendment have been adequately evaluated by the EA and the associated decision document. We seek public input on this matter.

Please take a moment to review the 2010 EA and related decision document, and to consider the proposed amendment. If you have specific comments, please include them in your response to this message, and they will be considered in the preparation of the EA amendment. For additional information on this project, please contact Bill Pyle, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist ([Bill\\_Pyle@fws.gov](mailto:Bill_Pyle@fws.gov); 907-487-0228). Comments may be submitted directly to him by March 4, 2013. We anticipate completing the EA amendment by April 2013 and having it available for a 30-day public review.

Sincerely,



Kent Sundseth  
Acting Refuge Manager