



*A NEPA Strategy for Early
Detection / Rapid Response*

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Benefits of EDRR

- EDRR reduces the potential for invasive plants to degrade native plant communities.
- Treating target populations when they are small increases treatment effectiveness and minimizes adverse effects of treatment.



Tension Between EDRR & Forest Service NEPA

- **Tension between**
 - **Site-specificity requirements of NEPA**
 - **Need for timely, effective treatment of invasive plants**
 - **Invasive plants can become established or spread into new areas during NEPA analysis**



Invasive plants are dynamic - rate and/or direction of spread are highly variable

The Premise



**Similar
treatments at
similar sites
will have
similar effects.**



The Approach

- **Map existing inventory**
- **Identify predictable vectors of spread**



Japanese Knotweed

The Approach (Continued)

- Define treatment areas
- Evaluate site conditions throughout treatment areas
- Classify treatment areas into site types



*Roadside Treatment Area
Olympic National Forest*

The Approach (Continued)

- **Consider Both:**
 - **Values of the native plants, habitats, or other resources affected or potentially affected by invasives**
 - **Risks to non-target resources from treatment**



Scotch Broom in Bloom

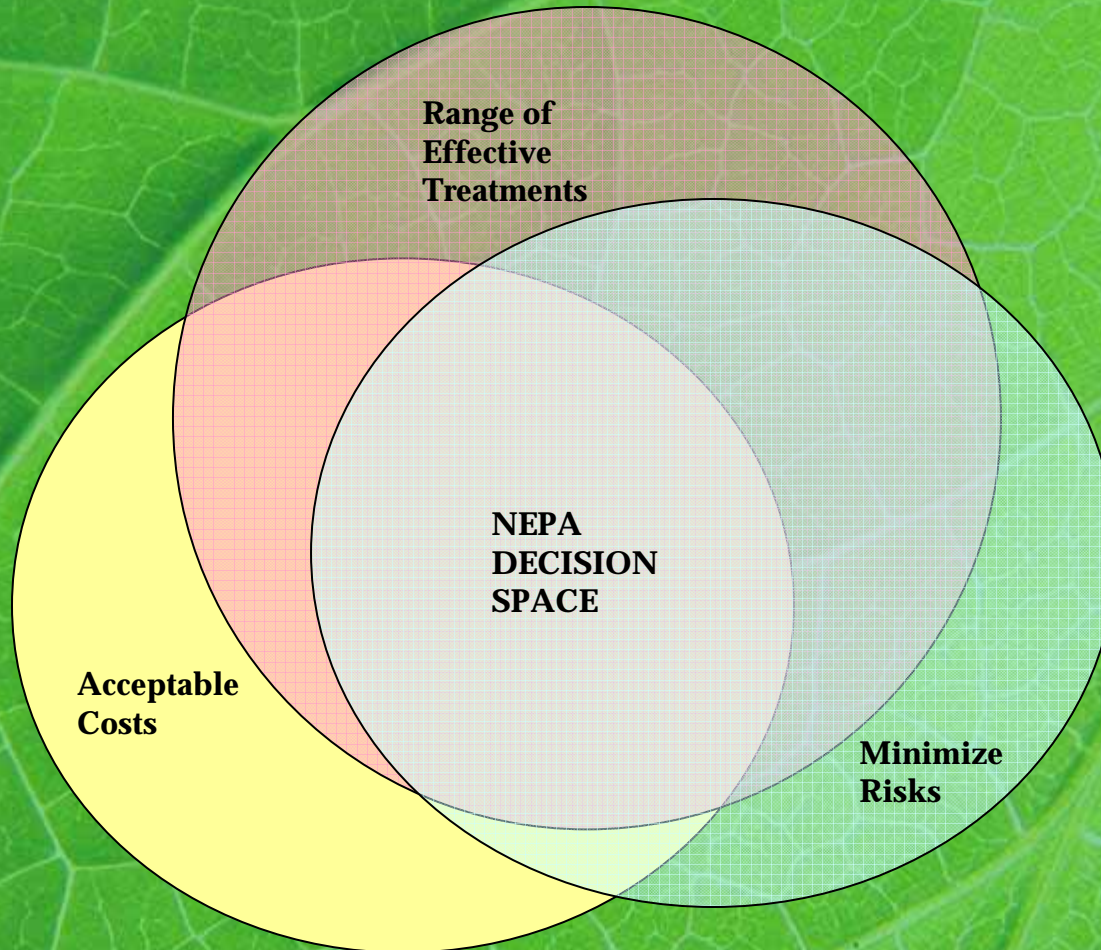
The Approach (Continued)



Reed canarygrass

- **Determine design criteria appropriate for conditions found throughout treatment areas**
- **Limit treatment method and/or herbicide selection in certain site types to minimize adverse impacts**
 - **Proximity to Water**
 - **Proximity to non-target vegetation of concern**

NEPA Decision Space



Document The Process You Will Use

Do the size, density and/or distribution of invasive plants warrant the broadcast application method?

Is the treatment site on a road that has high potential to deliver herbicide to surface waters?

Treat with backpack or hand sprayer.

- Disclose how EDRR will be implemented
- Consider developing a flow chart or decision tree to document rationale for treatments under EDRR

Implementation Planning

- Occurs after NEPA decision, when funding for a particular treatment area is reasonably secured.
- Ensures treatments are consistent with NEPA decision.
- Forest Service folks should consult NEPA Handbook 1909.15, Section 18

Implementation Planning

Requires a Team Approach



Implementation Planning (Continued)

- **Refine prescription based on:**
 - **Proximity to non-target vegetation**
 - **Proximity to surface water bodies**
 - **Soils**
 - **Other site considerations**

Implementation Planning (Continued)

- **Supplemental analysis needed if:**
 - **Desired treatment methods are not covered within the NEPA document**
 - **Treatments would not be effective once design criteria are applied.**

Questions?

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An Environmental History

Clinton L. Evans