United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument
Minidoka National Historic Site
221 North State Street
P.O. Box 570
Hagerman, Idaho 83332-0570

IN REPLY REFER TO: L7617

February 22, 2011

Dear Reviewer:

Nonnative invasive or exotic species are considered one of the greatest threats to global biological diversity and are a threat to national park ecosystems. As a result, in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the National Park Service (NPS) has developed an Environmental Assessment (EA) that presents two alternatives that would address nonnative invasive plant management in ten national parks located in the northern Rocky Mountains.

Alternative 1 would be a continuation of current management, while Alternative 2 would use a systematic 7-step process, developed by the parks, to address the threat of nonnative invasive plant management. These alternatives were derived from comments received during public scoping, which occurred in 2008 and from internal scoping which occurred throughout the preparation of the EA.

The ten national parks involved in the plan include: Big Hole National Battlefield (Montana), City of Rocks National Reserve (Idaho), Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve (Idaho), Fossil Butte National Monument (Wyoming), Golden Spike National Historic Site (Utah), Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site (Montana), Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument (Idaho), Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (Montana), Minidoka National Historic Site (Idaho), and Nez Perce National Historical Park, Bear Paw Battlefield Site (Montana).

The preferred alternative (Alternative 2) in the EA will provide the parks with a flexible invasive plant management process, using Integrated Pest Management techniques and adaptive management to direct nonnative invasive plant management activities and to prioritize management actions, target plants and resources. One example of how the parks would use the preferred alternative to employ invasive species prevention and early detection is using the list of potential new invaders to look for new invasive species and systematically monitoring heavily developed or high use areas ("hot spots" or vectors for new invasions) to detect new invasive species establishment.

The NPS encourages public participation throughout the planning process. The EA is currently undergoing a 45-day public review period. The NPS invites the public to submit written comments regarding the proposed project online at the NPS Planning,

Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/gosp (PEPC project number 20520), or send email comments to: crmo_information@nps.gov. Written comments may also be sent to any of the parks involved in this plan. A complete copy of the EA can be found at the NPS PEPC website listed above. Please provide comments by April 11, 2011. We look forward to hearing from you.

For questions or comments relating to the specific NPS units please contact:

- Big Hole National Battlefield: Jimmer Stevenson (406) 689-3155 or Jason Lyon (208) 843-7017 (http://www.nps.gov/biho)
- City of Rocks National Reserve: Kristen Bastis (208) 824-5519 (http://www.nps.gov/ciro)
- Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve: Steven Bekedam (208) 527- 1351 or John Apel (208) 527-1350 (http://www.nps.gov/crmo)
- Fossil Butte National Monument: Arvid Aase (307) 877-4455 (http://www.nps.gov/fobu)
- Golden Spike National Historic Site: Tammy Benson (435) 471-2209 ext.30 (http://www.nps.gov/gosp)
- Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site: Jason F. Smith (406) 846-2070 ext.242 (http://www.nps.gov/grko)
- Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument: JoAnn Blalack (208) 933-4115, Ray Vader (208) 933-4142 (http://www.nps.gov/hafo)
- Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument: Melana Stichman (406) 638-3225 (http://www.nps.gov/libi)
- Minidoka National Historic Site: JoAnn Blalack (208) 933-4115, Ray Vader (208) 933-4142 (http://www.nps.gov/miin)
- Nez Perce NHP, Bear Paw Battlefield site: Jason Lyon (208) 843-7017 or Jannis Jocius (406) 689-3155 (http://www.nps.gov/nepe)

For questions about the overall development of this plan, please contact Sue Salmons, Liaison Exotic Plant Management Team (Northern Rocky Mountains) at (307) 344-2185.

Sincerely,

Wendy Janssen, Superintendent
Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument and
Minidoka National Historic Site