



Invasive Plant Management WORKPLAN: FALL and WINTER 2008

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In September of 2008, the Invasive Plant Management Plan for Yosemite National Park was signed and made final (available at www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/invasive.htm) after going through a full planning and public involvement process. Many eradication and control methods are incorporated into this plan; one of those methods is the judicious application of specific herbicides. This plan also discussed that park managers would advise the public of such activities, and in keeping with that commitment this workplan is being made available to the public.

Vegetation and Restoration work crews from the National Park Service will apply herbicide to invasive plants growing in Yosemite National Park and the El Portal Administrative Site, beginning on or after October 8, 2008.

The crews will apply glyphosate herbicide (Round-Up Pro or equivalent) to exotic invasive Himalayan blackberry growing in Yosemite Valley and to other exotic invasive plants such as tree of heaven, arundo, black locust, etc., in El Portal. All crew members handling herbicide will have a California Qualified Applicators Certificate, or will be directly supervised by those with such certificate. All herbicide use will conform to state and federal licensing, handling, storage and reporting requirements, as well as to mitigation and restrictions listed in the Yosemite National Park Invasive Plant Management Plan.

Yosemite Valley and El Portal have been divided into treatment zones, and herbicide will only be applied to the treatment zones listed below:

- El Cap Crossover and surrounding areas south of the Merced River..
- Yellow Pines Campgrounds and surrounding areas south of the Merced River
- Lower Tenaya Canyon
- North Pines Campground and DNC Stables
- Between Royal Arches Meadow and Tenaya Creek (not including Royal Arches Meadow itself).
- Camp 6/Day use parking and surrounding areas North of Merced River
- Lower Rivers and surrounding areas
- Between Yosemite Lodge and the Merced River
- Between Northside drive and Merced River, east of Pohono Bridge within 1500 meters of bridge.
- Old El Portal Resource Management and Science Offices and adjacent areas within 100 meters of office (tree of heaven patch)
- Giant Reed patch near Apartments in Rancheria housing area (El Portal).

The eradication of invasive exotic plants is a high priority for Yosemite National Park. If left uncontrolled, exotic plants can alter ecosystems in many ways, including changes in fire regimes,

loss of wildlife habitat, and the disruption of scenic resources. This herbicide treatment will help managers eradicate exotic plants and restore natural plant species and ecosystem function.

The following mitigation measures will apply:

- River, lakes, streams, and other water bodies: Herbicide will not be applied within ten feet of water, or within the bed and banks of wild and scenic rivers. Herbicide will not be applied in seasonally flooded wetlands during the flooded phase.
- Wetlands will only be treated with herbicide during the seasonal dry phase in areas that do not have standing water at the time of application.
- Herbicide will not be applied to wetlands until amphibian surveys have been carried out.
- Herbicide will not be applied near schools or play areas without prior consultation with the school district.
- Herbicide will not be applied in traditional native American gathering areas without prior consultation with the appropriate tribes.

Herbicide is not the only tool used to control exotic plants in Yosemite, other methods are used as well, sometimes alone and sometimes in conjunction with herbicide treatment. These methods allow for reduced rates of herbicide application while still ensuring effectiveness and minimizing effects to non-target species. Blackberry patches have previously been mowed to reduce above ground biomass; this will reduce the volume of herbicide needed to achieve control.

Visitors to these areas will be restricted to trails, bike paths, road, or parking lots while applicators are working. This restriction will be lifted as soon as the herbicide dries, conforming to the CA State and herbicide manufacturer label requirements. The herbicide is of very low toxicity to humans and wildlife but care should still be taken to avoid contact; children and pets should be under control.

For Further Information:

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