

Integrated Vegetation Management Environmental Assessment



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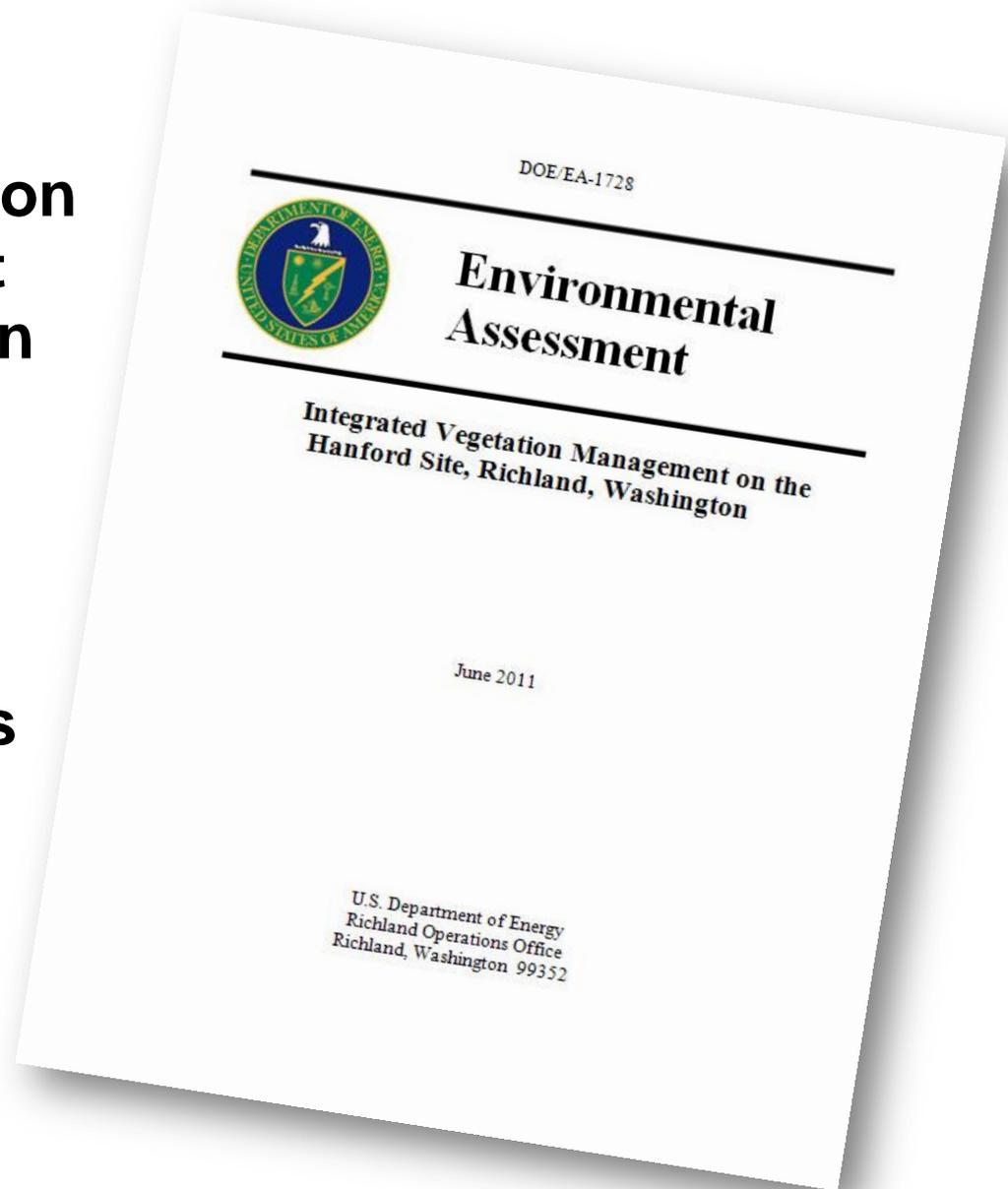


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Purpose

Integrated Vegetation Management Environmental Assessment

- Provide an information overview of the draft Integrated Vegetation Management Environmental Assessment (EA)
- Discuss the public involvement process



Focus of the EA

- **EA evaluates:**
 - **A Proposed Action to use a comprehensive and integrated approach for managing invasive plants and noxious weeds at the Hanford Site**
 - **A No Action Alternative that would continue the current individual or project-specific approach for managing vegetation**
- **Scope of EA includes all Hanford lands managed by the U.S. Department of Energy. Hanford Reach National Monument lands administered by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are not included.**
- **Specific plant species for revegetation are not addressed in this EA.**

What are Invasive Plants and Noxious Weeds?

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Invasive plants

- **Non-native species that are adaptable, aggressive, and reproduce easily. Their vigor and lack of natural enemies often leads to outbreaks.**
- **Hanford Site species of concern are Russian thistle and cheatgrass due to wildfire hazards.**



Noxious weeds

- **Invasive plants given Federal or State status as "noxious" because they are overly aggressive, hard to manage, parasitic, poisonous, or hosts of insects or disease.**
- **Hanford Site species include Yellow Starthistle, Rush Skeletonweed, Medusahead, Babysbreath, Dalmatian Toadflax, Spotted Knapweed, Diffuse Knapweed, Russian Knapweed, Saltcedar, and Purple Loosestrife.**



Hanford Issues with Invasive Plants and Noxious Weeds

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- **Replace native plants and degrade wildlife habitat**



Hanford Issues with Invasive Plants and Noxious Weeds, cont.

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- **Flammable fuel source, contribute to large intense wildfires**



Hanford Issues with Invasive Plants and Noxious Weeds, cont.

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- **Can spread contamination through root uptake**



EA Proposed Action

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- **Integrated approach to managing invasive plants and noxious weeds**
 - Use combination of prescribed burning, physical, chemical and biological methods to control undesirable plant species
 - Re-vegetating with native plant species across large areas



Proposed Action Anticipated Effect

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- **As control of invasive plants and noxious weeds is achieved and treated areas are re-vegetated with native plant species, the use of prescribed burning, physical, chemical and biological methods is expected to decrease over time**



EA Outreach and Public Involvement Process

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- **Notification letters to tribal, federal, state, local governments**
- **Advance notice of upcoming comment period**
- **30-day public comment period starting early July, 2011**
- **Comments will be addressed in final EA and Determination**

QUESTIONS?

