The Bureau of Land Management has finalized a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) for the construction and maintenance of a system of strategically placed fuel breaks in the Great Basin, including portions of Idaho, Oregon, Washington, California, Nevada, and Utah.

The PEIS meets the intent of Secretary’s Order 3372, “Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Active Management” and Executive Order 13855, which also calls for active management to reduce wildfire risk.

223-million acre project area
11,000 miles of fuel breaks

Each fuel break occupies a relatively small space within the project area, but has a huge impact in the battle against wildfires. At most, the fuel breaks authorized under the PEIS would comprise only 0.3% of the project area.

Large swaths of grasses, brush, or other vegetation provide continuous fuels that can lead to catastrophic wildfires.

Fuel breaks thin out or break up the vegetation, which slows the progress and reduces the intensity of the wildfire, making it safer and easier for firefighters to control.
The PEIS analyzes manual, chemical, and mechanical treatment methods.

- prescribed burn
- chemical treatments
- mechanical removal
- seeding
- targeted grazing
- mowing or cutting

Fuel breaks would be implemented along roads or rights-of-way on BLM-administered lands.

- minimizes new disturbance
- minimizes wildlife habitat fragmentation
- maximizes firefighter accessibility

Fuel breaks are an important tool for addressing the increasing frequency and size of wildfires occurring in the Great Basin.

![Graph showing total acres burned from 1960 to 2018](https://go.usa.gov/xnQcG)

The PEIS is available for public review for 30 days at https://go.usa.gov/xnQcG.
A final decision is expected following the public review and comment analysis.