

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the reports the BLM has drafted?

The BLM has developed two reports: the Draft *Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)* and the Draft *Vegetation Treatments on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Report (PER)*. Supporting documentation is included with the reports.

What is the purpose of these two reports?

They consolidate, update and evaluate vegetation treatments and methods of treatment. The PEIS and PER will replace analyses contained in four existing vegetation treatment EISs that the BLM completed between 1986 and 1992. They also analyze vegetation treatments on BLM-administered lands in Alaska that were not included in the earlier EISs. Together, these reports will:

- consider reasonably foreseeable activities, particularly hazardous fuels reduction treatments, emergency stabilization and rehabilitation efforts, and noxious weed and invasive terrestrial plant species management.
- address human health and ecological risk for proposed use of chemical herbicides on public lands.
- provide a cumulative impact analysis of the use of chemical herbicides in conjunction with other treatment methods.

What does the national, draft PEIS do?

The PEIS is not a land-use plan and is not an amendment to land-use plans. (Land-use plans are documents comprised of management decisions for use of public lands.) It provides baseline cumulative impact assessments that local BLM offices can use as they work with local, state, and national stakeholders to develop local plans throughout the Western states and Alaska. The PEIS also provides a comprehensive analysis of the BLM's use of chemical herbicides in its various vegetation treatment programs related to hazardous fuels reduction; noxious weed and invasive terrestrial plant species management; and resource rehabilitation following catastrophic fires and other disturbances.

What does the national, draft PER do?

The PER provides an assessment of the expected impacts of the use of herbicides, in addition to other vegetation treatment methods (fire, mechanical, manual, and biological), on up to 6 million acres of public land a year.

What are hazardous fuels?

Highly flammable forest and rangeland fuels, such as dead and down woody materials; juniper and pinyon trees; sagebrush, mesquite, and other types of brush; and cheatgrass and other plants that become tinder-dry. These accumulate and become fuel for wildfires, and in many cases contribute to the frequency and magnitude of wildfires.

Which areas will the BLM consider for these different methods of vegetation treatment?

The analysis area includes only surface estate public lands administered by 10 BLM State Offices in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana (North Dakota/South Dakota), New Mexico (Oklahoma/Texas/Nebraska), Nevada, Oregon (Washington), Utah, and Wyoming.

Has the BLM coordinated with other agencies and local groups on these reports?

The BLM's interdisciplinary project team coordinated closely with Tribal, local and state governments, in addition to working with the Western Governors Association, the National Association of Counties, and other groups.

How can I obtain the draft reports?

Copies of the two reports and associated documents may be downloaded from the BLM Web site at <http://www.blm.gov>. Compact disks (CDs) of the documents are available on request, and a printed copy is available for public review in each BLM office.

When and how can I comment?

The newly extended public comment period will close on February 10, 2006. To submit written comments, be placed on the mailing list, or request CDs of the documents, contact Brian Amme, Project Manager, BLM, P.O. Box 12000, Reno, NV 89520-0006. Comments may also be faxed to 775-861-6712, or e-mailed to vegeis@nv.blm.gov.

What if I don't want my name released with my comments?

If you wish to withhold your name and/or address from public review or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written or faxed comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. The BLM will not, however, consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

When can I see the comments that have been submitted?

After the close of the public comment period, comments will be available for public inspection at the BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, NV 89520. A summary of substantive comments, and the BLM response to these comments, will be in the Final EIS.