



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

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News Release

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Contact: Tara Thissell (541) 573-4400



BLM Plans Medusahead and Cheatgrass Treatments

HINES, Ore. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Burns District, plans to implement approximately 40,000 acres of aerial spray treatments for Medusahead rye and cheatgrass on public land beginning August 2 and lasting for four to six weeks. Both helicopters and fixed wing aircraft will be used in the effort.

The treatment schedule for Harney County includes these locations:

- Riley area,
- Coleman Creek and Buzzard Fire area (Crane/Riverside),
- Bone Creek/Carlson Creek area (east Steens), and
- Drewsey area (potentially).

Medusahead out-competes other grasses by extracting the majority of moisture well before perennial grasses have begun to grow. Once land is invaded by this species, it becomes almost worthless, supporting neither native animals, birds nor livestock. Cheatgrass is problematic as well. It can maintain superiority over native plants in part because it is a prolific seed producer able to germinate in the autumn and is tolerant of grazing and increases with frequent fire.

There are many things an individual can do to help prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds. First and foremost, become familiar with the noxious weeds in your area and treat them to prevent their spread. Wash your vehicles and equipment before venturing into new areas to prevent dispersal, and report weed sightings on BLM-administered lands to your local BLM office.

For more information about weed treatments on public land, contact Lesley Richman at the BLM Burns District office at (541) 573-4479.

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The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2015, the BLM generated \$4.1 billion in receipts from activities occurring on public lands.