

# NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

28910 Hwy 20 West • Hines, Oregon 97738 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>  
Contact: Tara Thissell (541) 573-4400 • Release No. OR-BU-15-14 • July 27, 2015

## 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 the week of August 3. Both helicopters and fixed wing aircraft will be used in effort and there will be concurrent treatments on private lands in the same or nearby vicinities.

The treatment schedule for Harney County includes these dates and locations:

- Warms Springs Reservoir area: August 3-7  
*\*South boat launch and surrounding area closed to the public during this time*
- Crane/Venator/Riverside areas: August 8-29
- Riley area: August 30th-Sept 19
- West of Frenchglen/North of Rock Creek (Miller Homestead fire area): Sept 20-30
- East of Fields /Trout Creek Mountain (Holloway fire area): Sept 20-26
- East Steens near Mann Lake Ranch: Sept 24-25

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.

The Strategic Weed Attack Team (SWAT) – a joint venture between the BLM and Harney County – has been invaluable in managing rapid responses to new invasions of noxious weeds in the area, with Medusahead and cheatgrass as a top priority. With the SWAT's help, small infestations are controlled quickly and economically, averting the potential spread and increase to unmanageable levels of obscure noxious weed populations.

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 tracking weeds into new areas, and report weed sightings on BLM-administered lands to the local BLM Weed coordinator.

For more information about weed treatments on public land, contact Lesley Richman at the BLM Burns District office at (541) 573-4479. For more information about projects on private land, contact Steph Bonson at the Harney County Cooperative Weed Management Area office at (541) 573-8397.

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 manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2014, the BLM generated \$5.2 billion in receipts from public lands.

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