



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

COOS BAY DISTRICT OFFICE

1300 AIRPORT LANE, NORTH BEND, OR 97459

Web Address: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay> E-mail: OR_CoosBay_Mail@blm.gov

Telephone: (541) 756-0100 Toll Free: (888) 809-0839 Fax: (541) 751-4303



In Reply Refer To:

5820/1792

DOI-BLM-OR-C040-0002-EA

November 16, 2009

Dear Concerned Citizen:

The Coos Bay BLM has prepared a Scoping Document for the “Applying Glyphosate on Tanoak to Aid in Sudden Oak Death Eradication” Environmental Assessment. The Scoping document and associated map are now posted on the District Internet site:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay/index.php>.

The BLM proposes to use the herbicide glyphosate on tanoak in addition to its current methods of SOD eradication efforts. Glyphosate could potentially be used in any one or more of the following hand application methods: injection and frill (hack and squirt), cut stump, and foliar application.

You are invited to submit written comments on any issues or concerns that you may have regarding this proposal by December 15, 2009. Comments which are helpful to the analysis process are those which identify new scientific or technical information, determine the scope of issues to be addressed, and express site-specific concerns related to the proposed action. Opinions agreeing or disagreeing with current laws and policies are not helpful in refining the proposed action.

Please direct requests for hard copies, questions, or comments to Coos Bay District BLM, 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459-2000, ATTN: Aimee E.B. Hoefs; call 541-756-0100; FAX 541-751-4303, or email to OR_CoosBay_Mail@blm.gov, ATTN: Aimee E.B. Hoefs.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jeffrey K. Davis

Jeffrey K. Davis
Acting Myrtlewood Field Manager



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In Reply Refer To:

5820/1792

DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2010-0002-EA

Scoping Document

November 9, 2009

Dear Citizen:

The following information and the attached map briefly describes a Proposed Action for the development of the Applying Glyphosate on Tanoak to Aid in Sudden Oak Death Eradication Environmental Assessment (EA No: DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2010-0002-EA).

The USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District Office is preparing an Environmental Assessment to include the use of the herbicide glyphosate on tanoak in its current SOD eradication program.

Forest treatments would occur within the General Forest Management Area (GFMA) and Connectivity portions of the Matrix Land Use Allocation (LUA), within the Late-Successional Reserve LUA and within the Riparian Reserve LUA as defined in the 1995 Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan (1995 RMP).

Project Summary

The BLM proposes to use the herbicide glyphosate on tanoak in addition to its current methods of SOD eradication efforts. Glyphosate could potentially be used in any one or more of the following hand application methods: injection and frill (hack and squirt), cut stump, and foliar application. Glyphosate is one of the most commonly used herbicides in the world, where its use includes agriculture. Glyphosate herbicides (one common brand name is Roundup) are available to the general public.

Hack and squirt consists of using a small axe to cut into the stem of the tree followed by a direct application of herbicide into the cut area that allows the herbicide to be conducted into the stem. All tanoak with stems one-inch in diameter or greater would be treated within the treatment area. Within approximately 2 weeks of herbicide treatment, the trees would be cut and piled followed by burning after a curing period.

In the cut stump application, the tanoak is felled and the glyphosate is applied directly to the stump and outer cambium to kill the remaining stump and root system. The cut vegetation would be burned. Foliar application consists of directly applying the glyphosate topically onto the leaves and bark.

An aquatic formulation of glyphosate would be applied during periods of active growth following the product label.

Table I: Ownership within the Analysis Area/Quarantine Area

BLM Acres	USFS Acres	Private/Other Acres	Total Acres
13,478	19,928	69,590	102,996

Location

The project area would be located within the SOD quarantine area. The quarantine area is primarily located within the lower portion of the Chetco River watershed and the southernmost portion of the Pistol River watershed which is located roughly 8 miles southeast of Gold Beach and ends approximately 4 miles northeast of Brookings. The current quarantine area is approximately 102,996 acres in size with BLM lands totaling 13,478 acres. The proposed treatment activities would be located on BLM-managed lands within the quarantine area. The BLM-managed lands currently included within this area include T. 39 S., R. 14 W., Section 23; T. 39 S., R. 13 W., Sections 1-35; T. 39 S., R. 12 W., Section 8; T. 40 S., R. 13 W., Sections 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21, Willamette Meridian.

Background/Need for the Project

Sudden Oak Death is caused by *Phytophthora ramorum*, a recently-described invasive pathogen of unknown origin. Millions of oaks and tan oaks have been killed by this pathogen since the disease became evident in the mid-1990s; as of late 2008, there were 730 infected tanoaks in southwest Oregon. The pathogen is multi-cyclic; because it can produce many generations of propagules in a given year, a rapid response is essential for effective treatment. The host list is large, with over 100 species, and includes many common forest trees, shrubs, and forbs, as well as many economically important nursery and landscape plants that are moved long distances in trade. In Oregon, tanoak has been the predominant species infected by the pathogen.

Phytophthora ramorum is subject to both state (ORS 603-052-1230) and federal (7 CFR 301.92) quarantine regulations that restrict the human-assisted movement of hosts from infested areas into disease-free areas. Oregon state regulations require eradication of the pathogen when it is found. As a result, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) have been involved in an aggressive eradication program since 2001. Both the USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management have been cooperating with ODA in these eradication efforts. The BLM has completed 335 acres of slashing and 185 acres of burning treatments to date.

Current methods of eradication include: 1) aquatic glyphosate injection (herbicide treatment) of tanoak is used to prevent resprouting on USFS lands, while private landowners are using imazapyr; 2) cutting of infected host species (e.g. tanoak); 3) creating a buffer area; and 4) burning the cut vegetation.

The BLM has been operating under a 1984/1987 court mandated injunction preventing the use of herbicides for vegetation treatments except for the control of noxious weeds. Monitoring information provided by the Forest Service Health Protection Pathologist has indicated that using herbicides reduces the number of infected sprouts post-treatment, thus reducing the potential for continued spread of the disease.

On June 22, 2009, this injunction was amended allowing the BLM to use glyphosate specifically treating tan oaks infected with the SOD pathogen through 2010. It is anticipated this amendment will be extended through 2011.

Project Objectives (Purpose)

Any action alternative to be given serious consideration as a reasonable alternative must meet the objectives provided in the ROD/RMP for projects to be implemented within the planning area. The following management direction is to be applied within the analysis area on BLM-managed lands:

- Manage timber stands to reduce the risk of stand loss from fires, animals, insects, and disease (p. 52) by:
 - Incorporating the use of glyphosate into ongoing and future SOD eradication treatment efforts.
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You are invited to submit written comments on any issues or concerns that you may have regarding this proposal by December 15, 2009. Comments which are helpful to the analysis process are those which identify new scientific or technical information, determine the scope of issues to be addressed, and express site-specific concerns related to the proposed action. Opinions agreeing or disagreeing with current laws and policies are not helpful in refining the proposed action.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the address listed below during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EA document or other related documents. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publically available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

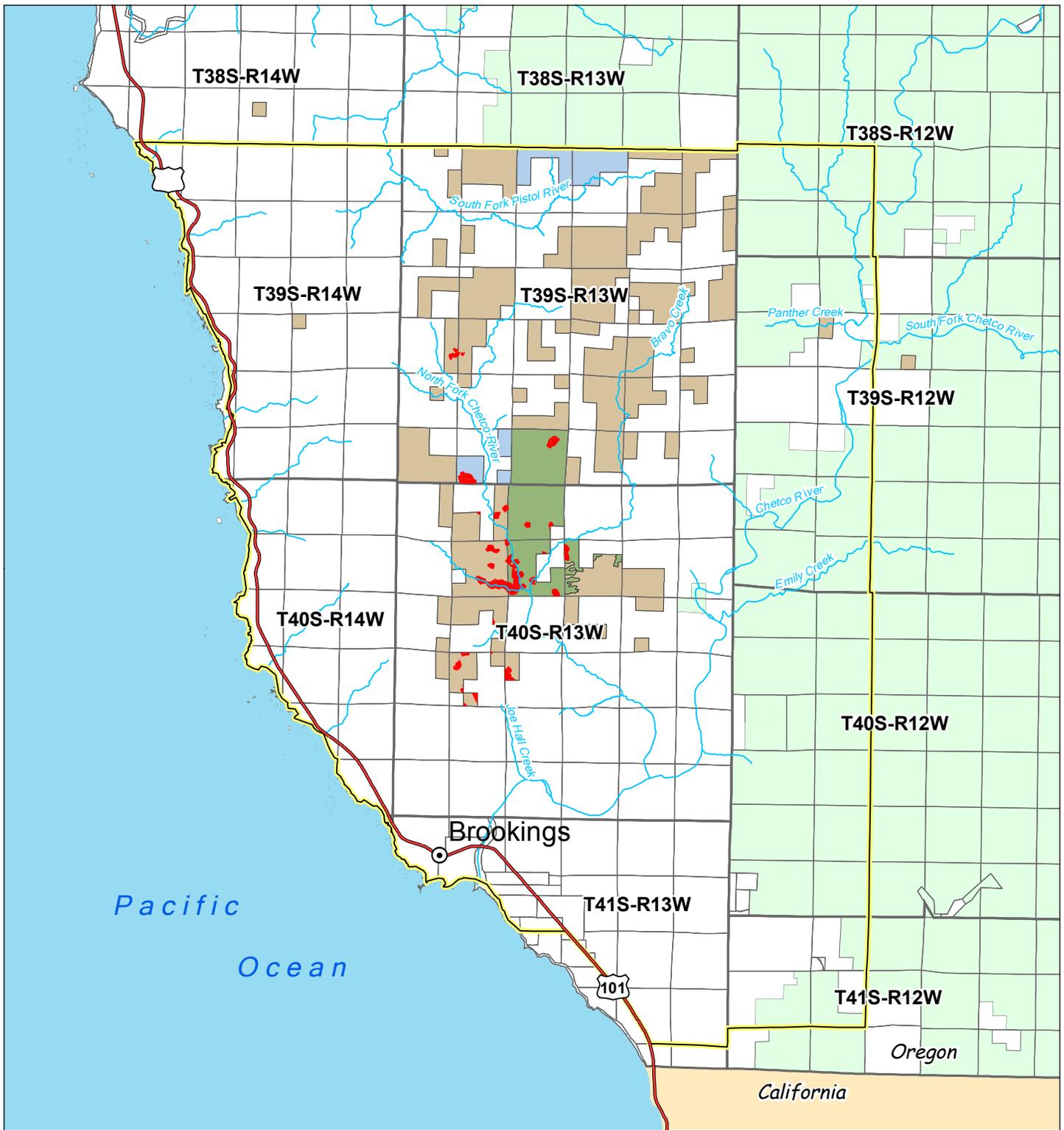
Please direct your responses or questions to Aimee Hoefs, Myrtlewood Field Office, 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459, call (541) 756-0100, FAX: (541) 751-4303 or e-mail OR_CoosBay_Mail@blm.gov

Respectfully,

/s/ Jeffrey K. Davis

Jeffrey K. Davis
Acting Myrtlewood Field Manager

SOD Quarantine Area and Known SOD Locations on BLM-Administered Lands



Map Features (Not all map features necessarily occur in the area mapped above.)

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Highway 101 | U.S. Forest Service |
| Major Streams | Private / Other Ownership |
| SOD Quarantine Area | BLM Land Use Allocations |
| Known Sod Locations | GFMA |
| | Connectivity |
| | LSR |



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Coos Bay District Office
Myrtlewood Resource Area



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data.