United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Lakeview District Office
1301 South G Street
Lakeview, OR 97630
www.blm.gov/lakeview

June 13, 2011

In Reply Refer To:
9015 (ORL000)

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Lakeview District is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the site-specific effects of alternative methods for treating noxious and other weeds and invasive vegetation to restore ecosystem health. This includes the use of herbicides, and mechanical, manual, and biological treatments. Herbicides are one of several tools used by the District to control noxious and other weeds and invasive vegetation to achieve landscape health objectives. The EA will update and replace the 1994 Klamath Falls Resource Area and 2004 Lakeview Resource Area integrated noxious weed management EAs, and will address the use of 17 herbicides in the Lakeview District's vegetation treatment program. The EA is scheduled to be completed in spring 2012.

The EA will tier to the recently completed *Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Oregon Environmental Impact Statement* and *Record of Decision* (ROD), which addressed the use of up to17 herbicides in Oregon. Under the ROD, these herbicides can be applied aerially in eastern Oregon, but may not be used for commercial timber enhancement or livestock forage production. Because the ROD was a programmatic decision, each district office must prepare a more site-specific National Environmental Policy Act analysis and decision.

The Lakeview District manages about 3.4 million acres of public lands in south central Oregon (see enclosed map of the Lakeview District), of which about 7,000 acres are infested with noxious and other weeds and invasive vegetation. The District currently treats approximately 5,500 acres of noxious and other weeds and invasive vegetation each year. Of those, about 2,000 acres are treated with herbicides and the remaining 3,500 acres are treated using other methods, including manual, mechanical, and biological (insects and livestock) control methods, and fire for resource objectives.

Currently, the Lakeview District uses only four herbicides approved for use in Oregon. Being able to use 13 additional herbicides will give the District access to a broader array of herbicides that are more target-specific and effective than the four herbicides it is currently utilizing. Used in combination with other management practices, herbicide treatments can slow the spread of noxious and other weeds and invasive plants, which in turn helps to restore ecosystem health and watershed functions.

In addition to using the 17 herbicides evaluated in the EA, the District may be allowed to use additional herbicides in the future. However, these additional herbicides could only be used after completing further toxicological and environmental impact analysis at the national level.

A news release was distributed to the media, interested groups, and state agencies on June 9, notifying them of the planning and scoping process. EAs are also being prepared by the eight other BLM Districts in the state as part of their planning processes for the use of herbicides. While these EAs will be done concurrently, each will be District-specific.

The BLM is now seeking public comments on this planning effort. A summary of the proposal and comment forms will be provided at the BLM's Lakeview District office for the public to learn more about the proposal and to submit written comments.

Comments on the Lakeview District EA can be submitted by mail to: Brennan Hauk, District Weed/ Invasive Plant Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview District Office, 1301 South G Street, Lakeview, OR 97630; by electronic mail (email) to OR_Lakeview_Mail@blm.gov; by facsimile to (541) 947-6399; or in person at the Lakeview District BLM office.

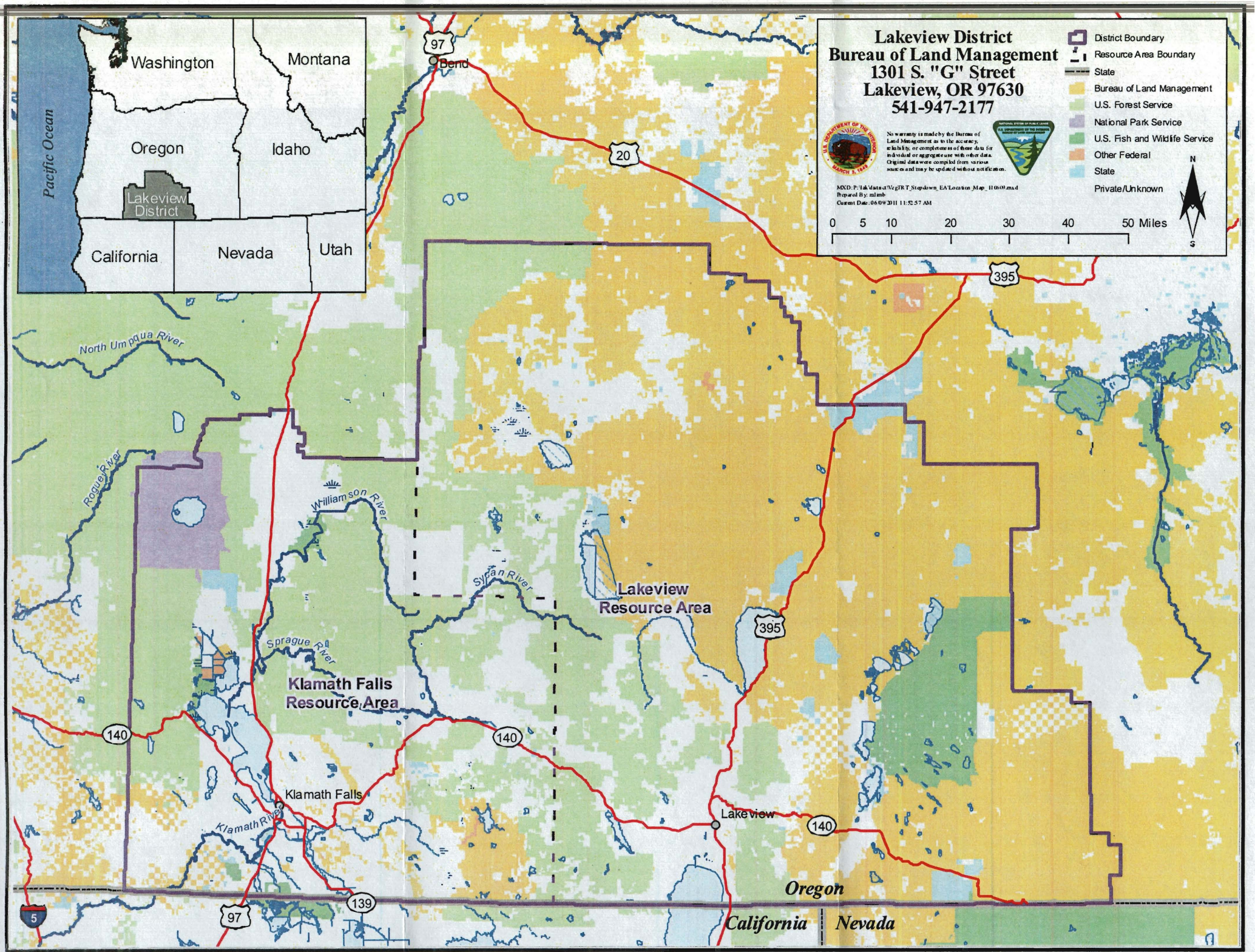
Written comments must be received by July 12, 2011, to ensure consideration. The public will also have the opportunity to comment on the proposal during the public comment period associated with the EA, which should be available in spring 2012. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly 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 legally be able to do so.

If you have questions concerning this proposal, please contact Brennan Hauk at (541) 947-2177.

Sincerely,

Carol Benkosky
District Manager

Enclosure


Lakeview District
Bureau of Land Management
1301 S. "G" Street
Lakeview, OR 97630
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Sycan River
Sprague River
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Oregon
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Nevada

GENERAL HERBICIDE INFORMATION
Eastern Oregon

2, 4-D
Trade names: Many
A **selective**, foliar-absorbed, translocated phenoxy herbicide used mainly in **postemergence** applications. 2, 4-D is effective against many annual and perennial broadleaf weeds. Ester formulations are the most volatile, the amines least volatile. Plants are most susceptible when they are young and growing rapidly.

- Mimics natural plant hormones.

BROMACIL
Trade names: ***Hyvar X*** and ***Hyvar X-L***
A substituted uracil compound used **preemergence** or as a spot-treatment on brush. A **nonselective** soil-residual herbicide; controls a wide range of weeds and brush.

- Inhibits photosynthesis.

CHLORSULFURON
Trade names: ***Glean F.C.*** and ***Telar DF***
A **selective preemergence** or **early postemergence** herbicide used at low rates. Telar formulation is a selective broadleaf herbicide used preemergence to postemergence in noncropland areas.

- Interferes with enzyme acetolactate synthase, resulting in a rapid cessation of cell division and plant growth in both roots and shoots.

CLOPYRALID
Trade names: ***Clopyr Ag***, ***Stinger,*** and ***Transline***
A highly translocated, **selective** herbicide active primarily through foliage of broadleaf herbaceous weeds (mostly the Asteraceae, Fabaceae, and Polygonaceae families). ***Curtail*** is clopyralid + 2, 4-D; **Redeem R&P** and **Confront** are clopyralid + triclopyr.

- Mimics natural plant hormones.

DICAMBA
Trade names: ***Banvel, Banvel II, Banvel SGF, Clarity, Dicamba, Rifle, Trooper,*** and ***Vanquish***
A growth-regulating **selective** herbicide readily absorbed and translocated from either roots or foliage. Effects similar to those of 2, 4-D.

- Mimics natural plant hormones.

DIFLUFENZOPYR
Trade names: Mixed with dicamba and sold as ***Distinct*** *and* ***Overdrive***
Postemergence, translocated **selective** herbicide to control broadleaf weeds.

- Inhibits auxin transport.

DIURON
Trade names: ***Direx***, ***Diuron***, *and* ***Karmex***
A substituted urea compound used **preemergence** to control annual weeds and certain perennials in noncropland and certain agricultural crops. Plant roots absorb and translocate material. It is a foliar absorbed when used with a wetting agent. Diuron may persist several months in the soil.

- Inhibits photosynthesis.

FLURIDONE
Trade names: ***Sonar*** and ***Avast!***
An aquatic herbicide used to control submersed and immersed plants. Not particularly effective in controlling floating aquatic plants.

- Inhibits carotene formation, resulting in chlorophyll destruction.

GLYPHOSATE
Trade names: ***Roundup, Rodeo, Kleenup, Accord, Honcho, E-Z-Ject, Jury, Mirage, Protocol, Rattler, Ruler, Silhouette, Glypro, Glyphomax, AquaNeat, Touchdown, Glyphosate, Durango, RT Master,*** and many others
A **nonselective** translocated herbicide with no apparent soil activity. Rain within 6 hours after application may reduce effectiveness. Glyphosate translocates to roots and rhizomes of perennial weeds. Complete control may require retreatment. Low-volume applications are most effective.

- Inhibits three amino acids and protein synthesis.

HEXAZINONE
Trade names: ***Pronone, Velpar, Velpar DF, Velpar L,*** and ***Velpar ULW***
A foliar- or soil-applied **non-selective** herbicide with soil activity for broadleaf weed, brush, and grass control in cropland, noncropoland, forest lands, and rangeland.

- Inhibits photosynthesis.

IMAZAPIC
Trade names: ***Oasis*** and ***Plateau***
Manufacturer has elected to sell Plateau only to government agencies and not to farmers or ranchers. A **selective postemergence** herbicide effective in controlling broadleaf weeds and some grasses.

- Inhibits the plant enzyme acetolactate synthase.

IMAZAPYR
Trade names: ***Arsenal, Chopper, Contain, Arsenal Applicator Concentrate, Stalker, Habitat, Imazapyr E-Pro,*** and ***Polaris***
Nonselective, imidazolinone herbicide applied **preemergence** or **postemergence** for long-term total vegetation control. Readily absorbed through foliage and roots. Registered for use only on noncropland.

- Inhibits enzyme used in the synthesis of some amino acids.

METSULFURON METHYL
Trade names: ***Ally, Cimarron, Escort,*** and ***Metsulfuron***
A **selective postemergence** herbicide used at low rates to control broadleaf weeds in wheat, barley, and fallow. Escort is used for selective broadleaf weed and brush control in pastures, rangeland, and noncropland.

- Interferes with an enzyme, resulting in rapid cessation of cell division in both roots and shoots.

PICLORAM (restricted-use herbicide)
Trade names: **Tordon 22K, Tordon K**
A highly translocated, **selective** herbicide active through both foliage and roots on many broadleaf herbaceous weeds and woody plants. Picloram is persistent; diligently follow precautions to avoid injuring desirable plants. Unmetabolized picloram in treated foliage will pass through livestock, and manure and urine can be toxic to plants.

- Mimics natural plant hormones.

SULFOMETURON METHYL
Trade names: ***Oust*** and ***Spyder***
Broad spectrum herbicide with **preemergence** and **postemergence** activity for noncropland and forestry use.

- Interferes with an enzyme, rapidly stopping cell division.

TEBUTHIURON
Trade names: ***Spike***
A soil-applied herbicide to control woody plants and vegetation. Its half-life in soil is 12 to 15 months in areas receiving 40 to 60 inches of precipitation.

- Symptoms suggest photosynthesis inhibition.

TRICLOPYR
Trade names: ***Garlon 3A, Garlon 4, Forestry Garlon 4, Forestry Garlon XRT, Remedy, Renovate 3A,*** *and* ***Renovate OTF***
A growth-regulating **selective** herbicide to control woody and broadleaf perennial weeds in noncropland, forestland, rangeland, permanent grass pasture, turf, and rights-of-way. ***Crossbow*** is triclopyr + 2, 4-D, while ***Redeem R&P*** and ***Confront*** are triclopyr + clopyralid.

- Mimics natural plant hormones.

Characteristics of Herbicides Available for Use in Eastern Oregon

Herbicide/Trade Names	**Herbicide Characteristics and Target Vegetation**	**Aerial Application Allowed?**	**Areas Where Registered Use is Appropriate**					
			Rangeland	**Forestland**	**Riparian and Aquatic**	**Oil, Gas, and Minerals**	**ROW**	**Recreation and Cultural Resources**
2, 4-D/ Many, including Amine, Hardball, Unison, Saber, Salvo, Aqua-Kleen, and Platoon	Selective; foliar absorbed; postemergent; annual/perennial broadleaf weeds. Key species treated include annual grasses and broadleaf weeds such as kochia, whitetop, perennial pepperweed, Russian thistle, Russian knapweed, sagebrush, and rabbitbrush.	Yes	•	•	•	•	•	•
Bromacil/ Hyvar	Non-selective; inhibits photosynthesis; controls wide range of weeds and brush. Key species treated include annual grasses and broadleaf weeds such as cheatgrass, puncturevine, ragweed, wild oat, dandelion, quackgrass, and wild carrot.	No				•	•	•
Chlorsulfuron/ Telar	Selective; inhibits enzyme activity; broadleaf weeds and grasses. Key species treated include thistles, wild carrot, giant horsetail, poison hemlock, Russian knapweed, marestail, perennial pepperweed, puncturevine, tansy ragwort, common tansy, common teasel, dalmation toadflax, yellow toadflax, whitetop, and Dyer's woad	Restricted[1]	•			•	•	•
Clopyralid/ Transline, Stinger, and Spur	Selective; mimics plant hormones; annual and perennial broadleaf weeds. Key species treated include thistles, common burdock, knapweeds, yellow starthistle, oxeye daisy, hawkweeds, prickly lettuce, dandelion, cutleaf teasel, kudzu, and buffalobur	Yes	•	•		•	•	•
Dicamba/ Vanquish, Banvel, Diablo, Vision, and Clarity	Growth regulator; annual and perennial broadleaf weeds, brush, and trees. Key species treated include knapweeds, burningbush, and Russian and other thistles.	Yes	•			•	•	•
Diflufenzopyr + dicamba/ Distinct and Overdrive	Postemergent; inhibits auxin transport; broadleaf weeds. Key species treated include knapweeds, kochia, and thistles.	No	•			•	•	•
Diuron/ Direx and Karmex	Preemergent control; annual and perennial broadleaf weeds and grasses. Key species treated include lambsquarters, kochia, and Russian thistle.	No				•	•	•
Fluridone/ Avast! and Sonar	Aquatic herbicide to control submersed aquatic plants. Key species treated include hydrilla and watermilfoils.	Yes			•			
Glyphosate/ Many, including Rodeo, Mirage, Roundup Pro, and Honcho	Non-selective; annual and perennial grasses and broadleaf weeds, sedges, shrubs, and trees. Key species treated include grasses (including Italian ryegrass), sedges, broadleaf weeds, and woody shrubs.	Restricted[2]	•	•	•	•	•	•

Characteristics of Herbicides Available for Use in Eastern Oregon (Cont.)

Herbicide/Trade Names	**Herbicide Characteristics and Target Vegetation**	**Aerial Application Allowed?**	**Areas Where Registered Use is Appropriate**					
			Rangeland	**Forestland**	**Riparian and Aquatic**	**Oil, Gas, and Minerals**	**ROW**	**Recreation and Cultural Resources**
Hexazinone/ Velpar	Foliar or soil applied; inhibits photosynthesis; annual and perennial grasses and broadleaf weeds, brush, and trees. Key species treated include annual and perennial grasses and broadleaf weeds, brush, and trees.	Restricted[2]	•	•		•	•	•
Imazapic/ Plateau and Panoramic	Selective postemergent herbicide; inhibits broadleaf weeds and some grasses. Key species treated include cheatgrass, leafy spurge, medusahead, whitetop, dalmation toadflax, and Russian knapweed.	Yes	•	•		•	•	•
Imazapyr/ Arsenal, Stalker, Habitat and Polaris	Non-selective; preemergent and postemergent uses; absorbed through foliage and roots; annual and perennial broadleaf weeds, brush, and trees. Key species treated include saltcedar, Russian olive, and tanoak.	Yes	•	•	•	•	•	•
Metsulfuron methyl/ Escort, Patriot, and PureStand	Selective; postemergent; inhibits cell division in roots and shoots; annual and perennial broadleaf weeds, brush, and trees. Key species treated include whitetop, perennial pepperweed and other mustards and biennial thistles.	Restricted[1]	•	•		•	•	•
Picloram/ Triumph, OutPost, and Tordon	Selective; foliar and root absorption; mimics plant hormones; certain annual and perennial broadleaf weeds, vines, and shrubs. Key species treated include perennial and woody species, knapweeds, starthistle, thistle, bindweed, leafy spurge, rabbitbrush, rush skeletonweed, and poison oak.	Yes	•	•		•	•	•
Sulfometuron methyl/ Oust and Spyder	Broad-spectrum pre and postemergent control; inhibits cell division; grasses and broadleaf weeds. Key species treated include cheatgrass, annual and perennial mustards, and medusahead.	No		•		•	•	•
Tebuthiuron/ Spike	Relatively non-selective soil activated herbicide; pre and postemergent control of annual and perennial grasses, broadleaf weeds, and shrubs. Key species treated include sagebrush (thinning).	Restricted[3]	•			•	•	•
Triclopyr/ Garlon, Renovate, and Element	Growth regulator; broadleaf weeds and woody plants. Key species treated include saltcedar, purple loosestrife, Canada thistle, tanoak, and Himalayan blackberry.	No	•	•	•	•	•	•

• = Areas where USEPA approved registration exists and the BLM has approval or proposes to use on public lands.

[1] Only allowed when no other means of application are possible.

[2] Where practical, limit to spot applications in grazing land and wildlife habitat areas.

[3] Not allowed in Native American traditional use areas.

BLM
Lakeview District Office

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

VEGETATION TREATMENTS USING HERBICIDES ON BLM LANDS IN THE LAKEVIEW DISTRICT, OREGON, ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Q. What is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lakeview District proposing to do?

A. The Lakeview District is proposing to update its 1994 and 2004 noxious weed management Environmental Assessments (EAs) to allow the use of 13 new herbicide active ingredients (bromacil, chlorsulfuron, clopyralid, diflufenzopyr+dicamba, diuron, fluridone, hexazinone, imazapic, imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, sulfometuron methyl, tebuthiuron, and triclopyr) and 4 currently-available herbicide active ingredients (2,4-D, dicamba, glyphosate, and picloram) to treat vegetation. All herbicides could be applied using ground-based methods, and most herbicides could be applied aerially. Herbicides could not be used for treating vegetation for livestock forage or timber production.

The District would be able to use herbicides to treat any vegetation in rights-of-ways, administrative sites, and recreation sites to meet safety and operation objectives, and to achieve habitat goals specified in interagency recovery plans or other plans specifically identified as part of recovery or delisting plans, conservation strategies, or conservation agreements for Federally listed and other special status species.

In addition, the District may be allowed to use new herbicides that may be developed in the future after they are approved for use by the National BLM.

Q. How many acres would be treated annually using herbicides?

A. Approximately 2,000- 6,000 acres would be treated annually, although the number of acres treated annually would be based on available funding, weather, and vegetation condition.

Q. Where would the proposed actions occur?

A. Treatments using herbicides could occur anywhere within the 3.4 million acres administered by the District, although most treatments would occur along roads, rights-of-ways, and rivers, and on recreation and other administrative sites in the District.

Q. Will the EA include herbicide treatments in Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, along Wild and Scenic Rivers, and other areas that are part of the BLM National Landscape Conservation System?

A. Yes, since they are included in the project area. These units will be analyzed as part of the broad treatment area to the extent that conservation and restoration project work, including invasive and noxious and other weed treatments, are allowed by the individual National Landscape Conservation System proclamations.

Q. How is this project different from what the District is already doing?

A. The District is currently only able to use four herbicides (2,4-D, dicamba, glyphosate, and picloram) and only to treat noxious weeds. Also, the BLM has been unable to use herbicides to control vegetation within road, power line, pipeline, and other rights-of-way and facilities, and to treat vegetation near plant and animal species of concern. Under the proposed action, the District would be able to use 13 new herbicides, and would be able to treat other weeds and invasive vegetation in rights-of-ways,

administrative sites, and recreation sites to meet safety and operation objectives, and to achieve habitat goals to benefit species of concern.

Q. The District has been controlling noxious weeds for over 20 years using just four herbicides, are the new herbicides really needed?

A. For many plant species, there is no effective means of control currently available to the District. Non-herbicide treatment methods, such as manual, mechanical, and biological control methods, are generally ineffective over large areas or in remote locations, while the four herbicides currently available to the District do not provide effective control for many noxious and other weeds and invasive species. The 13 new herbicides proposed for use would provide the BLM with better control over noxious weeds and other invasive vegetation while reducing the risks to the human environment from the use of herbicides.

Q. Where would most of the herbicide treatments occur within the District, and how much land would be treated aerially?

A. Most of the treatments would occur along roads, rights-of-ways, and rivers, and on recreation and other administrative sites in the District. Most of the herbicide applications would be done using ground-based application methods, including use of hand-applicators and sprayers mounted on ATV and vehicles. Acres treated aerially would vary yearly based on funding. Non-native annual grasses such as cheatgrass and medusa-head rye would be treated with Plateau and would be the most likely treatment to be completed by aerial application.

Q. Does the BLM use other treatment methods, besides herbicides, to manage vegetation in the District? If so, will the EA analyze the effects of these treatments?

A. Although the focus of this EA is on the use of herbicides to treat vegetation, herbicide use is only one of several methods used by the District to treat vegetation. Other treatment methods used by the District include manual, mechanical, and biological treatments, and fire use. Herbicides are used only after considering the effectiveness of all potential methods, and may be used in combination with other methods.

The EA will include some discussion of the effects of other treatment methods, especially when used in conjunction with herbicide treatments (e.g., prescribed fire followed by post-burn herbicide treatment). The effects of non-herbicide treatments have been evaluated previously in several Environmental Impact Statements.

EA DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Q. Why is the BLM developing this EA?

A. The BLM is preparing an EA to analyze the site-specific effects of herbicide use on BLM lands in the Lakeview District, Oregon, as one of several tools to control noxious and other weeds and invasive vegetation to achieve landscape health objectives. The EA will update and replace the District's 1994 (Klamath Falls Resource Area) and 2004 (Lakeview Resource Area) vegetation management EAs that evaluated the use of four herbicides to treat noxious weeds.

Q. What is the purpose of the EA?

A. The EA will: (1) provide a comprehensive analysis of BLM conservation and restoration activities involving the treatment, modification, or restoration of vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat, and watersheds; (2) provide a comprehensive National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for use by local BLM field offices for local land-use planning; (3) serve as a baseline cumulative impact assessment; and (4) assess human and environmental health risks from the use of herbicides.

Q. Is the EA a land-use plan?

A. No, the EA is neither a land-use plan nor an amendment to a land-use plan. It will not determine land use on the public lands and will not address specific agency management decisions developed under local land use plans.

Q. I understand that the BLM prepared an EIS to evaluate noxious and other weeds and invasive vegetation treatments on BLM-administered lands in Oregon. Why does the BLM Lakeview District now need to prepare an EA?

A. To address the treatment of noxious and other weeds and invasive vegetation in Oregon, the BLM recently completed a *Vegetation Treatment Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Oregon Environmental Impact Statement* (State EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) that addressed the use of up to17 herbicides in Oregon. However, the ROD was a programmatic decision, and specific projects could only take place after site-specific analysis and decisionmaking at the field level. The EA is providing the site-specific analysis at the field level.

Q. Are all the BLM Districts in Oregon preparing EAs, or just the Lakeview District?

A. All of the nine BLM Districts in Oregon are preparing EAs to evaluate the site-specific impacts from treating noxious and other weeds and invasive species treatments in their district. While these efforts are occurring simultaneously, each effort is district-specific and each district will identify treatments appropriate for their district.

Q. I understand that only 14 herbicides will be allowed for use in western Oregon and herbicides will not be applied aerially, while up to 17 herbicides can be used in eastern Oregon and most can be applied aerially. Why is this so?

A. The State EIS did not allow for use of bromacil and tebuthiuron west of the Cascades because of the limited need for these herbicides and their potential to move to nearby streams and adversely affect aquatic resources. Chlorsulfuron was not proposed for use west of the Cascades because most of its target weeds are found east of the Cascades. Aerial application is prohibited west of the Cascades because the high density of rivers, streams, and other water bodies, coupled with the dense vegetation, can make it difficult to avoid water when applying herbicides aerially. Nearly all lands are within source water protection areas for public water systems and there are many individual domestic water intakes in the region. There are also fewer noxious and other weed and invasive species monocultures that are amenable to aerial treatments.

Q. Who is developing the EA?

A. The BLM Lakeview District is leading the project, supported by BLM technical resource specialists in BLM offices throughout Oregon. AECOM, a third-party contractor, will prepare the EA in accordance with BLM guidelines and oversight.

Q. Are there any other federal agencies involved in the effort?

A. There are no other Federal agencies involved as cooperating agencies; however, the project is being closely coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service, and consultation (under the Endangered Species Act) will be completed as appropriate.

Q. Are Tribal, State, and local governments involved in the EA process?

A. The BLM will coordinate closely with Tribal, State, and local governments throughout development of the EA. Much of the treatment work done by the BLM is contracted through State and local agencies that conduct their own treatments on lands adjacent to or near BLM-administered lands.

Q. How much has been done so far, and what is the next step?

A. The planning effort began in January 2011. District offices have spent the past few months determining the types of treatments they may need to conduct over the next 10 to 15 years, including types of vegetation to be treated, herbicides to use, and potential treatment areas. They have also looked at

alternative actions to treat vegetation on district lands. The districts are currently engaging the public to discuss these potential vegetation treatments, issue identification, and ideas for alternatives.

Q. When is the EA scheduled for completion?
A. The Draft EA is scheduled to be completed in January 2012. The Draft EA will be released to the public for a 30-day comment period. The Final EA should be completed in spring 2012.

Q. How long would this EA last?
A. It is anticipated that this EA would cover vegetation treatment activities on the District for the next 10 to 15 years, or until circumstances change substantially.

POTENTIAL ISSUES TO BE EXAMINED IN THE EA

Q. Does this EA involve controversial issues?
A. It is anticipated that most public scrutiny will focus on issues associated with the use of herbicides to control noxious and other weeds and invasive vegetation. Specific issues to be addressed in the EA include the effects of herbicides on human and environmental health; threatened and endangered and other special status species; resources used by Native Americans; and on water resources, including drinking water quality.

Q. What issues will this EA not cover?
A. The EA will not address vegetation management that is primarily focused on commercial timber or other forest product enhancement and use, livestock forage enhancement and use, abandoned mine land reclamation, and energy production. The EA will not analyze fire suppression operations and soil stabilization, except where related to vegetation treatment. The EA also will not make land use allocations, or evaluate off-road vehicle use of BLM-administered lands.

Q. Will there be an assessment of risks to the public and the environment from the use of herbicides?
A. A risk assessment was be done to determine the likely risks to humans and plants and animals from the treatments involving new herbicides proposed for use by the BLM as part of a national programmatic EIS that looked at BLM vegetation treatments in 17 western states, including Oregon. The State EIS used this information when evaluating the risks from using herbicides at the State level. The EA will use this information to evaluate the risks to humans and plants and animals from projects proposed at the field level.

Q. What are the risks to endangered and threatened species and other species of special status, and what is being done to protect these species from herbicide treatments?
A. As part of the risk assessments done at the national level, the BLM evaluated the risks to threatened and endangered species, and other special status species. The BLM used very conservative assumptions when evaluating risks to these species, and worked closely with the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service, during development of the risk assessments and assessment of the risks to special status species. For the EAs, the BLM is consulting with local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service offices on measures to protect federally listed, threatened and endangered species. The BLM is also preparing a Biological Assessment (BA) that will provide a detailed analysis of the risks from using herbicides to federally listed threatened and endangered species. This information will be provided to the Services and used during consultation.

Q. Will any herbicide treatments occur in or near water?
A. Herbicide treatments could occur in or near water. However, the BLM would only use herbicides approved for use in or near water, would follow label directions, and would follow guidance in the risk

assessments, EA, and BA, to ensure that herbicide treatments in or near water do not harm humans, non-target vegetation, or fish or wildlife using aquatic resources. West of the Cascades, the BLM would not apply herbicides aerially, reducing the likelihood of herbicides inadvertently entering water bodies.

Q. Will the EA include alternatives for treating vegetation and mitigation?

A. The EA may include alternative proposals for treating vegetation. The EA will include project design features (PDFs) and mitigation measures adopted by the State EIS and Record of Decision that would apply to herbicide treatments in the District. These PDFs and mitigation measures include:

- Preventing weeds from entering the District;
- Early detection and rapid response when weeds are found in the District;
- Revegetating disturbed or treated areas with desirable vegetation;
- Using special precautions to protect special status species, wilderness areas, and cultural and historic resources;
- Monitoring treatments for effectiveness;
- Coordinating with partners; and
- Educating the public as to the benefits and potential risks from using herbicides and other treatment methods.

Q. Will the District be able to use new herbicides that become available in the future under this EA, or will a new EA have to be prepared to evaluate the potential impacts from the new herbicides?

A. The State EIS included a protocol developed by the National BLM that describes the process the BLM must follow to evaluate new chemicals that may be developed in the future, prior to their use by the agency. These herbicides could only be used if they are: (1) registered for use by the EPA; (2) used for treatment of appropriate vegetation types and at application rates specified on the label directions; and (3) determined to be safe to humans and the environment based on a toxicological and environmental impacts analysis of the herbicides by the BLM. . Currently, the BLM is evaluating the use of three new herbicides—aminopyralid, fluroxypyr, and rimsulfuron. If available in the future, the District would like to use aminopyralid and rimsulfuron herbicides on a variety of broadleaf weeds and non-native annual grasses. Prior to using these herbicides, the BLM District would evaluate the potential impacts of such use and comply with NEPA, as appropriate.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Q. When will the public be able to make comments on the project?

A. The public will have several opportunities to discuss this project with the BLM and to make comments, such as:

- During public scoping in June and early July 2011.
- By submitting comments through additional public comment period associated with the Draft EA.

Q. How can the public comment on the project?

A. The BLM will be seeking public comments on this planning effort throughout the scoping period, which ends on July 12, 2011. Comments on the Lakeview District EA can be submitted by mail to: Brenna Hauk, District Weed/Invasive Plant Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview District Office, 1301 South G Street, Lakeview, Oregon 97630; by electronic mail (email) to

OR_Lakeview_Mail@blm.gov; by facsimile to (541) 947-6399; in person at the Lakeview District BLM office.

Written comments should be received by July 12, 2011, to ensure consideration. The public will also have the opportunity to comment on the proposal during public comment periods associated with the Draft EA.

Q. What will be done with these comments?

A. The comments will be compiled and summarized by major resource areas and issues in a scoping summary report. Public comments, and the scoping summary report, will be used to evaluate issues and concerns associated with the proposed program, and to develop alternative programs to treat vegetation on BLM-administered lands. Alternative programs could involve vegetation treatment using fewer herbicides than are currently proposed by the BLM, or different amounts of acres treated using each herbicide.

Q. How can I find out more about the project, review the earlier EISs and EAs, and follow the progress of the EA?

A. Information on the status of the EA and supporting information is posted on the District website at http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/lakeview/index.php.