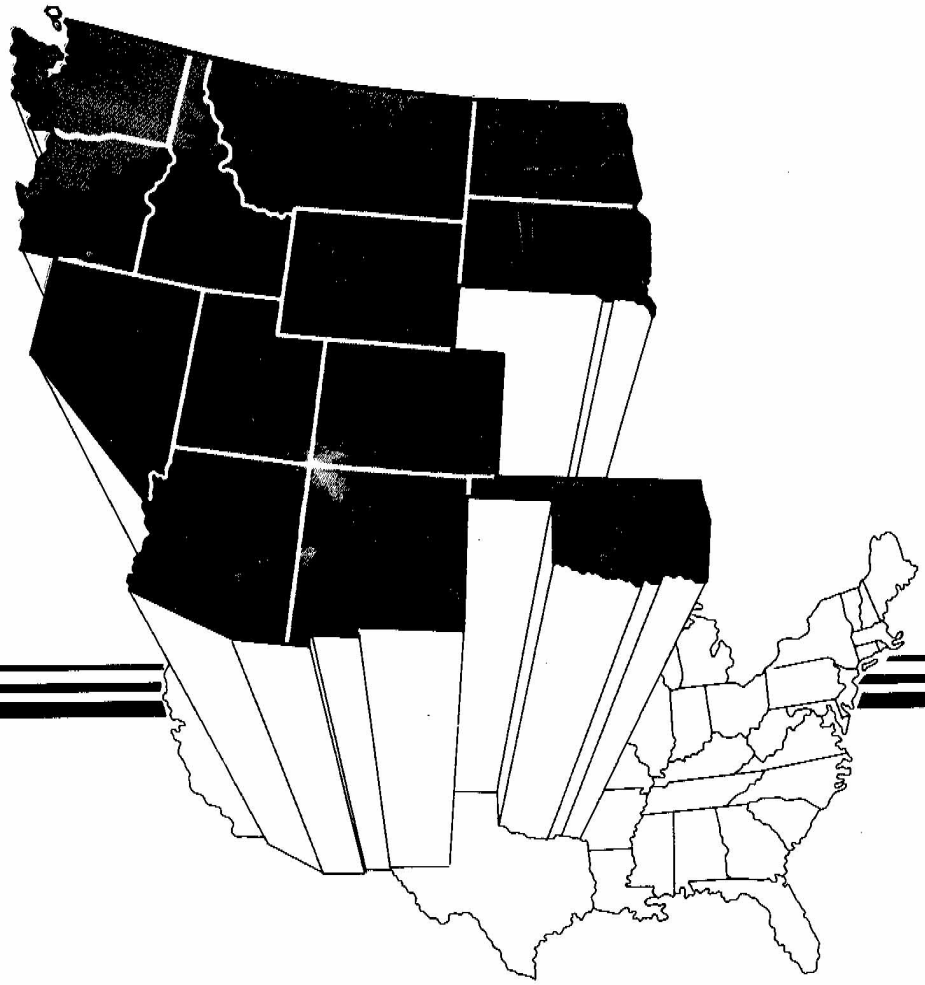
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Wyoming

May 1991

Final Environmental Impact Statement Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States



The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the balanced management of the public lands and resources and their various values so that they are considered in a combination that will best serve the needs of the American people. Management is based upon the principles of multiple use and sustained yield; a combination of uses that takes into account the long term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources. These resources include recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness and natural, scenic, scientific and cultural values.

BLM-WY-ES-91-022-4320

final

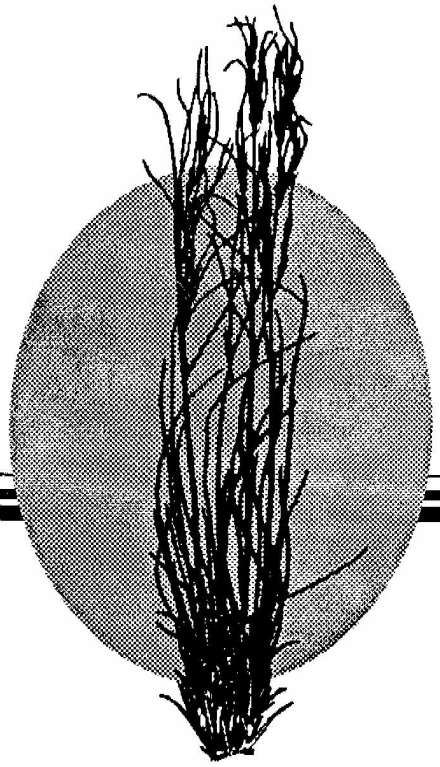
Enironmental Impact Statement

Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands

in Thirteen Western States

Prepared by
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

1991



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WYOMING STATE OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1828
CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82003

Dear Reviewer:

This is the final environmental impact statement (EIS) on vegetation treatment on BLM lands in 13 Western States using integrated pest management methods. The final EIS is based on substantive comments received on the draft. The statement analyzes the probable impacts of the Proposed Action and Alternatives, and will be used in the development of all vegetation treatment proposals in the 13 Western States.

The final EIS has been revised and updated as a result of public comment, peer review, and internal review of the draft EIS. Over 400 letters of comment were received. Because of the volume of letters, it was impossible to print them in this statement. Some issues/concerns were often repeated by reviewers. These general concerns were grouped under the nature of common concern and responded to. Specific comments needing more in-depth responses are listed in this document according to each letter's identification number. Copies of individual letters received are on file and will not be provided in this document.

Comments received on this final EIS as well as those received on the draft will be considered in the decision process. Decisions for each state will be prepared and issued after the close of the comment period on this final EIS.

Please address comments on this final EIS, or requests for copies of the final EIS to:

Wyoming State Director Bureau of Land Management
c/o Jim Melton, Team Leader
1701 East "E" Street
Casper, Wyoming 82601

Sincerely yours,

Ray Brubaker
State Director, Wyoming

VEGETATION TREATMENT ON BLM LANDS IN 13 WESTERN STATES

( ) Draft (X) Final

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

Abstract

This Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) assesses the environmental consequences of Federal approval of implementing a vegetation treatment program to manage a variety of vegetation species on public land in the Western United States. The program would apply to BLM-administered public lands in the 13 contiguous Western States of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, eastern Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Based on the issues and concerns within the study area identified during the public scoping process and internal review, this EIS focuses analysis in the following areas:

- How each vegetation treatment method affects vegetation on a regional basis
- How each method affects fish and wildlife and their habitats
- How mechanical treatments and prescribed burning affect soils
- How all natural resources may be affected positively as well as negatively
- How herbicides and prescribed burning affect human health and safety

The FEIS analyzes direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to various resources from the proposed vegetation treatment project and alternatives. It incorporates, and in some places modifies, analysis for the Draft EIS. In addition, it makes factual corrections from the draft document, responds to public comments or explains why comments do not warrant further agency response. This FEIS is not a decision document. Records of Decisions will be provided for each state after the final EIS is distributed.

EIS Contact

Comments on this EIS should be directed to:

Wyoming State Director
Bureau of Land Management
c/o Jim Melton, Team Leader
1701 East "E" Street
Casper, Wyoming 82601

Date EIS Made Available to EPA and the Public

Final: June 5, 1991