

# NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

777 Garden Valley Blvd • Roseburg, Oregon 97471 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg>

For release: June 15, 2011  
Release No: OR-100-FY2011-006

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## BLM to Analyze Effects of Herbicide Use on Public Lands in the Roseburg District

**Roseburg, Oregon.** The Roseburg District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is accepting public comments through July 15, 2011, on a proposal to analyze the use of herbicides on BLM lands within the Roseburg District.

Noxious and other weeds and invasive plants infest millions of acres in Oregon and are spreading at a rate of 10 to 15 percent per year. To address this issue, the BLM recently completed a *Vegetation Treatment Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Oregon Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) that addressed the use of up to 14 herbicides in western Oregon.

These herbicides cannot be applied aerially in western Oregon, and may not be used for commercial timber enhancement or livestock forage production. However, because the ROD was a programmatic decision, specific projects must still undergo site-specific analysis and decision-making at the field level.

The BLM is initiating scoping for a planning process to analyze the site-specific effects of herbicide use on BLM lands managed by the Roseburg District. Herbicides represent one of several tools to control noxious and other weeds and invasive vegetation to achieve landscape health objectives.

As part of the planning effort, the District is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) titled, *Vegetation Management Activities Using Herbicides* which will focus on the effects of using 14 herbicides authorized in the ROD.

The Scoping Notice can be accessed on the web at:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg/plans/vegea.php>

The Roseburg District manages about 425,000 acres of public lands in Oregon, of which about 10,000 acres are infested with noxious and other weeds and invasive vegetation. The District treats approximately 2,500 acres of weeds and invasive vegetation each year. Of those, about 2,000 acres are treated with herbicides and the remaining 500 acres are treated using non-herbicide methods, including manual, mechanical, and biological (insects) control methods and fire use for resource objectives.



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BLM  
Roseburg District Office

Currently, the Roseburg District uses only four herbicides approved for use in Oregon. Being able to use 10 additional herbicides will give the District access to a broad array of herbicides that are more target-specific and effective than the four herbicides it currently uses. 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.

Comments on the Roseburg District EA proposal can be submitted by mail to: Susan Carter, District Weed/Invasive Plant Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, Roseburg District Office, 777 Garden Valley Road, Roseburg, Oregon, 97471; by electronic mail (email) to [or100mb@blm.gov](mailto:or100mb@blm.gov); by facsimile to (541) 440-4948; in person at the Roseburg District BLM office; or at the following public meeting:

**Open House – June 27, 2011, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Roseburg District Office, 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd, Roseburg OR, 97471.**

Written comments should be received by July 15, 2011, to ensure consideration. The public will also have the opportunity to comment on the proposal during the public comment period associated with the Draft EA, which should be available in early 2012.

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About the BLM: The BLM manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1.8 billion, also administers 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, and cultural resources on the public lands.

