

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
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To: All District Managers
Attn.: District Planning and Environmental Coordinators and District Weed
Coordinators

From: Deputy State Director for Resource Planning, Use and Protection

Subject: National Vegetation Treatment Environmental Impact Statement Implementation
Strategy

During the upcoming Oregon/Washington Strategic Planning Workshop, there will be a session to develop alternative planning strategies for on-the-ground implementation of the National Vegetation Treatment Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). In particular, the session will address potential, additional District-level planning that may be required to utilize newly available herbicides to control noxious weeds and unwanted vegetation on public lands in Oregon and Washington.

A draft EIS is scheduled to be available in the summer of 2003 with the final EIS release scheduled for the spring of 2004. To allow for timely use of the additional herbicides after the Record of Decision is signed, an Oregon/Washington strategy will be developed to complete efficient site-specific planning tiered to the EIS and local Resource Management Plans. To initiate development of this strategy, District Planning and Environmental Coordinators, District Weed Coordinators, and other appropriate District staff should review existing District planning documents pertaining to the use of herbicides to determine what level of additional planning may be required. District personnel should bring this information to the Strategic Planning Workshop to share with other Districts and State Office personnel to aid in the development of alternative planning strategies for the use of these newly available herbicides.

An agenda of the Strategic Planning Workshop (held March 11-13, 2003) will be issued in the near future. Additional information about the National Vegetation Treatment EIS can be found at <http://www.blm.gov/weeds/VegEIS>.

Please contact Miles Brown (503-808-6357) or Jerry Magee (503-808-6086) if you have any questions.

Districts with Unions are reminded to notify their unions of this Informational Bulletin and satisfy any bargaining obligations before implementation. Your servicing Human Resources Office or Labor Relations Specialist can provide you assistance in this matter.

Signed by
Harold J. Belisle
(Acting)

Authenticated by
Mary O'Leary
Management Assistant

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