



# BLM NEWS RELEASE

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**Bureau of Land Management**

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**For immediate release**

**Date:** December 21, 2012

## **BLM Holds Public Scoping Meetings for New Vegetation Treatments on Public Lands in Western U.S.**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) today announced opportunities for the public to share ideas on the potential utilization of three new vegetation treatments to be evaluated in the national, programmatic *Environmental Impact Study (EIS) to Evaluate the Use of New Herbicides on Public Lands in 17 Western States*.

The public may submit comments for the EIS via fax to (206)-623-3793, email to [VegEIS@blm.gov](mailto:VegEIS@blm.gov), or attend any of three public scoping meetings between January 7 and 10, 2013 at locations detailed at the bottom of this release. The public comment period for the scoping process extends 60 days from today.

The BLM is undertaking this EIS to augment the existing list of approved treatments to include herbicides that will grant greater flexibility to vegetation management in the field. In association with the 2007 Vegetation Treatments EIS which provides a full review and analysis of herbicide use and impacts on human and natural environments, the proposed new herbicides programmatic EIS will evaluate only aminopyralid, fluroxypyr, and rimsulfuron as potentially viable treatments.

The treatments are designed to help the BLM manage vegetation on more than 6 million acres of public land by providing options for controlling noxious weeds and other invasive species, and conserving and restoring native vegetation, watersheds, and fish and wildlife habitat. The EIS will cover a range of issues including the effects of the herbicides and its inert ingredients on human, vegetation, fish and wildlife, livestock, and wild horse and burro health; water quality, Native American Resources and resource use; and the cumulative use of these and other herbicides by the BLM and other landowners in the Western U.S.

The analysis area will include all surface estate public lands administered by the BLM in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, North and South Dakota, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

The BLM welcomes identification of additional issues and concerns by the public. A reasonable range of alternatives will be developed to respond to the issues identified at the outset of the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process. Each alternative will outline solutions to the issues and concerns brought out through public scoping to develop reasonable approaches for using these new treatment options.

To check the status of the EIS, or access associated documents and updates, visit <http://blm.gov/3vkd>.

Dates and locations for the BLM public scoping meetings are listed below.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Worland Community Center Complex, 1200 Culbertson Avenue, Worland, WY (307)-347-8616	January 7, 2013	7 pm local
Hyatt Place Reno Airport, 1790 East Plumb Lane, Reno, NV (775)-826-2500	January 9, 2013	7 pm local
Albuquerque District Office, 435 Montano Road NE, Albuquerque, NM (505)-761-8700	January 10, 2013	7 pm local

— BLM —

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land – the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health, diversity, 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, cultural, and other resources on public lands.