

## *Vegetation Treatments Record of Decision*

### October 2010

- This Record of Decision selects a modified version of Alternative 4 from the July 2010 Final Environmental Impact Statement for *Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Oregon*.
- The Record of Decision does **not** authorize any herbicide treatment projects. Site-specific National Environmental Policy Act analysis will occur prior to any herbicide treatments at the BLM District level.
- In addition, the decision does **not** permit aerial application of herbicides west of the Cascades, nor herbicide use specifically for livestock forage or timber production.
- This action expands herbicide use beyond noxious weed treatments to include:
  - treatment of all invasive plants; control of pests and diseases; control of native vegetation in rights-of-way, administrative sites, and recreation sites; and treatment of vegetation to achieve habitat goals specified in interagency conservation strategies for Federally-listed and other Special Status species.*
- This decision makes available **14** herbicides west of the Cascades (2,4-D, clopyralid, dicamba, dicamba + diflufenzopyr, diuron, fluridone, glyphosate, hexazinone, imazapic, imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, picloram, sulfometuron methyl, and triclopyr) and **17** herbicides east of the Cascades (bromacil, chlorsulfuron, tebuthiuron, and the 14 herbicides available west of the Cascades).
- Differences in the number of herbicides available east and west of the Cascades are due to differences in native vegetation types and invasive plant occurrence, management objectives, environmental conditions, such as fire risk, and the prevalence of watercourses on the west side.
- As a result of 1984 and 1987 U.S. District Court orders, the BLM in Oregon has only been utilizing four herbicides and only uses those herbicides in the treatment of noxious weeds. In most cases, the additional herbicides being made available for possible use by this decision are newer, can be used in lower quantities, and are more target-specific than the four currently being used.
- There is a 30-day appeal period following issuance of the Record of Decision before the decision can take effect.
- Weeds are spreading on BLM lands in Oregon at an estimated 12 percent per year, or 144,000 acres per year. The selected alternative is expected to slow the noxious weed



spread rate by half and prevent 2.2 million acres from becoming infested in 15 years when compared to the No Action Alternative.

- On an annual basis, the BLM currently treats approximately 2,500 acres of noxious weeds using mechanical methods, 2,000 acres using manual removal, 1,500 acres using biocontrol methods, and 12,000 – 14,000 acres using herbicides.
- The selected alternative will increase the numbers of acres treated, but the pounds of herbicide being applied per acre would decrease about 30 percent because many of the newer herbicides can be used at lower doses.
- The Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision tiers to the *Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States* Programmatic EIS and related Record of Decision, which made 18 herbicides available for use for a full range of vegetation treatments in 17 western states.
- The decision added the herbicide dicamba + diflufenzopyr<sup>1</sup> (which was analyzed in the Final EIS as part of Alternative 5) to the herbicides proposed for use under the proposed action (Alternative 4) in the Final EIS. Dicamba + diflufenzopyr was added to the herbicides available under the selected alternative because using dicamba in combination with diflufenzopyr makes it effective at lower doses and could, therefore, reduce the use of dicamba and the risks associated with its use.

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<sup>1</sup> Diflufenzopyr can only be used in formulation with dicamba on BLM lands.

