

Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands In Oregon Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision Fact Sheet

October 2010

- This Record of Decision selects a modified version of Alternative 4 in 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.
- 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).
- 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.
- The decision added the herbicide dicamba + diflufenzopyr¹ (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

¹ Diflufenzopyr can only be used in formulation with dicamba on BLM lands.



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.

- 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.
- The decision does not permit aerial application of herbicides west of the Cascades, nor herbicide use specifically for livestock forage or timber production.
- There is a 30-day appeal period following issuance of the Record of Decision before the decision can take effect. Appeals must be mailed to the Oregon/Washington BLM State Director, P.O. Box 2965, Portland, Oregon 97208-2965, and be postmarked by November 1, 2010. A copy of the appeal, statement of reasons, and all other supporting documents must also be sent to the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 805 SW Broadway #600, Portland, Oregon 97205-3346.
- 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.
- The BLM's goal throughout this process has been to broaden the array of tools available for use in the control of noxious weeds, invasive plants, and other unwanted vegetation. Ultimately, implementation of this decision is going to help contain and prevent the future spread of noxious and invasive vegetation.
- 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.
- As a result of this decision, and subsequent site-specific analysis, herbicide treatments will occur on an estimated 45,200 acres. This includes treating approximately 9,300 acres of native vegetation in rights-of-way, administrative sites, and recreation sites; and treating approximately 5,700 acres of native vegetation in those instances where it will benefit Federally-listed and other Special Status species. 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 selected alternative in this decision does not include the use of all of the 18 herbicides approved for use by the national Programmatic EIS because some of the herbicides were not identified as needed by the Oregon BLM Districts.

