



BLM BURNS DISTRICT

Medusahead aerial treatments planned for August – October, 2024

The Bureau of Land Management, Burns District, plans to implement approximately 40,000 acres of aerial spray treatments targeting non-native invasive annual grass (IAG) on public land beginning August 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024. Treatment blocks range in size from 500 to 11,000 acres. Both helicopters and fixed wing aircraft will be used in the effort.

The treatment locations include Cow, Rock, and Pine creeks north of Highway 20 near Buchanan; the Sagehen area north of Highway 20 between Riley and Burns; the east side of Steens Mountain near Serrano Point; the north area of Steens Mountain near Diamond; and the Stinkingwater area west of Riverside.

Aircraft applying herbicide in rangeland settings can be identified as flying low to the ground with clear liquid spray (appears mist-like) coming from below and trailing behind the aircraft – see pictures for example.

IMPORTANT: Do not assume aircraft pilots are able to see you – even if you can easily see them. If you encounter an aircraft applying herbicide, avoid direct contact with the spray and leave the application area as quickly as possible. In the event you are sprayed over, clean exposed skin with soap and water, change contaminated clothing, and leave application area as soon as possible. For additional information refer to herbicide label – Plateau® or comparable at www.cdms.net/ldat/ld2LP000.pdf.

Invasive annual grasses compete with native plants, change wildland fire cycle/frequency, and degrade wildlife habitat. Without control, dense infestations of IAG often lead to more frequent, large, fast-moving wildfires that further degrade habitat. Research and past experience indicates that herbicide application during the late summer and early fall provides the greatest control of IAG.

For more information about weed treatments on public land, contact Sam Cisney at the BLM Burns District office at (541) 573-4443.

Fixed wing application example:



Helicopter application example:

