THE PROPOSED ACTION Alternative A

BLM

Chemical Treatment (Herbicide)

Utilize two herbicides to treat and reduce the amount of non-native invasive annual grasses and their soil seed bank to create hazardous fuel breaks on BLM managed public land in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

The BLM proposes to use commercially available, federally approved pre-emergent and/or post-emergent herbicides in an ongoing effort to reduce invasive annual grasses by creating up to 300-foot wide fuel breaks intended to interrupt the "annual grass/fire cycle" and release existing desirable native plant communities from the competitive pressure of undesirable non-native plant species.

Location of Treatments

Herbicide treatments adjacent to infrastructure would create 300-foot buffers around buildings. The area of State Route 159 on the northern end of Blue Diamond and running south to the intersection of State Route 160 would be treated 300 feet only on the east roadside to avoid washes with the potential to provide habitat for the white margin penstemon, a BLM Sensitive Plant Species, and yellow two-tone beardtongue (Penstemon bicolor ssp. bicolor) a BLM Sensitive Plant Species and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Species of Concern.

Treatments along fire scars would initially be 300 feet inside the scar to avoid disturbing unburned areas. In addition, Plateau® and/or Journey® would be applied inside all existing fire scars, in those areas where interspaces have essentially converted to non-native monocultures. The minimum treatment area within the fire scars would be 692 acres (300 feet within the fire scar). The fire scars include Loop Fire - 858 acres; Scenic Fire – 1,611 acres; Bonnie Springs Fire - 389 acres; Diamond Fire - 119 acres; and Overlook Fire - 61 acres.

Application would be by a helicopter that is specially equipped for herbicide application and operated by a pilot who is qualified for herbicide application and/or Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV) and backpack sprayers. A portion of the 13-Mile Scenic Drive would be sprayed by helicopter to reduce the amount of time that it is closed to the public.

Total Area Treated

The total proposed treatment area is 4,460 acres (linear fuel breaks would compose 2,114 acres along approximately 65 miles, in addition to the 2,346 acres of burn scar treatment).

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT