



BLM Fact Sheet

U.S. Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is a hazardous fuel?

A: Hazardous fuels are vegetation that promote the spread and intensity of a wildland fire. Specifically to this Environmental Assessment, the BLM is seeking to address the problem of non-native invasive grasses (i.e. red brome and cheatgrass) in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

Q: What are hazardous fuels treatments?

A: Treatments are methods to reduce hazardous fuel, usually by applying prescribed fire, herbicides, or some kind of mechanical method such as blading, mowing or sawing. The BLM is seeking to address the problem of non-native invasive grasses (i.e. red brome and cheatgrass) by treating these fuels with herbicides (Proposed Action) or mechanical mowing or mechanical blading or a combination of these methods.

Q: What is the Preferred Alternative?

A: The application of two herbicides, Plateau® and Journey®, targeting invasive annual grasses and their soil seed bank, to create 150-300 foot wide fuelbreaks along roads, trails and natural features. In addition, Journey® would be applied within existing burn scars (Loop and Scenic Fires) to reduce the competitive pressure of invasive annual grasses and help native plants re-establish on these sites.

Q: How will these treatments impact Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area?

A: The reduction of invasive annual grasses and their soil seed bank will: better provide for visitor and firefighter safety by reducing the spread and intensity of wildland fires; protect both public and private infrastructure; protect and enhance native vegetation and habitat and reduce annual grass expansion. Herbicide application may necessitate temporary road and trail closures. Short term loss of native vegetation may be possible. Potentially impacted resources analyzed in the Environmental Assessment also include: threatened, endangered or candidate species (desert tortoise), BLM sensitive plant species (yellow two-tone beardtongue), fuel/fire management, migratory birds, recreation, wildlife excluding federally listed species and wild horse and burro.

Q: Are these herbicides safe for humans and wildlife?

A: The two proposed herbicides are safer than most household chemicals. Formulated pesticide products (which usually include inert ingredients) are required to carry a rating by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency which is reflected in the warning label on the pesticide container. The U.S. EPA gives a warning label of Category 1 to the most acutely toxic pesticide products and Category 4 to the least acutely toxic pesticide products. Both herbicides are labeled as Category 3, Slightly Toxic, and carry a warning label of Caution. For comparison, a Raid® flea collar for dogs is labeled as Category 2, Moderately Toxic, and carries a warning label of Warning, and Lysol® brand disinfectant toilet bowl cleaner is labeled as Category 1, Highly Toxic, and carries a warning label of Danger.#

Q: Are either of the two herbicides listed by the State of California, under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 as known carcinogens, developmental toxins, female or male reproductive toxins?

A: While Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area is located in Nevada, not California, the Act provides a point of reference to the level of toxicity of the herbicides. Neither is listed by the State of California under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65).

Q: Are either of the two herbicides on the Pesticide Action Network (PAN) list of “Dirty Dozen” pesticides?

A: PAN International launched its “Dirty Dozen” Campaign in 1985 to target a list of extremely hazardous pesticides for bans or strict controls on production and use worldwide, and to advocate their replacement with safe and sustainable pest control methods.

The Dirty Dozen includes: aldicarb, toxaphene, chlordane and heptachlor, chlordimeform, chlorobenzilate, DBCP, DDT, the "drins" (aldrin, dieldrin and endrin), EDB, HCH and lindane, paraquat, parathion and methyl parathion, pentachlorophenol, and 2,4,5-T. Most of these pesticides qualify as persistent organic pollutants (POPs), which are notable in their longevity, toxicity to humans and animals, and their ability to be transported around the globe through the atmosphere. Neither of the two herbicides is listed by PAN on the “Dirty Dozen” list.

Q: Are either of the two herbicides on the Pesticide Action Network (PAN) list of “Bad Actor” chemicals?

A: “Bad Actors” are pesticides that are one of the following: known or probable carcinogens, reproductive or developmental toxicants, cholinesterase inhibitors, known groundwater contaminants or acutely toxic poisons. Neither of the two herbicides is listed by PAN as a “Bad Actor” chemical.