



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Arizona State Office
One North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-4427
www.blm.gov/az/

April 10, 2015

In Reply Refer To:
9015 (9320)

Dear All Interested Parties:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have agreed that there is a need to be proactive in controlling hazardous vegetation as well as noxious weed and invasive plant infestations along public roadways in Arizona. The ADOT is responsible for maintaining hundreds of miles of roadways, some of which are within rights-of-way (ROW) across BLM-administered lands. Many of these ROW contain areas with relatively undisturbed natural vegetation that are being impacted by noxious weeds and invasive plants. In order to address these issues, the BLM and ADOT prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA), the ADOT Herbicide Treatment Program on BLM in Arizona Draft Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-AZ-0000-2013-0001-EA, analyzing potential issues related to the use of herbicides for treatment of vegetation within ADOT ROW on BLM-administered land.

The BLM proposes to authorize ADOT to conduct annual herbicide treatment programs to contain, control, or eradicate undesirable vegetation that pose safety hazards or threaten native plant communities in ROW. The herbicide applications would be consistent with the recommendations of the *Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)* (BLM 2007). The proposed action would implement the PEIS by using herbicides to treat ROW to reduce the incidence and spread of undesirable vegetation. The purpose of the proposed action is to identify herbicides available for vegetation treatment by ADOT personnel on lands administered by the BLM, and to describe the conditions and limitations for their use.

The BLM has prepared this EA to document the estimated environmental effects of the proposed project. A 30-day comment period is open to seek your comments on the EA. Comments should be as specific as possible and provide information on potential issues or concerns that the EA should address. To assist in making your comments, we have posted the EA for 30 days to the BLM website at: <https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/projectSummary.do?methodName=renderDefaultProjectSummary&projectId=34810>.

Your input will be most useful if your comments are received by May 29, 2015. Questions pertaining to the *ADOT Herbicide Use Environmental Assessment* and responses should be directed to Lisa Thornley, Natural Resource Specialist, at 602-417-9242 or by email at lthornley@blm.gov.

Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Raymond Suazo
State Director