



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Safford Field Office
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July 16, 2014

In Reply Refer To:
4120 (G010)

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Safford Field Office is pleased to announce the availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for public review and comment pertaining to the proposed herbicide treatment on BLM administered lands in Cochise County.

The BLM, Safford Field Office is proposing to conduct an herbicide treatment to control the encroachment of woody species such as mesquite and catclaw acacia on 1,015 acres of BLM administered lands in the Oak Creek Allotment.

The BLM will consider all substantive comments received during the public comment period. BLM's National Environmental Policy Act handbook provides guidance on formulating substantive comments.

Substantive comments do one or more of the following:

- Question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in the EA.
- Question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of, methodology for, or assumptions used for the environmental analysis.
- Present new information relevant to the analysis.
- Present reasonable alternatives other than those analyzed in the EA.
- Cause changes or revisions in one or more of the alternatives.

Comments that are not considered substantive include the following:

- Comments in favor of or against the proposed action or alternatives without reasoning that meet the criteria listed above (such as "we disagree with Alternative Two and believe the BLM should select Alternative Three").
- Comments that only agree or disagree with BLM policy or resource decisions without justification or supporting data that meet the criteria listed above (such as "less grazing should be permitted").
- Comments that don't pertain to the project area or the project (such as "the government should eliminate dams" when the project is about vegetation treatments).
- Comments that take the form of vague, open-ended questions.

The public comment period for the EA and FONSI will be 30 days, beginning July 16th and ending August 14th, 2014. The EA and unsigned FONSI are available for public review at the BLM - Safford Field Office, 711 14th Avenue, Safford, Arizona 85546. The documents are also available for review and comment on the web at <http://bit.ly/OakCreekEA>. A hard copy is available upon request.

Questions may be directed to: Doug Whitbeck, Rangeland Management Specialist at (928) 348-4421 or dwhitbeck@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Scott C. Cooke

Scott C. Cooke
Field Manager