



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Anchorage Field Office  
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**Campbell Tract Administrative Facilities  
Integrated Pest Management to Control Vegetation**  
Environmental Assessment, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2014-0020-EA

Case File: 14-0020

**DECISION RECORD**

**Background**

The Bureau of Land Management proposes to control all nuisance and invasive vegetation growing within aviation and administrative sites on Campbell Tract using chemical, physical, and mechanical control methods. The herbicides: imazapyr, glyphosate, and triclopyr are being proposed for use on these administrative sites. These herbicides were approved for use on BLM-managed lands by the Record of Decision resulting from the *Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (2007). Site-specific information about the application of proposed herbicides was analyzed in the attached EA.

The BLM has documented a slow but persistent encroachment by vegetation on the Campbell Airstrip. Alder, willow, and non-native species have infested the Campbell Tract airstrip, compromising the integrity of the compacted gravel, and resulting in conditions unacceptable for safe aviation operations. Attempts have been made by maintenance personnel to hand pull, mow, burn, and treat vegetation with salt. None of these methods proved successful in reducing damage to the airstrip gravel.

Additionally, non-native invasive species have been found present at and infesting administrative sites at Campbell Tract. Forty-eight invasive plant species have been found within aviation, administrative, and roadside sites, seven of which are considered highly or extremely invasive and degrade plant community structure, composition, and ecological functions. Past efforts have been restricted to manual or mechanical control such as hand pulling, digging, use of weed wrenches, and laying down tarps. Although manual control works in some cases, it is both inefficient and ineffective for many infestations within Campbell Tract administrative areas.

**Decision**

It is my decision to implement *Alternative 2: Proposed Action*, as described in the attached EA (BLM, 2015a, pp. 9-13).

Specifically, it is my decision to approve the *BLM Campbell Tract Administrative Facilities Integrated Pest Management Plan to Control Vegetation* and authorize the use of three herbicide

active ingredients: glyphosate (Aquamaster and Roundup PRO), imazapyr (Arsenal), and triclopyr (Garlon 4) on aviation and administrative facilities on Campbell Tract. The following standard operating procedures (among many others that are referred to in the *BLM Campbell Tract Administrative Facilities Integrated Pest Management Plan to Control Vegetation*) will be followed:

1. Only licensed applicators will apply herbicide.
2. Directions in the herbicide product label will be followed for use, storage, and personal protection.
3. The least amount of herbicide needed to achieve the desired result will be applied.
4. The effects of wind, humidity, temperature inversions, and heavy rainfall on herbicide effectiveness and risk will be considered for every application.
5. Spraying will not occur during times of spring and early summer snowmelt runoff, or during times of typically heavy fall rainstorms. Additionally, spraying will not occur when rain is forecasted. If weather conditions change to rain during an herbicide application session, the session will be terminated and resumed when precipitation ceases.
6. Herbicides will only be applied when the wind speed is less than 10 mph to minimize drift.
7. Site characteristics, environmental conditions, and application equipment will be considered in order to minimize damage to non-target vegetation.

This decision is based on site-specific analysis in the *Campbell Tract Administrative Facilities Integrated Pest Management to Control Vegetation Environmental Assessment* (DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2014-0020-EA) and the management decisions contained in the *Ring of Fire Record of Decision and Approved Management Plan* (BLM 2008).

The attached Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) indicates that the selected alternative has been analyzed in an EA and has been found to have no significant environmental effects (BLM 2015b ). Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and will not be prepared.

### **Rationale for the Decision**

Alternative 2, the Proposed Action Alternative, was selected because it best fulfills the purpose and need for action and it best fulfills objectives of the *Management Plan for Public Use and Resource Management on the Bureau of Land Management Campbell Tract Facility*. Currently available methods for invasive plant management and plant management on the Campbell Airstrip are ineffective. This alternative offers methods of control that are both effective and pose a minimal risk to human health and safety and other resources on Campbell Tract.

Alternative 1, the No Action Alternative, would negatively affect resources in the project area by allowing the continued expansion of invasive species due to the lack of effective control options. It will cumulatively decrease the amount of native vegetation, therefore negatively affecting wildlife species, fish, and the recreational experience. Additionally, it does not provide for an effective method to maintain the Campbell Airstrip and therefore does not support objectives of the *Management Plan for Public Use and Resource Management on the Bureau of Land Management Campbell Tract Facility*.

## **Laws, Authorities, and Land Use Plan Conformance**

The EA and supporting documentation have been prepared consistent with the requirements of various statutes and regulations. The area within which the proposed action would take place is managed by *The Ring of Fire Record of Decision and Approved Management Plan* (BLM, 2008). This plan directs management of the Campbell Tract Facility Special Recreation Management Area to continue to be guided by *A Management Plan for Public Use and Resource Management on the Bureau of Land Management Campbell Tract Facility* (BLM, 1987, pg. 10).

The *Management Plan for Public Use and Resource Management on the Bureau of Land Management Campbell Tract Facility* states that “the primary objective for management of the Campbell Tract Facility is to continue and facilitate its use as a BLM administrative site.” Furthermore, this plan outlines, under management action OR-7, that the BLM will continue to manage the airstrip for official government use.

Several acts provide for management and control of invasive vegetation. Two weed control acts, the Carlson-Foley Act of 1968 and the Plant Protection Act of 2000, authorize the BLM to manage noxious weeds and to coordinate with other federal and state agencies in activities to eradicate, suppress, control, prevent, or retard the spread of any noxious weeds on federal lands.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates pesticides under two major federal statutes. The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) establishes procedure for the registration, classification, and regulation of all pesticides. Before any pesticide may be sold legally, the EPA must register it. The EPA may classify a pesticide for general use if it determines that the pesticide is not likely to cause unreasonable adverse effects to applicators, or the environment. All the herbicides approved in this decision record are registered with the EPA. All applicators that apply them on public lands (i.e., certified applicators or those directly supervised by a certified applicator) must comply with the application rates, uses, and handling instructions on the herbicide label, and where more restrictive, the rates, uses, and handling instructions developed by the BLM.

## **Public Involvement, Consultation, and Coordination**

The *Campbell Tract Administrative Facilities Integrated Pest Management to Control Vegetation Environmental Assessment* (DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2014-0020-EA) was made available for public review and comment via the BLM’s national ePlanning website ([https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa\\_register.do](https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do)). The comment period was open for 15 days, June 22-July 7, 2015, prior to my decision. No public comments were received.

## **Appeal Opportunities**

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR § 4. To appeal you must file a notice of appeal at the BLM Anchorage Field Office, 4700 BLM Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99507, within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appeal must be in writing and delivered in person, via the United States Postal Service mail system, or other common carrier, to the Anchorage Field Office as noted above. *The BLM does not accept appeals by facsimile, email, or other electronic means.* The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR § 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (a) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (b) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits, (c) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and (d) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR § 4.413); Office of the Regional Solicitor, Alaska Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 4230 University Drive, Suite 300, Anchorage, Alaska 99508; at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

/s/ Alan Bittner

7/22/2015

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Alan Bittner  
Anchorage Field Manager

Date

### Attachments

1. *Campbell Tract Administrative Facilities Integrated Pest Management to Control Vegetation* (DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2014-0020-EA), June 22, 2015 (Public Release).
2. Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), *Campbell Tract Administrative Facilities Integrated Pest Management to Control Vegetation* (DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2014-0020-EA), signed July, 22, 2015.

### References

BLM. 2015a. *Campbell Tract Administrative Facilities Integrated Pest Management to Control Vegetation Environmental Assessment*, (DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2013-0020-EA), June 22, 2015 (Public Release).

BLM. 2015b. Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), *Campbell Tract Administrative Facilities Integrated Pest Management to Control Vegetation* (DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2013-0020-EA), signed July, 22, 2015.

BLM. 2008. Ring of Fire Approved Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision. March 2008.

BLM. 1987. A Management Plan for Public Use and Resource Management on the Bureau of Land Management Campbell Tract Facility. Anchorage, AK.