



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
669 South Highway 89 A
Kanab, UT 84741
<http://www.ut.blm.gov/monument>



In Reply Refer To:
(UT030)-1792

March 9, 2012

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management will be preparing a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the environmental effects of an Integrated Weed Management Program within the boundaries of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. An Integrated Weed Program allows the use of chemical, manual, cultural, biological control, fire use, and restoration methods or a combination of these methods to contain, control, or eradicate noxious and newly invading non-native weed species. Chemical control methods consist of using herbicides to kill or suppress unwanted non-native plants by decreasing their growth, seed production, and competitiveness. Manual control methods may address small patches of weeds that can be hand-pulled and dug up, or larger populations where mowing is a better option. Cultural control methods combine parts of the other control methods, but focuses on improving the "health" of the native plants. Biological control (or bio control) reunites invasive plants with their enemies to restore natural controls and reduce dominance of invasive plants within the plant community. Fire use is the intentional application of fire to non-native fuels under specified conditions of fuels, weather, and other variables. Restoration and or revegetation may be necessary in areas treated for weeds to reduce reinvasion of weeds and reduce soil erosion. The proposed action is for the BLM or authorized contractor to use these methods to contain the spread or eliminate undesirable species from across the Monument for future treatments.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware 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 your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

If you are interested in providing us with information, potential issues or alternatives, please write to Amber Hughes, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, P.O. Box 225, Escalante, UT 84726 on or before April 9, 2012 Comments may also be submitted from the Utah BLM Environmental Notification Bulletin Board website: <https://www.blm.gov/ut/enbb/index.php> or by email at utgsecmt@blm.gov (please include "Integrated Weed Program EA" in the subject line).

Please contact Joe David, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, by phone at (435) 826-5628 or email at j1david@blm.gov, for more information regarding this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rene C. Berkhoudt", written over a horizontal line.

Rene C. Berkhoudt
Monument Manager
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument