

# NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

28910 Hwy 20 West • Hines, Oregon 97738 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>  
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## BLM treats Medusahead in Harney County

**HINES, Ore.** – On Tuesday, Sept. 18, the Burns District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) began aerially treating approximately 7,500 acres of Medusahead rye across Harney County. Medusahead rye is found in virtually every county in the state and demonstrates its negative qualities best on the east side of Oregon.

Medusahead out-competes other grasses by extracting the majority of moisture well before perennial grasses have begun to grow. Once land is invaded by this species, it becomes almost worthless, supporting neither native animals, birds nor livestock. It also changes the temperature and moisture dynamics of the soil, greatly reducing seed germination of other species, and creating fuel for wildfires.

The Medusahead treatments in Harney County will occur on BLM-administered lands in the Riddle Mountain/Happy Valley area, near Folly Farm on the east side of Steens Mountain, in the Lamb Ranch area, and on Bartlett Mountain, in conjunction with treatments on adjacent or nearby private lands. Treatments will be made over the next 3 weeks by way of helicopter using the herbicide Plateau.

The Strategic Weed Attack Team (SWAT) – a joint venture between the BLM and Harney County – has been invaluable in managing rapid responses to new invasions of noxious weeds in the area, with Medusahead as no exception. With the SWAT's help, small infestations are controlled quickly and economically, averting the potential spread and increase to unmanageable levels of obscure noxious weed populations.

There are many things an individual can do to help prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds. First and foremost, become familiar with the noxious weeds in your area and treat them to prevent their spread. Wash your vehicles and equipment before venturing into new areas to prevent tracking weeds into new areas, and report weed sightings on BLM-administered lands to the local BLM Weed coordinator.

For additional information on the Medusahead treatments in Harney County, please contact the Burns District BLM at (541)573-4400.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land – the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

-BLM-

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