



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, OR 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH & WILDLIFE

December 28, 2018

In reply refer to: EC-4

### **To: People interested in the Post-Fire Cheatgrass Control Project**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund aerial application of herbicide and soil inoculant to control cheatgrass on a 139-acre hillside in north-eastern Nevada. This letter explains what is being proposed, outlines our environmental review process and schedule, and requests your comments.

**Proposal:** BPA is proposing to fund the Shoshone Paiute Indian Tribe to aerially apply herbicide (Plateau) and soil inoculant (MB906) to control cheatgrass on a 139-acre hillside south of Mountain City, Nevada that has become dominated by this invasive species following the 2012 Brown's Gulch fire. The cheatgrass is hindering this area's post-fire recovery to its native sagebrush-steppe plant community. The treatment would begin in the spring of 2019 and may be repeated in the fall or spring for up to three years. (See enclosed project map.)

**Environmental Review:** To understand the potential environmental impacts of this proposal, BPA will prepare an environmental assessment (EA). The EA will describe anticipated impacts to natural and human resources and include mitigation measures that would help avoid or minimize impacts. We are asking for your comments to help determine the issues that should be addressed in the EA. During this process, BPA will work with Federal, state, and local agencies, Tribes, potentially affected landowners, and other interest groups. The proposed schedule for the EA process is as follows:

Scoping comment period	December 28, 2018 – January 28, 2019
Draft EA available for public comment	February 2019
Final EA	March 2019
Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)	March 2019
If decision to proceed, treatments will start	spring 2019

Please indicate on the enclosed postcard whether or how you would like to receive the EA when it is available.

**How to Comment:** Please send your comments by **January 28, 2019** and reference the *Post-Fire Cheatgrass Control Project*. All comments will be available on the project website at [www.bpa.gov/goto/Cheatgrass](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/Cheatgrass). There are several ways to comment:

**Mail:** Bonneville Power Administration  
Public Affairs – DKE-7  
P.O. Box 14428  
Portland, OR 97291-4428

**Toll-free:** 800-622-4519  
**FAX:** 503-230-4019  
**Online:** [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment)

**For More Information:** If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me at 503-230-3018, or by e-mail at [cjhamel@bpa.gov](mailto:cjhamel@bpa.gov), or Rob Shull, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, First Tek Professional Staffing, at 503-230-3962, or by e-mail at [rwshull@bpa.gov](mailto:rwshull@bpa.gov).

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chad J. Hamel

Chad J. Hamel

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures:

Project Map

Comment Form

Return Envelope

Reply Card