



IDAHO CATTLE ASSOCIATION

February 10, 2006

Bureau of Land Management,
Nevada State Office
Attn: Brian Amme, EIS Project Manager
1340 Financial Blvd.
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520-0006

RE: Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in
17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)

To Whom It May Concern:

- 1 On behalf of the Idaho Cattle Association (ICA), I encourage the Bureau of Land Management to move forward in implementing Alternative B of Proposed EIS for Vegetation Treatments on BLM-Managed Public Lands.
- 2 As grazing permittees, we are supportive of any effort that provides increased flexibility and offers a wider variety of tools to manage rangelands. We recognize the need to maintain and improve the health of rangelands by reducing the spread of noxious and invasive weed species. When weeds are controlled, desirable vegetative communities are allowed to develop which in turn stabilizes soils and resists invasive species, thereby resulting in more sustainable rangelands.
- 3 Alternative B outlined in the Proposed Action is the best alternative for noxious and invasive weed management. It will open the door for the BLM to utilize the most current and effective tools for managing weeds, including the use of four new herbicides. It will also be useful in streamlining future management decisions.
- 4 Additionally, we suggest that Alternative E be removed completely from consideration as it would severely limit the effectiveness to manage invasive species and inappropriately asserts that reductions in livestock grazing would be a management tool. It is not the role for this document to attempt to regulate grazing.
- 5 As the BLM takes a more aggressive approach in controlling weeds, as is greatly needed, we must however stress the importance that other existing BLM range programs are not depleted. With decreasing budgets, we are concerned that the BLM will not be able to effectually implement this EIS and the associated monitoring that would be required.

Page 1 Of 2

6 The Idaho Cattle Association would like to commend the Bureau of Land Management for developing this Environmental Impact Statement that will improve management of the rangelands. We support your direction towards healthy rangeland management, and the use of herbicides is an important management tool. We strongly encourage the adoption of Alternative B of the Proposed Action for the betterment of public land range management.

Sincerely,

Mike Webster, President
Idaho Cattle Association