



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Plant Protection &
Quarantine

4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD
20737-1237

February 8, 2006

Mr. Brian Amme, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520-0006

SUBJECT: Vegetation Treatment Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Amme:

1

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on *Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States*.

2

As a Federal agency with some responsibility for weed management (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service maintains the Federal Noxious Weed List and often is involved in weed management programs), we are particularly supportive of Alternative B – Expand Herbicide Use and Allow for Use of New Herbicides in 17 Western States. We believe this alternative provides involved agencies the maximum flexibility to design the best weed management strategy to fit the particular circumstances at any given location. An integrated weed management approach to weed control or eradication requires that agencies evaluate all potential means at their disposal and choose the most effective and appropriate tool to accomplish the goal, while minimizing impacts to other species. When used judiciously, herbicides have proven to be environmentally desirable tools for weed control and have even been used to help protect endangered plant species.

Sincerely,

David T. Kaplan
Assistant Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine



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